

PRESS FILE

**22nd EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL VIOLIN COMPETITION
"A. POSTACCHINI"**

From May 23rd to 30th at the Aquila Theatre of Fermo. 112 competitors from 31 nations. The jury is chaired by Maestro Isidora Romanoff-Schwarzberg, internationally renowned concert performer. A prize money of over € 27,000.00. To the absolute winner a violin from the workshop of Giuseppe Lorenzo Quagliano and a bow by Walter Barbiero. The final on Saturday 30th will be conducted by the speaker of Radio 2 Matteo Caccia.

FERMO. From May 23rd to 30th the curtain of the **Aquila Theatre of Fermo** rises on the **22nd edition of the International Violin Competition "Andrea Postacchini"**. The prestigious competition, organized since **1994** by the Cultural Centre **Antiqua Marca Firmana** under the artistic direction of Maestro Domenico Ciabò Cipriani, makes every year an appointment in Fermo with the most talented young violinists from around the world. The city of the Marche becomes the capital of violin in the name of one of the most skilled lute makers of all time, who lived between the 19th and 20th century and considered the **Stradivarius of the Marche**, Andrea Postacchini from Fermo.

Alongside of the Association Antiqua Marca Firmana, this year too the major contribution of the **City of Fermo** with **Solgas Srl** and of the **Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio** with **Carifermo SpA**, the important presence of the **Marche Region**, of the **Province of Fermo**, of the **Chamber of Commerce of Fermo** and many other **public and private entities**.

This year **112** musicians from **31 different countries** will run to Fermo to compete for the prestigious title and a **prize money of more than € 27,000.00** divided between prizes, special awards, scholarships and award to the absolute winner who will also receive the PLATE of the PRESIDENT of the REPUBLIC. The jury of the 22nd edition reaches as usual the highest level. The team of the seven judges will be chaired by **Maestro Isidora Romanoff-Schwarzberg**, full professor at the University of Vienna and teacher of master classes at international level.

During the seven days no stop that from 9.00 a.m. until evening will see the various competing musicians performing on the stage of the Aquila Theater, there will be a **range of other events**. From the meetings with the schools under the coordination of Maestro Paolo Strappa during which the young violinists will give musical capsules of their art to the students, to the **exhibition** set up in the foyer of the theater on **violin making of the Marche** by luthier Giuseppe Lorenzo Quagliano from Jesi and by bow maker Walter Barbiero from Veneto, and, in addition, by private donation, the **"Preciousness of Andrea Postacchini age"**.

From the two evening concerts of the traditional appointment **"Who's playing tonight?"** during which some competitors will be grappling with unexpected concert tests, until the closing night of Saturday 30th at 9.00 p.m. this year conducted by the author and speaker of Radio 2 **Matteo Caccia**, when it will be possible to see the presence of **FORM**, the Marche Philharmonic Orchestra (Director Maestro Romolo Gessi) accompanying the young winners.

This year too the prestigious event, which have earned the recognition of the *Plate of the President of the Republic*, has been awarded by the most **important patronates** from that of the *Senate of the Republic* to the *Presidency of the Council* to those of the *Ministries of Foreign Affairs, of the Economic Development and of the Cultural Activities*.

Categories and competitors.

Four are the age categories that have always characterized the Postacchini Competition. Category A, that for children aged from 8 to 11 years and that this year numbers 10 competitors, category B from 12 to 16 years with 28 participants, category C from 17 to 21 years with 17 competitors and category D from 22 to 35 years the more substantial, with 57 musicians in the race.

The 112 participants come from Argentina, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Mongolia, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, Ukraine and the United States.

The youngest competitor this year, class of 2007, is **Alida Shahrazad Igbaria** of Italian nationality. Coming back for the sixth time at the Aquila Theatre, an aficionado of the competition, **Yann Passabet Labiste**, this year in the category D. The aim of the French talent honored with numerous international awards is to go on the podium for what is his last participation in the Fermo event because he is reaching the age limit imposed by the competition.

It is from this amazing puzzle world of young talents that the jury will have to draw the most promising tiles conferring awards, merits and establishing the final ranking.

The jury.

The demanding task of selection is committed this year to **seven jurors of excellence**. The ad hoc appointment for the 22nd edition has fallen on **Meichen Liao Barnes** (USA), academic of the Temple University and member of the Philadelphia Orchestra, **Pei Li** (China), violin of the Chinese Philharmonic Orchestra, founder of the string quartet of the Symphony Orchestra of Shanghai, **Luca Mengoni** (Italy), teacher and founder, trainer and director of the Youth Chamber Orchestra "Sinfonietta Gigli" of Recanati, **Mari-Bezrodny Tampere** (Finland), professor of violin at the Estonian Music Academy and at the Sibelius Academy in Finland, **Carlo Parazzoli** (Italy), since 1999 first violin soloist at the National Academy of Santa Cecilia, where he is teacher, **Yossi Zivoni** (UK), member of the Royal Northern College of Music of Manchester. **Presiding** over the team of jurors, the internationally renowned concert performer **Isidora Romanoff-Schwarzberg**, full professor at Vienna University and teacher of master classes at international level.

Prizes.

With a **prize money of more than 27,000.00 euro** divided between **prizes, special awards, scholarships and the award for the absolute winner** this edition too is full of recognitions.

The "**Andrea Postacchini Prize**" conferred to the absolute winner, that is the one that got the highest votes from the jury in all four categories, is a violin of the workshop of lute maker **Maestro Giuseppe Lorenzo Quagliano** from Jesi, and a bow of the bow maker Maestro **Walter Barbiero** from Piombino Dese (PD).

Among the **special awards**, confirmed also this year the prize money of the Committee of Honour for the best interpretation of a piece by J.S. Bach by the **Chamber of Commerce of Fermo**, and by the **Conservatory "G.B. Pergolesi" of Fermo** to the best interpretation of the composition for violin solo or violin and piano of the nineteenth, twentieth or twenty-first century, for categories C and D. In addition there are the prize **City of Ansbach**, twin city of Fermo, to the best classified participant of German nationality, and the **Prize City of Fermo** to the Italian competitor for the best execution of Capricci by Niccolò Paganini.

Concert prizes see also this year the collaboration with important Italian music entities as the orchestra I Virtuosi Italiani, the Fondazione Gioventù Musicale Italiana, the Municipality of San Ginesio and the Ente Concerti of Pesaro.

Exhibitions.

Saturday, May 23rd, opening day of the long week's work of the Postacchini Competition, at 6.30 p.m. in the foyer of the Aquila Theatre there will be the opening of the **"Exhibition of Violin Making of Marche"** with instruments from the workshop of Maestro Giuseppe Lorenzo Quagliano from Jesi and bows of Maestro Walter Barbiero from Piombino Dese (PD). It will be from their hands that the prize to be delivered to the absolute winner of the 22nd edition will be created.

Courtesy of the Public Library of Fermo, we will have instead the exhibition **"Preciousness of Andrea Postacchini age"**, a fascinating journey into the world of the lute maker from Fermo who lived between the 19th and 20th century.

Meetings with the schools.

An important meeting occasion between young and very young people of different and often distant nationalities, a unique opportunity for dialogue between generations through the universal language of music. This year too the usual double appointment coordinated by Maestro Paolo Strappa in collaboration with the Department of Social Services of the City of Fermo will be repeated. **Wednesday, May 27th** some competing violinists will offer their musical art to the listening of pupils of the **Middle School "Nardi" of Porto San Giorgio**, while on **Thursday 28th** young artists will be at the Palazzo dei Priori of Fermo to meet students of the **schools of Fermo**.

Evenings in music.

"Who's playing tonight?". A question, a fixture that for years characterizes the Prize. Thursday 28th and Friday 29th two concert tests of the competing violinists. A free showcase for young violinists who want to get involved in the intoxication of an evening concertino. These evenings are coordinated and presented by Maestro Paolo Strappa and are realized thanks to the collaboration of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Sport Department of the City of Fermo and the Assessorate for Culture of the City of Porto San Giorgio.

The **closing evening** will be held Saturday, May 30th in theater and celebrate the winners of the competition who will perform in concert next to **FORM**, the Marche Philharmonic Orchestra directed for the occasion by **Maestro Romolo Gessi**. Hosting the evening the author and conductor of Radio 2 and laEffe Tv, **Matteo Caccia**.

The entrance, as usual in line with the will of the organizers, is free but booking with the communication of number of participants at the box office (tel. 0734 284295) is required.

Patronates.

The event can count on following Patronates: Senate of the Republic, Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Heritage and Culture and Tourism, European Commission Representation in Italy, Italian National Commission for UNESCO, Marche Region, City of Fermo, City of Ansbach, Fermo Province, Chamber of Commerce of Fermo, Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Fermo, Conservatory of Music "G.B. Pergolesi" of Fermo, State Artistic High School "U. Preziotti" of Fermo.

Organizers and supporters.

The International Violin Competition "Andrea Postacchini" is the flagship of the cultural activities organized by the **Antiqua Marca Firmana**, nonprofit association of social promotion. What moves for over 20 years the organizers of the event is, as it is possible to read in the statute, the promotion of cultural activities in order to achieve an ever better understanding of human, artistic and scientific issues. Added to this there is the promotion of national and international musical talents, near to those from Fermo and its territory.

Thanks to the work that for more than twenty years the Antiqua Marca Firmana is carrying out, the competition has become a tool of primary importance for territorial promotion, capable of bringing Fermo and its incredible cultural riches all over the world. Zeal in the management of every aspect of the event, starting by a jury at the highest level and appointed annually, has enabled Postacchini Competition to be synonymous with quality. No coincidence that over the years, the event has awarded young debuting musicians become today recognized and appreciated concert performers.

Alongside the event. **Partners:** Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Fermo and Carifermo SpA, Solgas Srl. **Companies:** Steat SpA, Tre Elle Srl, Steaca Energia Srl, Macap Srl, Santori Pellami SpA, Budmor Srl, Ramini Daniela Assicurazioni. **Public and private entities:** Comune di Fermo, Comune di Ansbach, Camera di Commercio di Fermo, Regione Marche Assessorato Cultura. Confidi, Consiglio Ordine Avvocati di Fermo, Rotary International Club di Fermo. **Partakers:** Hotel Astoria, B&B 1912, B&B Il Nido, B&B Palazzo Romani Adami, Boutique Reve, Gallucci Sandro & C. Snc, Iommi Snc, Litografia Eurograf Srl, OS Allestimenti, Paimar Headwear Srl, Bottoni Giovanni Pianta&Fiori, Qn Il Resto del Carlino, il Corriere Adriatico, Corriere Proposte. **Specialists:** Giuseppe Lorenzo Quagliano, Walter Barbiero e Roberto Valli Pianoforti. The **Schools:** AConservatorio Statale di Musica "G.B. Pergolesi" di Fermo, Liceo Artistico Statale "U. Preziotti" di Fermo. And more many other private individuals.

Information and contacts.

Info and news about the competition on website www.concorsopostacchini.com. You can follow all the events also on the official Facebook page.