

## Prize winners of the Violin Masterclasses & Concerts 2019

Concert and awards ceremony took place on 22 June in Kronberg

From 16 to 23 June, the Violin Masterclasses & Concerts again made Kronberg the centre of violin-playing world. Some 140 young violinists from 40 countries came to attend public tuition sessions with the great violinists Ana Chumachenco, Mauricio Fuks, Mihaela Martin, Gerhard Schulz and Pavel Vernikov. Performances by the young soloists and alumni of Kronberg Academy were framed by two orchestral concerts with the Korean Chamber Orchestra and Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra. An exhibition featuring European violin makers, bow makers and strings manufacturers, the public “Open workshop” with master violin and bow makers, and a series of talks formed part of the event’s fringe programme.

At the close of the Violin Masterclasses & Concerts, Raimund Trenkler, Founder and Chairman of the Board of the Kronberg Academy Foundation, remarked: “Once again, it was so wonderful and encouraging to watch the young musicians and see their heartfelt and absolute desire to give something with the music. I would like to see this productive and sensitive cooperation between people belonging to different countries and generations become the example to follow – and not only in musical circles. The fact that young musicians come to Kronberg demonstrates, at least in my opinion, how bound they feel by their talent – and thus also by society. It is therefore only right, and important, that we, as a society, also have a sense of obligation towards these talented youngsters. In Kronberg, the two come together.”

Eight masterclass participants were chosen to perform in the prize winners’ concert on 22 June. Their concert set the scene for conferral of the sponsorship awards, which are traditionally presented at the end of the Violin Masterclasses & Concerts. The prize-winning violinists for 2019 are:

- Prince of Hesse Prize (shared)  
Yamen Saadi (22 years, Israel)  
Ririko Noborisaka (24 years, Japan)  
*The Prince of Hesse Prize has been presented to a young violinist at the end of the Violin Masterclasses since 2009. The promotional prize, which is worth €5,000, is conferred on a young musician who has stood out during the masterclasses on account of his or her “special musical ability, special perceptive insight, talent and hard work and hence recognisably great artistic potential”.*
- Ana Chumachenco Award (shared)  
Mon-Fu Lee Hsu (19 years, Spain)  
Shihan Wang (14 years, China)  
*Kronberg Academy established the Ana Chumachenco Award, worth €5,000, at the request of the great violinist and teacher Ana Chumachenco, and presented it in 2019 for the third time at the Violin Masterclasses & Concerts. It is funded by Marianne and Dr. Klaus-Jürgen Kraatz.*

- Manfred Grommek Prize (shared)

Clara Shen (14 years, Germany)

Gyurim Kwak (20 years, South Korea)

*The Bad Sodener Musikstiftung Jürgen Frei (BSM) presents the sponsorship award to an active participant at the Violin Masterclasses & Concerts selected by the tutors. The prize, which is named after Manfred Grommek, a citizen of Bad Soden who died in 2007, is endowed with €5,000 and should preferably be conferred on "a young musician at the start of his or her musical career with recognisably great development potential".*

In addition, Hina Maeda (16 years, Japan) and Emil Deniz Hartikainen (16 years, Finland) received scholarships to take part in two workshops during the 2019 Kronberg Academy Festival.

The next Violin Masterclasses & Concerts will take place in early summer 2021 in Kronberg.

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# Press Photos



Clara Shen (14 years, Germany), Prize Winners' Concert at the Violin Masterclasses & Concerts on 22 June 2019

Photo: Patricia Truchsess

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/rqozdj0778jppq8/19-06-22\\_GMK\\_F%C3%B6rderpreistr%C3%A4ger-K6\\_Clara-Shen\\_c\\_Patricia-Truchsess.jpg?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/rqozdj0778jppq8/19-06-22_GMK_F%C3%B6rderpreistr%C3%A4ger-K6_Clara-Shen_c_Patricia-Truchsess.jpg?dl=0)



Yamen Saadi (22 years, Israel), Prize Winners' Concert at the Violin Masterclasses & Concerts on 22 June 2019

Photo: Patricia Truchsess

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Prize Winners' Concert at the Violin Masterclasses & Concerts on 22 June 2019 Left to right: Craig White, Yumiko Urabe, Dana Protopopescu (all piano), Yamen Saadi (violin), Miki Aoki (piano), Hina Maeda, Gyurim Kwak, Emil Hartikainen, Clara Shen, Ririko Noborisaka, Mon-Fu Lee Hsu and Shihan Wang (all violin).

Photo: Patricia Truchsess

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/ah6ue97r5r9voml/19-06-22\\_GMK\\_F%C3%B6rderpreistr%C3%A4ger-K6\\_Yamen-Saadi\\_c\\_Patricia-Truchsess.jpg?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/ah6ue97r5r9voml/19-06-22_GMK_F%C3%B6rderpreistr%C3%A4ger-K6_Yamen-Saadi_c_Patricia-Truchsess.jpg?dl=0)



## About Kronberg Academy

Kronberg Academy is a unique cultural institution in Europe that trains and sponsors a world-class team of highly gifted young musicians who play the violin, viola and cello. Renowned musicians such as Ana Chumachenco, Christian Tetzlaff, Tabea Zimmermann and Frans Helmerson are among the Academy's professors. There are some 25 places on the Bachelor's and Master's programmes at the Academy, with the degrees awarded by Frankfurt University of Music and Performing Arts. The Professional Studies and Precollege study programmes, as well as the study programme for pianists focusing on chamber music, enhance the range of courses on offer. Founded in 1993, the Academy is predominantly financed by private donations. Its Founder and Chairman of the Board is Raimund Trenkler and Prof. Dr Friedemann Eichhorn is its Artistic Director. The members of the Artistic Council are Marta Casals Istomin, Yuri Bashmet, Christoph Eschenbach, Gidon Kremer, Sir András Schiff and Mstislav Rostropovich († 2007). In addition to running its study programmes, Kronberg Academy organises several concert projects and many other performances, as well as the internationally acclaimed Kronberg Academy Festival, which takes place every two years.

## Prize winners' biographies

### **Yamen Saadi**

Yamen Saadi was born in Nazareth, Israel, in 1997 and studied at the Barenboim-Said Conservatory there. He became a member of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra at the age of eleven, and six years later was made its leader. He has already won first and second prizes in international competitions and has participated in numerous festivals. As a sought-after soloist, he has performed with ensembles including the Haifa Symphony Orchestra, the Galilee Chamber Orchestra and the Orchestra of València. He has played with distinguished musicians such as Daniel Barenboim, Guy Braunstein, Amichai Grosz and Alisa Weilerstein. Yamen Saadi studies at the Barenboim-Said Academy in Berlin with Mihaela Martin. He plays a violin by Lorenzo Carcassi dating from 1774, which is loaned to him by Michael Barenboim.

### **Ririko Noborisaka**

Born in Osaka, Japan, in 1995, Ririko Noborisaka began playing violin at the age of four. She studied with Machie Oguri at the Soai High School of Music, and since 2014 has been studying with Pavel Vernikov at the Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna. She has received masterclasses from Dora Schwarzberg, Michael Frischenschlager and Roland Daugreil, and was also an active participant in Kronberg Academy's Violin Masterclasses & Concerts in 2015. Ririko Noborisaka has won first prize in international competitions including the Osaka International Music Competition, the Kansai String Competition and the Azalea New Talents Competition. The Kyoto Symphony Orchestra, Soai Orchestra and the Osaka Philharmonic Orchestra are among those with which she has shared the stage as a soloist.

### **Mon-Fu Lee Hsu**

Mon-Fu Lee Hsu was born in Madrid, Spain, in 1999. He began playing violin at the age of four with Sergio Castro, and also received both piano and singing lessons. At twelve years of age he became one of the youngest students to join the class of Ana Chumachenco at the Reina Sofía School of Music in Madrid, where he is still currently studying. He has attended masterclasses with distinguished professors such as Mauricio Fuks, Eduard Grach and Arabella Steinbacher. In 2007, he received 2nd prize in the Shanghai Competition for Young Talents and won 1st prize in the V. Concurso de Jóvenes Intérpretes in Madrid in 2011. He has gained experience as a soloist and chamber musician in Austria, Germany, Taiwan, China, France, Italy and Switzerland.



### **Shihan Wang**

Born in Beijing, China, in 2005, Shihan Wang began playing the violin at the age of four and studied until he was eight with Hong Wang at Beijing's Central Conservatory of Music. In 2018, he was awarded first place in the "Best of Best" programme for outstanding talent at the Central Conservatory of Music. At the age of six, he shared the stage with the chamber orchestra of the Shanxi Musicians' Association for his first solo appearance. This was followed by performances with the Qingdao Symphony Orchestra, Staatskapelle Weimar, the Salzburger Kammersolisten and the Mitteleuropa Orchestra. He has achieved success in a number of international competitions, including 1st prize in the 8th International Louis Spohr Competition for Young Violinists in 2018, 1st prize in the 2nd Zhuhai International Mozart Competition for Young Musicians in 2017, and 3rd prize in Italy's "Il Piccolo Violino Magico" International Competition for Young Violinists. He is also the youngest violinist to be awarded a prize and certificate of honour by the Ministry of Culture of the People's Republic of China.

### **Clara Shen**

Born in Munich in 2005, Clara Shen has been a young student at the University of Music and Performing Arts Munich since 2014, first under Sonja Korkeala and since 2019 with Ingolf Turban. She has also been studying with Paul Roczek at the Pre-College of the Mozarteum University Salzburg since 2016. Her training is enhanced by masterclasses with professors such as Ana Chumachenco, Ingolf Turban, Julia Fischer and Lena Neudauer. She has won prizes in numerous competitions, including 4th prize in the 2018 Menuhin Competition in Geneva and 2nd prize in the 2017 Zhuhai International Mozart Competition for Young Musicians in China. In addition, she was among the prize winners at the 17th Kloster Schöntal International Competition for Violin in 2017. As a soloist, she has performed with ensembles including the symphony orchestra of the Bayerische Philharmonie, the Salzburger Kammersolisten and the Orchestre de Chambre de Genève. Clara Shen plays a violin by Carlo Antonio Testore, Milan 1740, from the German Musical Instruments Fund, which is on loan to her from the Deutsche Stiftung Musikleben.

### **Gyurim Kwak**

Born in South Korea in 1998, Gyurim Kwak has played the violin since the age of nine. From 2011 to 2013 she attended the Yewon Music School, followed by Seoul Arts High School, from which she graduated in 2016. Since 2017, she has been studying with Lena Neudauer at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Munich. She has attended masterclasses with tutors such as Christoph Poppen, Lena Neudauer, Augustin Hadelich, Boris Garlitsky and Dmitry Sitkovetsky. Gyurim Kwak has won multiple prizes in competitions at home and abroad, including the Seoul International Music Competition and the Segye Ilbo Music Competition. In 2017, she was awarded 2nd prize in the International Anton Rubinstein Competition in Düsseldorf. In addition, she held a scholarship from the Seoul Arts High School Foundation in 2016. As a soloist, she has performed with the Seoul Arts High School Symphony Orchestra, Busan Philharmonic Orchestra and the Bulgarian Pazardzhik Philharmonic.