

Press release

February 13, 2018 | Hanover, Germany

Joseph Joachim Violin Competition will celebrate its 10th season in 2018 with anniversary concerts featuring all previous First Prize Winners

Stefan Schostok, Mayor of Hanover: „A competition season par excellence“

Between October 11 and 27, 2018, the world’s finest young violinists will gather in Hanover, Germany, for the 10th edition of the renowned Joseph Joachim International Violin Competition. The anniversary season, hosted by Stiftung Niedersachsen, will include a special concert series: starting on March 6, all former First Prize Winners will return to the place that marked the starting point on their road to international success. Hanover’s mayor, Stefan Schostok, Stiftung Niedersachsen’s general secretary, Lavinia Francke, and the competition’s artistic director, Professor Krzysztof Wegrzyn, have come together today to ring in the new competition season.

Stefan Schostok is confident: *»What makes the Joseph Joachim Violin Competition unique is its international presence, coupled with an atmosphere of hospitality, excellent organization and smooth cooperation of all partners. It very much suits Hanover, a city inspiring to become the ›European Capital of Culture 2025‹. We are looking forward to a competition season par excellence. «*

First Prize Winners will return to Hanover | Between March 6 and July 8, the competition’s former First Prize Winners will return to Hanover for a special anniversary concert series. For these young violinists, winning the Joseph Joachim Violin Competition was a first step on their way to world fame. Nemanja Radulović, Dami Kim, Frank Huang, Suyoen Kim, Alexandra Conunova, Robert Chen, Michiko Kamiya, Fumiaki Miura, and Antje Weithaas will all visit Hanover again, offering audiences a very current cross section of some of the world’s finest violinists. *»In 2018, Hanover will become the capitol of violin. Our First Prize Winners are now internationally renowned soloists who have played with some of the world’s best orchestras and are passing on their skills as highly committed pedagogues«,* Professor Krzysztof Wegrzyn, the competition’s artistic director, remarks enthusiastically. Nemanja Radulović will open the competition season on March 6 with his internationally renowned ensembles ›Les Trilles du Diable‹ and ›Double Sens‹ at the Leibniz Hall of the HCC. On March 15, Dami Kim will perform works by Ravel, Corigliani, and Rimsky-Korsakov at the Calder Hall of the Hanover Sprengel Museum.

World-class competition | Since winning the competition in 2015, Sergey Dogadin has become a world-renowned violinist. On October 11, 2018, he will play in the competition’s opening concert with the NDR Radiophilharmonie under the baton of Robert Trevino. Afterwards, 35 exceptionally gifted violinists will present themselves to an international jury and a broad audience. Those hoping to advance in 2018 have to prove their talent, virtuosity and artistic personality with a demanding repertory. Ample space will be given for individual artistic expression. After two preliminary rounds, the jury will make its first decision, followed by a semi-final round, in which 12 violinists will perform solo recitals of their own choice. The Commissioned Work of this year’s competition is an essential part of the program. The six best virtuosos will then, for the first time in 2018, present themselves in two final rounds: as first violinists in a string quintet by W. A. Mozart or L. v. Beethoven, and in a violin concerto of their choice with the NDR Radiophilharmonie under the direction of Andrew Manze.

Stiftung Niedersachsen has made over 140,000 Euro available for this year's monetary competition prizes. Additionally, the First Prize Winner will be rewarded with debut concert opportunities, a loan of a valuable Guadagnini violin (courtesy of Fritz Behrens Stiftung), and the worldwide distribution of a CD. All competitors who did not advance into the final round will be given attractive performance opportunities in the concert series ›The competition across the state‹.

DATES OF THE SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY CONCERT SERIES

Tuesday, March 6, 2018 | 7:00 p.m.

Special anniversary concert **Nemanja Radulović** (2003) | HCC, Leibniz Saal

Thursday, March 15, 2018 | 7:30 p.m.

Special anniversary concert **Dami Kim** (2012) | Sprengel Museum Hanover, Calder-Saal

Friday, April 13, 2018 | 7:30 p.m.

Special anniversary concert **Frank Huang** (2000) | Sprengel Museum Hanover, Calder-Saal

Sunday, May 6, 2018 | 11:30 a.m.

Special anniversary concert **Suyoen Kim** (2006) | NDR, Kleiner Sendesaal

Friday, May 11, 2018 | 7:30 p.m.

Special anniversary concert **Alexandra Conunova** (2012) | NDR, Kleiner Sendesaal

Friday, June 8, 2018 | 7:30 p.m.

Special anniversary concert **Robert Chen** (1994) | NDR, Kleiner Sendesaal

Thursday, June 14, 2018 | 7:30 p.m.

Special anniversary concert **Michiko Kamiya** (1997) | NDR, Kleiner Sendesaal

Thursday, June 21, 2018 | 7:30 p.m.

Special anniversary concert **Fumiaki Miura** (2009) | Sprengel Museum Hanover, Calder-Saal

Sunday, July 8, 2018 | 6:00 p.m.

Special anniversary concert **Antje Weithaas** (1991) | HMTMH, Richard Jakoby Saal

Thursday, October 11, 2018 | 7:30 p.m.

Opening Concert of the 10th competition **Sergey Dogadin** (2015) | NDR, Großer Sendesaal

Competition facts

Since 1991, Stiftung Niedersachsen has been presenting the Joseph Joachim International Violin Competition Hannover with Prof. Krzysztof Wegrzyn as artistic director. The exceptional musician Joseph Joachim, who launched his international career from Hanover, Germany, lent his name to the competition, which also marks a starting point for the international careers of those violinists who come to Hanover to compete. Those who have been able to succeed in five competition rounds, having thus shown 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. The application deadline for this year's competition is May 30, 2018.

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 Stiftung, and NDR Kultur.

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