

## PRESS RELEASE

### Joseph Joachim International Violin Competition Hannover: 8 participants nominated for the semifinals

**Hanover, October 2, 2021** | The jury of the 11th Joseph Joachim International Violin Competition Hannover has nominated 8 of a total of 31 participants for the semifinals. In two preliminary concerts, the international jury chaired by violinist Carolin Widmann was convinced by the following violinists:

**Claire Bourg** (26, USA)  
**Lorenz Karls** (20, Sweden & Austria)  
**Elli Choi** (20, USA)  
**Javier Comesaña** (22, Spain)  
**Maria Ioudenitch** (25, USA)  
**Minami Yoshida** (23, Japan)  
**Sara Domjanic** (24, Liechtenstein)  
**Chiara Sannicandro** (23, Germany)

The first of two semifinal rounds will begin on Monday, October 04, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in the Richard Jakoby Hall of the Hanover University of Music, Drama and Media. The semi-finalists can be experienced together with the Camerata Bern, as soloists with a Mozart concerto and from the concertmaster position with the first movement of Bartók's Divertimento. In the second semifinal round, they will present a recital they have created themselves inspired by the following quote: *"Home is where we start from, and it is no more and no less than that. It is where we begin, where we set off from. It's not where we stay; it's not somewhere that accompanies us unchanged. When we set off on our wanderings in pursuit of our desire, we are driven by a restless and a sense of exile to search for another home, another homeland."* (Emcke, Carolin: *How we desire, Melbourne/Australia 2018 [translated by Imogen Taylor], page 209-210*). Besides this theme, the only requirement is a first movement from a Haydn string quartet performed with members of the Kuss Quartet. The semi-finalists will only be informed about the precise work after their performance with the Camerata Bern.

On October 07, 2021, the jury will announce who will perform in the final with a large violin concerto alongside the NDR Radiophilharmonie under the baton of Andrew Manze and with the first performance of the commissioned work "Im Garten zu spielen" by Manfred Trojahn.

Tickets for the competition concerts are available exclusively from the box office at the Künstlerhaus Hannover, in person and by telephone - [vorverkauf@vvk-kuenstlerhaus.info](mailto:vorverkauf@vvk-kuenstlerhaus.info), Tel: 0511-16 84 12 22. In addition, all concerts will be streamed live on the competition website and included as video-on-demand. The final concerts and the award ceremony will also be broadcast live on NDR Kultur, the competition's partner.

### **Competition facts**

Since 1991, Stiftung Niedersachsen has been presenting the Joseph Joachim International Violin Competition Hannover. Antje Weithaas and Oliver Wille, who took over the artistic directorship in 2019 from competition founder Krzysztof Wegrzyn, are seeking open-minded musicians who demonstrate impeccable mastery of their instrument while remaining humble servants of great composers and their scores – young artists who bravely strive for individuality, making bold musical statements with the violin: Musicians whose voice inspires deep emotions and shows an exceptional degree of versatility. Strong partners supplement the monetary awards offered by Stiftung Niedersachsen with around 30 concert invitations. Additionally, G. Henle is awarding sheet music and a three-year-loan of a Guadagnini violin will be awarded by the Fritz Behrens Stiftung. Warner Classics completes the price package with the distribution of a debut album worldwide.

### **Competition**

Between September 26 and October 10, 2021 in Hanover, Germany

### **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 Directorship: Antje Weithaas and Oliver Wille**

**Antje Weithaas** won the First Prize in the first Joseph Joachim Violin Competition in 1991. She is therefore the first competition winner to be directing the competition. Today, she is a world-renowned concert violinist and violin pedagogue. As a soloist, Antje Weithaas performs with some of the world's best-known ensembles. For over 10 years, she has directed the Camerata Bern, shaping the ensemble's musical profile. Her CD recordings have become reference milestones, sparking enthusiastic reactions, among them the complete recordings of Johann Sebastian Bach's Sonatas and Partitas for violin solo and the Solo Sonatas of Eugène Ysaÿe.

**Oliver Wille** will continue the close cooperation between the competition and the Hanover University of Music, Drama and Dance. Since 2011, he is Professor of Chamber Music at the university, leading an internationally renowned quartet studio. As a founding member of the acclaimed and innovative Kuss Quartet, he has been shaping the chamber music scene for over 25 years. Apart from their international concert careers, the four musicians have become known for pioneering new concert formats. Since 2015, the renowned violinist has been the artistic director of the Hitzacker Summer Music Days.



**Stiftung  
Niedersachsen**

### **Partners**

Important players in the Hanoverian music scene merge together for the Joseph Joachim Violin Competition. Stiftung Niedersachsen collaborates with the Hanover University of Music, Drama and Media and NDR Radiophilharmonie, NDR Kultur, Fritz Behrens Stiftung (Fritz Behrens Foundation), Warner Classics as well as music publisher G. Henle.

### **Livestream**

All competition concerts can be followed in the livestream at <https://www.jjv-hannover.de/en/live>.

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