

BENJAMIN BAKER, violinist

Described by the New York Times as bringing “virtuosity, refinement and youthful exuberance” to his performances, violinist **Benjamin Baker** has moved audiences around the world with his musicianship. He has established a strong international presence with recent performances as far afield as Lebanon, Albania, Siberia, China, Australia, New Zealand, Colombia, Argentina, Venezuela, and throughout the United Kingdom and United States. Benjamin has performed as soloist with the Royal Philharmonic in London, English Chamber Orchestra, Royal Northern Sinfonia, London Mozart Players, Bristol Metropolitan Orchestra, Sinfonia Cymru in Wales, National Children's Orchestra in Manchester, Auckland Philharmonia, Maui Pops Orchestra, and South Carolina's Long Bay Symphony.

After winning First Prize and special performances prizes at the 2016 Young Concert Artists International Auditions, Benjamin's first U.S. tour included recital debuts at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. and at New York's Merkin Concert Hall. His other nationally and internationally significant awards and prizes include winning London's Young Classical Artists Trust in 2013 and First Prize at the Windsor Festival International String Competition. Benjamin was also a Fellow at the Ravinia's Steans Music Institute.

Benjamin has also given recitals at Wigmore Hall in London, in Ireland, performed multiple engagements at New York's Caramoor Center, and appeared at the Ravinia Festival and Bridgehampton Chamber Music Festival. This season, he will perform as soloist with the Auckland Philharmonia, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra and Long Bay Symphony, will appear at the Nexus Chamber Music Festival, and will give recitals with noted performing organizations including Buffalo Chamber Music Society and Pepperdine University. In addition, this season sees the launch of Benjamin's festival in Queenstown, New Zealand - At the World's Edge Festival.

Benjamin's recording “The Last Rose of Summer” on Champs Hill Records was featured on BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM, and reached #22 on the charts the first week of release. In 2021, Delphian Records released his album ‘1942’ with pianist Daniel Lehardt.

By popular demand, Benjamin has returned to New Zealand to play concerts and appear on radio and television broadcasts. For his devotion to charities for children, he is grateful to be an Honorary Member of the Rotary Club of Port Nicholson, and he created and led a special London Music Masters project for young violinists with dancer Cheryl McChesney, which explored the connection between music and movement.

Currently a resident of London, Benjamin studied at the Yehudi Menuhin School and with Natasha Boyarsky and Felix Andrievsky at the Royal College of Music, where he was awarded the *Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Rose Bowl* graduation prize. He plays a Tononi violin (1709) on generous loan, and is recipient of support from the Wallace Foundation and Carne Trust.

NOTE: When editing, please do not delete references to Young Concert Artists, nor special prizes. Please do not use previously dated biographies.

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