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Winners of the 2014 International Violin Competition of Indianapolis Announced

South Korean Jinjoo Cho wins gold after six finalists dazzle in two nights of stunning and thrilling violin concerto performances

By Greg Olwell posted September 20, 2014



Tessa Lark at the opening of the IVCI finals.

After 16 days of competition, the winners and laureates of the 9th International Violin Competition of Indianapolis were announced by noted soloist and head of the jury Jaime Laredo shortly after the final soloist took her bows.

1. Jinjoo Cho, 26, South Korea (Gold Medal, \$30,000)
2. Tessa Lark, 25, United States (Silver Medal, \$15,000)

3. Ji Young Lim, 19, South Korea (Bronze Medal, \$10,000)
4. Dami Kim, 25, South Korea (Fourth Laureate, \$7,000)
5. Yoo Jin Jang, 23, South Korea (Fifth Laureate, \$6,000)
6. Ji Yoon Lee, 22, South Korea (Sixth Laureate, \$5,000)



Ji Yoon Lee, Yoo Jin Jang, Dami Kim, bronze medalist Ji Young Lim, silver medalist Tessa Lark, and gold medalist Jinjoo Cho.

The finalists' performances were spread out into two nights of high-caliber violin concertos at the Hilbert Circle Theatre, the home of the Indianapolis Symphony.



Tessa Lark

Tessa Lark opened the first night of the finals with the Walton Violin Concerto, a challenging and dynamic piece commissioned by Heifetz in 1936 that stood out from the finals other selections. Lark's stage presence and performance was riveting, all intensity and power, and certainly worthy of the silver medal.



Jinjoo Cho

She was followed by **Jinjoo Cho** in her gold medal performance of the Korngold Concerto in D major for Violin and Orchestra, Op. 35. Cho moved from sweet sounds and sweeping, cinematic passages to jagged escalations to the very tip of the violin's fingerboard.



Ji Yoon Lee

After an intermission, **Ji Yoon Lee** was the first of two finalists to perform Tchaikovsky's beloved Concerto.



Ji Young Lim

The second night of the final launched with bronze medalist **Ji Young Lim** playing Brahms' Concerto. Her performance was smooth and her sound melded with the orchestra in a way that showed a mature subtlety, rather than seeming timid.



Yoo Jin Jang

With an air of danger that really took hold in the third movement, **Yoo Jin Jang** thrilled the audience with her take on Tchaikovsky. The performance wasn't as clean and polished as the others, but it had a genuine fire and a sense of danger that connected with the crowd, perhaps more than her performance connected with the judges who awarded her fifth place.



Dami Kim

After **Dami Kim** closed out the finalist performances with competent delivery of the virtuosic Sibelius, the audience waited while the judges tallied their scores and selected the winners.

Among the awards for the gold medalist are the use of the contest's "Gingold" Stradivari, which recently received a restoration and break-in by Jaime Laredo in anticipation of this year's competition, and a gold-mounted Berg Bow.

The list of judges included Laredo, Miriam Fried (who had to take the unusual move of recusing herself from judging the finals after three of her students made it to the final six), Dong-Suk Kang, Boris Kuschner, Cho-Liang Lin, Philip Setzer, Dmitry Sitkovetsky, Kyoko Takezawa, and Ellen Taaffe Zwilich.

View the archived performances [here](#).

All player photos by Denis Ryan Kelly, Jr. DenisKelly.com, except Tessa Lark's performance, which was by the author.