

## PRESS RELEASE

### **The four finalists of the 11th Joseph Joachim International Violin Competition Hannover have been announced**

The Final Concerts on October 10 live in the Grosser Sendesaal of the NDR and on NDR Kultur

**Hanover, October 8, 2021** | Javier Comesaña (22, Spain), Maria Ioudenitch (25, USA), Minami Yoshida (23, Japan), and Chiara Sannicandro (23, Germany) convinced the international jury in two challenging semifinal concerts with partly new artistic requirements and prevailed in the round of the best eight. They will now present their excellence alongside the NDR Radiophilharmonie under the baton of Andrew Manze at the grand finale on October 10, 2021, in the NDR's Grosser Sendesaal. They will perform a concerto for violin and symphony orchestra by Brahms or Schumann, as well as the premiere of the commissioned work for the competition "Im Garten zu spielen" (To be played in the garden) by Manfred Trojahn.

The final concerts were divided into two parts in 2021, with a longer break at noon.

#### **Schedule:**

##### **Final Concerts Part 1**

11:30 a.m. till 1:50 p.m.

##### **Finalist 1: Minami Yoshida**

Johannes Brahms: Concert for violin and orchestra in D major, op. 77

##### **Finalist 2: Chiara Sannicandro**

Robert Schumann: Concert for violin and orchestra in D minor

*Break*

##### **Final Concerts Part 2**

4:00 p.m. till 6:20 p.m.

##### **Finalist 3: Javier Comesaña**

Robert Schumann: Concert for violin and orchestra in D minor

##### **Finalist 4: Maria Ioudenitch**

Johannes Brahms: Concert for violin and orchestra in D major, op. 77

##### **Award ceremony from 7:00 p.m.**

The final concerts and the award ceremony can be followed live on NDR Kultur, partner of the competition. The concerts will also be streamed live at <https://www.jjv-hannover.de/de/live>.

### 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.

### 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.



Stiftung  
Niedersachsen

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