

Piano News

E-Piano Junior Competition



Frank Duepree

Nansong Huang

Osip Nikiforov

Jan Lisiecki

Vladimir Levitsky

Director, Alexander Braginsky created the e-Competition to be a new kind of contest with a focus on being as fair as possible, where the competitors are judged on their merit, not on what school or country they come from, or who their teacher is. And in order to give all pianists an equal chance at the preliminaries, regardless of location or financial situation, Braginsky came up with the idea of all competitors recording their performance on Yamaha Disklaviers so the the piano performance itself is judged—not the recording.

After successfully completing three biannual competitions for contestants up to 32 years of age, the Minnesota International Piano-e-Competition launched a new competition this year, called the e-Piano Junior Competition for pianists ages 17 and below. Some very talented young musicians came from around the world to take part in the finals at Minneapolis, Minnesota in the US. The level of performers was impressive, and the audience enjoyed some inspiring performances.

The first prize was shared by Frank Duepree, Germany and Nansong Huang, China. Both winners performed with the Minnesota Orchestra on the Gala Concert that followed the award ceremony. Second Prize was not awarded. The third prize was shared by Osip Nikiforov, Russia and Jan Lisiecki, Canada. Fourth Prize was not awarded. The fifth prize was awarded to Vladimir Levitsky, Russia.

We congratulate these talented young musicians on their success and will watch their musical careers develop. We also applaud the organizers of the e-Competition as well as all the staff at Yamaha Corporation of America who helped support this project.

When the e-Competition started in 2000, one of the important jurors was not able to attend due to a schedule conflict in Japan. Braginsky approached Yamaha knowing that they alone had technology which allowed pianists in Minnesota to perform on concert grand pianos in Japan via internet! Now all rounds are recorded on Disklaviers and video which achieves one of Braginsky's other goals; to make the competition accessible by the widest possible audience. Anyone can access the archives of performances, but if you play the files through a Disklavier, it is virtually the same as having the performer playing for you in your own home.

The Piano e-Competition Website: <http://piano-e-competition.com/>