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## And the Semifinal Winners Are..... !

by [H and L Polgar](#) • August 5, 2018

After an intense day of performance, the 6 finalists of the 2018 Washington International Piano Artists Competition were selected from a roster of 12 pianists to continue on to the final day of competition taking place on Sunday at the Cosmos Club in DC. The finalists are Jeanne Craig, Simon Finlow, Jeni Kong, Joseph Lipare, Anqi Wang and Yiran Wang.

It will be a difficult task for the judges to decide on the top three as each pianist excels in their own way. Yiran Wang's exhilarating performance of the *Danzas Argentinas Opus 2* by Alberto Ginastera with its complicated rhythms was astounding. So captivating was Jeannie Craig that she had the audience members suspended with anticipation as they listened attentively to every note of her performance of the Mozart *Sonata in F Major K332*. Anqi Wang's pianistic skills were remarkable in the Chopin *Ballade No.3 in A Flat Major, Op. 47*, and Simon Finlow captured the lively Russian flavor of Mili Balakirev *Mazurka No 5 in D* and *Mazurka No 6 in A flat*. It was Joseph Lipare's outstanding interpretive skills and energy that brought to life the popular Chopin *Fantasia Impromptu Opus 66*, as well as the passionate *Tango Oblivion* by Astor Piazzolla. And finally, Jeni Kong stood out with her refined delicate interpretation of the Bach *Partita No. 2: Sinfonia*, and Schubert *Impromptu Opus 90 No 2*.

The highly skilled jurors will take on the challenge of selecting the winners. Good luck to all.







