



THE CLIBURN

## **2019 CLIBURN JUNIOR COMPETITION ANNOUNCES WINNERS**

Contact:

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**DALLAS, Texas, June 8, 2019**— After 12 days of thrilling competition at Caruth Auditorium at SMU and the Final Round Concert with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and conductor Ruth Reinhardt at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, the winners of the **2019 Cliburn International Junior Piano Competition and Festival** were announced on Saturday evening.

The winner of the **Bernice Gressman Meyerson First Prize** and a cash award of **\$15,000** is **Shuan Hern Lee, Australia, 16**

The winner of the **Shirley Cox McIntyre Second Prize** and a cash award of **\$10,000** is **Eva Gevorgyan, Russia/Armenia, 15**

The winner of **The Horchow Family Third Prize** and a cash award of **\$5,000** is **JiWon Yang, South Korea, 17**

Each finalist will also receive \$2,000 scholarships provided by the Fort Worth Piano Teachers Forum that must be spent toward furthering their musical advancement. Top prizes also include residency and mentorship opportunities with the Cliburn.

### **OTHER AWARDS**

Audience Award, \$500—**Avery Gagliano, United States, 17**

Peer Award, \$500—**J J Jun Li Bui, Canada, 14**

Press Award, \$500—**Eva Gevorgyan, Russia/Armenia, 15**

Each of the semifinalists will also receive cash awards of \$2,000.

**J J Jun Li Bui, Canada, 14**

**Avery Gagliano, United States, 17**

**Chun Lam U, Hong Kong, 16**

### **WINNERS BIOS**

**Shuan Hern Lee, Australia, 16**—Australian pianist Shuan Hern Lee has performed across his country and Europe, and in the United States, China, Russia, and Indonesia, including appearances with the Minnesota, Moscow State, Ukraine, Armenia, Western Australia, and Jakarta Symphony Orchestras. He has been with his teacher, Yoon Sen Lee, for 14 years—since he was 2½ years old. He currently studies at the University of Western Australia, and also with Ingrid Fliter at the International Piano Academy Incontri Col Maestro in Imola, Italy. Among his many accolades are 11 first-place finishes at international piano competitions around the world. In his time away from the piano, he likes playing table tennis and with nerf guns, writing poetry, and studying philosophy.

**Eva Gevorgyan, Russia/Armenia, 15**—Eva Gevorgyan has received prizes in more than 40 international competitions for piano and composition—in the United States, Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Estonia, Malta, Kazakhstan, Poland, Czech Republic, Georgia, Russia, and Serbia. Born and raised in Moscow, she has studied with Natalia Trull at the Central Music School of the Moscow P.I. Tchaikovsky State Conservatory, and has performed across Russia, Europe (including a Royal Albert Hall debut in April), and in the United States. She also receives a scholarship from the International Academy of Music in Liechtenstein and participates regularly in its intensive music weeks and activities. In 2017, Eva performed in front of Italian President Sergio Mattarella, and she has taken part in a national television show for young talent, advancing to the final as the only pianist. Last year, she appeared on live television with Russian President Vladimir Putin and asked him about education reform. She likes composing, growing exotic plants, jogging, and playing table tennis.

**JiWon Yang, South Korea, 17**— JiWon Yang made her recital debut in Seoul at age 9 and her concerto debut in Kazakhstan at 13. Among her competition accolades are several in her home country, as well as wins at the Zhuhai Mozart Competition in China, Astana Piano Passion Kazakhstan, and Cleveland International Piano Competition for Young Pianists. She has participated in Russia’s International Music Festival “Stars on the Baikal,” as well as the St. Paul University Piano Festival. Notable performances include with the Salzburg Chamber Soloists and at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, and Philippines Chopin Society. A current student of HyoungJoon Chang, JiWon counts traveling and flute performance among her interests outside of piano.

[Download Hi-Res Competition Images Here.](#)

## **ABOUT THE 2019 JUNIOR COMPETITION AND FESTIVAL**

The 2019 Cliburn International Junior Piano Competition and Festival was established in 2015 as another means for the Cliburn to use its standing and expertise to encourage tomorrow’s great artists, to provide a valuable forum for them to express themselves, and to give them an entrance to the next step of their journeys. Key ingredients are top competitors, international jurors, worldwide

media coverage and webcast, Final Round performances with orchestra, and festival atmosphere, which includes performance experience and artistic workshops—all put into place to make the program significantly useful for students with aspirations of being professional musicians.

## QUICK FACTS

- **[MRS. LAURA BUSH, HONORARY CHAIRMAN](#)** The esteemed former First Lady—Dallas resident, proud SMU alumna, and longtime friend to Van Cliburn—continues her lifetime commitment to education on the highest level through this honorary association with the 2019 Cliburn Junior Competition.
- **[COMPETITION](#)** Four riveting rounds of Competition take place **May 31–June 8, 2019**: Preliminary Round (23 pianists each performing 20-minute recitals to include a virtuosic etude and one Bach Prelude and Fugue), Quarterfinal Round (14 pianists each performing a 30-minute recital to include one movement of a Classical sonata and one lyrical work), Semifinal Round (6 pianists each performing a 40-minute recital to include a work by a living composer and one substantial work of at least 18 minutes in length (phase one), and one concerto movement with piano accompaniment (phase two)) at SMU; and the Final Round (3 pianists each performing one complete concerto with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Ruth Reinhardt) in a stunning conclusion at the Meyerson followed by the Awards Ceremony directly after jury voting. **[TICKETS ON SALE NOW.](#)**
- **[INTERNATIONAL](#)** Applicants and competitors hail from all around the world. 2019 applications totaled 230, with pianists representing 32 countries, and the **[37 selected competitors and participants](#)** represent 13 countries. Widespread media coverage is expected; 2015 outreach resulted in over 100 stories in North America, Europe, and Asia with a potential reach of 83 million.
- **[ALESSIO BAX, JURY CHAIRMAN](#)** This remarkable pianist, winner of both the Leeds and Hamamatsu International Piano Competitions, and SMU artist-in-residence oversees an international jury, including: **Philippe Bianco** (France), **Angela Cheng** (Canada), **Valery Kuleshov** (Russia), **Lowell Liebermann** (United States), **Aviram Reichert** (Israel), and **Uta Weyand** (Germany).
- **[SMU](#)** Meadows School of the Arts is a leader in developing innovative outreach and community engagement programs, challenging its students to make a difference locally and globally. The university serves as home to the 2019 Junior Competition, hosting most performances and festival events, and housing the competitors.
- **[DALLAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA](#)** The largest performing arts organization in the Southwest, the DSO is committed to inspiring the broadest possible audience with distinctive classical programs and more. For the first time, the orchestra partners with the Cliburn to

perform in the Final Round at the Meyerson Symphony Center under the baton of **Ruth Reinhardt**.

- **PARTY BUS** Cruise to the Cliburn Junior Finals in style! For patrons who live in Fort Worth and want to attend the Finals, we are offering a ticket package that includes a ticket to the Final Round concert and a round trip to the Meyerson Symphony Center from downtown Fort Worth on our Party Bus.
- **WEBCAST** Thousands of people around the globe will get to experience the thrill of the Cliburn Junior Competition from home as it unfolds in real-time online at [Cliburn.org](https://www.cliburn.org), and on [Vimeo Live](#), [YouTube Live](#), and [Facebook Live](#). The Cliburn Live webcast provides a professionally produced, multi-camera live stream experience, including interviews and behind-the-scenes features, as our webcast hosts provide insight and expertise for each performance. This year's webcast is hosted by Buddy Bray, Rachel Naomi Kudo (Preliminary & Quarterfinal Rounds), and Sean Chen (Semifinal & Final Rounds). Views for the first edition of the Cliburn Junior in 2015 topped 300,000, with over 1.7 million minutes watched across 170 countries.

## ABOUT THE CLIBURN

The Cliburn advances classical piano music throughout the world. Its international competitions, education programs, and concert series embody an enduring commitment to artistic excellence and the discovery of new artists. Established in Fort Worth, Texas, in 1962, the quadrennial Van Cliburn International Piano Competition (sixteenth edition, May 27–June 12, 2021) remains the most visible expression of that mission and is, as always, committed to its original ideals of supporting and launching the careers of emerging artists, ages 18–30. It shares the transformative powers of music with a wide global audience, through fully-produced webcasts and by providing comprehensive career management and concert bookings to its winners. Rounding out its mission, the Cliburn also produces the Cliburn International Junior Piano Competition and Festival for exceptional 13- to 17-year-old pianists (second edition, May 31–June 8, 2019), and the Cliburn International Amateur Piano Competition for outstanding non-professional pianists age 35 and older (eighth edition, May 24–30, 2020).

Over a four-year cycle, the Cliburn contributes to North Texas' cultural landscape with over 170 classical music performances for 150,000 attendees, through competitions, free community concerts, and its signature Cliburn Concerts series at Bass Performance Hall, the Kimbell Art Museum Piano Pavilion, the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, and Scat Jazz Lounge. It presents 1,000 in-school, interactive music education programs for more than 200,000 area elementary students. During the same time period, it garners the world's attention with over five million visits from 170 nations for live concert and competition webcasts; 300 concerts worldwide booked for competition winners; more than 5,000 news articles about the Cliburn and its winners; and regular national radio broadcasts to 245 public radio stations. Detailed information about the Cliburn and its programs is available at [cliburn.org](https://www.cliburn.org).

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