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Hee Yun Kim Wins Casals Festival's Composition Competition

By *Vivien Schweitzer*
17 Apr 2007

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Hee Yun Kim, a South Korean composer, has won the second Festival Pablo Casals International Composition Competition, reports Agence France-Presse. The prize, administered by the festival founded by the great cellist in the French Pyrenees town of Prades, carries a cash award of €15,000.

Her winning piece, *Memoir of Dong-Hak*, is a quintet for flute, clarinet, violin cello and piano, inspired by traditional Korean folksongs and Western avant-garde traditions.

It was selected from 117 compositions, five of which were performed by the ensemble Calliopée, directed by Karine Lethiec, at the finals on April 14 in the Abbaye Saint-Michel de Cuxac in southern France.

Kim's quintet, which was inspired by a 19th-century uprising in Korea, will be performed this summer in the Festival Casals in Prades and in Paris in January of next year.

The four other finalists were Antti Auvinen (Finland), Karol Beffa (France), Silvia Colasanti (Italy), and David-Philip Hefti (Switzerland).

Memoir of Dong-Hak also won second prize at the ninth Tokyo International Competition for Chamber Music Composition, hosted by JILA (Japan International League of Artists). Kim is currently a graduate student at the University of Illinois School of Music.

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