



Pamela Frank Joji Hattori Olivier Charlier Dong-Suk Kang



Hu Kun Henning Kraggerud Tasmin Little Yan Pascal Tortelier Vera Tsu Wei Ling

# The Competition Jury 2012

## PAMELA FRANK (USA) Chair of the Jury

Pamela Frank has established an outstanding international reputation across an unusually varied range of performing activity. As a soloist she has performed with leading orchestras including the New York Philharmonic, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the San Francisco Symphony, the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields, the Berlin Philharmonic, the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestre National de France and the St Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra. She is also a sought-after chamber musician and has performed at many international festivals including Aldeburgh, Verbier, Edinburgh, Salzburg, Tanglewood, Marlboro, and Ravinia. Aside from her devotion to the standard repertoire, Frank has performed and recorded a number of contemporary works, including a concerto by Ellen Taaffe Zwilich commissioned for Frank by Carnegie Hall and Hugh Wolff, and two works by Aaron Jay Kernis. Frank's accomplishments were recognised in 1999 with the prestigious Avery Fisher Prize. She is professor for violin at the Curtis Institute of Music.

## JOJI HATTORI (Japan/Austria) Vice Chair of the Jury

Joji Hattori studied at the Vienna Academy of Music and won first prize in the Menuhin Competition in 1989. He now enjoys a varied international career as a concert violinist, chamber musician, director of chamber orchestras and, more recently, as a conductor of symphony orchestras and operas. He has been associate conductor of the Vienna Chamber Orchestra since 2004 as well as principal resident conductor of the Opera House in Erfurt, Germany (2007-8), music director of the Tokyo Ensemble – a project-based chamber orchestra he founded in 2001 – and music director of the open-air Operetta Summer Festival at Schloss Kittsee in Austria. As guest conductor he regularly works with the Philharmonia Orchestra (London), the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, the Slovak Philharmonic, and the Yomiuri Symphony Orchestra (Japan). In 2009, he made his debut at the Vienna State Opera with three performances of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*.

## OLIVIER CHARLIER (France)

Olivier Charlier was accepted into the Paris Conservatoire aged 10, where his talents caught the attention of Nadia Boulanger, Yehudi Menuhin and Henryk Szeryng. Since winning several international competitions, Charlier has been

invited to perform with national and international orchestras including the Orchestre National de France, Zurich's Tonhalle Orchestra, The Hague Philharmonic Orchestra, the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the BBC Philharmonic, the Hallé Orchestra and the Berlin Symphony Orchestra, and under such revered conductors as Gianandrea Noseda, Gustavo Dudamel and Yan Pascal Tortelier, the latter of whom joins Charlier on this year's jury. Charlier is an active recording artist and his discography testifies to an eclecticism that spans Beethoven, Schumann, Mendelssohn, Grieg, Saint-Saëns and Lalo, as well as several world premieres. Charlier has also been an avid chamber musician since attending the Marlboro Festival in his youth. He teaches violin at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris.

## DONG-SUK KANG (Korea/USA)

Dong-Suk Kang was born in Korea and studied at the Juilliard School and the Curtis Institute of Music in the USA. Following a debut at the John F Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, he went on to win top prizes in international competitions including the Montreal International Musical Competition, the International Carl Flesch Violin Competition and the Queen Elisabeth International Music Competition. Since then, he has appeared with many great orchestras and conductors and performed at major music centres and festivals including the BBC Proms in London. Kang is also a sought-after recording artist whose CDs have won critical acclaim. *Gramophone* magazine awarded its 'CD of the month' accolade to Kang's Walton Concerto CD, and the same disc was nominated for a Gramophone Award. Kang is a professor at Yonsei University in Seoul, as well as artistic director of the MusicAlp Festival in France and the Seoul Spring Festival in Korea.

## HU KUN (China/UK)

Hu Kun started playing the violin at the age of three under the tutelage of his father, and went on to become China's first ever prize winner of an international violin competition (taking fifth place in the Sibelius Violin Competition in Helsinki in 1980), resulting in a documentary, *The First Winner*, being made about him. He later studied at the Menuhin Academy with Alberto Lysy in Gstaad and went on to become an active international concert and recording

artist. He won first prize in the 1985 Menuhin Competition, and was invited by Yehudi Menuhin himself to London to become his only private student. Recently, Kun has taken up conducting, tutored by Sir Colin Davis. Kun is a professor at the Royal Academy of Music in London and a guest professor at the Central Conservatory of Music, the Sichuan Chengdu Conservatory and at the Xinghai Conservatory in Guangzhou.

## HENNING KRAGGERUD (Norway)

Henning Kraggerud maintains a busy diary as a soloist with many major European, North American and Australian orchestras, and, after his debut with the London Philharmonic Orchestra under Osmo Vänskä in 2010, he was invited to re-join the conductor at the New World Symphony in the 2011-12 season. He is increasingly in demand as a guest director, most recently with the Zurich Chamber Orchestra and the Britten Sinfonia. Also a committed chamber musician, Kraggerud performs on both violin and viola at major international festivals, and is artistic director of the Tromsø Chamber Orchestra. Kraggerud is an innovative improviser and composer, performing many of his own cadenzas and arrangements in concert, and several of his compositions have been performed at festivals worldwide. He is a recipient of Norway's prestigious Grieg Prize, and, in 2007, was awarded the Sibelius Prize for his interpretations and recording of Sibelius' music. He is co-artistic director of the Risør Festival.

## TASMIN LITTLE (UK)

Tasmin Little won third prize at the very first Menuhin Competition in 1983 and has gone on to enjoy a very successful career. In addition to her regular solo performances, she has played/directed orchestras such as the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the Seattle Symphony Orchestra, the English Chamber Orchestra, the European Union Chamber Orchestra and Britten Sinfonia. Her groundbreaking project *The Naked Violin* – an experiment in making a recital of works for solo violin available for free download, which led to her being the subject of a *South Bank Show* documentary – received the 2008 Classic FM Gramophone Award for Audience Innovation. Little is an ambassador for The Prince's Foundation for Children and the Arts, a fellow of the Guildhall of Music & Drama, president of ESTA (the European String Teachers Association) and an ambassador for Youth Music, a UK children's

charity that uses music to transform the lives of disadvantaged young people.

## YAN PASCAL TORTELIER (France)

Yan Pascal Tortelier has conducted some of the world's most prestigious orchestras including the London Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, the St Petersburg and Oslo Philharmonic orchestras, the Boston, Chicago, San Francisco and Montreal Symphony orchestras and the Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra. He began his musical career as a violinist and, at 14, won first prize for violin at the Paris Conservatoire and made his debut as a soloist with the London Philharmonic Orchestra. Following general musical studies with Nadia Boulanger, Tortelier studied conducting with Franco Ferrara at the Chigiana Musical Academy in Siena. Tortelier was chief conductor of the BBC Philharmonic between 1992 and 2003, taking in a tour of the US to celebrate the orchestra's 60th anniversary season, and continues to work with the orchestra regularly. He is currently principal conductor of the São Paulo Symphony Orchestra, and also holds the position of principal guest conductor at the Royal Academy of Music in London.

## VERA TSU WEI LING (China)

Vera Tsu Wei Ling has been a professor of violin at the Central Conservatory of Music since 2000, and has been a jury member of many high profile international competitions, including the Queen Elisabeth International Music Competition in Brussels in 2012. She has an active career as a soloist and chamber musician both in China and abroad. She has appeared with numerous international symphony orchestras and worked with the composer and conductor Krzysztof Penderecki in 2005 at the opening season of the Shanghai Oriental Arts Center. In 2008, Tsu Wei Ling appeared as a soloist at the Bernstein Celebration concert at the 11th Beijing Music Festival, and was highly praised by critics and the audience, including Jamie Bernstein, daughter of Leonard Bernstein. Tsu Wei Ling's recordings of the Korngold and Goldmark violin concerti have been well-received by the international music press, and, in July 2009, she launched her own trio, the China Trio.