

RESULTS 1999

The second annual Zellmer-Minnesota Orchestra Trombone Competition was held in Minneapolis on May 22, 1999. Norbert Laczko, a Hungarian bass trombonist was awarded the grand prize of \$5,000. Mr. Laczko, a former student of Douglas Yeo and Gustav Hoena, is currently studying with Joseph Alessi at the Juilliard School. From the many tapes received internationally in the preliminary round of competition, four finalists – including Mr. Laczko and tenor trombonists Stephen Lange, Scott Parkinson, and Nathan Zgonc – were selected to participate in the final round at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis. Adjudicating the competition were the members of the Minnesota Orchestra trombone section; David Herring, bass trombone, Kari Sundström, second trombone, and Douglas Wright, principal trombone.

In the final round, each of the finalists began with a designated solo with accompanist. Each, then, played a 20-25 minute audition comprised of orchestral excerpts from the standard orchestral repertoire. The round was conducted like a final round of a professional orchestral audition in its length and content. However, one difference from a professional audition was the unique opportunity for each finalist to speak with and receive comments from each of the judges about their performance at a post-competition reception. As in the Competition's first year, the level of playing in the final round was quite high.