

Saskatoon Pianist wins 2021 Shurniak Concerto Competition



Photo courtesy of Stephen Nicholson

The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA), Tammy Villeneuve, President is pleased to announce that the 34th SMFA Concerto Competition was won by Saskatoon pianist Jerry Hu, with his performance of Tchaikovsky's *Piano Concerto in B flat Major No. 1, Op. 23*. He was accompanied by Bonnie Nicholson. Jerry received the first prize of \$2,000 and the opportunity to be a featured soloist in an upcoming season with the Regina Symphony Orchestra and the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra.

Jerry Hu is a 15-year-old pianist from Saskatoon. He has studied piano under Bonnie Nicholson for many years and has been honoured with many awards for his excellent performances. Recently, he

was chosen as the top senior pianist at the 2019 SMFA Provincial Music Festival and placed second overall in the senior piano discipline at the FCMF National Music Festival held later that year. Jerry has also had the opportunity to study under renowned pianists such as Jan Lisiecki, Ian Parker, Peter Miyamoto, and Natalie Zhu.

Nine young musicians competed in the 2021 Shurniak Concerto Competition, which was held virtually on February 20. Alice Li, a pianist from Saskatoon placed 2nd and Bradley Little, a pianist formerly from Regina (now living in Vancouver) placed 3rd. The competition was judged by Gordon Gerrard (Music Director of the Regina Symphony Orchestra) and Stephanie Unverricht (Principal bassoonist of the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra).

 **SASK LOTTERIES**

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SYMPHONY
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Gordon Gerrard
Music Director

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Eric Paetkau Music Director