

20 Prix de Lausanne finalists announced: Japan, Brazil, Italy and South Korea top the leader board

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Prix de Lausanne 2017, photo by Gregory Batardon

After four days of intensive classes, 20 candidates have qualified for the finals of the Prix de Lausanne competition.

66 candidates from all over the world have attended daily classes, coaching, and rehearsals with some of the top names in ballet. Their potential was not only assessed by considering their technical ability, but also their capacity to supply an imaginative and sensitive response to the music.

The candidates have had to master the traditional classical repertoire as well as the contemporary creations of [John Neumeier](#), the main guest choreographer for the 45th edition of the competition.

Director of the Royal Ballet, Kevin O'Hare, who is president of the jury, and his eight fellow members, picked the 20 young dancers who will participate in Saturday's final (Saturday 4 February 2017 from 2.30pm). The competition will be broadcast live on the [official website](#) and on Arte Concert. The results will be announced around 7pm.

The finalists are from 9 different countries: the most represented are Japan with 4 candidates; Brazil, Italy and South Korea with each 3 candidates.

The 20 finalists of the Prix de Lausanne 2017 are:

02. **Lauren Hunter** / USA / 15 years old

03. **Yuika Fujimoto** / Japan / 15 years old
04. **Jessi Seymour** / Australia / 15 years old
05. **Sunmin Lee** / South Korea / 16 years old
06. **Rafaela Henrique** / Brazil / 16 years old
07. **Diana Giorgia Ionescu** / Romania / 16 years old
08. **Koyo Yamamoto** / Japan / 15 years old
09. **Edoardo Sartori** / Italy / 16 years old
10. **Denilson Almeida** / Brazil / 16 years old
11. **Joshua Jack Price** / Australia / 16 years old
12. **Jingkun Xu** / China / 16 years old
13. **Alessandro Frola** / Italy / 16 years old
14. **Ji Min Kwon** / South Korea / 17 years old
15. **Marina Fernandes da Costa Duarte** / Brazil / 17 years old
16. **Fang qi Li** / China / 18 years old
17. **Sunu Lim** / South Korea / 17 years old
18. **Michele Esposito** / Italy / 17 years old
19. **Taisuke Nakao** / Japan / 17 years old
20. **Riku Ota** / Japan / 18 years old
21. **Stanislaw Wegrzyn** / Poland / 18 years old

Eight of the finalists will receive one of the scholarships/apprenticeships, for which the Prix de Lausanne is so well-known for. The prize winners receive the unique opportunity to choose among the most prominent schools and companies that they would like to attend.