

## MAXIM VENGEROV 'CHECKS OUT' THE FIRST PRIZE FOR THE MENUHIN COMPETITION LONDON 2016

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**John  
& Arthur  
Beare**

Fine Violins Since 1892



LONDON 2016

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MENUHIN CENTENARY

The 'Schneiderhan' gets its name from the Austrian violinist Wolfgang Schneiderhan, first concertmaster of the Vienna Symphony Orchestra and leader of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, who owned and played the instrument for around 9 years during the 1950s and 60s. The violin has a colourful past with a variety of ownership, including musicians, dealers and noblemen alike. The fact that it was owned and played by some great musicians is testimony to its fine craftsmanship and rich tonal qualities.

**Simon Morris** and **Steven Smith**, Managing Directors of **J & A Beare** said: "J & A Beare are delighted to be sponsors of the Menuhin Competition London 2016. The firm has long enjoyed a close connection with the most established soloists but we are also very keen to encourage and support younger players at the beginning of their careers. The Menuhin Competition is a great way to do this as it is so much more than just a competition - as past entrants have often told us."

[Link to PHOTOGRAPHY of Maxim Vengerov playing the 'Schneiderhan': HERE](#)

[Link to FILM of Maxim Vengerov playing the 'Schneiderhan' \(Meditation from Thaïs by Massenet, Bach's Chaconne and discussing the violin\): HERE](#)

The **Menuhin Competition London 2016** attracts exceptional young violinists from across the globe, filling London with world class music during the 11-day Festival (Thursday 7 April - Sunday 17 April 2016), celebrating all things **Menuhin** during his centenary year.

**Menuhin Competition London 2016: Thursday 7 April - Sunday 17 April 2016**

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

Facebook: [facebook.com/menuhincompetition](https://facebook.com/menuhincompetition) / @MenuhinComp / [youtube.com/menuhincompetition](https://youtube.com/menuhincompetition)

J & A Beare website: [www.beares.com](http://www.beares.com)

For further information, press tickets please contact Deborah Goodman Publicity:  
+44 (0)20 8959 9980 / [publicity@dgpr.co.uk](mailto:publicity@dgpr.co.uk)

International star violinist **Maxim Vengerov** took time out of his busy schedule to visit **J & A Beare**, and play the glorious Golden period Antonio Stradivari violin, 'Schneiderhan' (Cremona, 1715). The Senior 1<sup>st</sup> Prize winner of the **Menuhin Competition London 2016** will receive the 'Schneiderhan' on a 1-year loan from a generous patron of the Beare's International Violin Society – [See exclusive links below to film and photography of Maxim Vengerov playing the 'Schneiderhan'](#).

**Maxim Vengerov** said of the 'Schneiderhan' circa 1715:

"There is nothing like a 301 year old violin sound, and the 'Schneiderhan' has wonderful colours. For the 1st Prize Winner to play this Strad is the next step of their development and is the greatest gift a violinist could have at the start of their career.

"I was very fortunate in my life, as at the age of 10, I was given the use of a half size Strad. You immediately think that you are now going to be an amazing violinist because you are playing a Strad, with its magical sound – but no, you have to learn to play a great instrument!

"A word of advice to the winner of the 'Schneiderhan': remember the instrument owns the violinist! The instrument was my best teacher. Get to know each other and the violin will mould to your playing with its own distinct voice. No-one will ever play the same sound – that is the beauty of a Strad.

"The Menuhin Competition was created by a legend of the violin world, and it is his legacy to his art and the great tradition of violin playing. I wish all the participants the very best of luck, and, hard to do I know, to just enjoy your- selves!"