



verbierfestival

## MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **154 YOUNG MUSICIANS FROM 28 COUNTRIES SELECTED FOR 2018 VERBIER FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA TRAINING PROGRAMMES**

**17 April 2018 — VERBIER (Switzerland)** — Ninety-seven of the world's most talented young orchestral musicians have been selected to be part of the prestigious Verbier Festival Orchestra (VFO) programme this summer. The musicians, aged 18 to 28, come from 22 nations. They will be joined in Verbier by 57 younger colleagues, aged 15 to 18, who have been chosen for the VFO's sister Junior Orchestra (VFJO) programme. The VFO and VFJO training programmes set the world standard in orchestral training for young people. The programmes offer young musicians the unique opportunity to learn, develop and network as an integral part of the Verbier Festival. More than 1,300 musicians applied for the Verbier Festival Orchestra programmes in 2018—a record number for the Festival's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. Live auditions were held in Berlin, Cologne, Geneva, Madrid, Moscow, New York, Paris and Zurich.

Over five weeks this summer, VFO musicians will receive intensive coaching from principals of New York's Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and in preparation for rehearsals and concerts with the world's leading conductors. This invaluable mentorship experience—working with other top orchestral player and today's leading conductors and soloists—has helped launch the professional careers of many VFO members. Orchestra alumni have joined leading orchestras around the world, including the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, the Vienna Philharmonic, the New York Philharmonic, the Russian National Orchestra, and the Tonhalle Orchestra in Zurich.

This year, the Verbier Festival's 25<sup>th</sup> birthday marks the beginning of a new chapter for the VFO with the announcement of Valery Gergiev as Music Director. Maestro Gergiev leads the VFO twice during the Festival—first to open anniversary celebrations on 19 July, when he is joined by pianist George Li, violinist Daniel Lozakovich and soprano Pretty Yende; and again on 26 July, when he conducts the opera *Adriana Lecouvreur* (Cilea). Other notable conductors this summer include Christoph Eschenbach, Iván Fischer, Zubin Mehta and Gianandrea Noseda. The VFO performs seven concerts during the 2018 Festival.

Musicians of the Verbier Festival Junior Orchestra (VFJO) are coached by a roster of established orchestra members from around the world, many of whom are former musicians of the Verbier Festival Orchestra and who now perform in orchestras including the London Symphony

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Orchestra, Orchestre de Paris, San Francisco Symphony, the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra and SWR Symphonieorchester Stuttgart. Over three weeks, these young musicians live, work and play in the Alpine villages of Verbier and Le Châble. They perform three concerts: one of symphonic works; one featuring a soloist (this year, pianist Richard Goode); and one opera (unique amongst the world's junior orchestra programmes). The orchestra will be led by French conductor Alain Altinoglu for its concerts on 26 and 29 July, both of which are open to the public at no charge. Russian conductor Stanislav Kochanovsky conducts the VFJO in the orchestra's closing concert of Verdi's *Rigoletto*—a collaboration with the Verbier Festival Academy's Atelier Lyrique.

The Verbier Festival's third orchestra—the Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra (VFCO)—is the resident chamber orchestra of the Verbier Festival. The most accomplished VFO alumni are invited to be part of this elite group of musicians. The Orchestra performs eight concerts at this summer's Festival, including a free open-air concert on the slopes of La Chaux on 4 August. The VFCO has just concluded a month-long tour in China and the Middle East, which launched the Verbier Festival's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. Hungarian conductor Gábor Takács-Nagy is the VFCO's Music Director.

Most VFO, VFJO and VFCO General Rehearsals (dress rehearsals) are open to the public. See VF Unlimited 'Playground' programmes at [verbierfestival.com](http://verbierfestival.com) for rehearsal schedules. Tickets to all performances (including free VFJO concerts) are available through the Festival's Box Office, also at [verbierfestival.com](http://verbierfestival.com).

The Verbier Festival seeks donations from individuals and foundations to cover the cost of tuition for VFJO and VFO musicians. Scholarships of CHF 3,500 are used to off-set the total training cost of CHF 11,000 per VFJO musician. Scholarships of CHF 5,000 contribute to the CHF 22,000 cost to train each VFO musician. Donations can be made through the Friends of the Verbier Festival. Information is available at the 'Friends and Partners' section at [verbierfestival.com](http://verbierfestival.com).

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The Verbier Festival is a classical music festival that encourages encounters and sharing between great musicians and young aspiring artists from around the world. It is committed to excellence in music education through its highly-respected artist training programmes. The 25<sup>th</sup> edition of the Verbier Festival takes place 19 July to 5 August 2018 in Verbier (Switzerland) with the support of the Friends of the Verbier Festival, Neva Foundation, Nespresso and Bank Julius Baer.

## VFO MUSICIANS

### VIOLIN

	AGE	ORIGIN
Marina Aikawa	27	Japan
Shenae Anderson	20	United States
Leon Blekh	18	Netherlands
Kevin Chen	25	United States
Daniel Cho	24	United States
Heemin Choi	25	Canada
Petr Chonkushev	27	Russia
Aleksander Daszkiewicz	24	Poland
Robson do Carmo Junior	23	Brazil
Olivia Rose Francis	26	New Zealand
Emma Gibout	20	France
Felicity James	22	United States
Yon Joo Kang	25	Germany
Yuri Katsumata	26	Japan
Gihwan Kim	26	South Korea
Ah Young Kim	23	South Korea
Sooyeon Kim	25	United States
Seika Koike	22	Japan
Madeleine Manasse	22	United States
Sophia Mockler	24	United States
Anne-Sophie Paquet	26	Canada
Yue Qian	23	China
Muhammedjan Sharipov	23	Austria
Charline Steffann	23	France
Yabing Tan	28	China
Mayu Tomotaki	22	Japan
Cheuk Nam Tse	22	Hong Kong
Cigdem Tuncelli	19	Switzerland
Amélie Weibel	24	Switzerland
Elizaveta Yarovaya	22	Russia

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## VIOLA

	AGE	ORIGIN
Xiaoti Guo	27	China
Nayoung Kim	25	United States
Maria Kropotkina	26	Russia
Jiali Li	24	China
Natalie Loughran	20	United States
Anna Lysenko	27	Ukraine
Julia McLean	21	United States
Eva Mondragon	29	United States
Joshua Newburger	25	United States
Evgeniya Peschankaya	26	Russia
Evgeny Shchegolev	23	Russia
Jill Valentine	26	United States

## CELLO

	AGE	ORIGIN
Seth Biagini	25	United States
Chen Cao	22	China
Chloe Joo Yeon Hong	21	Korea
Jennifer Yunyoung Choi	24	United States
Minji Janet Choi	27	South Korea
Jung-Hsuan (Rachel) Ko	27	Taiwan
Raphael Lang	28	France
Quentin Sanchez	26	France
Teresa Schneider	20	Germany
Filip Szkopek	24	Poland

## DOUBLE BASS

	AGE	ORIGIN
Douglas Aliano	24	United States
Benjamin Crofut	29	United States
Michael Franz	25	United States
Andrew Keller	25	United States
Asa Maynard	25	United States
Sean O'Hara	24	United States
Kyle Sanborn	26	United States

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Naomi Shaham 20 Israel

## FLUTE

AGE ORIGIN

Coline Richard 27 France  
Ji Weon Ryu 26 South Korea  
Agnes Vass 29 Hungary  
Gloria Yun 28 United States

## OBOE

AGE ORIGIN

Russell Hoffman 22 United States  
Mitchell Kuhn 23 United States  
Céline Rousselle 25 France  
Salomo Schweizer 24 Switzerland

## CLARINET

AGE ORIGIN

Céline Millet 25 France  
Adrien Philipp 27 Switzerland  
Kevin Spagnolo 22 Italy  
Samuel Sparrow 23 United States

## BASSOON

AGE ORIGIN

Gordon Fantini 28 Italy  
Hunter Gordon 26 United States  
Jihye Kim 27 Germany  
Maggie O'Leary 21 United States

## HORN

AGE ORIGIN

Corbin Castro 23 United States  
Hui-Yi Lee 29 United States  
Elizabeth Virginia Linares Montero 23 Venezuela  
Ewa Joanna Paciorek 27 Poland  
Mees Vos 24 Netherlands

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## TRUMPET

	AGE	ORIGIN
Daniel Egan	26	United States
Célestin Guérin	25	France
Jose Real Cintero	25	Spain
Dominic Wunderli	24	Switzerland

## TROMBONE

	AGE	ORIGIN
Christopher Lindgren	24	United States
Alexandre Mastrangelo	28	Switzerland
Ian Striedter	23	United States

## BASS TROMBONE

	AGE	ORIGIN
Santiago Diaz	26	Spain

## TUBA

	AGE	ORIGIN
Diego Valls Ortega	29	Spain

## PERCUSSION

	AGE	ORIGIN
Samuel Chan	24	United States
Pere Cornudella	26	Spain
Valentin Jousserand	26	France
John Thenell	25	United States
David Yoon	22	South Korea

## HARP

	AGE	ORIGIN
Zacharie Hatcher	22	United States
Giulia Ott	25	Switzerland

## VFJO MUSICIANS

### VIOLIN

	AGE	ORIGIN
Victor Andrey	17	France
Marie-Sophie Baumgartner	17	Switzerland
Ivette Maria Borrego Carbonel	18	Russia
Connor Chaikowsky	17	United States
Eva Ghelardi	17	Italy
Peixin Jiang	16	China
David Kessler	18	Austria
Svitlana Klinkova	17	Ukraine
Joey Lau	18	Singapore
Alexis Mauritz	17	Switzerland
Yugo Miyamoto	17	Japan
Kaito Mimura	17	United States
Rahel Neyer	16	Austria
Sarah Nojosa Barboza	17	Brazil
Giulia Pasquini	16	Italy
Nikita Shkuratov	14	Russia
Maria Sych	17	Russia
Arthur Traelnes	15	Switzerland
Liyuan Xie	18	China
Alexander Zhang	17	United States

### VIOLA

	AGE	ORIGIN
Alina Brikova	17	Russia
Jeanne Duquesnoy	15	France
Pin-Hao Liao	17	Taiwan
He Qin	18	China
Matvei Sakharov	16	Russia
Rachel Spence	18	United Kingdom
Clara Stangorra	17	Germany
Sara Umanskaya	16	Israel



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## CELLO

	AGE	ORIGIN
Nuria Comorera	18	Spain
Victoria Grishina	17	Russia
Callum Owens	17	Ireland
Caleb Park	17	United States
Jean-Baptiste Reverdin	18	Switzerland
Axelle Richez	18	Switzerland

## DOUBLE BASS

	AGE	ORIGIN
Camille Courtois	18	France
Ross Engelmyer	17	United States
Ryan Kim	17	United States
Simon Torunczyk	16	France

## FLUTE

	AGE	ORIGIN
Riccardo Cellacchi	18	Italy
Margarita Galkina	17	Russia

## OBOE

	AGE	ORIGIN
Jeremy Chen	16	United States
Leonid Surkov	17	Russia

## CLARINET

	AGE	ORIGIN
Simon Parulski	17	Poland
Daniel Solowey	17	United States

## BASSOON

	AGE	ORIGIN
Anxo Fernandez Arias	18	Spain
Inès Pyziak	17	Belgium

## HORN

	AGE	ORIGIN
Anton Doppelbauer	18	Austria
Antonio Lasheras	18	Spain

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Daniel Yaffe	16	Israel
Antonio Zamora Mesguer	17	Spain

## TRUMPET

	AGE	ORIGIN
Attila Kohazi	18	Hungary
Pierre Alexandre Marchand	16	Switzerland

## TROMBONE

	AGE	ORIGIN
Stefan Bencic	18	Serbia
Gergő Janák	17	Hungary
José Guillermo Toro Hincapié	18	Colombia

## PERCUSSION

	AGE	ORIGIN
Antoni Olesik	18	Poland
Leyth Saglio	16	France

## VFO AND VFJO IN NUMBERS

### RETURNING VS NEW MUSICIANS

Musicians are invited to become members of the VFO or VFJO for one edition of the Verbier Festival. They may be re-invited twice for subsequent editions

#### VFO

Returning Musicians	56
New Musicians	41

#### VFJO

Returning Musicians	17
New Musicians	40

### GENDER

#### VFO

Female	47
Male	50

#### VFJO

Female	22
Male	35

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## AGE

### VFO

Youngest	18
Oldest	29
Average	24.5

### VFJO

Youngest	14
Oldest	18
Average	17

## NATIONALITIES (28)

### VFO (23)

Austria	1
Brazil	1
Canada	2
China	5
France	9
Germany	3
Hong Kong	1
Hungary	1
Israel	1
Italy	2
Japan	4
Netherlands	2
New Zealand	1
Poland	3
Russia	5
South Korea	6
Spain	4
Switzerland	7
Taiwan	1
Ukraine	1
United Kingdom	4
United States	36
Venezuela	1

### VFJO (22)

Austria	3
Belgium	1
Brazil	1
China	3
Colombia	1
France	5
Germany	1
Hungary	2
Ireland	1
Israel	2
Italy	3
Japan	1
Poland	2
Russia	8
Serbia	1
Singapore	1
Spain	4
Switzerland	6
Taiwan	1
Ukraine	1
United Kingdom	1
United States	8