

PRESS FILE**XXIII EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL VIOLIN COMPETITION "A. POSTACCHINI"**

May 21st to 28th at the Teatro dell'Aquila in Fermo. 115 competitors coming from 33 nations.

The jury is chaired by Mr. Marco Rizzi one of the most appreciated Italian violinist of the world. A total prize of 26.000 euro. The final night conducted by the Radio 2 speaker Matteo Caccia, will see the participation of the FORM. To the overall winner a violin of Fabio Chiari's workshop and a bow made by Walter Barbiero

Fermo - The fascinating sound of the violin will fill the spaces of the "Teatro dell'Aquila" in Fermo from next **May 21st to 28th** for the **23rd edition of the violinistic competition "Andrea Postacchini"**. The prestigious competition organized since '94 by the Cultural Association **Antiqua Marca Firmana**, every year in Fermo brings together the most talented and youngest violinist from all over the world. Fermo becomes the capital of the violin in the name of one of the most noble citizens, Andrea Postacchini, luthier lived between 19th and 20th century and considered **the Marche Stradivari**.

Also this year with the "Associazione Antiqua Marca Firmana", there is the contribution of **Municipality of Fermo** and of the **Foundation Cassa di Risparmio**, and the support of the **Marche Region**, the **Fermo Province** with the **Chamber of Commerce** and other **public and private authorities**.

115 musicians from **33** different countries will meet together in Fermo to dispute the prestigious title and award of **26 thousand euro** divided in prizes, scholarships and overall winner prize. As usual the jury of this edition is also very prestigious. This year the team of seven jurors will be presided by Mr. **Marco Rizzi** one of the most popular violinists abroad, awarded in the three most prestigious violin competitions: the Tchaikovsky of Moscow, the Queen Elizabeth of Bruxelles and the Indianapolis Violin Competition.

During the eight days that no stop from 9 am until evening will perform on the stage of the Aquila Theatre various musicians competing, not really miss a range **of other events**. From meetings with schools coordinated by Maestro Paolo Strappa during which the young violinists will give musical pills of their art to students, **the exhibition** in the foyer of the theater of the Tuscan violin making by the luthier Fabio Chiari of Sesto Fiorentino and the Venetian bowmaker Walter Barbiero, in addition, private donations, the **"Preciousness of the time of Andrea Postacchini"**.

Back to lead **the final evening** once again the star performer of Radio 2 **Matteo Caccia**. Between performances, awards and many surprises, the **FORM**, the Marchigiana Philharmonic Orchestra directed by Maestro Nicola Marasco, accompanied in concert the winner of Category D.

This year the prestigious event, that have earned the award, which will come this week, the Medal of the President of the Republic, is awarded from the most **important patronage** in the Region such as those of the Prime Minister to that of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, economic development and Cultural heritage and Activities, the Italian National Commission for UNESCO and others.

The categories and competitors

There are four different age **categories** that have always characterized the Postacchini Competition. Category A, children from 8 to 11 years and which this year counts 12 competitors, category B from 12 to 16 years with 29 members, category C from 17 to 21 years with 26 competitors and category D from 22 to 35 years, the most substantial, with 48 musicians in the race.

The 115 participants come from Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, China, South Korea, Denmark, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Japan, Great Britain, Greece, Italy, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, Ukraine, USA, Uzbekistan.

The youngest competitor this year is **Fiona Khuong-Huu** triple nationalities, Japanese, American and French.

It is from this amazing puzzle world of young talent that the jury will have to catch the most promising pieces giving awards, merits and establishing a ranking.

The jury

The arduous task of selection is also entrusted this year to **seven jurors of excellence**. The appointment specifically for the XXIII edition fell on: Maestro **Marco Rizzi**, prestigious violist teacher at the Hochschule für Musik in Mannheim and at the Escuela Superior de Musica Reina Sofia in Madrid, in charge of presiding over the jury; Maestro **Guillaume Sutre** violin professor and director of the chamber music for strings UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music in Los Angeles; Maestro **Li Kaixiang** violin professor at the Sichuan Conservatory of Music and has received prestigious awards from the Chinese Ministry of Culture; Maestro **Eva Bindere**, Latvian Philharmonic Orchestra member, concertmaster della Kremerata Baltica the Kremerata Baltica and professor of international fame; Maestro **Dejan Bogdanovich**, nicknamed "The Color Genius" for its ability to capture the atmosphere of the composition, honorary professor for PhD students of the University of Novi Sad; Maestro **Ian Jewel**, violist, conductor and master of the highest level teacher, has taught at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, at the Royal Academy of Music and the Guildhall School of Music in London; Maestro **Alessandro Milani**, a pupil of Maestro Salvatore Accardo and first violinist with the Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale RAI.

The prices

With a prize pool of more than 26.000 euro divided in **awards, special awards, scholarships and the prize to the absolute winner**. Even this edition it is rich in awards. The "Andrea Postacchini Prize" awarded to the overall winner which is the one that got the most votes by the jury among all four categories, is a violin of Master luthier **Fabio Chiari** of Sesto Fiorentino (FI), and a bow of the Master bow maker **Walter Barbiero** of Piombino Dese (PD).

Exhibitions

In the foyer of the Aquila Theatre during the days of the competition it will be possible to enjoy the view of the precious handcrafted violins made by Master luthier Tuscan Fabio Chiari and bows of the master bow maker Walter Barbiero Piombino Dese (PD). It will be out of their own hands the prize which will be awarded to the overall winner of the XXIII edition. By courtesy of the Civic Library of Fermo instead the exhibition "**Preciousness era of Andrea Postacchini**", a fascinating journey into the world of the luthier from Fermo who lived between the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The meetings with the schools

An important meeting between children and young people of different and often distant nationalities a unique dialogue opportunity between generations through the universal language of music. Also this year the usual double appointment coordinated by Maestro Paul Strappa with students of the **schools of Fermo** (in collaboration with the Department of Social Services of Fermo, May 24th at 10 am at the "Sala dei Ritratti") and with the children of the **Secondary School "Nardi" in Porto San Giorgio** (May 26th at 11 am).

The Patronage

The event may include, numerous patronage: Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Heritage and Culture and Tourism, the European Commission Representation in Italy, Italian National Commission for UNESCO, the Marche Region, the city of Fermo, city of Ansbach (Germany - twin city with the city of Fermo), Province of Fermo, Chamber of Commerce of Fermo, the Foundation Cassa di Risparmio of Fermo, Conservatory of Music "GB Pergolesi" of Fermo, Art School "U. Preziotti" of Fermo.

Organizers and partners

The International Violin Competition "Andrea Postacchini" is the spearhead of cultural activities organized by **Antiqua Marca Firmana** a nonprofit social promotion association. What moves since over 20 years the organizers of the event, as stated in the statutes, is the promotion of cultural activities in order to achieve an always better understanding of human, artistic and scientific problems. To this the enhancement of musical, national and international talent is added and the promotion of Fermo and its territory. Thanks to the work that for more than twenty years is held by Antiqua Marca Firmana, the contest has become a fundamental tool of territorial promotion, able to bring Fermo and its incredible cultural richness throughout the world. The accuracy in the management of every aspect of the event, starting with a Jury always of the highest level and appointed annually, has enabled the Postacchini Competition to be synonymous with quality. No coincidence that over the years the event has awarded young newcomers which nowadays are recognized and appreciated performers.

To support the event, in addition to the City of Fermo and other public entities, the Foundation Cassa di Risparmio di Fermo and Carifermo SpA, Solgas Srl, Steat SpA., Tre Elle Srl, Steca Energia Srl, Macap Srl., Santori Leathers SpA., Budmor Srl, Reale Mutua Assicurazioni, Council Bar Association, Rotary International Club of Fermo. The media partners: QN Il Resto del Carlino, Il Corriere Adriatico. Technical partners: Fabio Chiari, Walter Barbiero and Roberto Valli Pianos. Schools: Art School "U. Preziotti "of Fermo.

Information and contacts

Regulation, and information on the competition on the websites, www.concorsopostacchini.com and www.ccamf.org.

You can follow all the scheduled events also on the official Facebook page, or with the hashtag #concorsopostacchini #postacchini2016.