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10TH ANNIVERSARY WINDSOR FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL STRING COMPETITION



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE SEARCH IS ON: WINDSOR FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL STRING COMPETITION LAUNCHES HISTORIC 10TH COMPETITION WITH FIRST-EVER CONCERTO FINAL

6 July 2026, WINDSOR, UK

The Windsor Festival International String Competition (WFISC) announces the launch of the **10th edition of the competition**. Applications are now open to exceptional string players worldwide as the competition begins its global search for its tenth champion. In a significant evolution to its format: **for the first time ever, the grand finale will feature a full Concerto Final**, allowing the final three competitors to perform a complete concerto with full orchestra.

A Prize Fund Designed to Launch the Winner's Career

Reflecting the aims of the WFISC, the competition offers a prize fund valued at **over £40,000**, specifically structured to launch the winner's international career. This comprehensive package includes a recording with **Champs Hill Records**, a UK Concerto Tour in 2027 with Associate Orchestra the **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO)**, and a concerto commission from leading UK composer **Sally Beamish**, culminating in a high-profile London concerto performance opportunity with the **Orpheus Sinfonia** for the world premiere in June 2027.

An International Jury Panel

The 10th edition draws together a distinguished panel of international classical music professionals. The jury includes violinist and conductor **Joji Hattori**, cellist **Raphael Wallfisch**, composer **Sally Beamish**, **Alexander van Ingen** (executive producer Champs Hill), **Tom Philpott** (Royal Philharmonic Orchestra), and **Martin Denny** (Director, Windsor Festival), with further jury members yet to be announced.

From Competition to the Global Stage

The 9 previous winners of the competition have gone on to achieve significant milestones on the global stage, translating their WFISC success into international solo careers with leading orchestras, recording contracts, and principal positions at world-renowned ensembles and conservatoires. The competition continues its established mission to seek out the finest string players of the upcoming generation.

"Reaching our tenth edition is a proud moment for the competition, and introducing the Concerto Final for the first time ever elevates the competition to an exciting whole new level, and we are so grateful for the support of The Storey Foundation that makes this possible," said Martin Denny,

Director of Windsor Festival. "With a prize fund worth over £40,000 specifically structured to launch the winner's career, and a world-class international jury, we are providing a truly unparalleled platform. The search is officially on for our tenth winner."

Competition Details & How to Apply

The competition is open to all violinists, violists, and cellists, aged 16-26, of all nationalities. Full details regarding eligibility, timeline, repertoire requirements, and the application process can be found on the official website. windsorfestival.com/international-string-competition



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Notes to Editors

- **About the WFISC:** The Windsor Festival International String Competition is one of the world's leading classical music competitions, supporting exceptional young string players at the start of their international careers.
- **Website:** <https://windsorfestival.com/international-string-competition>
- **Social Media:** @windsorfestival
- **Media Contact:** For press inquiries, high-res images, or interview requests, please contact Rosemary Taylor at rosemary@martindenny.co.uk

FURTHER INFORMATION

Background

WFISC was launched in 2008, in memory of festival founder, and violinist, Yehudi Menuhin. Sharing knowledge, aspiration, and experience, WFISC forges future international connections. It now reaches all corners of the globe, with a track record of encouraging, nurturing, supporting and enabling prodigious talent to come to fruition. Recent winners include: Jiyeon Lee, Nathan Meltzer, Jonathan Swensen and Daniil Bulayev.

Prizes:

FIRST PRIZE

- £5,000 cash prize
- A solo recording opportunity with WFISC Recording Partner Champs Hill Records
- A concerto with WFISC Associate Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, in Windsor Castle during the 2027 Windsor Festival
- Further concerto performances with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra as part of their UK touring programme
- A Concerto commission from Sally Beamish, and world premiere London concerto performance with Orpheus Sinfonia
- Recital opportunities including in La Mortella, Ischia, Italy and UK Festivals

SECOND PRIZE

- £2,000 cash prize

THIRD PRIZE

- £1,000 cash prize

We are delighted and most grateful to be in partnership with our generous sponsors, supporters and exceptional international jury in achieving this.