

**Patek Philippe Geneva**  
**June 2021**

**The Patek Philippe “Craftsmanship and Precision Competition” : An eleventh edition under the sign of excellence**

**To encourage promising young talent and help train the next generation, Patek Philippe created in 2010 a timing and adjusting watch competition intended for students of Swiss watchmaking schools. The 2020 edition was canceled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but Patek Philippe wished to maintain the 2021 edition by adapting it to these exceptional circumstances, and thus pursue the fruitful partnership with Swiss watchmaking schools.**

A Patek Philippe timepiece is intended to be passed on from generation to generation. Similarly, the skills required to create such fine timepieces must also be carefully preserved and constantly fostered. As a guardian of this know-how, the Geneva Manufacture continuously trains watchmakers in its workshops. Since 2010, it has also been engaged in a long-term partnership with Swiss watchmaking schools. This is how the Patek Philippe “Craftsmanship and Precision Competition” was born. Designed to motivate the new generation, this watchmaking award stands out thanks to its educational approach. Offering a total immersion in the world of fine watchmaking, it aims to raise awareness among future experts of the concept of craftsmanship by offering them the unique opportunity to examine a high-end caliber, all of the components of which have been manufactured and finished with utmost care.

**An Adapted Contest Format**

In order to maintain the level of quality and expectations of the Competition, while respecting the sanitary procedures in force, it was agreed that the contestants would not go to Patek Philippe in Plan-les-Ouates, but rather that the organizing committee of the competition would visit the schools.

Three teams of two instructors, all coming from various Patek Philippe departments (Watchmaking, Haute Horlogerie and International Customer Service), visited the six participating schools during four days. As in previous editions, 18 students selected by the six watchmaking schools were offered theoretical training, as well as a series of practical exercises intended to best prepare them for the competition the next day. On March 18 and 19, the evaluations took place in the schools of Porrentruy, Bienne and Grenchen, while those in the schools of Geneva, the Vallée de Joux and Le Locle took place on March 22 and 23. A new format was prepared and carried out in the same way in the six establishments.

The second day was mainly devoted to the competition itself. For the second time, the test began with a completely dismantled movement, the manually-wound caliber 215, which had to be assembled before setting and adjusting it the six positions, as specified by the standards and criteria of the Patek Philippe Seal. Another novelty was that the steel balance spring used in previous editions was replaced by a Spiromax® balance spring made of Silinvar®, a silicon derivative integrated into the 215 caliber in 2019. A way of introducing participants to the Patek Philippe tradition of innovation and raise their awareness of the alliance between mechanics and new technologies which characterizes Patek Philippe's contemporary watchmaking – and will distinguish it in the future.



The know-how of the 18 students was assessed by an internal jury, comprising several Patek Philippe specialists, including a master watchmaker. The candidates were mainly evaluated on their performance in terms of precision, but also on craftsmanship – two essential criteria of the Patek Philippe Seal.

The results, which were very well balanced, have once again confirmed the excellent quality of the training provided by Swiss watchmaking schools and its constant progress.

### **A Virtual Awards Ceremony**

The awards ceremony took place on Friday June 4 by video conference. The trophy was presented to the contest winner in person after his name was announced at the end of the ceremony. Awards and certificates will be sent later. All students are due to receive a certificate of participation signed by Patek Philippe President Thierry Stern, a book on an exceptional Patek Philippe model, the Star Caliber 2000, a cap, as well as two tickets to the Patek Philippe Museum. The first five winners will also receive a magnificent tool kit. The first three are in addition offered an internship of one to two weeks with the Patek Philippe International Customer Service. The winner of the first prize, Raphaël Jatton from the Vallée de Joux school, will have the chance to complete a three-week internship at the Plan-les-Ouates Manufacture in the Watchmaking, International Customer Service and Haute Horlogerie divisions.

The novelty this year was the trophy. The Porrentruy school, having won the competition over the past three years, was definitively awarded the trophy created in 2008. Being the centerpiece of the trophy, the balance spring was maintained in this new edition, but its aesthetics were revised into a more contemporary design. It was developed by different departments of the Manufacture and then assembled by the jeweler based in Geneva, Mr. Stefani.

In eleven editions of the competition, Patek Philippe has already provided 198 students with this educational process and offered 55 weeks of internship, including 11 abroad. Each edition of this event, which requires over seven months of preparation, involves 10 to 15 specialists and organizers from different Patek Philippe divisions.

Patek Philippe intends to run its “Craftsmanship and Precision Competition” again in the spring of 2022, in collaboration with the six Swiss watchmaking schools, and thus contribute to the transmission of its know-how to future generations of watchmakers.

### **Winners of the 2021 Patek Philippe “Craftsmanship and Precision Competition”**

1st prize	Mr Raphaël Jatton – ETVJ – École Technique de la Vallée de Joux
2nd prize	Mr Simon Ducommun – CEJEF – École des Métiers Techniques de Porrentruy
3rd prize	Ms Ayuri Arulampalam – CEJEF – École des Métiers Techniques de Porrentruy
4th prize	Mr Daniel Martinez – BBZ – Zeitzentrum Uhrmacherschule de Grenchen
5th prize	Mr Alexandre Rüfenacht - CFP – Lycée Technique de Bienne

### **Participating Schools**

- CFPT – École d’Horlogerie de Genève
  - ETVJ – École Technique de la Vallée de Joux
  - CEJEF – École des Métiers Techniques de Porrentruy
  - CIFOM – École Technique du Locle
  - BBZ – Zeitzentrum Uhrmacherschule de Grenchen
  - CFP – Lycée Technique de Bienne
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**Members of the Patek Philippe Jury**

Carlos Dos Santos (Head of timing workshop and jury chairman)

Patrick Conus (Head of the Tourbillon workshop and master-watchmaker)

Vincent Lemmelet (Head of international technical training)

Luc Vallet (Training coordinator)

