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The Charles University Faculty of Science's pre-Christmas concert, at which Jaroslav Svěcený introduced the audience to the mysteries of the Baroque violin, had an unconventional start, as the winners of the fourth edition of the [Science is Beautiful](#) competition were announced.

According to its organisers, the goal of the Science is Beautiful competition is to communicate to the wider public the, often unknown, beauty and aesthetic encountered by scientists in the course of their work. The competition was open to photographs, illustrations and computer-generated images. For the first time this year, the competition was not open to only the University's academic community, but also to registered members of the [Scientists](#) project. Two parallel competitions took place – the academic competition (in four different categories, with the winner being chosen by an expert jury) and the discovery competition (winner selected by a faculty jury).

"I am very pleased that this year's competition mainly focused on illustrations, although the standard of entries in other categories has been very high. I am also glad that the top spots were taken not only by experienced photographers, but also new names from the student and academic communities," said competition organiser Martin Černý.

Following the announcement of the results, concert attendees could enjoy a programme of baroque by famous, and not-so-famous, composers, as performed by Jaroslav and Julie Svěcený (violin) and Prof. Jitka Navrátilová (harpsichord). Commentary was by Jaroslav Svěcený, who brought with him several Baroque period instruments, each with its own, interesting history, which was described to the audience in detail before the performance of individual pieces.

Following the end of concert, attendees were able to view an exhibition of the winning entries and enjoy a glass of wine with the faculty administrators.

Competition results:

[Scientific Microphotography](#) (photography from optical and electron microscopes) category

1st place – Jana Bulantová (*Argas persicus*)

2nd place – Viktor Sýkora (Incredible Plants)

3rd place – Jana Pilátová (Micro Mirror)

[Scientific Photography](#) (from macrophotography to satellite or astronomical images) category

1st place – Martin Adámek (The Irresistible Morsel)

2nd place – Viktor Sýkora (Below the Surface)

3rd place – Aleš Buček (It's Raining Spores)

[Scientific Illustrations](#) (science communicated via pen, brush or Photoshop) category

1st place – Martina Nacházlová (Sanderlings)

2nd place – Barbora Košudová (Topography of the Neck)

3rd place – Martina Nacházlová (Birds in Black-and-White) and Silvie Lišková (Red Panda)

[Virtual Nature](#) (the natural world via the computer) category

1st place – Ondřej Karlík (Case-studies in the Hall of Mirrors)

2nd place – Filip Uhlík (Polyelectrolyte)

3rd place – Viktor Sýkora (The Charm of Algorithms, or Welcome to the World of Fractals)

Overall Competition Winner

Alena Kubátová ([Lost in the Labyrinth](#) – photography)

[Discovery category](#)

1st place – Martina Balzarová (Brittle Stars on the Sea Floor)

2nd place – Karel Cettl (*Homotherium*)

3rd place – Jana Růžicková (*Anchomenus dorsalis* and *Panurus biarmicus*) and Vladimír Tilšar (Crinoid and Ammonite)

Viewers' competition

Karolína Švrčková ([Horse](#) (Action Shot) – illustration)

Prize for Youngest Entrant

Anna Hoffmeisterová (Observing a Chameleon – illustration), 11 years

