

PRIZE WINNERS FOR PIANO CATEGORIESJunior Category (aged 12 and below)*First Prize***Lee Yun Yee Amanda (李元懿), 8**

At six years old, Amanda was accepted into Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) School of Young Talents (SYT) Gifted Young Pianists Course where she has been receiving piano training from teacher Miss Ong Seng Choo and guidance from SYT Principal Mdm Fang Yuan. She is now preparing for the ABRSM Grade Eight Piano exam. Concurrently, since the age of seven, she has been learning advance performance techniques from famous Japanese pianist Ms Yuko Kamimoto. Just this year, Amanda was awarded the Certificate of Distinction for being the first prize winner in the intermediate category of the Young Pianist Competition 2009, organised by DynamicWorkz.

She also performed at the NAFA's Prelude SYT Concerts 2009. Amanda is also taking private violin lessons (ABRSM Grade Five) from NAFA teacher, Mdm Zhang Ying. She aspires to be a pianist when she grows up and be able to perform piano recitals at the Musikverein in Vienna.

*Second Prize***Ong De En Zacharus (王得恩), 10**

Zacharus started taking piano lessons at the age of six. He joined the School of Young Talent (SYT) Program at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) in year 2007 and is presently an ABRSM Grade Eight Piano student. Zacharus is currently under the tutelage of Ms Ong Seng Choo and guided by Madam Fang Yuan, principal of NAFA SYT. Zacharus hopes to be a great pianist one day He has taken part in many performances, including NAFA's Prelude School of Young Talent Concerts 2009 and recitals at the Esplanade Library. He also won third prize in the intermediate category at the Young Pianist Competition 2009, organised by DynamicWorkz.

*Third Prize***Ong Shu En Nicole (王淑恩), 11**

Blessed with perfect pitch and a keen ear for music, Nicole began her musical journey at the age of five under the patient tutelage of Yao Xiao Yun, first prize-winner of the Open Category in the National Piano and Violin Competition 2005. At a tender age of 10, Nicole has already achieved a promising distinction in her ABRSM Grade Eight Piano exam. A third prize-winner at the National Piano and Violin Competition 2007 and Young Pianist Competition 2009, she currently pursues her ABRSM Diploma for Piano Performance with Madam Fang Yuan, Principal and Head of Junior Music at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, School of Young Talents.

Nicole has been performing since she was seven, at concerts such as the SMTA Performers' Festival, SYT 10th Anniversary Concert, Club Nafa, Harmony Music Series, Prelude SYT Concert and the Young Rising Stars Concert. Apart from playing the piano,

she also enjoys playing the cello. Music being her first love, she aspires to become a concert pianist performing with orchestras all over the world.

Intermediate Category (aged 15 and below)

First Prize

Soh Kuan Wei (苏冠玮), 13

Kuan Wei has attended the School of Young Talents at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts since the age of five and is currently under the tutelage of Mdm Fang Yuan. He has performed at the President Charity Concerts, 'A Night of Opera' gala dinner and ChildAid Charity Concert, to name a few. In March 2007, he performed in concerts at Purcell School of Music, The Royal College of Music and The Wells Cathedral School of Music in the United Kingdom. At the age of nine, Kuan Wei won first prize in the piano junior category at the National Piano and Violin Competition 2005. Last year, he was featured by the MediaCorp in the program entitled 'SuperKids'(小超人). Currently, he takes up the Raffles Voices as his co-curricular activity.

Second Prize

Li Chu Ren (李楚人), 14

Blessed with perfect pitch and a keen musical sense, Li Chu Ren began learning the piano when she was just four years old. She is presently under the tutelage of Dr. Paul Liang. Apart from piano playing, Chu Ren also enjoys composing music. Her compositions have also been selected for numerous concerts, both local and overseas, including Singapore Junior Original Concert (2003, 2008 and 2009), Asia Pacific Junior Original Concert (2008 and 2009). She also obtained a distinction in ABRSM Diploma (Piano Performance). A Secondary 2 student at Raffles Girls School, Chu Ren also enjoys singing and is a member of the RGS Choir.

Third Prize

Tan Yu Jia Jessica (陈宇嘉), 13

Jessica is under the tutelage of Mdm Fang Yuan at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts. She obtained her ABRSM Diploma at the age of 12 with distinction, and won second prize at both National Piano and Violin Competition 2007 (Junior) and Yamaha Piano Competition 2009 (Open). She has participated in performances such as the UK Concert Tour (2007), ChildAid 2008 and the APEC Summit 2009 Gala Dinner. She is currently a secondary one student at RGS.

Senior Category (aged 18 years and below)

First Prize

Azariah Tan Peng Chay (陈平静), 18

Azariah Tan Peng Chay is a third year piano major studying with Assistant Professor Albert Tiu under full scholarship from the NAC at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music. He has scored distinctions in many of his piano examinations and has won prizes from the Trinity College of London Music Competition, Nis International Piano Competition, and the ASIAN and ASEAN International Chopin Piano Competitions.

Besides performing internationally and locally, he is actively involved in fundraising events such as the Very Special Arts Singapore 2008 Concert. More recently, he performed at the prestigious Kennedy Centre at the 2009 VSA arts International Young Soloists Concert. Azariah was diagnosed to have progressive sensorineural hearing loss since early childhood and uses hearing aids while performing.

Second Prize

Zhang Aidi (张艾棣), 15

Zhang Aidi was born on April 13, 1994 in Beijing, China. She moved to Singapore when she was two years old and started learning piano at the age of four. She moved to the United States in 2001. In the U.S., she won numerous awards and obtained the Level 10 for Piano Performance of American's Music Teachers Association at the age of nine. Aidi moved back to Singapore in July 2004, where she joined the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts to study piano under Mdm Fang Yuan. She obtained the ABRSM Diploma for Piano Performance with distinction in 2005, and at the age of 12, obtained LRSM with distinction in 2006. She represented Singapore at the International Piano Conference in Manchester, UK in 2005 and went on a Concert Tour to London in 2007. She won first prize in Intermediate Category of the National Piano and Violin Competition 2003, and second prize at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory Concerto Competition 2009. In addition, she holds an ABRSM Grade Eight violin certificate. She is now studying at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music under Dr. Thomas Hecht.

Third Prize

Jonathan Shin Zi Yang (沈子扬), 17

Jonathan picked up the piano at the age of four, and is currently studying at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory under Dr. Thomas Hecht. In September 2005, he performed at the 27th European Piano Teachers Association's UK Conference in Manchester. Prior to that, he had also held overseas performances in Slovenia (2003) and Bangkok (2002). Jonathan won the 3rd prize in the Junior Category of the National Piano and Violin Competition 2003, and second prize in the Intermediate Category of the 2005 edition of the same competition. More recently he won third prize at the 2008 Ibiza Piano Competition, and a Special Prize at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory Concerto Competition 2009. Jonathan enjoys composition and improvisation.

Artist Category (aged 25 years and below)

First Prize

Li Zhen (李真), 20

Li Zhen was born in Chongqing, China. She started to learn piano at the age of five. She graduated from Middle School attached to Sichuan Conservatory of Music where she studied with Professor Zheng Daxin. In 2007, Li Zhen emerged as first prize winner in the piano finals at the third Yong Siew Toh Conservatory Concerto Competition. She is currently a student at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music in Singapore under Assistant Professor Albert Tiu.

Second Prize

Maria Immaculata Setiadi, 21

Maria Immaculata Setiadi was born in Indonesia and started learning the piano at an early age. In 2001, she won third prize in the Jakarta Piano Competition. She is currently a fourth year piano major at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, under Assistant Professor Albert Tiu.

Third Prize

Shaun Choo Yung Sheng (徐永胜), 18

Shaun Choo attained ABRSM Diploma at age 14 and was accepted in the Leopold-Mozart Institut for highly talented young artists at the Mozarteum. He has been studying at University Mozarteum Salzburg, Austria since 2005 with Professor Karl-Heinz Kämmerling and Andreas Weber.

Shaun has performed internationally in countries such as Spain, Holland, Italy, Germany, France, China and Austria. He has performed with renowned orchestras, including Lindau Festival orchestra, Suedwestdeutsche Philharmonie Konstanz, National Symphony Orchestra China and Leipzig Academic Orchestra. He has also appeared on television several times and was broadcasted on the Suedwestrundfunk Deutschland radio station.

He won first prize and Public Prize in the Rotary Club Piano Competition Lindau, Germany, second prize in the Bluthner Golden Tone Award Piano Competition Vienna and first prize in the International Grotrian-Steinweg Piano competition Beijing 2009. Shaun was awarded a scholarship by the National Arts Council of Singapore and got the first Sponsorship by "sic itur ad astra foundation" Liechtenstein.