

Press Release

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10th ›International Joseph Joachim Violin Competition Hanover‹ chooses 39 participants

Stiftung Niedersachsen invites exceptional talents from 16 different nations to Hanover, Germany.

The participants for the 2018 International Joseph Joachim Violin Competition Hanover have now been chosen. Based on submitted DVD recordings, an international preselection jury has selected 39 violinists who are now intensively preparing for the competition that will take place in Hanover, Germany between October 11 and 27, 2018.

As expected, applications from all over the world were received, proving that the competition is highly regarded among leading international conservatories. In 2018, many applications came from European and German institutions: Over one third of all applicants are currently enrolled at a German university of music, such as those in Berlin or Hanover. Prof. Krzysztof Wegrzyn, artistic director of the competition, was pleased with the high potential shown by this year's applicants: "With so many promising candidates, my colleagues and I were faced with a difficult task. I find it remarkable that over half of those nominated are studying in Europe – regardless of their country of birth or nationality. In any case, we are looking forward to an especially exciting anniversary year competition season." Aside from Prof. Wegrzyn, the preselection jury included Prof. Takashi Shimizu (Tokyo National University of the Arts | Japan), Prof. Igor Volochine (Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris Alfred Cortot | France), and Prof. Petru Munteanu (Leopold-Mozart-Zentrum Augsburg | Germany). Among the selected participants are twelve European violinists, four of whom are German. Further participants are from Japan, Korea, the USA, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, and China.

Participants now have around 90 days to finish preparing for the challenging competition, which offers a total of Euro 140,000 in monetary awards, as well as other attractive prizes for the winning violinists. Now it's time for the young musicians who have been chosen to add a final touch of perfection to their repertory and to get themselves ready for another new challenge: The 2018 competition is the first to require a personal encore to be performed alongside the commissioned work ('Hauch' by Rebecca Saunders) during the semifinal round. This encore is to be presented to the audience with an introduction in German or English.

Those successfully advancing to the final round will have another two competition sessions in front of a jury and an audience waiting for them. They will play a string quintet with the internationally renowned ensemble 'Kuss Quartet'. The opportunity to first chair a chamber ensemble is another challenging new feature of this year's competition. For the grand finale, participants will perform a violin concerto of their choice with the NDR Radiophilharmonie under the baton of Andrew Manze.

Competitors of the 10th ›International Joseph Joachim Violin Competition Hannover‹

Austin **Berman** (m) | American
Lara **Boschkor** (f) | German
Lorenz **Chen** (m) | German
Jung Min Choi (f) | South Korean
Timothy **Chooi** (m) | Canadian
Anna Agafia **Egholm** (f) | Danish
Leonard **Fu** (m) | German
Rennosuke **Fukuda** (m) | Japanese
Yuichiro **Fukuda** (m) | Japanese
Marie-Astrid **Hulot** (f) | French
Mayumi **Kanagawa** (f) | American
Haram **Kim** (m) | South Korean
Issei **Kurihara** (m) | Japanese
Anna **Lee** (f) | American
Miyeon **Lee** (f) | South Korean
William **Lee** (m) | Taiwanese
Youjin **Lee** (f) | South Korean
Alexandra **Lomeiko** (f) | New Zealander
Mathilde **Milwidsky** (f) | British
Yasuka **Morizono** (f) | Japanese

Yukari **Ohno** (f) | Japanese
Seiji **Okamoto** (m) | Japanese
Rachel **Ostler** (f) | American
Jinsu **Park** (m) | South Korean
Kyumin **Park** (m) | South Korean
Xiaoxuan **Shi** (f) | Chinese
Ji Won **Song** (f) | South Korean
Cosima **Soulez Lariviere** (f) | French
Olga **Sroubkova** (f) | Czech
Christa-Maria **Stangorra** (f) | German
Naoko **Tajima** (f) | Japanese
Alexandra **Tirsu** (f) | Romanian
Dmytro **Udovychenko** (m) | Ukrainian
Eimi **Wakui** (f) | Japanese
Jinyu **Wang** (m) | Chinese
Roxana **Wisniewska Zabek** (f) | Spanish
Victoria **Wong** (f) | Australian
Minami **Yoshida** (f) | Japanese
Stephanie **Zyzak** (f) | American

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.

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.