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IVCI Classical finals - day two

By [Tom Aldridge](#)

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She played it perfectly, the Mozart Violin Concerto No. 4 in D, K. 218. With perfect legato, perfect passage work, the smoothest transitions without any burps or bleeps, S. Korean Yu Jin Jang dominated her five finalist cohorts--four of them also Korean and one from the U.S., over Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Moreover Jang gave us the most consistently [beautiful vibrancy](#) in her tonal rendering, with the precision of the accompanying East Coast Chamber Orchestra (ECCO) adding to the allure.



Thursday's second best playing came from Dami Kim, who also provided all the earmarks of a top-tier performance, this time with Mozart's Fifth Concerto--just not as consistently as Jang. Every now and then we heard a wobble or an off-pitch jump. Otherwise Kim considerably improved over her playing in the semi-finals. Both players managed Mozart's many tempo and rhythmic changes with aplomb.

Thursday's program opened with Ji Young Lim also playing No. 4, with her passages perhaps too well articulated, tending toward a staccato sound. Her vibrato varied from white to wobbly, making her pitches occasionally insecure. And, as Tessa Lark had done on Wednesday, Joon offered unknown cadenzas--again perhaps her own?

The ECCO closed its Thursday Program with an arrangement of variations for string orchestra by Francesco Geminiani (1687-1762), as slightly modified by a contemporary gentleman named Wianco (that's all I got), of *La Folia*, a tune having passed through many centuries. This one was given in a resounding D minor *Sturm und Drang*, with subtle Modernist inflections thrown into a basically Baroque structure. We need to hear the ECCO more often.

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