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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KOREAN TENOR SUNGHO KIM AWARDED VERBIER FESTIVAL ACADEMY'S TOP HONOUR

1 August, 2021 – VERBIER (Switzerland) – Sungho Kim, a 31-year old Korean tenor, has won the Verbier Festival Academy's Prix Yves Paternot in recognition of the most accomplished and promising musician of the annual Academy for young professional musicians.

Yves Paternot was an emblematic figure of the Verbier Festival; he was founder of the Friends of the Verbier Festival and member of the Foundation's Board. In tribute to his commitment, the Prix Yves Paternot recognises the Academy's most accomplished musician. The recipient is awarded CHF 10,000, an invitation to return to Verbier in a future year to perform in the Festival and is eligible for a contribution of up to CHF 15,000 to support his or her artistic and professional development.

Sungho Kim studied at the Korea National University of Arts with Kwangsun Song and at the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler Berlin with Ewa Wolak and Julia Varady. He was the First Prize winner at the Korea National Singing Competition in Seoul and the International Hans Gabor Belvedere Singing Competition in Vienna, both in 2018, and, in 2020 was a Finalist of the Glyndebourne Cup. He joined the ensemble of Theater Dortmund in 2020/21, and was previously a member of the Staatsoper Hamburg's Opera Studio.

Kim delivered an emotional performance this afternoon in the role of Rodolfo for the performance of Puccini's *La Bohème*. He prepared for the role during his time at the Academy, working with a distinguished faculty that included singers Barbara Frittoli, and Thomas Hampson, actor James Garnon, and Atelier Lyrique Opera Programme Head, Caroline Dowdle. *La Bohème* closed the 28th edition of the Verbier Festival this afternoon with the Verbier Festival Junior Orchestra and its Music Director, James Gaffigan.

OTHER ACADEMY AWARDS

Each year, a number of additional awards are presented to soloists, ensembles and singers of the Academy who merit recognition or who are in need of financial help to advance their musical careers. The recipients are decided by the Director of the Academy after

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observation of musicians during their time in Verbier and through consultation with Academy faculty.

Prix Jean-Nicolas Firmenich

CHF 10,000 shared between two cellists

Anouchka Hack Age 25, Germany

Irena Josifoska Age, Serbia/Hungary

The Tabor Foundation Award

CHF 10,000 shared between two pianists

Sae Yoon Chon Age 26, South Korea

Henry From Age 17, United States / Canada

Prix Thierry Mermod

CHF 10,000 shared between two singers

Sylvia D'Eramo *soprano* (Mimi in *La Bohème*) Age 29, United States

Dafydd Jones *tenor* Age 23, Wales / United Kingdom

Prix APCAV

CHF 3,000 for an Academy musician who contributes to the spirit of the Verbier Festival through a commitment to community and public engagement.

Haeji Kim *viola* Age 24, United States

Prix Rotary

CHF 5,000 for a young Swiss musician awarded Rotary Club Verbier-St-Bernard

Fanny Monnet *piano* Age 25, Switzerland

Additional Honours

CHF 500 each to:

Aubree Oliverson *violin* Age 23, United States

Thomas Prechal *cello* Age 17, Netherlands

Otaha Tabata *viola* Age 22, Japan

Elizaveta Ukrainskaia *piano* Age 25, Russia

This 28th edition of the Verbier Festival is made possible with the support of many philanthropic, corporate and public funders, notably Madame Aline Foriel-Destezet, The Friends of the Verbier Festival, the Festival's major donors, including its Chairman's Circle, the Commune de Val de Bagnes, Loterie Romande, Canton du Valais, and its loyal Principal Sponsors, Bank Julius Baer and Neva Foundation.

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PHOTOS

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