

**JIYOON LEE and LIYA PETROVA  
ARE ANNOUNCED AS JOINT FIRST WINNERS OF THE  
2016 CARL NIELSEN INTERNATIONAL VIOLIN COMPETITION**



**FRIDAY 22 APRIL 2016, ODENSE**

Following an intense week of rounds in which 24 young violinists competed in a wide range of repertoire, the 2016 Carl Nielsen International Violin Competition winners were announced late on Friday night.

First prize was awarded jointly to 23 year old Jiyoon Lee from South Korea and 25 year old Liya Petrova from Bulgaria and third prize was awarded to 25 year old Luke Hsu from the United States.

Jiyoon Lee and Liya Petrova will receive 11 000 euros each, the opportunity of a recording with Orchid Classics and concerts with orchestras and recitals across Europe. Luke Hsu receives 8 000 euros.

Nikolaj Znaider, President of the Jury commented "We are delighted to award Jiyoon Lee and Liya Petrova joint first prize. It was impossible for us to separate these two excellent violinists, equally deserving to win. The jury is convinced that both artists have exciting careers ahead of them."

"What we have here in Odense is special. This is not a hot house environment and more important for all of us on the jury is to create an atmosphere of support for the participants where they feel comfortable approaching any one of us for guidance and advice. The human element of the competition has been as important to the jury as the task of judging."

"We have heard many young musicians over the last week who are at different stages of their development. The reality of competitions means there will always be talented violinists who won't make it through to the next round, even if they show great promise and potential. The jury has therefore decided to create a joint fourth prize which will be awarded to this year's three semi-finalists each of whom will receive 1000 euros: **JI Won Song (23), Karen Kido (21) and Soo- Hyun Park (26).**"

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Additional prizes were awarded as follows: **Soo-Hyun Park** (26) received "Best Danish Interpretation" for the performance of a new work by composer Jesper Koch (2 000 euros), **Jiyoon Lee** received both the "Odense Symphony Orchestra Prize" (1 500 euros) and "Children's Jury Prize" (1 500 euros).

Joining Nikolaj Znaider on the jury were Noah Bendix-Balgley, (1st Concertmaster, Berlin Philharmonic), Mats Engström, (Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra), Kathryn Enticott, (Artist Manager), Charles Hamlen, (Artistic Advisor, Orchestra of St. Luke's | DiMenna Center), Werner Hink (Violinist, Vienna Philharmonic), Kathryn Stott (Pianist) Eugen Tichindeleanu, (Concert Master, Odense Symphony Orchestra and Jian Wang (Cellist).

"The strong connection between Carl Nielsen and the orchestra is one of the pillars of this competition and I am very impressed with the level of interpretation of Nielsen's Violin Concerto," commented Finn Schumacker, CEO of the Odense Symphony Orchestra and host of the Carl Nielsen Competitions. "Through Nikolaj Znaider's commitment to this year's competition we have raised awareness of the importance of active music making amongst children and young people in Denmark and gathered a number of the most talented young violinists in the world today. As Carl Nielsen himself wrote in 1925:

*"It has often surprised me how little attention is brought to the fact that, at the moment when a child is given an impression, it is strong enough to imprint itself on the memory. The child is really a poet, with its specific conditions to receive the impression, reproduce it or just keep it."*

With the inspiration from this week we hope to bring forward the next Carl Nielsen Violin Competition to take place in 2019, three years hence."

Follow the rounds of the competition as they were streamed on Danish Radio's website at [www.dr.dk/carlnielsen2016](http://www.dr.dk/carlnielsen2016).

High resolution photos from the competition can be downloaded from: <http://press.odensesymfoni.dk>.