

Dear friends and colleagues,

It seems impossible for me to say how much excited I am about the fact, that the first phase in realizing our vision of the “1st Janacek–Revueltas Composition Award“ has finally come to its finish. And I am even more happy, since as a part of the production staff and, of course, a member of the jury I've been in the core of the whole event since its beginning and can say honestly, that I've been happily surprised how successful in was in the end the production of the first phase of our mutual project.

So first I would like to thank you to all who were taking part in the production, helping to promote young talents and to show the value of contemporary art and serious musical values in those times, which is something one just cannot appreciate enough. Particularly I would like to say thanks to an excellent composer, clever manager and my very dear friend Mr. Edgar Omar Rojas Ruiz for founding the idea of that production as well as taking responsibility for organizing the whole management; the same belongs to to Mr. Edgar Merino and Mr. Jose Luis Espinosa for their tireless work for fulfilling all needs of our production. I must also thank to the rest of our jury, Mrs. Marcela Rodriguez and Mr. Pavel Kopecky for the professionalism, devotion and interest with which they examined the works submitted, as well as excellent communication resulting in justified and accurate decisions, thus providing deserved winners of the “1st Janacek–Revueltas Composition Award”. Deepest thanks without doubt deserves also Prof. Victor Rasgado for taking care of the preparation of all participants of the contest. High level of their work was a pleasant surprise for us and it has been a strong proof of the quality of all students of CIEM.

And last, but definitely not the least, our biggest gratitude comes to Prof. Maria Antonieta Lozano, Dr. h.c., to which we are the most indebted for her generosity thanks to which our project has been officially patronized by CIEM for without her support our visions wouldn't ever come to the fruitful results we have now to celebrate.

Well, finally coming to the most excited part, I would like to thank all the participants of our competition, for their great work which deservedly won our deepest admiration. Since without your interest all our efforts would be meaningless and because literary all of you provided pieces exceeding the standards, you deserve a grand applause for your talents and our gratitude for your excellent work.

As you already know the results, let me say few more words about my feelings about your work and also let me express my opinions on your music:

First, in general, all of you, including those, who were not selected, wrote pieces of high level of refinement, works which can be considered as professional in every sense. Fulfilling all the requirements of the competition, you all would deserve to be the winners. However, rules are rules and therefore, after detailed examination of your music, putting it into practice by not only analyzing it, but even more, rehearsing it in real, we have chosen six of you who have been awarded as the winners of the “1st Janacek–Revueletas Composition Award”.

Second, I'd like to say few words to each of the winners of the event, speaking not only for myself, but for the Duo Skarka–Pohl as well.

For the first three places, as you already should know we are going to prepare a nice surprise by getting their works published, for which plan we already found base in the co-operation between CIEM and the GRAL Publishing Company of the Czech Republic. We are very glad to announce that, since all of the three main winners provided works not only of professional craftsmanship and refined construction, but also of rare inspiration and fine musicianship. There was not any need for further discussion about all of you as the superior quality of your pieces was completely clear and convincing.

So, the three main winners, let me congratulate you personally:

Message for Mr. Manuel Alejandro Gutierrez Ruiz:

Dear Manuel,

we were completely taken by your work, which perfectly fulfilled all the requirements of our competition. Furthermore, you achieved rarely seen level of musical spark, structural consistency and convincing dramatic outline. As for the lyrics you chose, we found the poem very impressive and your setting precisely fitting into the meaning of the words. Also your treating of the piano and voice was very skillful, careful and wise, thus proving that less notes can often work out great results if there is gifted creator behind them. Our congratulations and admiration, we are already looking forward to work on getting your piece all attention it deserves as the official winner of the “1st Janacek – Revueltas Composition Award”. Bravo bravissimo!

Message for Mr. Jose Miguel Delgado Azorin:

Dear Jose,

we would like to thank your for submitting a piece of exceptional beauty, which is going to be an enormous pleasure for both of us to perform. Especially we were impressed by your taste for carrying melodic lines, imagination and ability for creating convincing and colorful sound on the piano, as well as creativity and feeling for the whole conception of the piece. We are glad than even in those times of boundless experiments there can be piece which combines innovation with musical sensitivity in such a convincing way. The poem is wonderful as well and seems to be like created for your music. Bravo and carry on like this!

Message for Mr. Carlos Barraza:

Dear Carlos,

again, we have to express our great admiration and congratulate you for writing music of outstanding quality. You chose to compose a little cycle of three poems, which we

found as a most interesting idea and we must bow before your craft with which you made that musical miniseries so touching. Your work is dramatic, passionated and shows particularly refined style. You proved that experience combined with invention can create strong and effective work even in very progressive and contemporary writing. Thank you for taking part in the competition, congratulations and let us wish you great luck in your future career. Bravo again!

Now, to the others, you all showed excellent skills as well as musical gifts. We are glad that your work is going to take part in the production of independent concerts in both Czech Republic and Mexico.

Let me again say few words to each of you:

Message to Mr. Alexander Phillip Daniels Torres:

Dear Alexander,

providing an ambitious large-frame work, we cannot but admire high level of your compositional skills as well as courage of taking all the risks connected with performance of a work of that scale. Your music shines with its variety of textures, unusual ideas and shows a strong, adventurous and smart personality. Especially we are fond of your particular selection of the lyrics and we are eager to see how they will impact on our audiences. Thank you for challenging us with your demanding piece, and look forward to our upcoming collaboration!

Message to Mr. Mario Duarte:

Dear Mario,

your work was one of the first on our desk and we are glad to see that it is going to stay there further. Instead of so-called experiments, you decided to take a straight line and follow it and we found the result definitely successful . You showed sense for working with voice and also for internal dynamism, important for keeping the listeners attention in pieces of rather corporate forms. We hope your gifts will grow higher and higher in the future, thank you for submitting your writing and look forward to work with you.

Message to Mr. Marco Cechetti:

Dear Marco,

you are the last one selected for being performed during concerts arranged in our project and we would like to congratulate you not only for providing a work of very particular kind, but also for your excellent choice of poem, which was perhaps the greatest and utmost pleasant surprise for us. Both of us being admirers of Li-Po, we were so glad to find such remarkable Mexican poem paying honors to him. As for your music, we would like to thank you for offering us a piece, which would give us so much fun. We just cannot wait for checking out the sense of humor of our audiences!

Before finishing my letter, let me just express our thankfulness and congratulations also to the ones, who were not selected.

Message to Mr. David Lemus and Mr. Juan Luis Jacome:

Dear David and Juan,

you both composed high quality works which we estimated as inventive as well as strongly constructed. Nevertheless, we had to follow the rules and so we had to choose. Your very nice pieces, so professionally looking on paper just seemed in the end not so convincing while putting into practice. However, we would like to congratulate you as well, thank you for your work and shall offer your works to our colleagues for getting you possibilities to be performed once as well. We would like to also encourage both of you for taking part in the next edition of the competition. You deserve your applause as well as the others. Thank you and good luck in your musical career!

After saying everything what I had on my heart, please, let me just add few important notes for all winners. Although you all provided great works, there were also some questionable details, which we would like to discuss with you. We are going to contact you with suggestions for possible retouches and perhaps slight arrangements in your writings for to ensure your works are going to sound convincing enough as well as for securing the quality of their

performance. We hope that our collaboration will give the best results, we again express our great admiration and look forward to work with you.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Pohl

Duo Skarka–Pohl /Richard Pohl and Josef Skarka/

Czech Republic