

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE USE

International line-up at 2007 NYOS Staffa Award as Freemasons' Hall opens its doors again to music

Three international young musicians will compete for the prestigious NYOS Staffa Award on Thursday 24 May 2007 in Edinburgh:

- Giovanni Guzzo, Violin, born in Venezuela, studying at the Royal Academy of Music
- Eugene Nakamura, Violin, born in Canada, studying at the Royal Northern College of Music
- Dmitry Rasul-Kareyev, Clarinet, born in Russia, studying at the Royal Academy of Music

The three finalists will perform a programme of their choice at the public award competition, a panel will judge their performances and award the prize. A £3000 prize will be awarded to the most outstanding student to assist in furthering their career in music performance. The second and third laureates will receive £1500 and £1000.

In line with the international line-up of the finalists, this year's NYOS Staffa Award will take place **on the eve of a major international conference** on the history of Freemasonry on Thursday 24 May 2007, 7.00pm at Freemasons Hall in Edinburgh. The Hall has recently been refurbished and now opens its doors again to music. The 2007 NYOS Staffa Award is supported by The Grand Lodge of Antient Free and Accepted Masons of Scotland.

During the event Midori Sugiyama will also give recital. The Japan-born violinist won the second prize at the 2006 NYOS Staffa Award.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

NYOS Staffa Award:

In 2001 NYOS announced the launch of a new music award, to be known as the NYOS Staffa Award, to succeed the LASMO Staffa Award. The NYOS Staffa Award is open to students from eight music Conservatoires in the United Kingdom. The Principals of the Conservatoires are invited to nominate three students for audition in London before a panel of musicians. Three candidates are selected to attend the final award performance.

Biographies:

Born in Venezuela in 1986, **Giovanni Guzzo** started his musical studies with the piano at the age of five and violin at the age of six. He continued his studies with Zakhar Bron at the Escuela Superior de Musica Reina Sofia in Madrid and in 2002 he was granted a scholarship to study at the Royal Academy of Music, where he is currently a student of Maruice Hasson. He has performed as soloist in some of the most prestigious venues in Venezuela, Spain, UK, China, Germany and Italy, including recitals at the Wigmore Hall and the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London and has been awarded numerous prizes such as the MBF Music Education Award 2004, Winifred Solo Violin prize (RAM), Gold medal at the

Marlow Music Festival 2006 and the Manoug Parikian Award 2006, given by the Musicians Benevolent Fund.

Eugene Nakamura was born in Windsor, Canada in 1985 and began playing the violin at the age of four. He made his solo debut with orchestra at the age of nine, and has since made solo appearances with many orchestras in Canada and the U.S.A, most notably the Orchestre Symphonique de Montreal in 2001. His performances have been broadcast over Canadian national radio and television. Eugene has been successful in competitions both nationally and internationally, including winning first prize at the Orchestre Symphonique de Montreal Competition in 2001 and a special prize at the Concours Long-Thibault in Paris 2002. Eugene Nakamura is currently studying at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester with Wen Zhou Li.

Dmitry Rasul-Kareyev, born in Moscow in 1985, took up his studies at the Moscow State Conservatoire in 2001, by which that time he was already a laureate of several competitions and festivals in Russia. In 2002 Dmitry was accepted by the Royal Academy of Music with full scholarship for a five years-course and subsequent post-graduate scholarship. He has won a number of awards, such as the Geoffrey Hawks Clarinet Prize and the John Solomon Prize and has performed with many renowned orchestras, including the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Moscow Radio Symphony Orchestra, London New Professionals, Russian Orchestra of London and London Steve Reich Ensemble. In 2006 Dmitry was accepted to participate in the Verbier Festival Orchestra course, where he performed solo with the Festival Conductor Laureate, James Levine.

Box Office Details:

Tickets for the Performance: £15, Concessions £10, Student £2
Tickets for Performance & Dinner: £40

Box Office: Supersonic Events
Tel. 01355 244 966
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Review Tickets

Review tickets are available by contacting Theresa Valtin, Marketing Co-ordinator, NYOS. T. 0141 332 8311 E. theresavaltin@nyos.co.uk

Note to the Editor

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