

For all soloists the relationship they have with their instrument is second only to the one they have with their personal partner in life.

For many artists the quest for this perfect musical partner can take years of searching and when they do find the right instrument it is transformative to their playing and career.

Most of the concert-going public are aware of the difficulties facing musicians as they search for that perfect partner which include financial (rare instruments are worth many millions of pounds), scarcity of top level instruments and that all elusive magic connection that can't be bought or manufactured.

Vilde Frang is one of the world's leading violinists and has spent over four years searching for *the* violin. Thanks to the world's leading violin dealer, J&A Beare, and the Stretton Society, a private philanthropic club, she has now found that instrument – the 'Rode' Guarneri del Gesù from 1734.

The role of a dealer such as Steve Smith at J&A Beare can't be underestimated either as it takes years of operating at the highest levels and an unparalleled international network to know where the great instruments are in the world, who owns them and their worth. It also takes an innate understanding of musicians and of individual musician's personalities and musicianship to find the right instrument for them. The highest level of matchmaking imaginable!

Please let me know if you would like to interview either Vilde Frang or Steve Smith from Beare's.

Best wishes,

Simon

Simon.millward@premiercomms.com, +44-79905-7310

Violinist Vilde Frang granted use of 1734 'Rode' Guarneri del Gesù



PHOTOGRAPH: Laszlo Emmer / Festival Academy Budapest

Norwegian violinist Vilde Frang will be loaned the 1734 'Rode' Guarneri del Gesù violin by a generous benefactor. The project was facilitated by Steven Smith of leading violin dealers J & A Beare and Stephan Jansen, co-founder of the Stretton Society, a private philanthropic club that supports classical music and musicians through various stringed instruments and platforms.

Frang commented: "Words cannot describe what a milestone the discovery of the 'Rode' Guarneri has been for me. Having had the privilege to explore an incredible selection of instruments recommended by J & A Beare in search of the right instrument, the 'Rode' happens to be the violin of my dreams. Thanks to them, and to the incredible generosity of the Stretton Society who have secured the long-term loan, I feel truly blessed that I am able to keep on playing on it! My joy and gratitude are expanding every day."

The joint project is a remarkable achievement between J & A Beare Ltd and the Stretton Society, whose work is aimed at benefiting exceptionally talented artists.

The violin has an illustrious history, having been played in the past by celebrated virtuosi such as Pierre Rode, Norbert Brainin and Kyung Wha Chung. It is preserved in beautiful condition and produces a powerful sound, full of rich tonalities.

Norwegian-born Vilde Frang has studied with Kolya Blacher at Musikhochschule Hamburg and Ana Chumachenco at the Kronberg Academy. She debuted as a soloist at the age of 12 with the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra and went on to win a scholarship at the Annie-Sophie Mutter Foundation. Her recent and forthcoming solo engagements include performances with Berlin Philharmonic, Chamber Orchestra of Europe, London Symphony, Concertgebouw Orchestra, Chicago Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Israel Philharmonic, Sydney Symphony, with conductors such as Vladimir Ashkenazy, Zubin Mehta, Sir Simon Rattle and many others. Frang has won numerous awards including the Grand Prix du Disque, Edison Klassiek Award, Deutsche Schallplattenpreis, Diapason d'Or and Gramophone Award.