

Press Release

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Timothy Chooi wins Stiftung Niedersachsen's Joseph Joachim Violin Competition

24-year-old Canadian violinist is the first prize winner of the 10th Joseph Joachim International Violin Competition Hanover

In the anniversary edition of the Joseph Joachim Violin Competition, the first prize in the amount of € 50,000 goes to Timothy Chooi. The award includes the loan of a valuable Guaragnini violin, courtesy of Fritz Behrens Foundation, as well as international debut performance opportunities and the worldwide distribution of a CD.

The second prize in the amount of € 30,000 will be awarded to Dmytro Udovychenko. The third prize, worth € 20,000, goes to Cosima Soulez Larivière. Three additional violinists, finalists Rennosuke Fukuda, Leonard Fu and Youjin Lee will each receive a monetary award of € 8,000.

NDR's Großer Sendesaal was the venue of the finalists' last great challenge: the performance of a grand violin concerto of their choice with the NDR Radiophilharmonie under the direction of chief conductor Andrew Manze. Afterward, jury members Salvatore Accardo, Andrej Bielow, Tanja Dorn, Masafumi Hori, Matthias Ilkenhans, Kyung Sun Lee, Silvia Marcovici, Qian Zhou, Ulf Schneider, Vilmos Szabadi, and Pavel Vernikov took one hour to come to a final decision.

Lavinia Francke, General Secretary of Stiftung Niedersachsen, congratulated the awardees, stressing once again the great significance of this achievement: *"Since 1991, the Joseph Joachim Violin Competition has grown to become one of the most prestigious music competitions in the world. It fills us with pride and joy to be able to accompany these exceptional young violinists for a short while on their path to success."*

Placements:

1st prize:
Timothy Chooi

2nd prize:
Dmytro Udovychenko

3rd prize:
Cosima Soulez Larivière

4th prize:
Rennosuke Fukuda

5th prize:
Leonard Fu

6th prize:
Youjin Lee

On the 27th of October 2018, all awardees will perform once again during the Prize Winners' Gala Concert at NDR's Großer Sendesaal. During the concert, all prizes will be awarded and the winners of the two audience awards and the award for best interpretation of the commissioned work will be announced.

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.