



Media Release – 27 January 2018

The SIVC 2018 Begins!

29 Candidates from 11 countries and 9 International Jurors arrive in Singapore for 10 days of exciting live rounds!

Today marks the beginning of the 2018 Singapore International Violin Competition (SIVC), as the 29 world-class candidates representing 11 Countries, 9 international jurors and honoured Guests attended an impressive Welcome Reception at Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music (YST), to welcome the international guests to Singapore and to conduct the balloting to decide the order of performances ahead of the first round tomorrow.

The SIVC was honored with the presence of **Guest of Honour Mr. Goh Yew Lin** (Chair of the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music and the Singapore Symphony Group and Deputy Chairperson of the National Arts Council, who delivered an address warmly welcoming the Jury and Candidates to Singapore and speaking about the importance of the development of the arts and classical music in the region.

In addressing the guests, Mr Goh said:

“All the right ingredients are here for a world-class competition: a sophisticated audience, strong violin tradition, world-class concert halls and facilities, a well-established professional orchestra and strong national and corporate support of the event.”

Attendees at the special event included representatives from SIVC’s Major Partners including the Rin Collection, Far East Organisation, The Lee Foundation, Hong Leong Foundation, Vivian Goh, Synwin Music, Thomastik-Infeld, Gramercy Music and Tiffany & Co., members of the Singapore arts and music community, corporate communities and members of the media. The 29 Candidates were also further supported by representatives of the Embassies of their Countries to Singapore, including Ukrainian Ambassador Dmytro Senik, Ms Jasna Lazarevic (Diplomatic Attaché of Switzerland), and Ms Akiko Sugita, Director of Japan Creative Centre and Counsellor at the Embassy of Japan in Singapore.

Following the formal address, the balloting took place on the YST stage, with each Candidate selecting a number to determine the order of performances for the opening round of the Competition. The dates and times of each Candidate’s performance can be found on the following page.

On display was a selection of fine, rare violins from the **Rin Collection**, in an exhibition curated specially for the 2018 Singapore International Violin Competition. The collection includes some of the world’s most valuable instruments including Antonio Stradivari, Guarneris and Amatis. The Rin Collection remains on display at YST until the 3rd of February and is a must-see exhibition.

During the evening, guests were entertained with a solo performance by **10-year-old Singaporean violinist Chloe Chua**, a violin student at the Nanyang Academy Of Fine Arts (NAFA), School Of Young Talents (SYT). Ms Chua was recently selected to compete in this year’s Menuhin Competition and won the Junior Section of the Singapore National Piano & Violin Competition last year. Her confident performance at the event was a resounding success and a great indication of the future of classical music talent in Singapore.

Distinguished Artist-in-Residence for the Competition, violin virtuoso **Shlomo Mintz**, will be arriving in Singapore this week to perform a solo recital of the beautiful Ysaye solo sonatas on 31 January at the YST Concert Hall. Esteemed for his impeccable musicianship, stylistic versatility and commanding technique alike, he will also be conducting two masterclasses, and conduct the Conservatory Orchestra at the Finals on 5 and 6 February at the Victoria Concert Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Audience Prize voting will open on 5th of February for the final 6 candidates and is accessible from the Competition website.

<http://singaporeviolincompetition.com/>

All rounds of the Competition will be live-streamed on Facebook:

<facebook.com/singaporeinternationalviolincompetition/>

Official Prizes

First Prize:	USD50,000
Second Prize:	USD25,000
Third Prize:	USD 6,000
Fourth Prize:	USD 5,000
Fifth Prize:	USD 4,000
Sixth Prize:	USD 4,000

*All cash prizes are offered net of tax.

All six prizes are eligible for a 3-year violin loan from the Rin Collection:

1753 Guadagnini, Joannes Baptista

1680 Ex-D'annunzio-Baccara Stradivari, Antonio

1840 Pressenda, Francesco

1719 Tononi, Carlo

1721 Montagnana, Domenico

1793 Lorenzo Storioni, Cremona

Special Prizes:

The Goh Soon Tioe Violin and Piano Recital Prize: USD 5,000

Audience Prize: USD 2,000

Best Performance of Commissioned Work: USD 1,000

Best Performance of Bach: USD 1,000

Best Performance of Paganini Caprice: USD 1,000

Master Bow by Pierre Guillaume awarded to Best Singaporean Performer
(Courtesy of Gramercy Music)

The Jury:

QIAN ZHOU (Chair)*

MAURICIO FUKS

KAM NING

KIM NAM YUN

BORIS KUSCHNIR

SILVIA MARCOVICI

PAUL ROCZEK

TAKASHI SHIMIZU

DAVID TAKENO

VICTOR TRETIKOV

*Unfortunately Qian Zhou is still recovering from a recent illness. During her absence, Prof Bernard Lanskey will assume the role of a non-voting Chair of the Jury. Once recovered, Qian Zhou will resume her role as Chair (also non-voting). The Competition is grateful to Takashi Shimizu, who on short-notice, replaces Qian Zhou as a voting member of the jury.

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