

KAWAI CONCERT GRAND, THE CHOICE OF THE 1ST AND 4TH PRIZE WINNERS AT THE 8TH SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION.

John Chen, playing a Kawai Concert Grand, is the winner of the prestigious 2004 Sydney International Piano Competition. Just 18 years old, John won the judges with his captivating performance of Rachmaninov's No.3 concerto at the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall.

This year's competition was held from June 30th to July 17th, 2004, in the City of Sydney, Australia. Established in 1977, the competition is held every four years. As a member of the Federation of International Music Competitions in 1978, it is presented under the auspices of the Cladan Cultural Exchange Institute of Australia, in association with the University of Sydney and with the cooperation of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

Results of the 8th Sydney International Piano Competition:

(Competitors had a choice of four concert grand pianos- **Kawai, Steinway, Bösendorfer, Yamaha**)

First Prize	John Chen	New Zealand	<u>*Played Kawai</u>
Second	Rem Urasin	Russia	Played Steinway
Third	Daniel Hill	Australia	Played Steinway
Fourth	Ayano Shimada	Japan	<u>*Played Kawai</u>
Fifth	Alexander Lubiantsev	Russia	Played Yamaha
Sixth	Chu-Fang Huang	China	Played Steinway & Yamaha



First Prize Winner John Chen

In the semifinals 3 out of 12 contestants chose to play Kawai. With 2 out of the 6 playing Kawai for the finals.

Kawai, the choice of those who know.

John Chen, the 18-year-old Auckland University music student, who has been playing piano since the age of 3. He was one of 36 contestants culled from more than 200 auditions around the world for what is considered one of the great piano competitions.

He previously won the 2003 Lev Vlassenko Piano Concerto Competition in Brisbane, Australia, also playing a Kawai. So impressed with the tone and touch of the piano, the Queensland Conservatorium purchased the Kawai “SK-EX” Concert Grand. John said *“The piano had big volume, colors and sounded beautifully. Besides, its repetition was for me better than on any other pianos.”*

“John Chen is a truly remarkable young man who draws the listener into the core of his music. The beauty of the sound that he drew from the Kawai grand piano was spellbinding.”

Rae de L’isle, Auckland University School of Music.



4th Prize Winner Ayano Shimada

4th prize winner Ayano is a student at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris. In the final stage, she played Concert KV466 in D Minor of Mozart and Concert No.3 Op 26 in C Major Prokofiev. She said *“The Kawai is very projecting and has a beautiful sound.”*



Congratulations John and Ayano, from all your friends and supporters at Kawai.