



MARIINSKY THEATRE

Valery Gergiev and the Mariinsky Orchestra present selected winners of the XV International Tchaikovsky Competition in London and Birmingham on 26 & 28 October 2015

Part of a worldwide tour to the US, Europe, Scandinavia and Asia
The Mariinsky UK Tour is supported by BP

“Of all the classical music competitions around the world, Moscow’s four-yearly Tchaikovsky International Competition is the big one, the “musical Olympics””
Telegraph



26 October

London - Cadogan Hall

Ariunbaatar Ganbaatar, *baritone*

Andrei Ionut-Ioniță, *cello*

Dmitry Masleev, *piano*

Yulia Matochkina, *mezzo-soprano*

Programme:

Debussy *Prélude à l'après midi d'un faune*

Haydn *Cello Concerto No.1 in C*

Tchaikovsky *Joan's aria from*

Maid of Orleans

Tchaikovsky *Yeletsky's aria from*

Queen of Spades

Wagner *Prelude from Lohengrin, Act I*

Rachmaninov *Piano Concerto No.2*

28 October

Birmingham - Symphony Hall

Lucas Debargue, *piano*

Ariunbaatar Ganbaatar, *baritone*

Clara-Jumi Kang, *violin*

George Li, *piano*

Yulia Matochkina, *mezzo-soprano*

Alexander Ramm, *cello*

Programme:

Debussy *Prélude à l'après midi d'un faune*

Tchaikovsky *Rococo Variations*

Mendelssohn *Violin Concerto in E minor*

Tchaikovsky *Piano Concerto No.1*

(2nd movement)

Verdi *Overture to La forza del destino*

Tchaikovsky *Joan's aria from*

Maid of Orleans

Tchaikovsky *Yeletsky's aria from*

Queen of Spades

Liszt *Piano Concerto No.1*

Valery Gergiev presents winners from the 2015 Tchaikovsky Competition in London and Birmingham on 26th and 28th October - including Mongolian baritone **Ariunbaatar**

Ganbaatar, who picked up the **\$100,000 Grand Prix** at the final Gala In St Petersburg on 3 July - with **three Gold Medal Winners** and self-taught piano sensation **Lucas Debargue**. As part of a worldwide tour with the Mariinsky Orchestra marking Tchaikovsky's 175th anniversary, **Gergiev**, non-voting Co-Chair of the Organising Committee of the competition, has selected to introduce a range of winners, who enraptured the prestigious jury, avid audiences in Moscow and St Petersburg, plus **10 million viewers worldwide** on Medici.TV:

GRAND PRIX WINNER – Mongolian baritone **Ariunbaatar Ganbaatar**

1ST PRIZE GOLD MEDAL WINNERS - pianist **Dmitry Masleev**, mezzo-soprano **Yulia Matochkina**, cellist **Andrei Ionut-Ioniță**

2ND PRIZE SILVER MEDAL WINNERS - cellist **Alexander Ramm**, pianist **George Li**

4TH PRIZE WINNERS – French pianist **Lucas Debargue**, German violinist **Clara-Jumi Kang**

The **XV Tchaikovsky Competition for Piano, Voice, Violin and Cello** started on 15 June in Moscow and St Petersburg showcasing 124 candidates from across the globe taking part in the world's most prestigious music competition, described as the Musical Olympics. The female vocal counterpart of Grand Prix Winner **Ariunbaatar Ganbaatar** was Russian mezzo-soprano **Yulia Matochkina** who won a Gold Medal. Additional Gold Medal winners included Romanian cellist **Andrei Ionuț Ioniță** and the Russian pianist **Dmitry Masleev**, described by Gramophone as: *"a popular choice and an emotional one as Masleev's mother died during the Competition's early rounds."* The highest granted prize in the Violin category this year was the Silver Medal awarded to Taiwanese violinist **Yu-Chien Tseng**.

Remarkable was the appearance of self-taught pianist – a popular favourite with audiences - **Lucas Debargue**, who had never before performed with an orchestra until the competition's final round. Days later during the White Nights Festival in St Petersburg, Lucas Debargue was given a solo recital at the Mariinsky Concert Hall, which was streamed live on **Mariinsky TV**. An interview with Debargue for the Arts Desk:

<http://www.theartsdesk.com/classical-music/qa-special-pianist-lucas-debargue>

All footage from the Tchaikovsky Competition including performances and interviews with finalists and jury can still be viewed for FREE on Medici.TV:

<http://tch15.medici.tv/en>

This year's distinguished jury included **Boris Berezovsky, Peter Donohoe, Barry Douglas, Maxim Vengerov, Denis Matsuev, Mario Brunello, Yuri Bashmet, Vadim Repin, Nikolaj Znaider** and **Dennis O'Neill, Thomas Quasthoff, Deborah Voigt**, as well as teachers and influential figures from the music industry including **John Fisher, Sarah Billingham, Clive Gillinson** and **Martin Engström**. Many of these such as **Boris Berezovsky, Barry Douglas, Leonidas Kavakos, Deborah Voigt, Denis Matsuev** and **Mario Brunello** were previous top prizewinners of the Tchaikovsky Competition.

Valery Gergiev and the international jury placed a strong emphasis on their responsibility to the young competitors, who are under emotional and professional pressure, to find new ways to help not only the winners but also the other talented individuals in the earlier rounds.

Gergiev reminded all contestants at the Award Ceremony on 1 July in Moscow: ***"Don't believe that this is either the most successful or the most disappointing moment in your***

musical life. We will do our utmost to provide you with opportunities and an artistic future.”

The 2015 competition drew 623 applicants from 45 countries. Instrumental candidates had to be between the ages of 16 and 32 years and vocal between 19 and 32 years. Following the preliminary auditions for competitors to reach the first round, the final shortlist included 35 pianists, 25 violinists, 25 cellists and 39 vocalists.

The International Tchaikovsky Competition was founded 57 years ago and was initially dedicated to only two disciplines - the piano and violin. In 1962, a cello category was added followed by a vocal in 1966. Following the inaugural win by American pianist **Van Cliburn**, subsequent winners have included - **pianists Vladimir Ashkenazy, John Ogdon, Barry Douglas, Peter Donohoe, Grigory Sokolov, Mikhail Pletnev, Andrei Gavrilov, Denis Matsuev, Boris Berezovsky; violinists Gidon Kremer, Viktoria Mullova, Akiko Suwanai; singers Deborah Voigt, Elena Obraztsova, Albina Shagimuratova, Mikhail Kazakov; and cellists Boris Pergamenschikov, Mario Brunello.** From the last competition 4 years ago, prize-winning cellist **Narek Hakhnazaryan** and pianist **Daniil Trifonov** have subsequently taken the world by storm.

Winners of the VX International Tchaikovsky Competition performing in UK

Ariunbaatar Ganbaatar (27) – Mongolia

Voice Grand Prix Winner & 1st prize and a gold medal for male voice

Graduate of the Mongolian State University of Culture and Art studying under Prof. O. Ichinkhorloo (2005-2010). In 2011 he won the 24th Glinka International Vocal Contest in Moscow with a prize as best baritone in the competition and the special Pavel Lisitsian Prize. In 2012 he received a prize for best singer in Mongolia. In 2014 he took first prize in the 3rd Muslim Magomaev International Vocalists Competition in Moscow. Since 2014 he has been a soloist for the Buryat State Theatre of Opera and Ballet in Ulan-Ude.

Dmitry Masleev (27) – Russia

Piano 1st prize and a gold medal

Born in Ulan-Ude. Graduated from the Moscow Conservatory studying under Prof. Mikhail Petukhov (2011) and then finished postgraduate school (2014). He is currently an intern at the Lake Como International Piano Academy (Italy). He has won many competitions, among them the 7th Adilia Alieva Piano Competition in Gaillard (France, 2010), the 21st Premio Chopin Piano Competition in Rome (2011), and the Antonio Napolitano Competition in Salerno (2013). In 2014 he won third prize in the 2nd Russian Music Competition in Moscow. He performs in Russia, France, Romania, Germany, and Italy.

Yulia Matochkina (32) – Russia

Voice 1st prize and a gold medal for female voice

Graduated from the Petrozavodsk Glazunov State Conservatory studying under Prof. Viktoria Gladchenko (2009). She was among the winners of Young Talents of Russia National Competition (2008), the Nadezhda Obukhova Russian National Competition of Young Singers in Lipetsk (2010, third prize), the 26th International Sobinov Memorial Festival in Saratov (2013, first prize), and the 9th International Rimsky-Korsakov Competition of Young Opera Singers in Tikhvin (2015, first prize). She received a diploma at the International Mezzo-Soprano Competition in Memoriam of Fedora Barbieri in Saint Petersburg. Since 2008 she has been a soloist with the Mariinsky Theatre Academy of Young Opera Singers. She has

been on tour with the Mariinsky troupe to Austria, Germany, Finland, Sweden, the UK, France, Japan, Italy, Spain, and Switzerland. She has participated in the Edinburgh International Festival on three occasions including Didon in *Les Troyens* with the Mariinsky Opera in 2014 and as mezzo soloist in *Alexander Nevsky* for the opening concert of the 2013 Festival, with Valery Gergiev and the Royal Scotland National Orchestra.

Andrei Ionuț Ioniță (20) – Romania

Cello 1st prize and a gold medal

Studied at the Berlin University of the Arts under Prof. Jens Peter Maintz. He won the David Popper International Cello Competition in Várpalota (Hungary) in 2009 and the Aram Khachaturian International Competition in Yerevan in 2013. In 2014 he came in second at the prestigious 63rd ARD International Music Competition in Munich and in the Emanuel Feuermann Competition in Berlin. He has performed with many prominent orchestras in Germany, Russia, and France and given solo concerts at the Konzerthaus and Deutsche Oper in Berlin, at the Petit Palais in Paris, and the Cité de Science in Tunis. His upcoming engagements include a performance of Dvořák's Cello Concerto with the Collegium Musicum in Basel and his début with the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester in Berlin. He is very interested in chamber music. He plays a cello made by Giovanni Battista Rogeri in 1671 provided by the German Foundation for Musical Life.

George Li (19) – USA

Piano 2nd prize and a silver medal

Studies in the joint programme of Harvard University and the New England Conservatory of Music under Profs. Wha Kyung Byun and Russell Sherman. In 2012 he won the Gilmore Young Artist Award which is restricted to pianists from the USA under the age of 22 and also the Tabor Foundation Piano Award at Verbier Academy (Switzerland). In 2014 he won at the Grand Prix Animato in Paris and took second prize at the Vendome Prize International Piano Competition. In 2011 he was invited by President Barack Obama to perform at the White House during a reception for Angela Merkel. The pianist's solo concerts have been heard in the USA, Canada and Europe. He has performed with the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra, the Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra, and the Boston Youth Orchestra among others.

Alexander Ramm (27) – Russia

Cello 2nd prize and a silver medal

Graduate of the Moscow Conservatory studying under Prof. Natalia Shakhovskaya (2012). He is currently pursuing advanced studies there and at the Hanns Eisler School of Music Berlin under Prof. Frans Helmerson. He has won prestigious international competitions, such as the 5th UNISA International String Competition in Pretoria (South Africa, 2010, fourth prize), the 3rd Beijing International Music Competition (2010, first prize), and the Paulo Cello Competition in Helsinki (2013, third prize). In 2010 he won the 1st Russian National Music Competition in Moscow, and in 2011 he participated in the XIV International Tchaikovsky Competition. He has performed in the world's foremost concert venues, including the Concertgebouw, the Brucknerhaus in Linz, and the Concert Hall of the Mariinsky Theatre. Since 2012 he has been part of the concert programme of the Moscow Philharmonic. He plays a modern instrument made by Jebran Yakoub.

Clara-Jumi Kang (28) – Germany

Violin 4th prize and Special Prize for the best performance of a concerto with a chamber orchestra

Studied at the Lubeck University of Music under Prof. Zakhar Bron. She was a famous child prodigy who performed with the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, the Hamburg Symphony Orchestra, and the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra since the age of 5. At 9 she recorded Beethoven's Triple Concerto and a solo programme for the Teldek label. When she was 11, she suffered a serious injury to her hand and was unable to play the violin for several years. Subsequently she studied at the Korean National University of Arts under Prof. Nam-Yun Kim and was a prize winner in several international competitions: In Seoul (2009, first prize), in Hannover (2009, second prize), and in Sendai (2010, first prize). In 2010 she won the International Violin Competition of Indianapolis and also took five special prizes. She performs all over the world and plays with the most accomplished orchestras. In 2011 her solo album of violin pieces "Modern Solo" was released by Decca. She plays the "ex-Muller" violin made by Guarneri del Gesu in 1725 provided by the Samsung Music Foundation of Korea.

Lucas Debargue (24) – France

Piano 4th prize and Moscow Music Critics Prize

Lucas Debargue has studied piano since the age of 11. He decided to give up his studies of literature and art to become a professional musician only when he was 20. He also studied in the CNSM of Paris, in the J-F Heisser class. He is currently studying at the Ecole Normale de Musique Alfred Cortot in Paris under Prof. Rena Shereshevskaya. In 2014 he won the 9th International Adilia Alieva. Piano Competition in Gaillard (France). Russian music is prominent in his repertoire, including compositions by Nikolai Medtner and Nikolai Roslavets. He also plays jazz with several groups in Paris.

www.tchaikovskycompetition.com

Overview of winners of the VX International Tchaikovsky Competition

Follow the links to their individual webpages for biographies, images and videos

VOICE

FEMALE:

I prize and a gold medal:

[Yulia Matochkina](#)

II prize and a silver medal:

[Svetlana Moskalenko](#)

III prize and a bronze medal:

[Mane Galoyan](#)

IV prize:

[Antonina Vesenina](#)

MALE:

I prize and a gold medal:

[Ariunbaatar Ganbaatar](#)

II prize and a silver medal:

[Chuanyue Wang](#)

III prize and a bronze medal:

[Hansung Yoo](#)

IV prize:

[Dmitry Grigoriev](#)

CELLO

I prize and a gold medal:

[Andrei Ionut Ioniță](#)

II prize and a silver medal:

[Alexander Ramm](#)

III prize and a bronze medal:

[Buzlov Alexander](#)

IV prize:

[Pablo Ferrández-Castro](#)

V prize:

[Seung Min Kang](#)

VI prize:

[Jonathan Roozeman](#)

VIOLIN

I prize and a gold medal: -

II prize and a silver medal:

Yu-Chien Tseng

III prize and a bronze medal:

Haik Kazazyan, Alexandra Conunova,

Pavel Milyukov

IV prize:

Clara-Jumi Kang

V prize: -

Bomsori Kim

VI prize:

PIANO

I prize and a gold medal:

Dmitry Masleev

II prize and a silver medal:

Lucas Geniušas, George Li

III prize and a bronze medal:

Sergei Redkin, Daniel Kharitonov

IV prize:

Lucas Debargue

V prize: -

VI prize: -

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Valery Gergiev

Valery Gergiev was appointed Chairman of the Tchaikovsky Competition in 2011. As a conductor, he became Music Director of the Mariinsky in 1988, when he was 35 years old. His tenure has brought universal acclaim to the already legendary Mariinsky Theatre by showcasing the talent of the Mariinsky Opera, Orchestra, Ballet and Chorus in more than 45 countries. Maestro Gergiev has worked tirelessly to bring previously neglected parts of the Russian canon to the West, as an ambassador for early- and late-career works by Prokofiev such as *The Gambler* and *War and Peace*, which have since been welcomed into the standard repertoire. Throughout his career, Maestro Gergiev has helped young artists and developed rising talents, including world-renowned singers **Anna Netrebko, Olga Borodina, Dmitri Hvorostovsky and Mikhail Petrenko**, instrumentalists **Maxim Vengerov, Vadim Repin, Leonidas Kavakos, Evgeny Kissin, Denis Matsuev and Daniil Trifonov** and dancers **Diana Vishneva, Yekaterina Kondaurova and Ulyana Lopatkina**. Most recently he served as Co-Chair of the 2015 Tchaikovsky Competition, which was lauded internationally for the high level of performance, judging and transparency that it set. Among the milestones of Maestro Gergiev's leadership of the Mariinsky have been the inception of the **'Stars of the White Nights'** Festival in 1993, the opening of the Concert Hall of the Mariinsky Theatre in 2006, the inauguration of the Mariinsky Label in 2009, and most recently, the opening of the new state-of-the-art opera house Mariinsky II in 2013.

About the Mariinsky Orchestra

The Mariinsky Orchestra enjoys a long and distinguished history as one of the oldest musical institutions in Russia. Founded in the 18th century and housed in St Petersburg's famed Mariinsky Theatre since 1860, the Orchestra entered its "golden age" in the second half of the 19th-century under the musical direction of **Eduard Napravnik**, whose leadership for more than a half-century (1863-1916) secured its reputation as one of the finest in Europe. Legendary artists who conducted the Mariinsky Orchestra and praised its outstanding musicianship included **Berlioz, Wagner, Tchaikovsky, Mahler, Nikisch and Rachmaninov**.

About the Mariinsky Opera and Ballet

With a history dating back to 1783, the Mariinsky Opera has performed in the world's most celebrated opera houses and has produced some of opera's most important artists, including **Fyodor Chaliapin, Sophia Preobrazhenskaya, Boris Shtokolov and Anna Netrebko**. Since its inception, the Mariinsky Opera, formerly known as the Kirov Opera, has placed an emphasis on Russian culture by showcasing works from great Russian composers such as Rimsky-Korsakov, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, Shostakovich and Prokofiev. Today, the Opera blends the Russian canon with European and Romantic classics and works from vital contemporary composers.

Founded in the 18th century, the Mariinsky Ballet is recognized as one of the world's leading companies. Most commonly known as the Kirov Ballet (its former Soviet name), the company has been home to many of the world's most notable dancers, including **Anna Pavlova, Vaslav Nijinsky, Rudolf Nureyev and Mikhail Baryshnikov**. The Mariinsky Ballet performs worldwide under Maestro Gergiev's direction at cultural institutions such as Lincoln Centre for the Performing Arts and the Kennedy Centre for the Performing Arts in the United States, the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris, the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, the Edinburgh Festival in Scotland, the Baltic Festival in Stockholm and the Salzburg Festival in Austria.

The Mariinsky Theatre Trust

Chairman: Lady Solti

The Mariinsky Theatre Trust has been ground-breaking in the world of arts support organisations. Created in 1993 by Valery Gergiev, the Trust combines practical assistance for the Mariinsky Theatre's work in Russia with active promotion of its most innovative programming in the UK. Over the last 20 years these performances have given audiences in this country a richer and deeper understanding of Russian culture. The Trust has presented the Mariinsky Opera, Ballet, Orchestra and Chorus in most of London's leading cultural venues including the Royal Opera House, London Coliseum, Royal Albert Hall, Barbican Centre and the Theatre Royal Drury Lane as well as major cultural centers throughout the UK. Last year's touring projects included a staged production of Berlioz' epic opera *Les Troyens* at the Edinburgh International Festival and a 10 day tour to the UK including a revival of the *Ring* Cycle at Birmingham's Hippodrome, the UK premiere of Shchedrin's *Levsha* (The Lefthander) and several other concert performances at the Barbican Hall, London and Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff.

These UK performances of the Tchaikovsky Competition Prize Winners are organized by the Mariinsky Theatre Trust.

Support from BP

The Mariinsky is particularly grateful to BP for its five year support of Mariinsky touring in the UK and for two important new opera productions in 2014, *Les Troyens* and *War and Peace*. This support has facilitated the tour of *Les Troyens* to the Edinburgh International Festival, the Mariinsky's *Ring* Cycle in Birmingham Hippodrome, the UK premiere of Shchedrin's opera *Levsha* (The Lefthander) at the Barbican, Mariinsky Ballet residencies at the Royal Opera House and regular company visits to the Barbican Centre, Wales Millennium Centre, Edinburgh International Festival and BBC Proms. This support builds on the strong relationship between BP Russia and the Mariinsky Theatre in St Petersburg and forms part of BP's cultural programme in the UK.

Mariinsky UK tour
Supported by BP





Panoramic view of the Mariinsky Theatre and Mariinsky II (© Diamond Schmitt Architects)

**The UK performances of the Tchaikovsky Competition Prize Winners
are organized by the Mariinsky Theatre Trust.**

<http://www.mariinskytrust.org.uk>

The forthcoming Mariinsky tour to the UK is supported by BP and forms part of their five-year support for the Mariinsky's UK touring programme.

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