



Press meeting of the IMF – Foundation for the Promotion of Musically Highly Gifted Children

**with DI Leona König, KS Juan Diego Flórez and
Dr. Alexander Wrabetz**

On Thursday, 21 November 2019, IMF Chairlady DI Leona König hosted the press meeting of the International Music Foundation (IMF – Foundation for the Promotion of Musically Highly Gifted Children) at the Hotel Sacher in Vienna and was happy to announce the many items of news about the “Golden Note” 2020, together with KS Juan Diego Flórez, and the support of ORF General Director Dr. Alexander Wrabetz.

For 2020, Chairlady DI Leona König, the heart and soul of the IMF, has managed to substantially increase the funding of highly talented up-and-coming musicians within Austria and internationally, and thus to support the training of young talents regardless of their origin. In addition to the annual funding awards the young finalists and the winner of the talent competition “Golden Note” can in future expect invaluable **stage experience alongside established greats of classical music such as Valentina Nafornita, Lidia Baich and Hyung-ki Joo, appearances at the film festival in Cannes** and at the **Pannonisches Forum Kittsee** and further musical training in the form of **IMF Masterclasses**.

Furthermore, DI Leona König, together with Dr. Alexander Wrabetz announced **the media cooperation of the IMF with the culture and information broadcaster ORF III**. From Monday, 11 May, ORF III will be presenting the six finalists in short portraits every week at 19.45 in the framework of its weekday culture magazine “Kultur Heute”, and calling for members of the public to vote for an audience award which was first created this year. Furthermore, ORF III will be recording the award ceremony of the “Golden Note” on Friday, 19 June, and broadcasting a 60-minute summary on Sunday, 21 June, in ORF III. The IMF will thus be presenting the young talents to a broad culturally interested audience and supporting its aim of raising awareness of classical music and boosting the enthusiasm of young highly gifted musicians.

DI Leona König is also very happy to welcome the watch and jewellery brand **Chopard** as a new sponsor and presented Chopard’s sketch of the trophy for the “Golden Note” 2020.

Eminent guests from the fields of business and art attended the get-together at the Hotel Sacher and enjoyed live music from the Trio Blümel-Gergov (Soley Blümel, 11; Kai Gergov, 9; Rey Gergov, 7), three participants from previous years.

Eminent guests:

Juan Diego Flórez, Chamber Singer; **Dr. Alexander Wrabetz**, General Director of ORF; **Lidia Baich**, violinist; **Hyung-ki Joo**, pianist/composer/cabaret artist; **Bernhard Ramsauer**, member of the Supervisory Board of the National Bank of Liechtenstein; **Konstanze Breitebner**, actress and script author; **Martin Traxl**, ORF Head of Culture; **Alexandra Winkler**, owner of the Hotel Sacher; **Desirée Treichl-Stürgkh**, publisher; **Ekaterina Mucha**, publisher; **Arturo Aste**, international PR manager; **Johannes Ifkovits**, photographer; **Clemens Unterreiner**, opera singer; **Elisabeth Himmer-Hirngel**, grande dame of PR and many other.

All pictures can be downloaded on the following link:

[DOWNLOADLINK](#)

Quotes:

- **ORF General Director Dr. Alexander Wrabetz:** “ORF is Austria’s biggest cultural platform and offers the best of Austrian cultural life on TV, radio and online for all Austrians. I am therefore especially pleased that, in cooperation between the International Music Foundation and ORF III, we are offering a platform to promote young musicians and thus rendering a contribution to the development of the talents of the future. I thank IMF for the good cooperation and ORF III, the Radiokulturhaus, and the RSO for supporting the ‘Golden Note’.”
- **DI Leona König, Chairlady IMF:** “I am extremely proud to have been able to realise this idea so successfully and to have been able to get so many great people interested in it, such as artists, sponsors and universities. The potential that lies dormant in these young people, their passion and moving music, must be brought to a broad audience – I am therefore very proud of the media cooperation with ORF and grateful to the many other supporters.”
- **KS Juan Diego Flórez, Chamber Singer:** “The opportunity to play with big artists is very important for young musicians. They profit not only from learning their techniques, but also from a life changing experience being on stage with them. I founded my organization ‘Friends of Juan Diego Flórez’ in Peru 2011 and can see a great impact of our work on these children. One example: the pregnancy rate amongst the girls that take part in the program has diminished 75%. Not only for the children, but also for me as an artist, it is a life-changing experience to watch those children develop. Music changes lives, in every aspect.”

About the International Music Foundation

The non-profit Foundation for the Promotion of Musically Highly Gifted Children (IMF - International Music Foundation for short) of Chairlady DI Leona König has since 2016 been supporting musical talents aged from five to sixteen – regardless of social and cultural origin – and organising, among other things, the gala concert “Golden Note”, which will be going into its fourth round on 19 June 2020 on ORF Radiokulturhaus. Highly talented up-and-coming



musicians are chosen at an audition for the solo instruments violin, piano and cello by a first-rate expert jury, consisting of Tamás Varga, solo cellist of the Viennese Philharmonic Orchestra, Univ. Prof. Klaus Sticken, Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna, Prof. Alma Sauer, University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, Ao. Univ.-Prof. Regina Brandstätter, University of Music and Performing Arts Graz, Snezana Kis, Albrechtsberger Musikschule Klosterneuburg, and Mag. Natalie Baich, Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna, which has been selected from Austria's most important music institutions. At the concert "Golden Note" the finalists will be showing their abilities and will then be awarded prizes by an honorary committee consisting of Valentina Nafornta, Lidia Baich and Hyung-ki Joo. In 2020, there will also be a reunion with the winners of the previous year, who will be appearing under the artistic direction of Lidia Baich together with Valentina Nafornta, Lidia Baich, Hyung-ki Joo and the ORF Radio Symphony Orchestra Vienna (RSO). The RSO will be conducted by Hyung-ki Joo among others.

IMF holds age-appropriate masterclasses at the highest level and thus enables the gifted children and young people to take specific and individual lessons, depending on their need for support, and to learn from experienced professional musicians. As well as the "Golden Note Music Award", the IMF organises concerts and other events at which the young talents can acquire stage experience.

The projects of the IMF are made possible by DI Leona König, among others, thanks to the assistance of committed supporters. The International Music Foundation therefore thanks the National Bank of Liechtenstein, and also Chopard, the Kronen Zeitung newspaper, the Austrian Lotteries and ORF, and our valued practical sponsors Hotel Sacher, Steinway and Kattus.

Applying

Highly gifted children (piano, cello and violin) will this year again have the opportunity to make video application for audition, from December 2019 to March 2020. A high-class jury under the jury leader Tamás Varga, solo cellist of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, will choose 6 finalists on the day of the audition, which will take place on 18 April 2020. At the gala concert "Golden Note", which will be going into its fourth round on 19 June 2020 at ORF Radiokulturhaus, the finalists will be facing the honorary committee with, among others, Valentina Nafornta, Lidia Baich and Hyung-ki Joo. The winners can look forward to a trophy, provided by Chopard, further musical training and age-appropriate master courses, sponsorship prizes, and concert appearances.

Press contact for queries and press tickets:

PR International
Theresa Langmann

Wollzeile 19 / 9
1010 Vienna

T +43 1 513 30 24

M +43 650 777 43 49

E t.langmann@pr-international.com