



**For Immediate Release**  
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**CALIFORNIA MUSIC CENTER AND THE SAN FRANCISCO CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC**  
**ANNOUNCE THE 33<sup>RD</sup> IRVING M. KLEIN INTERNATIONAL STRING COMPETITION JUNE 2 - 3**  
*One of the world's top music competitions takes place at SF Conservatory of Music*

(SAN FRANCISCO, MARCH 30 2018) Celebrating 33 years of helping the world's top young string musicians gain prominence in the competitive world of classical music, the **Irving M. Klein International String Competition** returns to the **San Francisco Conservatory of Music** June 2 -3, 2018. This year's nine semifinalists showcase the burgeoning talent from the top teachers and conservatories in America.

Selected from 85 entrants from 14 countries, the semifinalists are:

- **Paolo Dara**, violin, 20; attends Cleveland Institute of Music; student of Jaime Laredo.
- **Isabelle Ai Durrenberger**, violin, 19; attends Cleveland Institute of Music; student of Jaime Laredo and Jinjoo Cho.
- **Jean Kim**, cello, 22, attends Curtis Institute of Music, Philadelphia; student of Carter Brey and Peter Wiley.
- **Julian Rhee**, violin, 17; attends Brookfield East High School, WI; student of Almita Vamos.
- **Angela Ryu**, violin, 18; attends Mount Royal Conservatory, Calgary Alberta; student of William van der Sloot.
- **Sophia Su**, violin, 16; attends The Juilliard School, New York; student of Masao Kawasaki.
- **Davis You**, cello, 16; attends Palo Alto High School; student of Jonathan Koh.
- **Hua Zhang**, violin, 21; attends Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, Bloomington IN; student of Kevork Mardirossian.
- **Alex Zhou**, violin, 16; attends The King's Academy, Sunnyvale CA; student of Zhao Wei.

*(ages are effective at time of the Competition)*

In the semifinal round, each performer will play an unaccompanied work of Bach, movements from notable concertos and a new commissioned composition by David Fromm. In the final round, the artists must perform additional portions of their selected concerto and one major sonata movement.

The grand prize includes cash and performances with the Peninsula and Santa Cruz symphonies, Gualala Arts Chamber Series, among others. The grand prize is valued at \$13,000. The second prize is valued at \$6,300. It includes a performance with the San José Chamber Orchestra and the Piedmont Center for the Arts. Ruth Short gives this prize in honor of Elaine H. Klein. Third prize is \$2,500. Two fourth prizes, of \$1,500 each are awarded. Each semifinalist not awarded a named prize will receive \$1,000. Awards of \$500 are given for best performance of the commissioned work, and of the solo Bach. Klein winners also participate in educational outreach in the Bay Area.

The distinguished jury includes violinist **Glenn Dicterow**, former concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic and on faculty at the USC Thornton School of Music; violist **Karen Dreyfus**, who also teaches at the Thornton School; this year's commissioned composer, **David Froom**; **Janet Horvath**, violist and authority on injury prevention for performing artists; **Mel Margolis**, Music Director and Conductor at Fine Arts Chamber Orchestra; violinist **Ian Swensen**, Chair of Violin at SF Conservatory's String Department; and **Barbara Day Turner**, Music Director of San José Chamber Orchestra.

The Irving M. Klein International String Competition, presented by California Music Center and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, is open to musicians between ages 15 and 23. The Klein Competition has achieved international recognition as one of the most prestigious classical music competitions, recognized for the high caliber of the contestants; its unique, nurturing environment; and its commitment to the commissioning of new works.

Its award carries the prestige that has helped many top soloists gain prominence in the competitive world of classical music, including **Jennifer Koh**, **Mark Kosower**, **Vadim Gluzman**, **Jennifer Frautschi**, **Alban Gerhardt**, **Frank Huang**, and **Robert deMaine**. The competition is named for the late cellist and master teacher who devoted himself untiringly to the development of young artists.

#### **FOR CALENDAR EDITORS**

##### **SEMIFINALS - SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 10AM – 4PM**

Caroline H. Hume Concert Hall  
San Francisco Conservatory of Music, 50 Oak St  
\$10 VIP reserved seating; FREE admission for general seating  
Buy tickets or RSVP in advance at:  
[kleincompetitionsemifinals.eventbrite.com](http://kleincompetitionsemifinals.eventbrite.com)  
or at the door.  
25-minute programs including concerto movements, solo Bach, and a commissioned work by David Froom with a lunch break.

##### **FINALS - SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 3PM**

Caroline H. Hume Concert Hall  
San Francisco Conservatory of Music, 50 Oak St  
\$25 VIP reserved seating; \$20 general; \$10 seniors/students/youth general seating  
Buy tickets in advance at:  
[kleincompetitionfinals.eventbrite.com](http://kleincompetitionfinals.eventbrite.com)  
or at the door.  
Three dynamic 35-minute recitals featuring well-loved sonata and concerto movements.  
Awards ceremony and reception will follow.

#### **About the California Music Center**

CMC was founded in 1974 by Irving M. Klein, a virtuoso chamber musician and master cello teacher, as the sponsoring organization for a summer music institute and chamber music series for young artists. Following Mr. Klein's passing in 1985, CMC inaugurated the Irving M. Klein International String Competition ("the Klein") in 1986; since then, the Klein has become one of the most prestigious events of its kind, attracting ever-increasing numbers of entries annually from throughout the world and helping to enhance the developing careers of players who have gone on to become renowned soloists, chamber musicians, teachers, and prominent members of the world's finest orchestras. The Klein Competition is supported in part by the Mervyn L. Brenner Foundation, the Ross McKee Foundation, and the Sam Mazza Foundation; and presented in partnership with the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Learn more at [californiamusiccenter.org](http://californiamusiccenter.org).