

**THE 17th INTERNATIONAL PIANO DUO COMPETITION
COMPOSITION SECTION 2012 ~**

Elimination Round~24 March~YAMAHA Artist Service Tokyo 2F Piano Salon (closed)

/ 13 works were to the Final.

Final Round~13 May~YAMAHA Artist Service Tokyo 2F Piano Salon (concert style)



This time the composition competition was carried out in the form of inviting the required pieces for the 18th Piano Duo Performance Competition.

And while the work of the Superior Prize was made into the required piece and there were an Encouragement Award, Special Award of the Audience and 5 Sponsors Awards by each judge. It was also the feature to have not established the prize of the 2nd prize and the 3rd prize. The application was started in the spring of 2011 and it closed on March 1, 2012.

Duo SAITO (SAITO, Miki & SAITO, Akihiko)

Elimination Round~24 March, 2012

Judges: IMAI, Shigeyuki/ KUBO, Hiroshi/ MINEMURA, Shin-ichi/ MINEMURA, Sumiko/
YAGI, Fumihiko

Players: Duo SAITO (Primo: SAITO, Miki / Secondo: SAITO, Akihiko)

Judged by playing 50~60 bars of the scores and then score reading.

Final Round~13 May, 2012

Judges: IMAI, Shigeyuki/ KUBO, Hiroshi/ TSUBONO, Katsuhiko/ MINEMURA, Shin-ichi/
MINEMURA, Sumiko/ YAGI, Fumihiko

Judges of the Sponsors Awards:

YAMAHA Award: YAMAMORI, Naoki

KAWAI Award: KOYAMA, Yozo & KOMIYAMA, Atsushi

STEINWAY Award: GOTO, Kazuhiro

Ongaku-no-Tomo-sha Encouragement Award: HORIUCHI, Kumio

Lesson-no-Tomo-sha Award: KAWAMURA, Jun-ichi

Observer: SUZUKI, Tatsuya

Players: Duo SAITO (Primo: SAITO, Miki/ Secondo: SAITO, Akihiko)



The Final Round was performed by concert form as well as the primary at the YAMAHA Artist Service Tokyo 2F Piano Salon at 14:00 on Sun., May 13, 2012. There were the works Russia and Peru (in U.S.) from overseas. There was participation from South Korea (in Japan), and domestic had the participation from Okayama, Kansai (3 persons), etc. All the members of this Final Round were attended except from Russia and Peru. There was a member who came to listen it far from Kagoshima.

There were 6 judges, and 6 judges of the Sponsor's Awards, besides 1 observer.

And all listeners were judges for the Special Award of the Audience.

A member, Ms. NISHIDE, Mari and an overseas member, Ms. SAMARINA both won the prizes.

Moreover, prize winners, Mr. WATAHIKI, Koutarou, and Mr. TAKAHASHI, Ryoh became members of IPDA newly after this Competition.

The result of the judgment is as follows. (the profiles are at the competition)



Superior Prize (the 1st Prize): KANAI, Akihiko (Osaka/ JAPAN)

“Sôhyô~for Piano or 2 Pianos by 4 hands” 「想漂」

This work will be used as a set of piece for the 18th Piano duo competition.

Education: Osaka Kyoiku University Master Course.

Awards received: Sougakudou Japanese Song Competition 2004, 3rd prize, 2008~2010, Diplomas.

7th TIAA Competition, 3rd prize.

His composition is elected as a required piece of PTNA Piano Step 2011.



Encouragement Award(the 2nd Prize): Elena SAMARINA (Ekaterinburg/ RUSSIA)~ members of IPDA

“Variations for 4 hands”

Education: Ural State Conservatoire, Post-graduate Course Moscow.

Awards received: International Competition in Moscow, S.Peterburg, Kazan.

IPDA Composition Competition, Gran Priex, 2005



Ongaku-no-Tomo-sha Encouragement Award (the 3rd Prize):

TAKAHASHI, Ryoh (Kanagawa/ JAPAN)

“Contemporary Pops”

Education: Ayase prefectural high school.

“Akiyoshidai-no-natsu” composition seminar (diploma) 2008.

Award received: 11th TIAA Competition, Diploma.



YAMAHA Award: SHIRAIWA, Masahiro (Tokyo~born in Hokkaido/ JAPAN)

“Verschiebung II ~For Piano Duo~”

Education: Kunitachi College of Music.

Award received: 1st Prize in “Trombone Piece of the Year 2010”.



Special Award of the Audience and Lesson-no-Tomo sha Award:

WATAHIKI, Koutarou (Chiba/ JAPAN)

“Hembou~For Piano Duo~”

Education: Nihon University College of Art Master Course.

Awards received: 15th IPDA Composition Competition 2009, KAWAI Award.

11th TIAA Competition 2011, Diploma.



KAWAI Award: NISHIDE, Mari (Tokyo) ~ members of IPDA

“SAIMEI”

Education: Nihon University College of Art Master Course.

It appears on IPDA sponsored Piano Duo Concert.



Steinway Award: OHTANI, Miyabi (Tokyo)

“Koubou”

Education: Kunitachi College of Music.

Award received: 3rd TIAA Competition, Jury Award.



From the left • • Mr. SAITO, Akihiko/
Mrs. SAITO, Miki
(players...members of IPDA)/
Mrs. MINEMURA, Sumiko
(Chairwoman of IPDA)



Diploma:

MATSUMURA, Tomomi (Saitama/ JAPAN)

“Early autumn~Uta Asobi for piano 4 hands”

Education: Nihon University College of Art.

Award received: 15thIPDA Composition Competition, Diploma.



Diploma: UCHINO, Hiroki (Hyogo/ JAPAN)

“LA FEE DES OISEAUX Fairies of the tiny Birds in Human shape For Piano duo or 4 hands”

Awards received: 9th Asahi Composition Award(1998), etc.



Diploma: SATOH, Kohki (Okayama/ JAPAN)

“Etude for 4 hands~It offers WATATSUMI”

Education: Sakuyou College of Music.



Diploma: Hwaen CH'UQI (NY, USA/ born in PERU)

“Deux Danses Fantastiques (Two Fantastic Dances) For Piano, Four hands”

Education: Eastman School of Music, Piano.



Diploma: HONG, Seunghie (Tokyo/ born in KOREA)

“STORY LAND for 4 Hands”

Education: Tokyo University of the Arts Master Course.



Diploma: WADA, Hitomi (Osaka/ JAPAN)

“THE BEATING SPACE”

Education: Osaka College of Music.



Playing scene

=Prize=

☆Superior Prize (the 1st Prize)/ the certificate of commendation, the prize cup & 300,000Yen

And it is considered as the 18th Competition (Performance Section) required piece.

☆Encouragement Award (the 2nd Prize)/ the certificate of commendation, the award Medal & 30,000Yen

☆Special Award of the Audience/the certificate of commendation & the award Medal

☆The Diploma/the certificate of commendation

Sponsor's Awards:

☆YAMAHA Award/ the certificate of commendation, the award cup & YAMAHA gift tickets

☆KAWAI Award/ the certificate of commendation, the award cup & Score maker FX6Pro

☆Steinway Award/the certificate of commendation & the award cup

☆Ongaku-no-Tomo-sha Encouragement Award/the certificate of commendation & the award cup

☆Lesson-no-Tomo-sha Award/ the certificate of commendation & the award cup



Co-operate: YAMAHA Artist Service,
and YAMAHA Ginza Shop

Tuning: SUZUKI, Toshiro
(YAMAHA Artist Service)

Score: KANEKO, Shouko (member of IPDA)

Time measurement & Announcement:
SATO, Yuki (member of IPDA)

Receptionist: TAKEDA, Eriko (member of IPDA)

DVD photography: YAMAGISHI, Kazuya (Nihon Univ.)

Photography: SHIMODA, Keita (Nihon Univ.)

Plan, management execution:

MINEMURA, Sumiko (chairwoman), MINEMURA, Shin-ichi (Head clerk)



Mr. KANAI, Akihiko (Superior Prize winner)

Superior Prize winner's comment

This time, at the 17th International Piano Duo Competition Composition Section, “Sōhyō~for 1 Piano or 2 Pianos by 4 hands” which was my work won the Superior Prize -- it received honorable.

This work turned into the first piano duo work for me to tackle as an original work.

Even if abstract “considering” arrives to where, it is a thing expressing the appearance which is not and drifts, and the word “Sōhyō” is the coined word used in order for a title to make the contents of a work symbolize.

If in charge of composition, being conscious of the horizontal flow, it aimed at that it was a work which had one big flow as a whole.

I attended at the Final Round of the Composition Competition on the day, and was allowed to participate also at the reception party after the Final concert, and I obtained the opportunity to speak with a judge's teachers, support companies, players, and other composers of winners.

The opinion from each position was touched on, and I also became an opportunity to consider anew its original work article and the act of composition, and was allowed to spend precious time.

I was happy with the Superior Prize that I obtained the prize and not only finished then, but it was a prize connected to a performance as a required piece of the 18th Performance Competition.

I expect to carry out the performance investigated to the inside and to get projecting a player's own sensitivity on a work, since it seems that the difficulty with my artful work is not so high.

Finally, I would like to express gratitude to people of the IPDA who gave such an opportunity.

Thank you very much.

KANAI, Akihiko



From the left hand~Mrs. MINEMURA, Sumiko
(Chairwoman of IPDA) Mr. KANAI, Akihiko
(Superior Prize winner)
Mr. KUBO, Hiroshi (Director of IPDA)



Reception Party at Spain Club GINZA

The Judge's Comment and Impression

“About the Composition Competition”

TSUBONO, Katsuhiko (Composer, Chairman of JSCM)

It participated in the examination meeting by the performance of Piano Duo's new works in the YAMAHA Artist Service Tokyo 2F Piano Salon.

When no less than 50 persons entered, it was a space which becomes no vacancy, but there was warmth in which the musical universe in the womb where different heat from a hole was transmitted directly was impressed.

Although it was a work around 5 minutes, it was wonder that new work of no less than 13 works were performed on both sides of 2 breaks.

It was eagerly heard from the visitors in the hall where winners and members also joined.

The activity of “Duo SAITO” who took over the all works gave the audience wonderful impression.

All works which had the primary cleared and were brought near also from the countries in the world were laborious works.

The composers got to know the piano duo well, and filled with a loveful of sound.

Moreover, since each composer's “Song” put the heart and the work was told, the audiences shared with the comfortable world.

However, from the standpoint of being contemporary, it may differ from an understanding of the sound which is easy to hear, an intelligible structure, and a common sense of values.

Talented prize winners' future challenge are expected at the point.

The representatives of the sponsor's companies presented each Sponsor's Awards and the Encouragement Award.

I thought that the many precious awards which cannot be obtained easily were the proof which this plan contributed to the music culture in the world, and it was expected to continue.

You related to this plan and the activity more and more from now on are expected.



Mr. TSUBONO, Katsuhiko

“Listening to the Piano Duo Competition”

MINEMURA, Sumiko (Chairwoman of IPDA)

At the Elimination Round, the works which had performance effect as required piece of the 18th Performance Competition were selected.

We had selected more works than the first plan.

At the Final Round, it was chosen by the first highest score as a result of performance examination of 13 works that Mr. KANAI, Akihiko's work “Sôhyô” would be the Superior Prize.

“Variation for 4 hands” by Ms. SAMARINA, Elena won the Encouragement Award (the 2nd Prize).

Although Mr. KANAI's work was a little more than 5 minutes, I was able to think that there was greatly the performance effect a flow was well varied although novelty was seldom felt.

Ms. SAMARINA of the 2nd Prize considered enough the fun and effect of experience to the Piano Duo work. (She has won the Grand Prize at the 13th composition Competition) And herself was also carrying out the Piano Duo performance, but there would be thing insufficient with structure.

I would like to expect how piano duo players express and perform Mr. KANAI's “Sôhyô” in the 18th Performance Competition.

I would like to be thankful to the Duo SAITO (Mr. and Mrs. SAITO) who played the all of 13 musics well by the Final Round in one month, from the bottom of my heart finally.

And many thanks for members who visited to listen -- I feel the contest great success -- thank you.



Mrs. MINEMURA, Sumiko

“The Composition Section Review “

The new requirement ever of this competition was to produce a piano duet score playable not only at two pianos but also at one piano. It must have made more challenging for the entrants to bring out the full performance effectiveness. There have been such works, by Ravel, for instance, and each piece can be problematic when actually performed. Some works entered in this competition show signs of the composer's struggle to solve difficulties in positioning with overlapping fingers for two players at a piano. Personally as a performer, several pieces are especially impressive. “Verschiebung II” features interesting rhythm and witty conversation between Primo and Secondo in a mystic atmosphere. “SAIMEI” successfully exploits the sound from two players with attractive rhythm and tempo. “Variations” by Ms SAMARINA is a well thought-out composition, rich in variety, though it might be a little hard to grasp its attraction at first, as I needed some time to familiarize myself with the theme.

“Contemporary Pops” is stylish with the melody appearing and disappearing against the hazily woven background. In “Sôhyô”, I find a woven tapestry of voices and mysterious thoughts though there are occasional problems of fingers too close each other. “STORY LAND” is a wonderful work where you can hear voices talking to each other. “Early Autumn” is a friendly piece with the effectively managed sound; performers can exploit a variety of interpretations. I also enjoyed vivid conversation between voices in a romantic atmosphere in “Hembou”, almost sounding like incidental music.

I enjoyed listening to all other entries, reflecting originalities and personalities.

I look forward to receiving more fine works in future that players want to play again and again

“My impression of the Competition”

The 17th Composition Competition was based on the Piano Duo works for 4 hands which can be played either on 1 piano or 2 pianos. I felt that each composer's strong feeling and thought for the work were fully contained in most of the works. Let me choose 3 out of the 13 works to comment briefly.

In the “Contemporary Pops” by Mr. TAKAHASHI, Ryo, the indications of dynamic mark, articulation, pedal mark, etc. are found rather in detail, which are helpful for the performer in order to express the work with confidence. His metronome mark ♩=ca. 220 seems to be too fast in certain parts in this work, which may cause difficulties technically.

“THE BEATING SPACE” by Ms. WADA, Hitomi is based on her original which was composed for the group of Wadaiko, Japanese traditional drum. I might say that this piece tends to lack to demonstrate the character of the drum effectively on the piano since the musical elements are very limited. That is, the use of the same rhythmic pattern, repeated notes, melodic line of 2 notes which moves only between 2 notes within narrow intervals are demonstrated rather excessively. I would suggest to use much more varied musical devices in the middle section of the work.

In “Sôhyô” by Mr. KANAI, Akihiko the both Primo and Secondo play almost equal role each other as far as the performance is concerned. This work is the one in which listener may be able to guess easily what comes next musically. For instance, he uses “accel.” or “affrettando” every time before the new tempo appears in order to lead to the climax level (“piu mosso”). As a whole this work shows the well-balanced construction.

Finally, it requires a great deal of efforts, perseverance, knowledge, etc. to complete the work satisfactorily. I expect composers to compose the piece which the performer feels like playing by all means and to play the active role in the field of Piano Duo works. I would like to express my thanks to Duo SAITO for performing every contestant's work for this competition.

KUBO, Hiroshi (Director of IPDA)



Mrs. SAITO receiving the Encouragement Award instead of Ms. SAMARINA, from Mr. KUBO, Hiroshi on the left hand.

YAGI, Fumihiko (Director of IPDA)



Mr. WATAHIKI, Koutarou receiving the Special Award of the Audience, from Mr. YAGI, Fumihiko (at left).

“Praise for this year’s International Piano Duo Competition”

Yozo KOYAMA (Executive Director, Kawai Music Foundation)

I am delighted at the great success of the 17th International Piano Duo Competition. Seeing as many as thirteen musical pieces advance to the final selection in the last edition is very encouraging. And with a number of pieces submitted by overseas composers, it is clear that this competition is gaining a strong reputation internationally.

I believe it is very important for young composers to present their works to a public audience, and believe that competitions such as this can serve as a spring board to a successful music career. Moreover, the dedication and support contributed by the IPDA staff undoubtedly provides invaluable experience for the young musicians’ future.

As with previous editions, it would be my pleasure for this year’s winning composition to be performed at the “Pause” concert salon at Kawai’s Omotesando Store. I wish continued success to all the young composers who participated in this competition, and to everyone associated with the IPDA. (June 18, 2012)



On the right hand Ms. NISHIDE, Mari receiving the KAWAI Award, from Mr. KOYAMA, Yozo.

“About the International Piano Duo Competition Composition Section”

GOTO, Kazuhiro (President of Steinway & Sons Japan, Ltd.)

I’d like to extend my best wishes to all the staff here and those who are concerned for their enormous effort to hold this competition successfully in the center of Ginza overcoming the difficulties of the Great Earthquake East Japan last year.

As one of the people who are engaged in the music industry, I felt extremely fortunate to be able to listen to new 13 works from Part I to Part III today.

For me, the total time of three and a half hours has seemed to be passed so quickly because I have been really impressed with the works of every composer who live in the same age who are inhaling the same air with us.

I really felt the level of this competition very high because there were a lot of works for piano duo expressing the pleasure of playing drums in it, the ones which reflected baroque music and the music of the impressionist school.

Especially, I was very much impressed with “Koubou” of Mr. OHTANI, Miyabi which won Steinway Award because it had coolness in rhythm, at the same time “Sôhyô” of Mr. KANAI, Akihiko who won the Award of Excellence and “Hembou” of Special Award of Audience were also very impressive.

I sincerely hope the future endeavors of this competition so that it will disseminate new works to the world and become the gateway to success for young composers.



On the right hand Mr. OHTANI, Miyabi receiving Steinway Award, from Mr. GOTO, Kazuhiro.

“Comment on the Composition Competition”

SUZUKI, Tatsuya (Observer/ Steinway-Kai Special Advisor)

I attended the Final Round of the Composition Competition which was held at YAMAHA Artist Salon at Ginza on May 13th, 2012.

Surviving through the Elimination Round, 13 compositions including 3 pieces from overseas were performed at the Final Round before the judges.

I could listen as an observer all of the 13 compositions with the help of scores in front of me which were prepared by the Committee and actual performances were conducted on a piano by the same 4-hands-duo pianists. As it is stated as the principle guide of the competition in the Composition Competition regulation book “The composition should aim at new music art and it should be suitable to be used as the required piece for the 18th Performance Competition”, and all were well written within the guideline. All of them were contemporary style music and yet, they were not too modern for me as an amateur musician to understand. Moreover all of them were so excellent that I thought they seemed hard to place one over the others.

The Superior Prize (the 1st Prize) was given, however, to “Sôhyô” composed by Mr. KANAI, Akihiko which had a deep sense of colors, nice feeling of unification, and this piece made me imagine certain scenery while listening to it. “Koubou” composed by OHTANI, Miyabi was chosen as the Steinway Award by Mr. GOTO, President of Steinway & Sons Japan, as his own vote.

I would like to give a special recognition to the performance by Duo SAITO (Miki and Akihiko SAITO) who performed all 13 works. They performed superbly even with a limited preparation time and most pieces had very difficult rhythms.



Mr. SUZUKI, Tatsuya



On the right hand Mr. TAKAHASHI, Ryoh receives Ongaku-no-Tomo-sha Encouragement Award, from Mr. HORIUCHI, Kumio



On the right hand Mr. WATAHIKI, Kourarou receiving Lesson-no Tomo-sha Award, from Mr. KAWAMURA Jun-ichi



On the left hand Mr. SHIRAIWA, Masahiro receiving YAMAHA Award, from Mr. YAMAMORI, Naoki

~ from members of over sea

from Maria & Angelika Bolla in Greece

Christmas card & CD

~It's a nice performance, and very cute design!



Igor Rekhin



Thanks for your letter. I am glad the nobility that my music for piano ensembles are in library of Association. I would want that these plays were more known in Japan as among pupils and giving concerts pianists. Whether it is possible to hope in this question to the aid of Association and its active members?

My other compositions have been at various times published In Russia also. It is "Polyphonic Concert" (publishing house "Soviet composer", Moscow, 1988.) and "Three Latin American dances" (M, 2005). If these compositions are not present in your library I shall be

glad to send last published copies from my library in your order. Certainly, I would like, that known Japanese executors would become interested in these works.

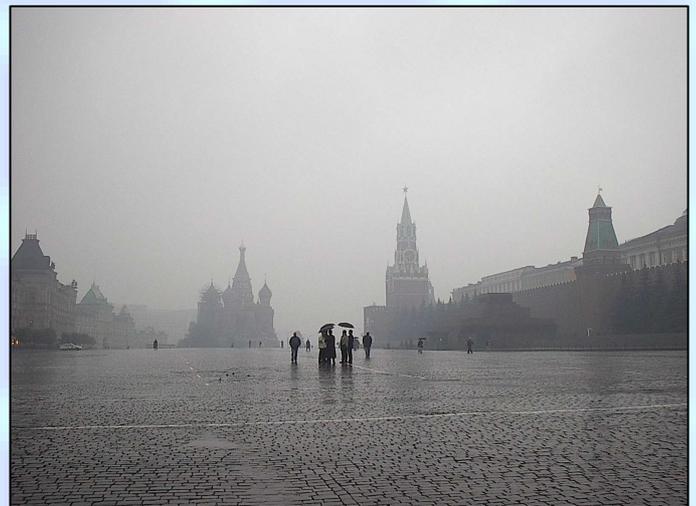
Thanks for the invitation to participate in next composers competition. But I am now borrowed by other important work as the ballet composition and I can not distract on other offers. I hope, you with understanding will concern to it.

My dream to visit Japan with the master-classes on execution of music of different styles and epoch, including my compositions for ensemble. I spend this work for a long time in Russia and other countries.

More detailed information can be received on my site <http://www.rekhin.narod.ru/>

With the best regards-

Yours Igor Rekhin



International Piano Duo Association