Melissa Lee wins Ouachita’s 2019 Virginia Queen piano competition

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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.

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