



Introduction

- Asian pianists - especially those from China - are known for winning piano competitions results (Comeau, Huta & Liu, 2013). Some teachers in North America take only Asian students on the premise that they'll return better.
- Universities and conservatories are doing everything they can to recruit music students from Asia (Brand, 2001); Asians and Asian Americans have outnumbered Caucasian students in many well-known conservatories (Yang, 2009).
- We analyzed whether Asians are the majority among international piano competition winners, and if their percentage among them has increased over the last two decades.
- We analyzed whether Chinese pianists win competitions more often compared to those from other Asian countries.



Results

- Contrary to the popular idea that Asian (especially Chinese) pianists performed better at almost all piano competitions, our research shows that:
 - 1991 - 2000: 651 total winners; 150 Asians (23.04%).
 - 2001 - 2013: 1050 total winners; 375 Asians (35.71%).
 - 1991 - 2000: 12 Chinese.
 - 2001 - 2013: 75 Chinese.
- Despite having gone up from 12 (1991-2000) to 75 (2001-2013), the total number of Chinese competitors winning competitions placed third among Asian countries (1st, South Korea; 2nd, Japan).
- My findings are similar to those discussed in Michael Johnson's article *The Dark Side of Piano Competitions*.* He notes that "The Alink-Argerich Foundation data shows that since 1990 the percentage of Asian players has gone up from 21 percent to more than 35 percent, the Chinese showing the greatest leap ahead."

Procedure

- We collected data on the winners of several international piano competitions (1991 - 2013) to see whether the percentage of Asians has increased over the last two decades.
- We looked at 58 International Piano Competitions; 29 countries; 5 continents: all registered at the WFIMC - World Federation of International Music Competitions.
- 1701 competitors were listed (including main and other prize winners), each with their corresponding country of residence.
- Winners who were not Asians according to their country of residence but have Asian names were considered Asians.
- Data researched included year and name of the competition, country and city where it was held, names of the main winners and their nationalities, names of the other prize winners and their nationalities.



References / Contact info

- <http://www.wfimc.org>
- http://pianoteachersfederation.org/the-dark-side-of-piano-competition*

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Year	Total Winners	Total Asians	Total Chinese	%
2013	12	6	0	50.00
2012	71	29	3	40.85
2011	72	27	5	37.50
2010	89	33	6	37.08
2009	84	34	11	40.48
2008	73	29	6	39.73
2007	91	24	5	26.37
2006	81	29	5	35.80
2005	97	41	10	42.27
2004	101	26	9	25.74
2003	95	39	6	41.05
2002	73	27	4	36.99
2001	111	31	5	27.93
2000	95	26	3	27.37
1999	81	21	1	25.93
1998	88	21	1	23.86
1997	83	23	3	27.71
1996	58	16	2	27.59
1995	74	11	0	14.86
1994	28	6	0	21.43
1993	42	6	0	14.29
1992	43	11	2	25.58
1991	59	9	0	15.25
Total	1701	525	87	30.86
1991 - 2000	651	150	12	23.04
2001 - 2013	1050	375	75	35.71

Conclusion

- Although still in the minority, the percentage of winners of Asian descent in international piano competitions has increased over the last two decades, and China - despite ranking 3rd in number of competition winners among Asian countries - has seen the greatest percentage increase.