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Sirena Huang Wins Gold Medal at 11th Quadrennial International Violin Competition of Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS – Moments ago at the Hilbert Circle Theatre in downtown Indianapolis, IVCI Jury President Jaime Laredo announced the order of Finalists for the 11th Quadrennial International Violin Competition of Indianapolis.

SIRENA HUANG

United States, Age 28
Gold Medalist

JULIAN RHEE

United States, Age 22
Silver Medalist

MINAMI YOSHIDA

Japan, Age 24
Bronze Medalist

CLAIRE WELLS

United States, Age 21
Fourth Place Laureate

SOOBEEN LEE

South Korea, Age 21
Fifth Place Laureate

JOSHUA BROWN

United States, Age 22
Sixth Place Laureate



Over the course of four rounds including the Preliminaries, Semi-Finals (Sponsored by David Whitman and Donna Reynolds), Classical Finals (Presented by The Family of Michael D. O'Brien) and the AMPG Finals, all 39 Participants were ranked by the nine-member jury including Jaime Laredo, Noah Bendix-Balgley, Ivan Chan (1990 Bronze Medalist), Jinjoo Cho (2014 Gold Medalist), Yuzuko Horigome, Dong-Suk Kang, Cho-Liang Lin, Mihaela Martin (1982 Gold Medalist) and Liviu Prunaru (1998 Silver Medalist).

Biographies of the six Laureates are below in alphabetical order:

Joshua Brown

United States, Age 22

Joshua Brown's reviews for his debut performance with the Cleveland Orchestra include "stunning," "brilliantly played" and "spellbinding." He has collaborated with orchestras around the world, performed on radio and television, and won top prizes at many international competitions, including First Prize and Audience Award at the 2019 International Violin Competition of Leopold Mozart. Joshua plays a 1679 Pietro Guarneri, on long-term loan from the Stradivari Society, and is pursuing a master's degree at New England Conservatory as a full-tuition Presidential Scholarship recipient.

Sirena Huang

United States, Age 28

Sirena Huang is the recipient of numerous accolades and awards, including First Prize at the Elmar Oliveira International Violin Competition, winner of the New York Concert Artist Worldwide Debut Audition, Gold Medalist of the 6th International Tchaikovsky Competition for Young Musicians, top prize winner at the Singapore International Violin Competition and the Shanghai Isaac Stern International Violin Competition. She has performed with ensembles including the New York Philharmonic, the Cleveland Orchestra, and the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra.

SooBeen Lee

South Korea, Age 21

SooBeen Lee has been praised by the Washington Post for her "poised presence, a luxurious sound, spot-on intonation and a bow arm that surely will be the envy of her peers." She won First Prize at the 2013 Oistrakh Violin Competition, and the 2014 Young Concert Artists Auditions. Ms. Lee currently studies with Miriam Fried at the New England Conservatory and plays the Giuseppe Guaragnini Cremona 1794, on loan to her from Kumho Cultural Foundation Korea.



Julian Rhee
United States, Age 22

The First Prize winner of the Elmar Oliveira International Violin Competition and Astral National Auditions, Julian Rhee made his Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra debut at age 8, and has gone on to perform with orchestras including the Aspen Philharmonic, San Diego, Pittsburgh, Eugene, Santa Rosa and Madison symphony orchestras. Julian has performed at the Jupiter Chamber Players, Ravinia Steans Institute, Rockport Music, NorthShore Chamber Music Festival, and Pierce Hill for the Performing Arts.

Claire Wells
United States, Age 21

Claire Wells is the First Prize and Commission Prize winner at the Mendelssohn Bartholdy Competition, and has taken First Prize at the Lynn Harrell and Oregon Mozart Players competitions, among others. She has performed at Music@Menlo, Chamber Music Connects the World, and the Aspen Music Festival. She has also performed with the Dallas and Fort Worth symphonies, the Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra, the Jalisco Philharmonic in Mexico, and the Shen Zhen Symphony Orchestra in China, among others. She plays on a Giovanni Battista Guadagnini.

Minami Yoshida
Japan, Age 24

Minami Yoshida is one of the most promising violinists from Japan. She is currently studying at the New England Conservatory as a recipient of the Dean's Scholarship, and she is an honors student of Tokyo College of Music Artist Diploma course. She is a prize winner at numerous competitions including Third Prize winner at the 2016 Montréal International Musical Competition, and Laureate at the 2021 Joseph Joachim International Competition.

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The International Violin Competition of Indianapolis (IVCI) recognizes, rewards and promotes the world's finest young classical violinists and encourages understanding, appreciation and support of the violin repertoire by a large and diverse audience. The IVCI utilizes its world prominence to bring international attention to Indianapolis and maintains its efforts to be a visible and collaborative member of the arts communities in Indianapolis and Indiana.

For information about the IVCI, visit www.violin.org.

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