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For immediate release

Melissa Lee wins Ouachita's 2019 Virginia Queen piano competition

By Tiffany Lee

May 14, 2019

For more information, contact OBU's news bureau at newsbureau@obu.edu or (870) 245-5208.



ARKADELPHIA, Ark. – Melissa Lee, a sophomore music major from Singapore, won first place in Ouachita Baptist University's 2019 Virginia Queen Piano Competition on May 3.

"I absolutely did not expect to win anything, but before I went out on stage, I asked God to help me do my family and friends in Singapore proud since they have invested so much in my being here," Lee said. "Winning the competition gave me a strong sense of validation in believing that the music I create can inspire and bless others."

Lee received a \$500 cash prize for her performance of "To Spring" by Edvard Grieg and "Concierto de Invierno" by Rafael Bullumba Landestoy. She is a student of Dr. Mary Chung, assistant professor of music at Ouachita.

Sam Youmans, a sophomore music industry major from Siloam Springs, Ark., earned second place in the competition and received a \$300 cash prize. Youmans performed "Toccata" by Aram Khachaturian and "Rhapsody in G Minor" by Johannes Brahms. Youmans also is a student of Dr. Chung.

Felicity Johnson, a sophomore biblical languages major from Little Rock, Ark., earned third place in the competition and received a \$150 cash prize. Johnson performed "Consolation" by Felix Mendelssohn and "Prelude, Op. 38, No. 2" by Dmitry Kabalevsky. She is a student of Dr. Lei Cai, Ouachita professor of music.

Anna Weyenberg, a sophomore piano performance and communications & media double major from McKinney, Texas, received honorable mention and a \$50 cash prize. Weyenberg performed "Sonatine, No. 2, Mouvement de Menuet" by Maurice Ravel and "Scherzo Opus 31, No. 2 in B-Flat Minor" by Frédéric Chopin. She also is a student of Dr. Chung.

This year's competition was judged by Dr. Kiu Tung Poon, a piano professor from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, who has appeared as a recitalist and collaborative pianist in international music festivals

and on concert stages around the world. The Virginia Queen Piano Competition was established more than four decades ago by Virginia Queen, a former professor of music at Ouachita. Queen created the competition to encourage piano students to continue to grow in their studies of the instrument.

For more information, contact Dr. Lei Cai at leic@obu.edu or (870) 245-5140.

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