



“Young Pianists as Ambassadors of today’s Music.”

In 2019, AJM and the Music Middle School affiliated to the Music Conservatory of Shanghai together created the *1st Sino-Swiss International Competition of Shanghai for Young Pianists*, a biannual competition devoted to music of the 20th and 21st centuries, with compulsory pieces written by Chinese composers.

This project involves the creation of an unprecedented exchange network between Switzerland and China. As this competition is linked to Fribourg’s, the Chinese competition’s laureates are invited to play the following year in Fribourg during the competition and vice versa. These winners become ambassadors for the musical heritage of the country that has awarded them.

Through its compulsory pieces, the project promotes Chinese and Swiss music of the 20th and 21st centuries in both countries. As both competitions are international, this promotion will certainly extend beyond the borders of both countries, according to the organizers of both events.

This new kind of network is an extraordinary world premiere: two competitions that have exactly the same goals, follow the same process, and require the same originality.

Another Sino-Swiss competition

In March 2024, AJM and the Music Middle School affiliated to the Music Conservatory of Shanghai organized the *2nd Sino-Swiss International Competition of Shanghai for Young Pianists*, biannual competition devoted to music of the 20th and 21st centuries.

This 2nd edition of the Shanghai competition, which follows a 5-year hiatus since the 1st edition in 2019 due to the pandemic, was a real success. Fifty-three candidates, divided into three levels of

difficulty, faced an attentive international jury comprising Yang Yunlin, Wen Deqing, Didier Schnorhk, Laura Mikkola, Olivier Cazal and Michel Runtz.

The two main objectives of the Shanghai competition remain the same as those of Fribourg. The first is to promote Swiss and Chinese composers through the compulsory pieces. This unique approach creates a cultural bridge between Switzerland and China, between Shanghai and Fribourg, and offers young musicians an international platform to express their talent and creativity.

This new network of cultural exchange, created through a partnership between both competitions, gives a unique artistic dimension to this project in which the youth are a central vector. The children and young people’s mission is to promote the music of the 20th and the 21st Centuries and to include all the representative aspects of the actual world we live in, which this kind of music embodies.

New horizons for musical heritage

The Shanghai Competition and the Fribourg Competition continue to play an essential role in promoting contemporary music, supporting composers, and strengthening Sino-Swiss cultural exchanges. This initiative demonstrates the importance of supporting young talent and creating opportunities for the music of our time to flourish on a global scale, and for culture to be a meeting ground.

By joining forces, Shanghai and Fribourg are opening up new horizons for contemporary music and creating a lasting legacy for future generations of musicians.

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