

## **Paulo Cello Competition winner Brannon Cho received spontaneous applause from the public**

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US Brannon Cho played so well that the first prize seemed to be self-evident in advance. Minji Kim from South Korea received the second prize, and US Zlatomir Fung came second as a small surprise.

US Brannon Cho played the solo part of Prokofiev's Sinfonia Concertante in such a magical, religious, and beautiful manner that it seemed obvious that he was the number one in Paulo's cello competition.

Cho's performance ended the Paulo Cello Competition. Before his performance in Prokofiev, it was still difficult to know who would win.

Cho made the audience excited very strongly, rarely seen before. After the second movement of the Sinfonia Concertante, a strong male voice ran out of the audience "Wow!" - a bang, and the whole audience joined enthusiastically with applause.

Cho finished the second movement of the work in such an enormous and intense, fast-paced arpeggios chain that this astonishing blow was completely spontaneously discharged. It was not disturbing, but fun! Certainly it was known that a long work still does not end there.

From the very beginning, Cho impressed with his sleek and sophisticated charm, and the modest Antonio Casini spoke with a vibrant and warm-hearted beauty. He has the ability to be the best sprint technique among his competitors. His playing was always infallible, sensitive in style.

Quite certain it may have been that South Korean Minji Kim would get another prize. She played at Lutoslawski's Cello Concerto at the Music House, joining the cowardly and delicately lyrical band, and was in painful struggle with the perverting community represented by the orchestra. She also had to capture the level of his high level playing every turn.

A small surprise was that the American Zlatomir Fung rose to second place. He did not fully redeem the promises made by his exciting and strong playing in the second and first finals.

Kokkonen's Cello Concerto was a smart choice for Fung for another final concerto.

Kokkonen originally composed his concert for Arto Noras, chairman of the competition jury.

So at least one member of the jury knew the work exactly and knew how best it is to play. Fung succeeded in highlighting the playfulness of the playful concerto, the playful music and the seriously hinted shades.

While listening to Fung's playing, we thought: he has a fine, neoclassical, bright and style-bound approach that was eventually fun to hear. A fair solution was to divide the fourth place between Timotheos Petrin, Leonardo Chiodo and Bryan Cheng.