

press release

7th Composition Prize of the CHRISTOPH DELZ FOUNDATION goes to Eiko Tsukamoto (Japan)

Eiko Tsukamoto (Japan) is the winner of the Seventh Composition Competition of the STIFTUNG CHRISTOPH DELZ in collaboration with LUCERNE FESTIVAL, endowed with 25,000 Swiss francs. The award-winning piano work "Zickenzone" was premiered by Nicolas Hodges at the Lucerne Lukaskirche on 24 November 2018 as part of the Piano Festival and was awarded the composition prize of the STIFTUNG CHRISTOPH DELZ. After hearing all three pre-selected finalist works at Nicolas Hodges' recital matinee – together with works by Christoph Delz, Harrison Birtwistle and Wolfgang Rihm – the jury, consisting of Lisa Streich, Marco Stroppa, Nicolas Hodges, Michel Roth and Mark Sattler, awarded "Zickenzone" by Eiko Tsukamoto the STIFTUNG CHRISTOPH DELZ prize. The other two finalist pieces, which were also premiered in this concert, were compositions by Francesco Ciurlo (Italy / "Four Stripes") and Sebastian Hilli (Finland / "Rack and Pinion") and were awarded 10'000.-.

Eiko Tsukamoto, born 1986 in Kagoshima (Japan), studied philosophy and composition with Toshio Hosokawa in Tokyo, Johannes Schöllhorn (Cologne) and Hanspeter Kyburz (Berlin). She has received various awards and scholarships and has received commissions from WDR Cologne, Ensemble Musikfabrik, Tongyeong International Music Festival and New Japan Philharmonic. She lives in Berlin.

In "Zickenzone" Eiko Tsukamoto experiments with the relationship between harmonies and intervals on the one hand and density, intensity and tonal range on the other. The question is how qualitative and quantitative aspects interact in perception. The film offers a comparison: If the quantitative factors of the speed of change and the difference between the individual images are appropriate, a qualitative transformation from standing to moving results. The piano is particularly suitable for such a study, and on the other hand new aspects of keyboard playing arise due to the specific questions posed. The jury emphasized that the piece surpasses familiar patterns of piano sound and dramaturgy. The composer often finds her own approach to the instrument in the middle register and in the mezzoforte, clairaudiently, curiously and seemingly unspectacularly, immediately questioning her own means – occasionally marked by a soft sense of humour. With the dissolution into individual notes towards the end, she dares to take the step to almost one-dimensionality without losing depth and originality.

The Composition Competition of the STIFTUNG CHRISTOPH DELZ, based in Basel (Switzerland), was held for the seventh time in 2018. The foundation, established by the Swiss pianist and composer Christoph Delz (1950-1993), thus fulfils its main purpose. This time the composition competition took place for the fourth time in collaboration with LUCERNE FESTIVAL.

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