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Ching-Shan Chang wins the 8th International Film Music Competition at the Zurich Film Festival I



15th Zurich Film Festival I Film music competition

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A world-class symphony orchestra brought new film compositions by five emerging composers from all over the world to life on September 28th. No other film festival in the world is like the International Film Music Competition that is constantly seeking for high-quality of music internationally. What the Zurich Film Festival, the Tonhallen Orchestra Zurich and the Forum Film Music have altogether created is simply amazing. The SUIISA Foundation also honored the work of Swiss film composer Adrian Frutiger as one of the judges in this event.

Five Finalists

321 composers from 46 countries took part in this year's film music competition. The jury, led by the US film composer Don Davis, who composed the music for the MATRIX trilogy and JURASSIC PARK 3, had selected top five composers for the final round. In addition to the winning composition by Ching-Shan Chang, soundtracks from Switzerland, Sweden, Russia and Great Britain were also nominated.

Top-class jury president

The five nominated compositions were premiered as part of a film music concert in the Tonhalle Maag led by the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich under the baton of Frank Strobel, the "Pope of Film Music" as he is occasionally called. The task was to set music to short film DANNY AND THE WILD BUNCH directed by Robert Rujan for symphony orchestra. The short film is about a children's book author constantly getting rejections from the publishers. In order to follow their advice, she plans to make her characters darker and more cynical. As she crosses words out in her book, her once-lovely characters eventually strikes back at her. Director Robert Rujan skillfully executes his magical ideas in this film. Nevertheless, one would have wished for a somewhat less childlike film for this competition especially since the jury has to watch the same film five times. In addition to Don Davis, this year's jury also includes Robert Rujan, German conductor Frank Strobel, Swiss filmmaker Andrea Staka and Swiss film music composer Adrian Frutiger.

Intoxicating concert

The subsequent film music concert was themed "Beyond the Matrix" and truly delighted the audience. Unfortunately, for copyright reasons, pictures of the film could not be displayed on the big screen. With many concerns and factors having to be taken into consideration including film producers' fear of lawsuits against actors with millions of dollars involved, and the dilemma whether it would really be such a loss to forgo this famous film composition in this case, we have tried our best to accommodate an alternative within our budget to the extent where parts of the film rights are obtained. However, we will try to bring the full experience (as in the combination of film and music) to stage for the concert for the audience to appreciate better.

Honor for Adrian Frutiger

It certainly is exhilarating when film meets live orchestra. Through the experience in the first film score on the program from Michael Steiner's hit movie "Wolkenbruch," the audience will be able to enjoy film accompanied by the Tonhalle Orchestra playing the original score composed by Adrian Frutiger. As a matter of fact, Frutiger has scored many of Swiss director Michael Steiner's films and the SUISA Foundation is celebrating Frutiger's great music contribution for many years in Steiner's films in the concert. In an interview moderated by Sandra Studer, Frutiger revealed that he cannot read musical notes, but is currently in the process of helping his daughter with her music exam. "We prepared the exam together, but my daughter (which is a high school student) scored 3.8," Frutiger laughed. Frutiger said that he felt guilty for the poor grade.

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Infos

The International Film Music Competition is organized by the Zurich Film Festival and the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich in collaboration with the Forum Film Music.

The event took place on September 28, 2019 in the Tonhalle Maag.

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