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- **WASHINGTONINTERNATIONAL PIANO ARTS COUNCIL (WIPAC)**

**ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF ITS 2018 EDITION OF THE Festival of**

**Music and the 16<sup>th</sup> Washington International Piano Artists Competition.**

WASHINGTON, DC, August 06, 2018 -- This year's competition was a tremendous success with 24 candidates and 7 countries represented.

The three prize winners, pictured below, captivated the audience and thrilled their musical expectations in the ballroom of the Cosmos Club. Their professionalism and artistry demonstrated that the borderline between the professional and the amateur musical worlds is not so clearly defined. They showed that even though practicing and performing at this level requires a lifelong devotion, it is nonetheless possible to stay faithful to this commitment while having another profession, even a family.

A non-profit educational organization, the Washington International Piano Arts Council (WIPAC) is expanding its concept internationally and constantly upgrading its offerings locally. Next year's needs include renting the main recital hall of The George Washington University, which would significantly improve the acoustics and allow for audience expansion. WIPAC's goal is to raise the amount necessary to rent the main hall (Lisner or Marvin Center; or the Corcoran Gallery Hall) at George Washington University next year.

For further information and to become a donor please contact Chateau Gardecki at [wipacusa@gmail.com](mailto:wipacusa@gmail.com).

(Below: Third Place Winner, Jeanne Craig; Second Place Winner, Jeni Kong; First Place Winner, Yiran Wang)





WIPAC's Board President Michael Davidson, Jury Chair Georges Mihaies, and Founder and Board Chair Chateau Gardecki announcing the prize winners in the ballroom of the Cosmos Club, Washington DC.



\* 1st prize winner Yiran Wang performing during the final round.





(Above: The 6 Finalists: Simon Finlow, Joseph Lipare, Anqi Wang, Jeni Kong, Jeanne Craig, Yiran Wang)

## Washington International Piano Arts Council (WIPAC)

The mission of Washington International Piano Arts Council is to promote mutual understanding, international friendship and to provide an educational for all levels of professional and non-professional pianists; to create a Renaissance of interest in the art of piano performance, to organize venues where classical music can flourish in our communities.

Washington International Piano Arts Council is a grassroots arts organization composed of very talented and dedicated all-volunteer members. Sixteen years after presenting our first event at the French Embassy, WIPAC is in full swing, on top of the world, capturing hearts and minds of not only the audiences that have attended our concerts and become members, but also critical observers, the diplomatic world, and piano aficionados.

WIPAC annually hosts the Festival of Music and the Washington International Piano Artists Competition in cooperation with GWU Music Department, the Arts Club of Washington, the Kosciuszko Foundation and foreign embassies. The **First 2003 Festival of Music and The First Washington International Piano Artists Competition** was a great success because of so many people who gave us support and walked the extra mile – our volunteers, donors, and supporters. The 2004 Festival of Music and Second Annual Piano Artists Competition was an even greater success, and there were 4 more competitors than the previous year, who came to Washington and competed for honors, distinctions, and awards.

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WIPAC has an important role to play in our society. We have been able to offer the gift of great music performed by incredibly talented artists and the enormous and unselfish support of our members and the audience.

As Board Chair and co-founder of WIPAC, I will always remember that WIPAC exists not solely because of that passion, a few ideas and the determination but because so many people have come to recognize with renewed vigor, the real value and importance of great and beautiful music that enriches and enhances our lives.

Chateau Gardecki, Board Chair, WIPAC