



## **Menuhin Competition returns to London in 2016 in celebration of Yehudi Menuhin's Centenary**

**7-17 April 2016**

The Menuhin Competition - the world's leading competition for violinists under the age of 22 – announces its return to London in 2016 in celebration of Yehudi Menuhin's centenary.

Founded by Yehudi Menuhin in 1983 and taking place in a different international city every two years, the Competition returns to London in 2016 after first being held there in 2004. The centenary event will take place in partnership with some of the UK's leading music organisations: the Royal Academy of Music, the Philharmonia Orchestra, Southbank Centre, the Yehudi Menuhin School and the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain. It will be presented in association with the BBC Concert Orchestra and BBC Radio 3 which will broadcast the major concerts.

Yehudi Menuhin lived much of his life in Britain, and his legacy - not just as one of the greatest violinists of the 20th century, but as an ambassador for music education - is the focus of all the Competition's programming. More festival of music and cultural exchange than mere competition, the Menuhin Competition in 2016 will be a rich ten-day programme of concerts, masterclasses, talks and participatory activities with world-class performances from candidates and jury members alike. Competition rounds take place at the Royal Academy of Music, with concerts held at London's Southbank Centre. 2016 jury members include previous winners who have gone on to become world class soloists: Tasmin Little OBE, Julia Fischer and Ray Chen.

Duncan Greenland, Chairman of the Menuhin Competition comments:

*"We are delighted to be bringing the Competition to London in Menuhin's centenary year and working with such prestigious partners. With Menuhin's legacy at its core, a sense of learning and participation is as important as the competition itself and, with its festival spirit of collaboration and collegiate sense of nurturing, the Menuhin Competition is unique among music competitions."*

Welcomed to London by the British Government and London & Partners, The Mayor of London Boris Johnson says:

*“It is wonderful that the prestigious Menuhin Competition is coming back to London in 2016, the centenary year of the great maestro. This exciting showcase of some of the best young violinists from across the globe will be a feast for music fans, which I hope will inspire other gifted young people in the capital and across the country.”*

The Competition’s aim to discover and help exceptionally talented young musicians from around the world develop into artists of the highest calibre, is demonstrated by its impressive array of previous winners, which include Tasmin Little OBE, Julia Fischer, Ilya Gringolts, Nikolaj Znaider, Ray Chen and Chad Hoopes.

The next Menuhin Competition takes place from 21 February - 2 March 2014 in Austin, Texas, in the first time the Competition is being held in the USA. The Competition can be followed via live-stream at [www.menuhincompetition.org](http://www.menuhincompetition.org) and its winners will be performing at the opening concert of the 2016 Menuhin Competition in London.

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## **Notes to Editors:**

### **About the Menuhin Competition:**

The Menuhin Competition is the world’s leading competition for violinists under the age of 22. Founded in 1983 by Yehudi Menuhin and held in a different city every two years, the Menuhin Competition takes place in an exceptional atmosphere of learning, nurturing and cultural exchange. Yehudi Menuhin’s legacy - not just as one of the greatest violinists of the 20th century, but as an ambassador for music education - is the focus of all the Competition’s programming. More festival of music and cultural exchange than mere competition, the Menuhin Competition is a rich ten-day programme of concerts, masterclasses, talks and participatory activities with world-class performances from candidates and jury members alike. The next Menuhin Competition takes place, for the first time in the USA, in Austin, Texas from 21 February - 2 March 2014.

[www.menuhincompetition.org](http://www.menuhincompetition.org)

### **London & Partners:**

London & Partners is the official promotional organisation for London. The company attracts and delivers value to business, students and visitors. London & Partners is a not-for-profit public private partnership, funded by the Mayor of London and a network of commercial partners.

### **About the Menuhin Competition Partners:**

#### **Royal Academy of Music (host venue for competition rounds):**

The Royal Academy of Music is one of the world's greatest conservatoires and Britain’s oldest. Proud of its traditions of nearly 200 years, it is also committed to shaping the musical landscape through its innovative study programmes and renowned teaching. The Academy houses one of the most celebrated collections of Cremonese violins as well as the Foyle Menuhin Archive.

#### **Philharmonia Orchestra:**

The Philharmonia is one of the world’s great orchestras and a foremost musical pioneer. It brings together the world’s finest players, conductors and soloists to create truly inspiring musical performances.

#### **National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain (NYO):**

NYO offers a national platform for Britain’s brightest and best teenage musicians to come together to create performances that astound and inspire musicians and audiences alike.

**Southbank Centre:**

The world-famous Southbank Centre – home to the Royal Festival Hall – is one of Britain’s leading arts institutions. Located on the south bank of the River Thames, this vibrant centre offers a wide range of cultural events.

**Yehudi Menuhin School:**

A centre of excellence for the performing arts, Yehudi Menuhin founded his famous school to provide the environment and tuition for musically gifted children to pursue their love of music and develop their potential.

**BBC Concert Orchestra:**

Famed for its versatility, the BBC Concert Orchestra spans everything from musicals to opera and jazz to pop, and is a regular at the BBC Proms, on BBC Radio and BBC Television.

**Live broadcasts: BBC Radio 3**

The major concerts in the Competition will be broadcast live and presented in association with BBC Radio 3.

**[www.menuhincompetition.org](http://www.menuhincompetition.org)**

**Twitter: @menuhincomp**

**Facebook: [www.facebook.com/menuhincompetition](http://www.facebook.com/menuhincompetition)**

**YouTube: [www.youtube.com/MenuhinCompetition](http://www.youtube.com/MenuhinCompetition)**

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