

Concorso

Violinistico

Internazionale

“Andrea Postacchini”

Antiqua Marca Firmana
Centro Culturale
Associazione di Promozione Sociale

FERMO - MARCHE - ITALIA

Press release

21ST INTERNATIONAL VIOLIN COMPETITION “A. POSTACCHINI” OF FERMO

From May 24th to 31st, 2014 at the Aquila Theatre of Fermo. 130 competitors from 39 different nations. The jury is chaired by the violinist Francesco De Angelis, concertmaster of the Teatro alla Scala and of Filarmonica della Scala. A rich prize money: EUR 30,000. To the first-placed violinists prize concerts and to the absolute winner a violin by Francesco Piasentini from Atelier Lazzaro and a bow by Walter Barbiero. At stake also the participation in the iPalpiti Festival in California. For the first time back in Fermo from the U.S.A. a Postacchini violin.

Fermo, May 2014 – From **May 24th to 31st, 2014** will be held in the seventeenth century **Fermo Aquila Theatre the 21st edition of the International Violin Competition "Andrea Postacchini" in Fermo**, a prestigious musical event dedicated to the lute maker who lived between 18th and 19th century and considered the Stradivarius of the Marche that welcomes every year in the town of Marche hundreds of violinists from all over the world. The International Violin Competition "Andrea Postacchini" is conceived and organized since its first edition by the **Cultural Centre Antiqua Marca Firmana**, with the primary support of the **Municipality of Fermo** and of the **Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio**, and with the important presence of the **Marche Region**, the **Province of Fermo**, **Fermo Chamber of Commerce**, other **local authorities and many private individuals**.

Valuable vehicle for international promotion of the cultural riches of Fermo and its territory, the **Postacchini Competition saw in its record young beginners become today appreciated concert performers**. Among these, the 24-year old Laura Marzadori from Bologna, prize winning in 2008 and new winner of the competition as first violin at the Teatro La Scala in Milan.

Postacchini Competition has also the honor to take proud of the Adhesion and of the Medal of the PRESIDENT of the Italian REPUBLIC.

All tests and the final evening conducted by RAI journalist Barbara Capponi with the Award Ceremony and Winners' Concert with the Marche Philharmonic Orchestra, **will be held at the Aquila Theatre of Fermo (free entry, the final concert with reservation at tel 0734 – 284295).**

Participants

One of the **particular characteristics** of the International Violin Competition "Andrea Postacchini", which makes it unique in its kind, is the fact of being **divided into several sections**. Competitors registered in the 21st edition **are 130** (20 more than in the previous edition), are **from 8- to 35-year old**, come from **39 different countries** and are divided as follows: 11 registered in category "A" (8-11 years), 29 in "B" (12-16 years), 26 in "C" (17-21 years old) and 64 in "D" (22-35 years).

The youngest competitor is Leia Zhu, was born in 2006, has Asian origins but is coming from England. **The eldest** was born in 1979, comes from Japan, her name is Naoko Matsui and she landed last september in Europe specifically to prepare for the Postacchini Competition. Is instead coming from New Zealand, where she is living and studying, the English Gwyneth Nelmes, **the competitor who is coming from the more distant country**. Running also **three sisters** from U.S.A. - Dhyani (Cat. C), Riana and Susila Heath (Cat. B) - and **two couples**, from Russia **the sisters Anastasia** (Cat.

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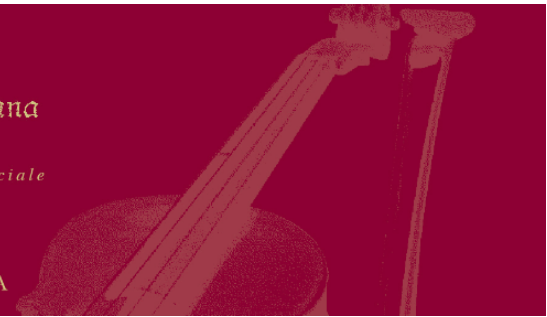
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C) and Angelina (Cat. B) Gvozdareva and from Bulgaria the brothers Martin (Cat. C) and Aleksandar (Cat. B) Zayranov.

Represented countries are 39 in total including Italy: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Czech Republic, England, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Mexico, Moldova, New Zealand, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, United States of America, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, Ukraine.

The **letter of the alphabet that will determine the order of performance of the competitors is E**, and it was extracted for the first time this year during the press conference of presentation of the Postacchini Competition.

The Jury

The jury, different every year and formed by renowned international artists, is chaired for this 21st edition by **Maestro Francesco De Angelis**, concertmaster of the Teatro alla Scala and of Filarmonica della Scala. The other members are: **Maestro Vincenzo Bolognese** (Italy), Paganini Prize 1987 and first violin at the Teatro dell'Opera di Roma, **Maestro Eduard Schmieder** (Russia / U.S.A.), one of the greatest teachers of his generation who returns for the second time in Fermo, **Maestro Gyula Stuller** (Hungary / Switzerland), Szigeti Award 1979, **Maestro Pavel Vernikov** (Ukraine / Israel), internationally renowned concert pianist and professor at the Vienna Conservatory, **Maestro Yehezkel Yerushalmi** (Israel), concertmaster of the Orchestra of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, **Maestro Mingen Zhou** (China), Professor at the Conservatory of Shanghai.

Prizes

The prize money is of more than **EUR 30,000,00**, divided between prizes, special prizes, scholarships and the prize for the absolute winner.

The **“Andrea Postacchini Prize”** which goes to the absolute winner, the most voted by the jury in all four categories, is a violin by lute maker Maestro Francesco Piasentini of Atelier Lazzaro from Padua and a bow by bow maker Walter Barbiero from Piombino Dese (Padua).

Among the **special prizes, and novelty of the 21st edition**, the **prize money** of the Committee of Honour for the best interpretation of a piece by J. S. Bach from the **Fermo Chamber of Commerce**, and from the **Fermo State Conservatory “G. B. Pergolesi”** for the best interpretation of the composition of the 19th, 20th or 21st century for violin solo or violin and piano, for categories C and D. Moreover, the winner of the new special prize **“iPalpiti Artists International”**, chosen by the juror Maestro Eduard Schmieder, will have the opportunity to participate in the “iPalpiti” Festival 2015 that will be held in Beverly Hills and Los Angeles, in the U.S.A.

This year too, in collaboration with major Italian musical realities as the Orchestra I Virtuosi Italiani, the Fondazione Gioventù Musicale d'Italia and the Municipality of San Ginesio, the competition gives winners a chance to perform in major concert seasons with **prize concerts**.

The events of the Postacchini

At the same time of the Competition, in the foyer of the Aquila Theatre, Saturday, May 24th at 19 p.m. will be inaugurated an **exhibition of lutherie and preciousness** of the time of Andrea Postacchini that will remain open until May 31st (time 9.30 a.m./1.00 p.m. – 3.00 p.m./7.30 p.m.) in collaboration with lute maker Francesco Piasentini from Atelier Lazzaro and the bow maker Walter Barbiero. The public

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will also have the chance to enjoy rare items and craftworks belonged to the Postacchini family (by courtesy of the Fermo Public Library, from a private donation).

An important novelty is the **return in Fermo**, for the first time, of a **violin by Andrea Postacchini recently recognized and certified as original** and coming from the United States. This valuable instrument has been recently purchased by Maestro Eduard Schmieder, member for the second time of the jury of the competition.

The public will have the opportunity to listen live to young violinists of Postacchini Competition also in **"Who's playing tonight?"**, concerts that will be held Wednesday, May 28th at 9.00 p.m. at the Comunità di Capodarco and Thursday, May 29th at 9.00 p.m. in the Portraits Hall of Palazzo dei Priori in Fermo. The violinists of the Postacchini will also meet the students of the schools of Fermo area Wednesday, May 28th at 11.00 a.m. at the Secondary School "Nardi" in Porto San Giorgio, and Friday, May 30th at 10:30 a.m. in the Hall of Portraits of the Palazzo dei Priori.

Patronages

The Postacchini Competition is held under the patronage of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Economic Development and Heritage Culture and Tourism, of the European Commission Representation in Italy, of the Italian National Commission for UNESCO, of the Marche Region, of the Province of Fermo, of the City of Fermo, of the City of Ansbach (Germany), of the Chamber of Commerce of Fermo, of the Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Fermo, of Confindustria Fermo, of the State Conservatory of Music "G. B. Pergolesi" of Fermo, of the State Art School " U. Preziotti - O. Licini " of Fermo and Porto San Giorgio.

Regulation and news about the competition in the Internet sites, <http://www.concorsopostacchini.com>, www.concorsopostacchini.it and www.stringscompetition.com, as well as on the official Facebook page.

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