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Prince Charles presents U-M student with conducting prize



U-M conducting student Elim Chan became the first woman to win the Donatella Flick London Symphony Orchestra Conducting Competition on Monday, December 8, 2014. *(Photo by Edda Pacifico)*



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American fans of the Royals are now intently focused on Prince William's and Kate Middleton's adventures in the U.S., but U-M conducting student Elim Chan recently received personal congratulations from William's father, Prince Charles, for being the first-ever female winner of the Donatella Flick London Symphony Orchestra Conducting Competition.

Chan studies with Kenneth Kiesler at U-M, and Prince Charles presented Chan with the winner's award following a concert featuring the competition's 3 finalists - the Czech Republic's Jiri Rozen and Estonia's Mihhail Gerts were Chan's fellow competitors - on Monday, December 8 at the Barbican in London. For this concert, Chan conducted the LSO

in a program of Beethoven's Egmont Overture, Stravinsky's Symphony in Three Movements, and Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade.

According to [TheGuardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com), “The 28-year-old was born in Hong Kong to British parents and currently studies at the University of Michigan. Her win secures her £15,000 to support specialist study and concert engagements. It also includes a one-year appointment as an assistant conductor with the London Symphony Orchestra, during which she will have the opportunity to work with the orchestra’s principal conductor, Valery Gergiev, principal guest conductors Michael Tilson Thomas and Daniel Harding, as well as taking part in events for LSO Discovery, the orchestra’s music education and community program me.”

The biennial competition launched in 1990, under the patronage of the Prince of Wales, and according to a [U-M press release](#) “aims to advance the careers of young conductors and help the winner establish an international conducting career.” The competition is open to candidates who are 35 or younger, and who are citizens of the European Union (Chan is a citizen of the United Kingdom).

During the competition, 20 conductors were shortlisted from a pool of 200 applicants by an independent selection panel, and during the first 2 days of competition, the 20 conductors worked with the Guildhall Symphony Orchestra, and the competition’s jury – this year, LSO Chairman Lennox Mackenzie (Chairman of the Jury), LSO Principal Guest Conductor Daniel Harding, conductor Xian Zhang, conductor Vladimir Spivakov, conductor Bertrand de Billy, Mauro Bucciarelli of the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, and LSO Principal Tuba, Patrick Harrild – selected 3 finalists.