



RISA HOKAMURA, violin



Photo: Sho Yamada

First Prize, 2018 Young Concert Artists International Auditions
Tannery Pond Concerts Prize
Ruth Laredo Award of YCA
Ronald Asherson Prize of YCA



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RISA HOKAMURA, violinist

Japanese violinist Risa Hokamura won First Prize in the 2018 Young Concert Artists International Auditions at the age of seventeen, as well as the Tannery Pond Concerts Prize, the Ruth Laredo Award, and the Ronald Asherson Award of YCA. She follows in the distinguished footsteps of her two major violin teachers, who also began their careers with Young Concert Artists: Koichiro Harada (founding first violinist of the Tokyo String Quartet) and Mayuko Kamio.

Ms. Hokamura began the violin at the age of three, and at the age of ten she began to capture top prizes in competitions in Japan. She first came to international attention when she won the Silver Medal at the 2018 International Violin Competition of Indianapolis, where she performed the Tchaikovsky Concerto with the Indianapolis Symphony conducted by Leonard Slatkin. In celebration of her medal, she will return to Indianapolis in March to perform a special “Gold, Silver and Bronze Medalists Debut” concert.

Risa Hokamura is currently a student at the Tokyo College of Music High School, and will be featured on a benefit concert this season for the school at Tokyo’s Metropolitan Hall. Other upcoming performances in Japan include an appearance as soloist with the Kansai Philharmonic Orchestra.

COMPETITIONS & AWARDS

November 16, 2018 | By [Brian Wise](#), *Musical America*

Five Up-and-Comers Signed to Young Concert Artists

Young Concert Artists on Sunday named five winners of its annual auditions: violinists Randall Goosby and Risa Hokamura, pianists Maxim Lando and Aristo Sham, and cellist Jonathan Swensen.

They will join the YCA's roster, which includes three years of management and promotion services and YCA-presented recitals in New York and Washington, D.C.

In the ceremony, which was live-streamed, several impresarios took the stage to make verbal offers of recital dates to the musicians.

Open to instrumentalists ages 16-26 and singers ages 20-28, the competition had 12 finalists in the final heat; YCA Founder/Director Susan Wadsworth chaired a ten-member jury that included conductor Gerard Schwarz, violinist Chee-Yun, pianist Jerome Lowenthal, and cellist Fred Sherry.

<https://www.musicalamerica.com/news/newsstory.cfm?storyid=41574&categoryid=3&archived=0>

Young Concert Artists Winners Announced

by BWW News Desk - Nov. 13, 2018



The First Prize Winners of the 2018 Young Concert Artists International Auditions are:

22-year-old American violinist Randall Goosby

17-year-old Japanese violinist Risa Hokamura

16-year-old American pianist Maxim Lando

22-year-old Chinese pianist Aristo Sham

22-year-old Danish/American cellist Jonathan Swensen

The Young Concert Artists International Auditions differ from a competition, as there are no rankings, and any number of winners can be selected - with each candidate competing against a standard of excellence, not each other.

These young musicians will join the roster of Young Concert Artists, a nonprofit founded in 1961, which provides management services, concert engagements including debuts in New York and at the Kennedy Center in Washington, publicity and career guidance.

www.yca.org



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CLASSICAL MUSIC NEWS

BREAKING | 5 1st Prizes Awarded at NY Young Concert Artists International Auditions

5 1st prizes have just minutes ago been awarded at the 2018 Young Concert Artists International Auditions - in New York City

November 11, 2018



5 1st prizes have just minutes ago been awarded at the 2018 **Young Concert Artists International Auditions** – in New York City.

The 2018 1st prize winners are:

- 22-year-old American violinist **Randall Goosby**
- 17-year-old Japanese violinist **Risa Hokamura**
- 16-year-old American pianist **Maxim Lando**
- 22-year-old Chinese pianist **Aristo Sham**
- 22-year-old Danish/American cellist **Jonathan Swensen**

- All 5 winners will be invited to join the Young Concert Artists' roster – granting access to a minimum of 3 years management services, career engagements, publicity and career guidance – plus coveted recital debuts in New York City and at the Washington DC Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.
- The Young Concert Artists International Auditions differ from a competition, as there are no rankings, and any number of winners can be selected – with each candidate competing against a standard of excellence, not each other.
- This year's final round jury comprised: **Susan Wadsworth** (Chair), vocalists **Peggy Bouveret** and **Randall Scarlata**, violinists **Koichiro Harada** and **Chee-Yun**, pianists **Jerome Lowenthal** and **Ilana Vered**, violist **Scott Nickrenz**, cellist **Fred Sherry** and trumpeter/conductor **Gerard Schwarz**.
- Previous recipients include: Pinchas Zukerman, Ida Kavafian, Chee-Yun, Emanuel Ax, Murray Perahia and Anne Akiko Meyers – and VC Artists Paul Huang, Bella Hristova, Benjamin Beilman, Ray Chen, Stephen Warts, Zlatomir Fung, Edgar Moreau, Xavier Foley, SooBeen Lee and Zlatomir Fung.

<https://theviolinchannel.com/young-concert-artists-international-auditions-2018-1st-prize-winners/>

