



PABLO CASALS INTERNATIONAL AWARD

FOR YOUNG CELLISTS



2022



Pau Casals
FOUNDATION

PRESS KIT



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PRESS RELEASE

New edition of the Pablo Casals International Award for Young Cellists

The 2022 edition will offer a first prize of €18,000, a special AENA prize of €12,000 and a third prize of €6,000.

The Pablo Casals International Award is open to cello students from all over the world born after 31 December 2000.

Applications may be submitted online any time through 17 May. The final audition will be on 18 November 2022 at El Vendrell Pau Casals Municipal School of Music.

The Pablo Casals International Award, promoted by the Pau Casals Foundation, aims to support and improve training for young cellists.

Barcelona, 14 March 2022. - Pau Casals Foundation has announced the latest call for applications for the **2022 Pablo Casals International Award**, which aims to support young cellists in their studies so they can perfect their technique and develop their art through training with top teachers. Since it was created in 1984, the Pablo Casals International Award for Young Cellists has become a great opportunity for young cellists.

Since 2020, the Award is open to young cellists from anywhere in the world and offers a **first prize of €18,000**, a **special AENA prize of €12,000** and a **third prize of €6,000**. Moreover, Pau Casals Foundation will offer winners **artistic promotion** and **professional guidance**.

New this edition, there will be **two juries, formed by world-renowned cellists**: one to select up to eight (8) finalists from the application videos submitted and another to choose the winners of the three Award prizes after watching the application videos and attending the final audition. The judges on the panel to select the finalists are: cellists **Jérôme Pernoo**, **Peter Thiemann**, **Erica Wise** and musical advisor to Pau Casals Foundation, **Bernard Meillat**. The judges on the panel for the final audition are cellists **Henri Demarquette**, **Marie Hallynck**, **Asier Polo**, **Julian Steckel** and **Bernard Meillat**, musical advisor to Pau Casals Foundation and secretary of the jury.

This year, the award is open to **cello students from all over the world born after 31 December 2000**. Winners and finalists from previous editions are not eligible to enter or win the Pablo Casals International Award for Young Cellists.

The deadline for applications is 17 May 2022 at 12:00 am (CET) and the final audition and jury verdict regarding the Pablo Casals International Award will be on **Friday 18 November 2022 at El Vendrell Pablo Casals Municipal School of Music**.

Past winners include Arnau Tomás, 1991 (Quartet Casals), Damià Martínez, 1993; Pau Codina; Laia Puig, 2004; Oscar Alabau, 2006; Moises Lee, 2010; Pablo Fernández, 2012; Pablo Pérez, 2014; Mariona Camats, 2016; Carla Conangla and Johannes Gray, 2018; and Xuanhan Xu, Petar Pejčić and Felix Brunnenkant, 2020. All of them have significant artistic careers and repercussion, having unquestionably become ambassadors of the living musical legacy of Pablo Casals around the world.



HISTORY OF THE AWARD

In 1893, Pablo Casals received a scholarship that was decisive for his artistic career from Spain's reigning queen, Maria Cristina, given that it allowed him to commence a period of training at the Conservatory of Music and Declamation of Madrid under Jesús de Monasterio as professor of chamber music. It is for this reason and in recognition of the great opportunity that was granted to him in his youth that the Pau Casals Foundation, established by Pablo and Marta Casals in 1972, created the Pablo Casals International Award for Young Cellists in 1984 under the name of the Pau Casals Scholarship. The prize was initially a scholarship that provided small grants for young cellists in Catalonia.

In the 1990s, the scholarship was extended to applicants from across Spain, Andorra and the south of France. The Award at this stage attracted considerable prestige and provided recognition to young cellists who subsequently developed brilliant artistic careers.

In 2016, the scholarship was renamed the Pablo Casals International Scholarship and was further extended to applicants from all EU Member States and Puerto Rico.

For the 2018 edition, the scholarship was renamed the Pablo Casals International Award for Young Cellists and now also included Uruguay, in addition to being open to all EU Member States and Puerto Rico.

Finally, for the 2020 edition, the Pablo Casals International Award for Young Cellists was opened to all countries throughout the world, thereby reaffirming the commitment of the Pau Casals Foundation while at the same time supporting young cellists so that they can broaden their studies with leading professionals and perfect the performance art of their instrument. For the first time, three prizes were given: first prize, AENA Special Price and third prize.

Over its 38 years of existence, a considerable number of cellists from Catalonia, Spain, EU countries and others from the rest of the world have been able to participate in this competition call and almost fifty musicians have received support from the Foundation.

The winners of previous editions include names such as **Arnau Tomás**, 1991 (Cuarteto Casals); **Damià Martínez**, 1993; **Pau Codina**, **Laia Puig**, 2004; **Oscar Alabau**, 2006; **Moises Lee**, 2010; **Pablo Ferrández**, 2012; **Pablo Pérez**, 2014; **Mariona Camats**, 2016, **Carla Conangla** and **Johannes Gray**, 2018 or **Xuanhan Xu**, **Petar Pejčić** and **Felix Brunnenkant**, 2020. They all enjoy major careers and artistic standing and have undoubtedly become ambassadors of the living musical legacy of Pablo Casals around the world.



CONDITIONS FOR THE 2022 CALL

Applications to the Pablo Casals International Award will be accepted through **17 May 2022** using the online form available on the Pau Casals Foundation website (www.paucasals.org). Only young cello students born after 31 December 2000 are eligible to apply. Pau Casals Foundation will announce the eight finalists after **30 June 2022**.

The final audition, open to the public at no charge, will be on **18 November 2022** at **El Vendrell Pablo Casals Municipal School of Music** (Tarragona, Spain) and live-streamed.

The **full rules** to apply to the 2022 Pablo Casals International Award for Young Cellists are available on the Pau Casals Foundation website.

www.paucasals.org/en

2022 JURY

JURY MEMBERS FOR THE SELECTION OF THE FINALISTS

Jérôme Pernoo. Cellist

Peter Thiemann. Cellist

Erica Wise. Cellist

Bernard Meillat. Pau Casals Foundation musical advisor.

JURY MEMBERS FOR THE FINAL AUDITION

Henri Demarquette. Cellist

Marie Hallynck. Cellist

Asier Polo. Cellist

Julian Steckel. Cellist

Bernard Meillat. Pau Casals Foundation musical advisor and secretary of the panel of judges.



JURY MEMBERS FOR THE SELECTION OF THE FINALISTS

JÉRÔME PERNOO. CELLIST



Born in Nantes, Jérôme Pernoo studied with Germaine Fleury, Xavier Gagnepain and Philippe Muller at Conservatoire National de Musique de Paris. An open-minded, eclectic musician who plays both modern and baroque cello, he also takes part in less traditional projects. He collaborated with choreographer Régine Chopinot on a stage production of Bach's *Cello Suites*, which toured the world. He is the founder and artistic director of the "Les vacances de Monsieur Haydn" music festival in La Roche-Posay, which was first held in 2005.

The 2008-2009 season, he premiered the cello concerto that Guillaume Connesson dedicated to him, with the Rouen Philharmonic Orchestra in Rouen and Paris. In 2011, he performed this masterpiece several times in France and at the George Enescu Festival in Romania.

Jérôme Pernoo's discography includes Bach's *Cello Suites* (live in 1998), Saint-Saëns' *Cello Concerto No. 2* with Orchestre de Bretagne, with Nicolas Chalvin (Timpani Records, 2006), and Offenbach's *Grand Concerto for Cello* with Les Musiciens du Louvre, with Marc Minkowski (Archiv-Deutsche Grammophon, 2006), among others. In 2009, he published a CD (Ligia Digital) with Jérôme Ducros that features pieces by Beethoven (including Czerny's transcription of the *Kreutzer Sonata*) and music by Ducros for DECCA.

He plays a baroque cello and a piccolo cello. Both are Italian instruments built in the 18th century by the school of Milan. He also plays a modern cello made for him by Franck Ravatin.



PETER THIEMANN. CELLIST



He trained at Hochschule für Musik Karlsruhe (Germany) and later at Indiana University Bloomington (United States), with celebrated cellist Janos Starker. At the same time, he took classes from maestro Maurice Gendron.

After having been part of several orchestras in Germany, he joined the Orquestra Simfònica del Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona as a soloist in 1987, a position he still holds, conducted by great maestros like Abbado, Muti, Gielen, Schneider, Maag, Anissimov and Ros Marbà. He is also professor of cello at Centre Superior de Música Conservatori del Liceu in Barcelona.

Nevertheless, he continues his career as a soloist in chamber groups that have performed around Europe, the United States, Israel, South America and Asia, which are widely played on the radio in Germany, Spain and Catalonia, among others.

Deeply committed to teaching and having been invited to numerous international courses and festivals around Europe, the Americas and Asia, Peter Thiemann has created many study programmes, one highlight being his scale method for cello published in 1989. Furthermore, in 2002 he created Academia Internacional de Música de Solsona and Festival de Música de la Catalunya Central, for which he is artistic director.

More recently, concerned about the many armed conflicts in the world, he has joined the Baranboim-Said Foundation peace project, which has led him to combine his professional activity with a position as cello teacher in Ramallah and other Palestinian cities, providing free education for children and teens.



ERICA WISE. CELLIST



Erica Wise enjoys a versatile career, as a chamber musician, soloist, orchestral musician and professor.

A founding member of the Dalia Quartet, she also enjoys regular duo partnerships with pianists Kennedy Moretti and Llüisa Espigole. Her chamber music collaborations have always been a great influence on her career as a cellist. Actively engaged with the contemporary music of our time, she has given numerous world and Spanish premieres both as a soloist and as a founding member of FUNKTION, a contemporary chamber ensemble based in Barcelona.

As the winner of the Nakamichi Cello Competition, she performed the Dvorak *Concerto* at the Aspen Music Festival with maestro Michael Stern. Other solo performances have included the Walton *Concerto* with the NEC Symphony Orchestra in Jordan Hall and with the Hudson Valley Philharmonic under maestro Keith Lockhart. Erica Wise has served as principal cellist for conductors such as Michael Tilson Thomas and Seiji Ozawa, among others,

and has toured with the New World Symphony and Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. She is also artistic advisor for Da Camera.

Erica Wise received her Bachelors of Music from the Peabody Conservatory and Masters from New England Conservatory, graduating with a distinction in performance. As a Harriet Haley Woolley scholar, she studied baroque cello in Paris with David Simpson. Her primary cello teachers have included Ronald Thomas, Colin Carr, Larry Lesser and Gary Hoffman. She has also been greatly influenced by the teachings of Ferenc Rados.

She is currently professor of cello and chamber music at Centre Superior de Música Conservatori del Liceu in Barcelona, Spain.



JURY MEMBERS FOR THE FINAL AUDITION

HENRI DEMARQUETTE. CELLIST



As a young, brilliant musician Henri Demarquette attended the Conservatoire national supérieur de musique in Paris at the age of thirteen and studied with Philippe Muller and Maurice Gendron. His talent was quickly noticed, and he was unanimously awarded a first prize which led him to work with Pierre Fournier and Paul Tortelier in Paris, and Janos Starker in Bloomington, USA.

His career then takes an international turn and he is invited to perform across the world with some of the greatest French

and international orchestras: most recently Orchestre National de France, London Philharmonic, Wiener KammerOrchester, Ensemble Orchestral De Paris, Tokyo Symphony Orchestra. He also appears with his favourite piano-partners Boris Berezovsky, Michel Dalberto, Jean-Bernard Pommier, Fabrizio Chiovetta, Vanessa Benelli Mosell and Jean-Frédéric Neuburger. In 2015 he co-founded a string quartet with Augustin Dumay, Svetlin Roussev, and Miguel da Silva.

His performance of Henri Dutilleux's *Tout un monde lointain* concerto with Musikalische Akademie des Nationaltheater-Orchesters Mannheim under Frédéric Chaslin and was filmed by France Europe Média in 2016.

Henri Demarquette plays the "le Vaslin" cello, manufactured by Stradivarius in 1725 and lent by LVMH/Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, with a Persois bow dated 1820.



MARIE HALLYNCK. VIOLONCEL-LISTA



Marie Hallynck (born 1973 in Tournai, Belgium) is considered one of the most outstanding cellists of her generation and has played in prestigious halls, such as the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Vienna Musikverein, Wigmore Hall in London, Théâtre de la Ville and Cité de la Musique in Paris. In 2000, she debuted at New York's Carnegie Hall and the Berliner Philharmonie, where she was invited back the following season.

She has played as a soloist with some 50 orchestras all over Europe, in Turkey, the US and Korea, including the St. Petersburg and Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestras and the Amsterdam Concertgebouw Chamber Orchestra. As a chamber musician, she plays with musicians such as Vadim Repin, Martha Argerich, Mischa Maisky, Renaud Capuçon, Julian Rachlin and Muhiddin Dürrüoğlu, her co-founder in the chamber music ensemble Kheops, etc.

She studied with Reine Flachot in Paris, Janos Starker in the US and Natalia Gutman at the Musikhochschule in Stuttgart. She has received numerous national and international awards (Brussels, Ghent, Paris, Eindhoven and more), and won the famous Eurovision Competition. In 1992, she received the highest awards at the Maria Canals Competition in Barcelona, the Mozarteum Salzburg and the Accademia Chigiana in Sienna. In 2001, the Association of European Concert Halls selected Marie Hallynck as a "Rising Star" and the following year, the Belgian music press named her "Soliste de l'Année".

Some of her most noteworthy recordings include: Cello concertos by Vieuxtemps and Jongen (with the Belgian National Orchestra conducted by Theodor Guschlbauer and R. Kofman - Cypès), her recital CDs with Cédric Tiberghien and the complete works for cello and piano by Schumann and Grieg (Harmonia Mundi) and sonatas by Debussy, Britten and Bacri (Fuga Libera), among others. She has received many awards for her recordings.

Marie Hallynck is a professor at the Royal Brussels Conservatory and was one of the judges for the famous ARD competition in September 2010.

She plays an instrument by Matteo Goffriller from 1717.



ASIER POLO. CELLIST



Considered one of the most important cellists of his generation by the music press, Asier Polo has worked with many of the major international orchestras: Philharmonia Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre de Paris, BBC Philharmonic, Berliner Symphoniker, Orquesta Nacional de España, and many more.

He is a regular guest at prestigious festivals, such as those held in Schleswig-Holstein, Nantes, Ohrid, Biennale di Venezia, etc. He has appeared with great artists such as Sol Gabetta, Quartet Casals and the great tenor Alfredo Kraus, among others.

He is devoted to contemporary music, especially from his home country, combining it with a huge repertoire of classical music ranging from Bach's *Suites* to great classic and romantic concertos and contemporary music.

He has recorded 19 albums featuring the major Spanish pieces for cello. His latest releases, with IBS Classical, include Rachmaninov and César Franck's sonatas for cello and piano with Marta Zabaleta, and Johannes Brahms' cello sonatas with the pianist Eldar Nebolsin.

Asier Polo studied in Bilbao, Madrid, Cologne and Basel with maestros E. Pascu, M. Kliegel and I. Monighetti. He also received guidance from J. Starker, N. Gutman and M. Rostropovich through several masterclasses. Early on, he stood out as a promising young musician, winning the first prizes in Cello and Chamber Music at the National Young Musicians Competition in Spain.

He has been awarded numerous prizes, including the Ojo Crítico by Radio Nacional de España (2002), the Fundación CEOE Prize for Musical Interpretation (2004) and the National Music Award by the Ministry for Culture and Sports of Spain (2019). In 2009, he was named a distinguished figure of Bilbao (his hometown).

He is regularly invited to judge national and international cello competitions: Dotzauer Wettbewerb (Germany), Carlos Prieto International Cello Competition (Mexico), Benedetto Mazzacurati Competition (Italy), and the Manhattan International Music Competition (New York). He also gives masterclasses in many countries: Germany, Netherlands, Italy, Mexico, Venezuela, Brazil, etc.

Asier Polo plays a Francesco Ruggeri cello (Cremona, 1689) on loan from the Banco Santander Foundation.



JULIAN STECKEL. CELLIST



Julian Steckel studied with Ulrich Voss, Gustav Rivinius, Boris Pergamenschikow, Heinrich Schiff and Antje Weithaas. Now he is a professor at Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Munich. His solo career was launched after he won the prestigious ARD Musikwettbewerb in 2010. Since then, he has soloed with the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, the Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Orchestre de Paris, among others.

He has worked with conductors Christoph Eschenbach, Sir Roger Norrington, Valery Gergiev, Jakub Hrůša, Mario Venzago, Fabien Gabel, John Storgårds, Lahav Shani, Antony Hermus, Christian Zacharias and Michael Sanderling. His chamber-music colleagues include Janine Jansen, Christian Tetzlaff, Karen Gomyo, Antje Weithaas, Renaud Capuçon, Veronika Eberle, Vilde Frang, Antoine Tamestit, Lars Vogt, Elisabeth Leonskaja, Paul Rivinius, Denis Kozhukhin, and the Modigliani, Armida and Ébène quartets.

In October 2020, he played the world premiere of Gerald Barry's *Cello concerto* at the Cello Biennale Amsterdam, with the Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra with Hannu Lintu, and, in February 2021, the premiere of Karola Obermüller's *Cello concerto* with the Heidelberg Philharmonic Orchestra with Elias Grandy.

At the same time, chamber music remains a source of inspiration and a way to communicate: he has upcoming concerts with Antje Weithaas, Tobias Feldmann, Lise Berthaud and William Youn, at venues including Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Liszt Akademie Budapest and Schubertiade Hohenems. In Spring 2021, he was on tour with Sharon Kam and Enrico Pace.

Julian's relationship with music spans analytical intelligence and extreme commitment. His interpretations are grounded and accessible.



BERNARD MEILLAT. ARTISTIC ADVISOR AND JURY SECRETARY



A musicologist and journalist specialising in classical music who was born in Paris. Trained as a pianist, he has had a long professional career focused on communicating and disseminating music in various European reference media. He is a specialist in and great connoisseur of Pablo Casals' work and has been developing a research and preservation project of the works and recordings of maestro Pablo Casals since the early 1990s.

In 1991, he was appointed director of the French classical music radio station Radio Classique, increasing its general audience share and promoting a new policy of openness in order to reach new publics with top quality musical programming. In 2005, he took over the management of Musiq3, the classical radio station of RTBF (Belgian public broadcaster for the French-speaking community). Among other responsibilities, he is a member of various juries and collaborates with a number of international institutions and festivals.

He is a member of the International Advisory Committee of the Pau Casals Foundation and has been the artistic director of the Festival Internacional de Música Pau Casals del Vendrell.



2020 EDITION: WINNERS



FIRST PRIZE

XUANHAN XU (China)

Hochschule für Musik Saar (Germany)

Born in Hangzhou, China, in 2004, she began playing the piano at the age of five and the cello at the age of eight. She continued her studies in Germany at the age of 13 and is currently studying there at the Hochschule für Musik Saar in Saarbrücken under Gustav Rivinius. She performed with the National Centre of Performing Arts Orchestra in Beijing in 2017, becoming the youngest cellist to perform at that venue, and has performed with other international orchestras in both Asia and Europe.



AENA SPECIAL PRIZE

PETAR PEJČIĆ (Serbia)

HMT Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy (Germany)

Born in Leskovac, Serbia, in 2002, he started playing the cello at the age of four and gave his first concert in Belgrade at the age of nine. He won his first competition in 2008 and has since won various other international competitions, including third prize in the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy in Berlin and second prize in the Anna Kull International Competition in Graz. He has given solo concerts and also performed with such orchestras as the Belgrade Chamber Orchestra and Belgrade Radio Symphony Orchestra. He is currently studying at the HMT Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy in Leipzig under Peter Bruns.



THIRD PRIZE

Felix Brunnenkant (Germany)

Felix Brunnenkant, student at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater München. Born in Überlingen, Germany, in 2001, he studies cello with Julian Steckel at the HMTM München. He is a first prize winner of the “Jugend musiziert” National competition and the “Gustav Mahler Prize”. He has been a guest at the ORF Vorarlberg, AlpenKlassik Festival Arosa and the European Culture Forum Mainau.



INFORMATION



Oficial website Pau Casals



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Pablo Casals International Award



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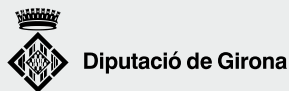
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