

March 30, 2015

No first prize awarded at Seoul International Violin Competition 2015

Second prize was shared between Ayana Tsuji from Japan and Suliman Tekalli from the USA

First prize, worth \$50,000, was not awarded at this year's Seoul International Music Competition, devoted to the violin. Second prize was shared between 17-year-old Ayana Tsuji from Japan and 27-year-old Cleveland Institute student Suliman Tekalli from the USA (pictured), while third prize went to 27-year-old Petteri Iivonen from Finland.

The 2015 event, held between 18 and 29 March at Seoul Arts Centre, South Korea, attracted entries from a total of 104 applicants from the US, Europe and Asia. These were whittled down to 49 competitors from 13 countries, who performed in the live rounds.



The jury, chaired by Juilliard and Yale School of Music professor Hyo Kang, included Royal College of Music, London professor Radu Blidar, Seoul National University College of Music professor Kyung Sun Lee, Mozarteum University of Salzburg professor Igor Ozim, Manhattan School of Music professor Lucie Robert, Cleveland Institute of Music president Joel Smirnoff, Shanghai Conservatory of Music professor Lina Yu, and Hannover Hochschule für Musik professor Krzysztof Wegrzyn.

The Seoul International Music Competition is held annually for piano, violin, and voice, in a rotating sequence.