

The 22nd International Chopin Piano Competition in ASIA – Final Round
Elementary School 3rd & 4th Grade Category

When playing dancing forms, the most important thing is to keep swaying tempo with its flexibility which should remain in the real dance. Please remember that slow waltzes are also dances.

Strong beat – very important in order to recognize the kind of dance - is only to feel, not to make accents. Another very important thing to remember is also to avoid a monotony of repeated rhythmic patterns.

Instead of mechanical repetitions, each performer should create long phrases – short motives are only elements of bigger entirety.

Generally, tempo should be the same - changes of tempo (Meno mosso, Piu mosso) should be rather slight.



Congratulations for all participants of the Final Round of the 22nd International Chopin Piano Competition in Asia!

I enjoyed listening to all the performances and I appreciate the efforts of the teachers and parents to organize the professional recording sessions for young pianists and preparing for the competition in difficult time of global pandemic. The majority of the participants are already advanced in piano playing and they achieved high technical skills. They offer very good sound quality, clarity, the ability to shape the phrases beautifully. Many competitors showed a lot of excitement and joy in playing, which, I hope, they keep in the future. By some of them I noticed incorrect body posture by the instrument or some of unnecessary movements of the arm. Be careful, it can influence the effectiveness of piano playing in forthcoming years...

My advice on how to develop the performing art is to do research about the piece. For example, if we perform a dance, it would be important to show dance aspects and its characteristics. The waltz is a rather lively dance. The early waltzes by Chopin are influenced by Viennese waltzes or Ländler. The sparse use of pedal (Chopin write “off” sign on the 3rd beat) give the lightness to the waltzes. The music of Chopin is not always melancholic or lyrical, one can find here a huge diversity of moods, a lot of sparkling humor and amusement as well. There is an interesting scene which young Chopin describes in the letter to his family: “When Fritz [a country musician] plays a dance on the violin, then all the courtyard start dancing. [...] The capers began, a waltz and obertas [oberek], but to encourage the farmhands standing in silence and only jiggling around the spot, I made the first couple for the waltz with Miss Tekla and at the end with Mrs Dzienanowska.”(1925)

The mazurka (compilation of “Mazur”, “Kujawiak” and “Oberek”) is a rather simple folk dance with jumps, irregular accents and energetic pulse. The polonaise is a majestic, walking dance with accented strong beat.

I am sure every pianist can master his musical potential in listening to different kinds of music, symphonic and chamber as well as genuine folk music. Listening to different instruments, voice, watching great dancers helps to expand our imagination. I am sure your music passion will grow inspired by various arts.

Thank you for sharing your emotions through music with the listeners. I wish all the participants a successful year 2021!



The level of participants in this category is extremely high. I have been watching this progression for years, looking with admiration at the level of advancement of the piano playing and the musical awareness of these young people.

Moreover, I noticed during this year's edition of the Competition that children have a better understanding of the romantic aesthetics and Chopin's aesthetics and his idiomatic creative language better and better, which proves not only the talent of young people, but also excellent guidance by their teachers.

I would like to pay attention to 4 aspects of playing:

1. Agogic: too rapid changes in tempo, rubato not natural, lack of thinking with whole phrases, "jerking" the tempo.
2. Balance: insufficient balance between melody and accompaniment.
3. Pedaling: often the pedal is not precise and not clearly changed.
4. Aesthetics of individual dances:

Sometimes there is a noticeable lack of awareness of the aesthetic differences between the Waltz, Mazurek or Polonaise. It is worth to know better the specificity of these dances, steps, and their characteristics.