

20-year-old pianist wins first prize at Jefferson Symphony concerto competition

The winner will be a featured soloist at a Symphony concert in April.

(Jefferson County, Colorado) Twenty-year-old pianist Hans-Derek Yu has won the grand prize at the 63rd Jefferson Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Competition (JSO*YAC) in Lakewood, Colorado.



Yu competed against seven other pianists in the final round, which was held at the Music Center of Colorado Christian University on Saturday, January 14, 2023. He received a cash prize of \$5000 as the grand prize winner and will be a featured soloist at a Jefferson Symphony concert in April.

This year's instrumental contest was judged by Stephanie Cheng, Larry Graham, and Olga Dashevskaya, who announced their results after a live finals round of competition. Hans-Derek Yu, a student of Arnaldo Cohen of the Jacobs School of Music, took first place with his performance of Sergei Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 3. Following the competition, Yu performed a section of his concerto in a winners' recital featuring the top three champions.

Second- and third-place winners of the Young Artist Competition received cash prizes and the opportunity to perform in a solo recital with Yu on Saturday. Steven Dong, 22, from Eastman University, won second place and \$2000 with his performance of Beethoven's second piano concerto. Yifu Xu, 21, from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, received the competition's third prize of \$1000 by performing the first piano concerto by composer Franz Liszt.

Hans-Derek Yu will return to Colorado for a solo piano recital presented by JSO on Friday, March 31 at the Wheat Ridge Center for Music and Arts. He will perform the Prokofiev concerto with Jefferson Symphony Orchestra and conductor Scott O'Neil on Sunday, April 2 in Golden at the Green Center of Colorado School of Mines.

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