

The 23rd International Chopin Piano Competition in ASIA
Message from Polish Jury Members
Junior High School Category

●Jury member A

At the outset, I would like to congratulate all participants of the competition, who prepared for it very well, presenting their selected program at a good level. By the way, I would like to share a reflection on sound formation. It is worth taking care of a good sound that is full, singing and round in every dynamics. It requires a proper technique and articulation of course. Completely relaxed hands from arms based on the strong tips of the fingers. That's the basis.

Thanks to this, you can control and create the sound, space and pulse in music. Listening to the sound, children develop their technique and imagination.

●Jury member B

Junior level brings a big development of piano skills - young pianist feel a bigger piano technical liberty which allow to play the most difficult pieces without problem (e.g. etudes: C major op.10 no1, G sharp minor op.25 no6).

Being happy with this, the young pianists often forget about one very important criteria which is an esthetic side of their performance. Playing Chopin it means to keep distinguishing characteristic of Chopin style. Chopin's compositions call for an elegance, vocal quality of sound, good balance and lightness of execution, especially when playing the earlier pieces written in brillante style. All these puzzles should fit together as a jigsaw.

Too big concentration on technical perfection brings the objective performances.

I wish all young pianist to look for their own expression to find the deeper musical sense of this beautiful music.

●Jury member C

Dear Participants,

I would like to congratulate you on your performances in the Final Stage (which itself is a big success), on your great work, devotion and fantastic abilities you already possessed. It would not be possible without the great help of your teachers (whose input is hard to overestimate) and parents.

I think the level of the competition was incredible. Most of you showed great pianistic skills, many of you are also astonishingly mature in the interpretations.

Since there are no 'totally common advices' I could give you all – as every single person is different (and this is our beauty!) – I would like to share with you my list of things to be remembered when thinking about playing and especially performing Chopin pieces. It would be good to take great care of (among others):

- very natural communication, making music speak; mostly linear way of thinking and natural musical 'breathing',
- creating long phrases, shaping every motive and phrase, but also thinking about the whole construction,

- beautiful, singing (with the image of good legato and bel canto idea), very colourful, rich and noble sound,
- awareness of musical structures, including formal aspects, harmony, gestures etc.,
- awareness of the history of the pieces, musical stories 'hidden' in the pieces, but also our personal ideas we want to share with the audience,
- awareness of characters as well as of roots of the particular genres (which can be especially important e.g. in dances, with their folk, court or national music basis),
- good balance (between voices, between many layers in the whole structure, between notes in a chord etc.),
- good, supporting and varied use of pedals (always with awareness of particular instrument, acoustics and the real musical aim of using them in a particular moment),
- avoiding any unnecessary tension in body (including especially back, shoulders, arms and forearms),
- listening to what is really happening, finding some distance and really good balance between 'input' (meaning what we want to do and what we are doing) and 'output' (what really comes out),
- ...in the end – feeling some pleasure because of the little act of creation we are always experiencing while performing a musical masterpiece!

I wish you all the best in your future lives and careers!