

The 22nd International Chopin Piano Competition in ASIA – Final Round
Elementary School 5th & 6th Grade Category

Have courage to play spontaneously and to show your individual interpretation. Develop your imagination which is necessary for feeling and expressing music. Pay attention to the title of the piece and built your interpretation on it. Avoid hard sound in forte - the sound is a result of your gestures. The technical skills should be always in need of musical expression. Tempo and pulse in a piece should be stable but also flexible if needed. Use flexible dynamics with nuances. Feel long phrases and built large emotional lines.

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Dear Participants, Parents and Teachers,

First of all, I would like to congratulate all the participants on their performances, which were on a very high level. I am always very happy to hear aspiring pianists playing difficult repertoire with good expression, nice phrasing and with very good technical skills at such a young age. You are starting to discover the beauty of Chopin's music, in which the most important elements are: simplicity, vocal phrasing, natural rubato and brilliant articulation and honest but not exaggerated expression.

When learning new pieces, respect all indications in the music text, it is very important to deeply understand the idea of composer. Always work to improve your technique, but remember that technique is not just "fast fingers", but it is a special tool that allows us to better present the sense of all music masterpieces you perform.

You are in the very important period of your education, maybe the most important. Becoming a better pianist does not just mean spending countless hours at the piano. Learn about history of music, harmony, listen to different works (symphonies, operas, chamber music). Read about composers, musical periods to get better insight into the works you play.

I wish all of you all the best in this fascinating adventure you have embarked on.

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A big applause for your skills at such a young age!

In further work, you should focus on looking for more details that make the piece really interesting and give it the proper character, such as dynamic or articulation differences.

You should pay more attention to the sound quality. In Chopin's works, the melodic line must sing. And this will only be possible with legato articulation.

Natural phrasing is one of the most important elements that the participants of this group should work on. In many interpretations, you could hear the characteristic, metronomic way of playing. This is not natural in music. Chopin's pieces are filled with real emotions, and their expression requires natural time, not artificial, metronomic equality.