

For Immediate Release

Contact: Marcy Straw

415.252.1122

marcy@californiamusiccenter.org

APPLICATIONS OPEN NOV 1st
for the 35th Annual Irving M. Klein International String Competition

June 6 - 7, 2020, San Francisco California

(San Francisco CA) Applications open November 1, 2019 for **The Irving M. Klein International String Competition**, produced by the California Music Center and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Violinists, violists, cellists and bassists **ages 15 to 23 of any nationality not currently under professional management** are eligible to compete **June 6-7, 2020 in San Francisco** at the Conservatory. For more details on prizes, repertoire and to submit an online application, visit kleincompetition.org. **Applications to be received by midnight Saturday, February 1, 2020.**

For 35 years, the Klein has attracted some of the world's finest young string players to San Francisco each June to compete for cash and performance prizes. 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. We're pleased to announce that the Commissioned Works for this year's Klein Competition will be written by **Robert Gibson**. The competition is named for the late cellist and master teacher who devoted himself untiringly to the development of young artists.

Its award carries the distinction 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; Oliver Herbert (2015), David Requiro (2006), Tessa Lark (2008) and Nikki Chooi (2009)**; and principal chairs in many of the finest U.S. orchestras, including the **Philadelphia and Cleveland Orchestras, the New York Philharmonic, and the Boston Symphony.**



Cellist JAMES BAIK, (18) won 2019's First Prize, receiving more than \$13,000 in prizes, including performances with the Klein's presenting partners, Peninsula and Santa Cruz Symphonies, the Gualala Arts Chamber Music Series, and Napa's Music in the Vineyards Festival. He is currently attending the Colburn School of the Arts, and is a former student of Hans Jørgen Jensen. [Baik's winning performances](#) included movements from Schumann's *Cello Concerto No. 5 in C Minor* and the Beethoven *Cello Sonata No. 5, op.102*, as well as the competition commissioned work by Carlos Simon, *Between Worlds*. Cellist Dakota Cotguno placed second, and violinist Julia Mirzoev won 3rd Prize.

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. Learn more: californiamusiccenter.org.

ABOUT THE COMPOSER ROBERT GIBSON



ROBERT GIBSON's compositions have been performed throughout the United States, including concerts at the Bowling Green 21st Annual New Music and Arts Festival and the national conferences of The College Music Society, The National Flute Association, and Society of Composers, Inc. His works have also been presented on National Public Radio and in Europe, South America, and China.

Noted artists and ensembles who have performed his works include bassists Bertram Turetzky, Lucas Drew and David Walter; clarinetists Esther Lamneck and Nathan Williams; the Meridian String Quartet, the Aeolus String Quartet, the Clarion Wind Quintet, Prism Brass Quintet, the Contemporary Music Forum, the 21st Century Consort, the Stern/Andrist Duo, and Composers, Inc. of San Francisco; pianists Santiago Rodriguez, Marilyn Nonken, and Naoko Takao; and members of the National Symphony bass section, who commissioned his composition *Soundings* (2001) for double bass quartet.

His compositions have been recorded on Golden and Spectrum Records. *Chamber Music*, a Capstone compact disc (1996) of his chamber works, appeared on *Fanfare* magazine's Want List as one of critic William Zagorski's five notable recordings of the year. His most recent CD, *Flux and Fire*, was released by Innova Records in July 2018 and praised at Classical Ear (UK) as the work of "a composer exquisitely alert to atmosphere and mood."

Mr. Gibson is a member of the American Composers Alliance (ACA), and since 2010 has served on the Board of Governors of ACA. He is Professor of Music and former Director of the School of Music (2005-16) at the University of Maryland, College Park. ###

Hi-res and online photos available from marcy@californiamusiccenter.org