



for immediate release

## **Gabriel Schwabe receives the prestigious Pierre Fournier Award 2009**

The 2009 Pierre Fournier Award has been awarded to 21-year-old cellist, Gabriel Schwabe after the final round of auditions at the Wigmore Hall on Friday 5 June 2009. Gabriel performed a demanding programme of Mendelssohn, Bloch and Schnittke with pianist, Anna Naretto, in front of a distinguished panel of judges comprising renowned cellists Ralph Kirshbaum, Colin Carr, Karine Georgian, Alice Neary, Raphael Wallfisch and Moray Welsh and Jonathan Groves, a director of the artist management agency Ingpen & Williams.

For the first time this year, the Pierre Fournier Award was open to applicants worldwide, and eighteen cellists from eleven countries participated in the auditions. Gabriel Schwabe from Germany was one of just five cellists selected to play in the final round. Berlin-born Gabriel studied at the University of the Arts in Berlin with Catalin Ilea and since 2008 has been a student of Frans Helmerson at Kronberg Academy.

As a prize, Gabriel receives a recital in London's Wigmore Hall, a professional CD recording of this recital, as well as other significant orchestral and chamber music performances with affiliated organisations including the Philharmonia Orchestra (Bedford Corn Exchange, February 2011), the English Chamber Orchestra and at Oxford May Music in 2010.

The other finalists, who each received £250 were Nicolas Alstaedt (Germany), Philip Higham

(UK), Jakob Koranyi (Sweden) and Kaori Yamagami (Canada).

The Award, now in its 21<sup>st</sup> year, was founded by renowned cellist Ralph Kirshbaum in honour of one of the world's greatest cellists, Pierre Fournier, who died in 1986. Since then, endowed in large part by the RNCM Manchester International Cello Festival, the Award has helped to further the careers of exceptionally talented young cellists up to the age of 28, promoting performance opportunities, making professional recordings, and where appropriate supporting further study.

Previous recipients have been Gregor Horsch (1988), Hannah Roberts (1992), Rebecca Gilliver (1994), Alice Neary (1998), Richard Harwood (2004) and Gemma Rosefield (2007). Through the years major incentive grants have been given to: Marie Bitlloch and Alexander Chaushian (2001), Thomas Carroll (1998), Alice Neary and Jamie Walton (1996) Louise Hopkins and Ewa Miecznikowska (1990)

[www.pierrefournieraward.com](http://www.pierrefournieraward.com)

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