

10TH CARL NIELSEN INTERNATIONAL VIOLIN COMPETITION WITH NEW PRESIDENT - NIKOLAJ ZNAIDER ODENSE, DENMARK 16 - 22 APRIL 2016



CARL NIELSEN
INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS
Odense · Denmark

From 16 - 22 April 2016, the Odense Symphony Orchestra opens its doors for the 10th Carl Nielsen International Violin Competition and welcomes **Nikolaj Znaider** in his new role as President. The competition is open for violinists of all nationalities under the age of 30. The competition's website is open for registration and application deadline is November 1.

Since the last violin competition in 2012 valuable additional opportunities for the prize winner have been established: The 1st Prize has a value of 25.000 Euros and includes a CD-recording with Odense Symphony Orchestra, to be released on the British label Orchid Records. The award winner is also offered a minimum of 10 concerts with prominent orchestras in Scandinavia and across Europe. Finally, through a large-scale cooperation with Danish Broadcasting Company, the competition can be followed live online worldwide, as well as on radio and the national Danish channel DRK.

The jury comprises a number of leading musicians and orchestral managers, amongst others Corina Belcea (violin), Jian Wang (cello), Noah Bendix-Balgley (1st concert master, Berlin Philharmonic) and John Gilhooly (Director of the Wigmore Hall, London).

Nikolaj Znaider - who himself won the Carl Nielsen International Violin Competition in 1992 - is now well established as one of today's leading international soloists and is passionate about supporting the next generation of musicians, both amateur and professional. In addition to taking on the role of Jury President, Znaider has worked in collaboration with Danish music schools, institutions and young string students from across Denmark and invited them to join a youth academy which will perform at the competition's opening ceremony on April 16.

"To me it means a lot, that the competition has a strong focus on giving the world's best young violin talents an opportunity for an international breakthrough" commented Znaider. "But at the same time, I wish that the competition may be a celebration of the violin, and thereby contribute to even more young people getting to know and be familiar with the instrument. This is also the reason why we have invited talented students from all over Denmark to Odense for the opening concert to mark the beginning of the competition".

10TH CARL NIELSEN INTERNATIONAL VIOLIN COMPETITION WITH NEW PRESIDENT - NIKOLAJ ZNAIDER ODENSE, DENMARK 16 - 22 APRIL 2016

Finn Schumacker, Music Director of the Odense Symphony Orchestra said: "It's great for the Carl Nielsen International Competitions and the Odense Symphony Orchestra that Nikolaj Znaider will be leading the way for the competition in the coming years. The purpose of the competition is to find tomorrow's soloists, but at the same time Nikolaj Znaider ensures that elite and young talents meet, thus creating a local anchoring for the competition."

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE NIELSEN INTERNATIONAL VIOLIN COMPETITION

The Carl Nielsen International Competitions was founded in the late 1970's by Odense Symphony Orchestra's then Chief Conductor, Karol Stryja and leader Peder Elbæk as well as by the City's Mayor Mr. Verner Dalskov. In 1980 the first violin competition took place, and since then it has been held every four years. In 1997 and 1998 the disciplines clarinet and flute were added to the Carl Nielsen International Competitions.

Previous winners are:

2012	Olga Volkova, Rusland
2008	Hrachya Avanesyan, Armenia
2004	Hyuk Joo Kwun, Republic of Korea
2000	Masaaki Tanokura, Japan
1999	Leor Maltinski, Israel
1996	Adele Anthony, Australia
1992	Nikolaj Znaider, Denmark
1998	Alexei Kochvanets, Russia
1984	Osamu Yaguchi, Japan
1980	Kathleen Winkler, USA