



For Immediate Release – 19 January 2018

One Week To Go! Exhibition of Fine Rare Instruments at Singapore International Violin Competition

An exhibition of fine rare instruments from the prestigious Rin Collection will be on display during the Singapore International Violin Competition 2018 at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music from 28 January to 3 February 2018. For timing, see www.singaporeviolincompetition.com/schedule

The philosophy of the owners of the collection, the late Mr. Rin Kei Mei and Mrs Rin, who undoubtedly hold one of the world's most important collections today, is simply to help as many aspiring young musicians as possible to perfect their art using as good an instrument as possible.

The late Mr Rin's idea came to life over 17 years ago, when in Beijing on a business trip. There, he stumbled upon some students from the Central Conservatory of Music performing at a hotel lobby. These students displayed fantastic technical ability but their sound was terrible. Upon closer observation, he found that they were using very mediocre instruments that produced shrill pitches, typical of the Chinese violins of the past. Suffice to say Mr Rin was immediately motivated to help. The Rin Collection now boasts over 500 violins, violas and cellos that are loaned to musicians all over the world including musicians from the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music (Singapore), Shanghai Conservatory and Central Conservatory of Music (Beijing).

The collection includes some of the world's most valuable instruments including Antonio Stradivari, Guarneris and Amatis. The Rin Collection is a true feast for the eyes. You can name all the great violinmakers; there will be least one of them in this superb collection. Some of the instruments are valued in the millions of dollars.

The Singapore International Violin Competition was launched in June 2014 as a landmark cultural initiative for Singapore and South-East Asia. Considered to be the Grand Prix for emerging violinists, the Competition serves as a showcase for exceptional aspiring professional violinists from around the world. **31 violinists from 11 countries and the world-renowned Jury will visit Singapore from 27 January – 8 February 2018 for 9 live rounds taking place at YST Conservatory of Music, Victoria Concert Hall and Esplanade Theatres on the Bay.**

The standard of the applications was incredibly high, as over 120 of the best young musicians in the world applied for the opportunity to compete in the upcoming Singapore International Violin Competition. The successful candidates are world-class and include recent winners of many prestigious international competitions.

The Competition winner will receive a First Prize of USD\$50,000, international performance opportunities with some of the world's great orchestras, a trophy from Tiffany & Co., and access to a 3-year instrument loan from the collection of fine, rare instruments of the late Mr Rin Kei Mei and Mrs Rin. **Distinguished Artist in Residence, violin virtuoso Shlomo Mintz, will conduct the YST Conservatory Orchestra at the Final rounds, and also perform a solo recital in support of the Competition on 31 January.**

Tickets are now on sale for all rounds and special events at www.sistic.com.sg/events/cviolin0218
www.singaporeviolincompetition.com

The 31 Candidates (family name in alphabetical order):

| Name | Country | Name | Country | Name | Country |
|---------------------|-------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Misako Akama | Japan | Chisa Kitagawa | Japan | Sumina Studer | Switzerland |
| Austin Berman | USA | Oleksandr Korniev | Ukraine | Elly Suh | USA |
| Sergei Dogadin | Austria | Anna Lee | USA | Naoko Tajima | Japan |
| Laurel Gagnon | USA | Alexandra Lomeiko | New Zealand | Yun Tang | China |
| Luke Hsu | USA | Kyung Ji Min | South Korea | Yukiko Uno | Japan |
| Zornitsa Ilarionova | Bulgaria | Gabriel Ng | Singapore | Eimi Wakui | Japan |
| Yiyang Jiang | China | Soo-Hyun Park | South Korea | Albert Yamamoto | Japan |
| Donghyun Kim | South Korea | Ashley Jeehyun Park | USA | Lisa Yasuda | Japan |
| Jeein Kim | South Korea | Tatjana Roos | United Kingdom | Minami Yoshida | Japan |
| YuEun Kim | South Korea | Xiaoxuan Shi | China | | |
| Namhyun Kim | South Korea | Ji Won Song | South Korea | | |

Final Live Rounds Concert Schedule:

First Rounds @ Yong Siew Toh Conservatory Concert Hall: 28 – 30 January (FREE ENTRY)

Sunday: 28 Jan: 2.30pm - 4.30pm, 4.50pm – 6.40pm

Monday: 29 Jan: 11am – 1.15pm, 2.30pm – 4.45pm, 5.15pm – 7.30pm

Tuesday: 30 Jan: 10am – 12.45pm, 2pm – 4.45pm

Special Event (TICKETS: \$25.00)

Shlomo Mintz Solo Violin Recital @ Yong Siew Toh Conservatory Concert Hall: 31 January, Wednesday: 7.30pm

Semi-Finals @ Yong Siew Toh Conservatory Concert Hall: 1 – 3 February (TICKETS: \$10.00)

Thursday - Saturday: 1.30pm – 4.15pm, 4.45pm – 7.30pm

Finals @ Victoria Concert Hall: 5 & 6 February (TICKETS: \$15.00)

Monday & Tuesday: 7.30pm

Grand Final @ Esplanade Concert Hall: 8 February (TICKETS: \$25.00)

Thursday: 7.30pm

Conductors & Orchestras:

Finals: Shlomo Mintz, Conductor
YST Conservatory Orchestra

Grand Final: Joshua Tan, Conductor
Singapore Symphony Orchestra

Ticket Sales Information:

sistic.com.sg/events/cviolin0218

The Jury:

QIAN ZHOU Singapore (Chair)
MAURICIO FUKS USA
KAM NING Singapore
KIM NAM YUN South Korea
BORIS KUSCHNIR Ukraine
SILVIA MARCOVICI Romania
PAUL ROCZEK Austria
DAVID TAKENO UK
VICTOR TRETIKOV Russia

PARTNERS:



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