

## Press Release

October 9, 2018 | Hanover, Germany

### Joseph Joachim Violin Competition starts October 11

33 violinists ready to launch their international careers will make Hanover into a violin capital

**Summary** | On October 11, the 10<sup>th</sup> Joseph Joachim Violin Competition will be opened by Stiftung Niedersachsen. 33 excellent young musicians from 15 different countries will present themselves to audiences and an international jury. They will compete for a total of Euro 140,000 in monetary awards, valuable non-monetary prizes, and the chance of an international career. As part of the competition season, over 20 concerts will take place in Hanover until October 27, making the state capital into a violin capital for 16 days. For this exceptional classical music event, Stiftung Niedersachsen's partners include the Hanover University of Music, Drama and Media, Norddeutscher Rundfunk, the NDR Radiophilharmonie, and the Fritz Behrens Foundation. As part of the music education program 'The Competition in the Classroom', around 1,000 school children will get to experience the competition.

#### Long version

**Hanover, violin capital** | Exceptionally gifted violinists from 15 different countries were invited by Stiftung Niedersachsen to compete in the 10<sup>th</sup> Joseph Joachim Violin Competition in Hanover. Well-prepared and with great expectations in tow, they are currently being welcomed by their Hanover host families. Over 20 concerts will take part during the competition between October 11 and 27 at the University of Music, Drama and Media and at the NDR Landesfunkhaus, making Hanover into a violin capital for 16 days. Lavinia Francke, General Secretary of Stiftung Niedersachsen, is excited: "The Joseph Joachim Violin Competition brings a very special atmosphere to the city. We are extremely pleased to be able to team up with such reliable partners every three years in order to realize this exceptional music event." Stiftung Niedersachsen presents the competition in cooperation with its partners, the Hanover University of Music, Drama and Media, as well as Norddeutscher Rundfunk and the NDR Radiophilharmonie.

**Top-notch Jury** | The international jury's nine members have much work ahead of them. With Salvatore Accardo, Andrej Bielow, Masafumi Hori, Kyung Sun Lee, Silvia Marcovici, Qian Zhou, Ulf Schneider, Vilmos Szabadi and Pavel Vernikov, experienced and decorated virtuosos and music pedagogues were recruited – all of them former awardees of international violin competitions. During the final rounds, music agent Tanja Dorn and orchestra manager Matthias Ilkenhans will broaden the jury's perspective. With their decisions, the jury greatly influences the competition's image. "In our competition, the jury's decisions always proved themselves to be spot-on. The impressive careers of former competitions winners attest to that", remarks the competition's artistic director, Prof. Krzysztof Wegrzyn. With Euro 140,000 in monetary awards, a 3-year-loan of a valuable violin, debut performance opportunities and worldwide publicity, the competition is an important stepping stone for future international fame.

**World-class competition** | In 2018, the Joseph Joachim Violin Competition will once again present itself splendidly framed and brilliantly accompanied. The first three rounds will feature solo and duo repertory, allowing audiences the pleasure of experiencing world-renowned pianists Natsumi Ohno, Melanie M. Y. Chae, Thomas Hoppe, Boris Kusnezow, and Rohan De Silva alongside the

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competing violinists. The semifinal round will feature performances of the contemporary commissioned work 'Hauch' by composer Rebecca Saunders. Finalists will then present a string quintet with the renowned Kuss Quartet. The competition's grand finale will once again be the performance of a violin concerto with the NDR Radiophilharmonie, this time under the baton of chief conductor Andrew Manze.

In keeping with the tradition, the winner of the previous competition will play the opening concert – in 2018, Sergey Dogadin will do the honors. On October 11, he will perform Niccolò Paganini's Violin Concerto No. 1 with the NDR Radiophilharmonie under the direction of Robert Trevino at NDR Landesfunkhaus. A prize winners' gala concert will conclude the competition on October 27. In 2018, NDR will once again broadcast the final symphony concerts live from Landesfunkhaus. Additionally, a live stream of all concerts will be available at [www.jjv-hannover.de](http://www.jjv-hannover.de).

**Success story of reliable partners** | Since its founding, the competition has been supported by an exceptional cooperation with Hanover's music institutions. Prof. Dr. Susanne Rode-Breymann, president of the Hanover University of Music, Drama and Media, remarked at the opening press conference: *"It is especially challenging to coordinate the competition and the running semester. We gladly accept this challenge, as we are very much looking forward to the international exchange with competition participants"*, Bettina Pohl of the NDR Radiophilharmonie reaffirmed the orchestra's involvement: *"The NDR Radiophilharmonie sees itself as a musical ambassador of the city and has great appreciation for the international reputation of the competition."* The Fritz Behrens Foundation is another of the competition's important partners: The foundation owns the violin that was built around 1765 and will be accompany the first prize winner to concert halls across the world for the duration of three years. *"The precious violin is meant to offer a new source of energy and strength, shaping the career of highly gifted young artists for three years"*, explains Matthias Fontaine, head of the foundation. Sergey Dogadin, first prize winner of 2015, adds: *"I'm very grateful to have been given the opportunity to play this perfect instrument the last few years. With its immensely rich and varied tone, the Guaragnini offered me all possibilities of musical expression."*

**Accompanying program par excellence** | The Joseph Joachim Violin Competition is deeply rooted in Lower Saxony. With the series 'The Competition Across the State' and 'The Competition in the Classroom', the competition is present throughout the entire state. For the 10<sup>th</sup> rendition, the music education program 'The Competition in the Classroom' alone will include visits at 40 schools spread across Lower Saxony, and about 1,000 school children will visit Hanover for one of the competition concerts. On October 24, ten competitors and their piano accompanists will set out to a location in Lower Saxony to perform in one of the ten concerts held in Agathenburg, Bad Pyrmont, Cuxhaven, Emden, Haselünne, Helmstedt, Holzminden, Langwedel, Neuenkirchen, and Wallenhorst-Rulle: One evening with 20 top virtuosos performing at 10 different venues across the state. On October 21, we will know who will perform in these concerts.

Starting with the semi-final round, three prologues will take place before their respective competition rounds. 'The commission. The work.' with Rebecca Saunders and others, 'Chamber music!' with Jana Kuss and Oliver Wille, and 'The Critics' Quartet' presented by Rainer Wagner will allow audiences to dive even deeper into the different themes of the competition.

### Competition facts

Since 1991, Stiftung Niedersachsen has been presenting the 'Joseph Joachim International Violin Competition Hannover' with Prof. Krzysztof Wegrzyn as artistic director. The competition was named after the exceptional musician Joseph Joachim, who was concert master in Hanover, the starting point of his international career. In keeping with this tradition, the competition marks a starting point for the international careers of the violinists who come to Hanover to compete. Those who have been able to prevail in five competition rounds with their special talent, virtuosity, and artistic personality will be amply rewarded with generous monetary prizes, a three-year loan of a violin by Giovanni Battista Guadagnini, debut performance opportunities, and the worldwide distribution of a CD recording.

### Stiftung Niedersachsen

Since 1987, Stiftung Niedersachsen has been supporting the arts, as well as cultural, academic, and educational programs throughout Lower Saxony. With its state-wide endowment efforts, the foundation supports non-profit projects, strengthening the region's diverse cultural profile. In addition to its active involvement, Stiftung Niedersachsen supports around 200 projects per year.

### Artistic Director

Prof. Krzysztof Wegrzyn is the initiator and artistic director of the Joseph Joachim Violin Competition. Since 1993, he holds a professorship at the Hanover University of Music, Drama and Media while also serving as vice president of the university. He teaches master classes throughout Europe, the United States, and Asia, has been involved in chamber music for many years and is the founder of the ensemble 'il gioco col suono'. He has received the Music Award of the State for his musical and artistic efforts in Lower Saxony.

### Partners

Many important institutions of the Hanoverian and Lower Saxony music scene collaborate in and with the Joseph Joachim Violin Competition. Stiftung Niedersachsen will team up with the Hanover University of Music, Drama and Media, the NDR Radiophilharmonie, the Fritz Behrens Foundation, and NDR Kultur.

### Tickets

Tickets are available now at the internet platform Reservix and at all Reservix ticket agencies.

**Image caption:** With a press conference, Lavinia Francke (General Secretary of Stiftung Niedersachsen) and Prof. Krzysztof Wegrzyn (Artistic Director of the competition) formally open the competition season with Prof. Dr. Susanne Rode-Breyman (President of the Hanover University of Music, Drama and Media), Sergey Dogadin (First Prize winner of the 2015 competition), Matthias Fontaine (Head of the Fritz Behrens Foundation), and Bettina Pohl (Head of Education, NDR Radiophilharmonie).

Photo credit: Stiftung Niedersachsen | Jakob Hermens