

June 3, 2024

Baron Jan Huyghebaer
Chairman
The Queen Elisabeth Competition
Rue aux Laines 20
1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

Dear Mr. Baron Huyghebaer,

Subject: Request for Disclosure of Jury Notes

I am writing on behalf of the Ryuji Ueno Foundation, a U.S. 501(C)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to support excellence in classical music, broadening its relevance to new audiences, and furthering innovation in the art. Ryuji Ueno Foundation and numerous dedicated individuals within the classical music community respectfully yet urgently request the official disclosure of the Jury notes from the recent Queen Elisabeth International Violin Competition.

Dr. Ryuji Ueno, founder of the Ryuji Ueno Foundation, along with our supporters, seeks to promote fairness and transparency in the competition. We firmly believe that understanding the Jury's decision-making process through their notes is crucial in addressing our concerns and upholding the integrity that this prestigious competition stands for.

Specifically, we kindly request the following:

1. **Judging Criteria:** A detailed explanation of the criteria used by the jury to evaluate the participants at each stage of the competition.
2. **Score Transparency:** The individual scores or feedback given by each judge for each participant, especially for the final rounds. This would help in understanding how decisions were made and the basis of the final rankings.

3. **Conflict of Interest Policies:** Information on the measures in place to ensure that there are no conflicts of interest among the judges, and how these policies are enforced.
4. **Judging Panel Selection:** An overview of the process by which judges are selected, including their qualifications and the rationale behind their selection.

We acknowledge that the Jury notes have traditionally been confidential; however, this request is rooted in the principles of openness and integrity, especially for a prestigious competition in which so many musicians work tirelessly to compete. It is our responsibility as dedicated supporters to uphold these values.

Furthermore, by providing this information, the Queen Elisabeth International Violin Competition would not only uphold its esteemed reputation but also ensure fairness and transparency, reinforcing the trust of participants, audiences, and supporters worldwide. Transparency in the judging process will also serve as an educational tool, offering valuable insights into the evaluation standards and helping aspiring violinists understand the expectations and areas of focus.

I sincerely hope that the organizing committee will consider this request favorably and respectfully but strongly urge you to provide the necessary steps to obtain the Jury notes. Your prompt cooperation and support in this matter are of the highest importance and will be deeply appreciated by Dr. Ueno and the entire classical music community.

Thank you for your attention and consideration. We look forward to your positive response.

Sincerely,

Kei S. Tolliver

Kei Tolliver, Esq.
General Counsel
Ryuji Ueno Foundation

About Ryuji Ueno Foundation

The Ryuji Ueno Foundation is a U.S. 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 2015 by Dr. Ryuji Ueno, dedicated to supporting excellence in classical music, broadening its relevance to new audiences, and furthering innovation in the arts.