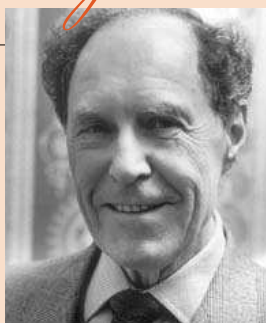


The Competition Jury

ERICH GRUENBERG
(Chairman) (UK)

One of Britain's most distinguished violinists, Erich Gruenberg was born in Vienna. Winning the Carl Flesch International Violin Competition resulted in his London debut playing the Brahms Violin Concerto with the London Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall. As a soloist he has appeared with all the major British orchestras and has toured throughout the world, collaborating with such conductors as Sir Colin Davis, Sir Andrew Davis, Gennadi Rozhdestvensky, Sir Simon Rattle, Sir Charles Mackerras, André Previn and Michael Tilson Thomas. Erich Gruenberg has held the posts of leader of the London Symphony and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestras. His activities in the field of chamber music, numerous recordings as well as premieres and commissions have enriched an outstanding career. Erich Gruenberg is Professor at the Royal Academy of Music. He gives master classes and serves on juries around the world, including chairing the jury of the Fritz Kreisler Competition in Vienna. He is chairman of the Trustees of the Hattori Foundation for Young Musicians. In recognition of his services to music he has been awarded the OBE.

Erich Gruenberg plays the Habeneck Stradivari, on loan from the Royal Academy of Music.



PAMELA FRANK

Pamela Frank's outstanding international reputation stems from both her work with orchestras and in the field of chamber music. Her achievements were recognized in 1999 with the Avery Fisher Prize, one of the highest honours given to American instrumentalists.

Ms Frank has appeared with all the major American orchestras, the Orchestre National de France, the Leipzig Gewandhaus, the Orchestre de Paris, and the Vienna Symphony with such esteemed conductors as Daniel Barenboim, Christoph Eschenbach, Bernard Haitink, Seiji Ozawa, André Previn, Leonard Slatkin, Yuri Temirkanov and David Zinman. Appearances at festivals include Aldeburgh, Berlin, Blossom, Ravinia, Salzburg, Tanglewood and Verbier.

In the field of chamber music, she partners her father, pianist Claude Frank, and pianist Peter Serkin. Other frequent collaborators include Yo-Yo Ma, Tabea Zimmermann and Alexander Simionescu.

Pamela Frank's recordings include the Dvořák Concerto, the complete Mozart Concertos, the Brahms and Beethoven sonatas, the Chopin Piano Trio and the "Trout" Quintet. She also has an affinity for contemporary music, having premiered works by Ellen Taaffe Zwilich and Aaron Jay Kernis.

Born in New York City, Pamela Frank is the daughter of noted pianists Claude Frank and Lilian Kallir, and studied with Shirley Givens, Szymon Goldberg and Jaime Laredo.

Pamela Frank is Professor of Violin at the Curtis Institute of Music.



DONG-SUK KANG

Dong-Suk Kang was born in Korea and went to New York in 1967 to study at the Juilliard School and later at the Curtis Institute.

Following a debut at the Kennedy Center he went on to win top prizes in international competitions including the Montreal, the Carl Flesch and the Queen Elisabeth. Since then he has appeared with many great orchestras, working with conductors such as Dutoit, Ozawa, Mazur, Järvi, Menuhin, Salonen, Slatkin, Barshai, Jansons, Norrington and Svetlanov. He has performed at major music centres and festivals including the BBC Proms in London.

His strong interest in chamber music has resulted in his participation at various chamber music festivals including those in Spoleto, Santa Fe, Kuhmo, Korsholm, Seattle, Vancouver, Newport and Australian Festival of Chamber Music, and as a guest artist with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center.

Dong-Suk Kang is also a sought after recording artist whose CDs have won critical acclaim. His Walton Concerto CD was chosen CD of the month by the Gramophone magazine and nominated for the Gramophone Award. Dong-Suk Kang is a professor at Yonsei University in Seoul and artistic director of the MusicAlp Festival in France and the Seoul Spring Festival in Korea.



MICHAEL MA

Born in Vienna of Chinese parents, Michael Ma was taught the violin initially by his father before being accepted at age 14 to the Curtis Institute and the New School of Music, Philadelphia, to study under Ivan Galamian and Adolph Brodsky.

He began performing with the Concerto Soloists of Philadelphia and founded the New Art String Quartet. He has appeared frequently as soloist and concertmaster with many orchestras including the Oklahoma Symphony Orchestra, the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, the Santa Fe Opera Orchestra, the Mainly Mozart Festival, San Diego, and the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra. Michael Ma was Professor of Violin at the University of Oklahoma and is now Head of Strings at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts.



EDITH PEINEMANN

Edith Peinemann was born in Mainz, Germany and studied the violin from age four with her father Robert, concertmaster of the city's orchestra. She went on to study with Heinz Stanske and Max Rostal, and won first prize at the ARD international competition in Munich, aged 19.

Her New York debut was in 1965, playing the Beethoven with Szell and the Cleveland Orchestra at Carnegie Hall. Ms Peinemann has appeared with leading orchestras throughout the world, with conductors such as Münch, Solti, Karajan, Krips, Barbirolli, von Dohnanyi, Sargent, Kubelik, Steinberg, Ozawa, Tennstedt, Boulez and Sawallisch. She has taken part in summer festivals at Blossom Centre, Ravinia, Temple University, the Hollywood Bowl, Marlboro and Mozart Festival, New York.

Ms Peinemann held master classes at the Cleveland Institute of Music, Indiana University, Kusatsu Festival, Luzern Conservatory, and since 1976 has been professor of violin at the University of Frankfurt School of Music. She has recorded for DGG, Orfeo, Amati-Sonoma and Bayer Records, including the complete Schubert violin and piano works with pianist Leonard Hokanson.

Edith Peinemann was honoured with the "Plaque Eugène Ysaÿe", the fourth recipient after D. Oistrakh, L. Kogan and A. Grumiaux.

Edith Peinemann has been professor of violin at Frankfurt University's School of Music since 1976. She plays a Guarneri del Gesù violin dated 1732.

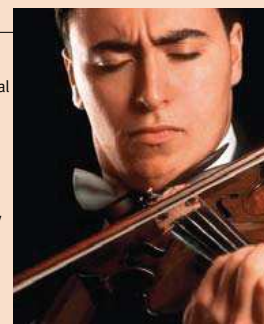


MAXIM VENEROV

One of the world's most exciting violinists, Maxim Vengerov gave his first recital aged five, won First Prize in the Junior Wieniawski Competition aged ten, and the Carl Flesch International Violin Competition in 1990, aged 15. He has received many Gramophone, Grammy and Edison awards.

In 1997 Vengerov was the first classical musician to be appointed Envoy for Music by UNICEF, meeting disadvantaged children in Uganda, Harlem, Thailand and Kosovo. Another passion is giving master classes, one of which was shown in Channel Four's documentary on Vengerov. Vengerov was appointed professor at the Royal Academy of Music in London in 2005.

Maxim Vengerov performs with all the major orchestras and conductors. He also conducts, plays the baroque violin and the viola. He regularly tours around the globe, visiting the Far East and Europe in 2004 with a programme of virtuosos pieces, which were also recorded by EMI. Vengerov took a sabbatical year in 2005, studying improvisation and tango dance, and premiered a viola concerto written for him by Benjamin Yusupov. In 2006 Vengerov toured worldwide with the UBS Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra, and gave a recital tour. He has recently recorded the complete Mozart Violin Concertos and Sinfonia Concertante.



PAUL WATKINS

One of Britain's most highly regarded cellists, Paul Watkins first came to public attention winning the string section of BBC Young Musician in 1988 and recently has been developing his career as a conductor.

As a cellist Paul performs regularly with the major British orchestras. He has recently performed with the Melbourne Symphony, Queensland Orchestra, City of Birmingham Symphony, Aarhus Symfoniorkester and toured Italy and Prague with the BBC Philharmonic and the Far East with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. In 2006 he gave the world premiere of Reflections on a Scottish Folk Song, a cello concerto written by Richard Rodney Bennett with the Philharmonia. This season sees performances with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales.

Paul is also a dedicated chamber musician and member of the Nash Ensemble, and has performed with Vadim Repin, Alexander Kerr, Daniel Hope and the Lindsay Quartet. He has recently given recitals in London, Manchester and Edinburgh, performing this season at the Y in New York, the Wigmore Hall and the Concertgebouw.

He has recorded for Nimbus, Chandos and his first CD for Warner Classics was shortlisted for a Grammy.



EXHIBITION

During the Competition, at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama, there is a rare opportunity to see a collection of very fine violins and bows assembled by Christophe Landon, a prizewinning violin maker, expert restorer and international violin and bow dealer.