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## Benjamin Baker, violin

Benjamin Baker, a New Zealand native, has moved audiences around the world 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.

He has performed as soloist with the Royal Philharmonic, English Chamber Orchestra, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Royal Northern Sinfonia, London Mozart Players, Bristol Metropolitan Orchestra, Sinfonia Cymru in Wales, Auckland Philharmonia, Maui Pops Orchestra, Charleston Symphony, and Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra.

Since winning 1st Prize at the 2016 YCA Susan Wadsworth International Auditions in New York and 3rd Prize at the Michael Hill Competition in New Zealand in 2017 Benjamin has established a strong international presence. Described by the *New York Times* as bringing “virtuosity, refinement and youthful exuberance” to his debut at Merkin Concert Hall, sponsored by the Peter Jay Sharp Prize, he has since given debuts at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. and also performed at Wigmore Hall, Caramoor, Ravinia Festival, Washington Performing Arts, Buffalo Chamber Music Society, and the Bridgehampton Chamber Music Festival.

In 2021 Delphian Records released his recording with pianist Daniel Lenhardt “1942” featuring works of Prokofiev, Copland, and Poulenc. As a follow up, Delphian Records released “1919: CODA” in 2023 featuring the duo playing works by Janáček, Lili Boulanger, Debussy, and Elgar.

Highlights of Benjamin’s 23-24 season include concerto debuts with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, and the world premiere of Matthew Kaner’s Violin Concerto with BBC Scottish.

Benjamin has returned to New Zealand to launch his own festival in Queenstown, NZ called *At the World’s Edge Festival (AWE)*. During the 22-23 Season Benjamin launched AWE Overseas in NYC and London, offering a touring project bringing a piece of NZ music and culture to different corners of the world.

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.

Benjamin plays a Giovanni Grancino from 1694 on generous loan from a Charitable Trust.