

Like past competitions, the **19th International Piano Duo**

**Competition 2015** was very successful. There were competitors from various countries and various regions within Japan. The standard was generally high and in some cases, outstanding. The styles varied greatly from complex atonal to popular sounding melodies. Special commendation must be given to the duo pianists who performed these new compositions.



My own criteria for adjudicating such wide variety of compositions are these;

1. Is the musical material interesting and bear repeated hearing?
2. Is it well written for piano duet? (Some pieces sounded more like reduction of orchestral conceptions and others like solo with accompaniment. Ideally, I prefer both parts to be about equally interesting.)
3. Is the musical notation well suited to the musical ideas (Some pieces could have been notated more simply without sacrificing any of the musical essence)

The entries of Arnold Nevolovitsch and Oliver Kolb both well met these criteria and very deservedly got the two top prizes. I also enjoyed the composition of Kawamura Eriko, particularly how she resourcefully used the full range and compass of the piano resulting in a colorful and original composition.

I congratulate all the participants and wish them success and happiness with their future compositions.

Janos Cegledy

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Janos Cegledy".