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### **Meadowmount School of Music Awards Third Annual Gurrena Fellowship to Violinist Kento Hong**



Westport, NY - Meadowmount School of Music, an internationally recognized and beloved summer destination for young string players, has awarded the third annual Gurrena Fellowship, worth \$50,000, to Japanese-Taiwanese American violinist Kento Hong.

“We are thrilled to award the 2024 Gurrena Fellowship to violinist Kento Hong,” said Artistic Director Janet Sung. “Kento is a highly engaging and impressive performer whose prodigious talent shows that the future of music is very bright. We look forward to supporting Kento as he embarks on this next phase of his musical career.”

Kento Hong said, "I am beyond thrilled and honored to receive the 2024 Gurrena Fellowship. Attending Meadowmount over the past three summers – from 2022 to 2024 – has been transformative for me as both a musician and individual. Working extensively with Dr. Ann Setzer at Meadowmount expanded my artistry during these crucial pre-college years and has connected me with an inspiring musical community of friends and collaborators. I'm deeply grateful to Meadowmount and everyone who has supported me; I look forward to carrying this experience forward."

The Gurrena Fellowship was created in 2022 in memory of David A. Barnebl, an educated, passionate music lover, by his wife, Linda Gurrena Barnebl, of Shelburne, VT. The purpose of the Fellowship is to support and encourage exceptionally talented students to become abundantly successful in their professional journey.

This generous fellowship enables its recipients to continue to pursue their careers with vigor and passion without the burden of financial constraint. During the Fellowship year, the recipient receives financial support and mentorship, featured concert engagements supported by Meadowmount School of Music, and continued collaborations and training with the Meadowmount faculty for the upcoming year and 2025 summer session.

"We are grateful to Linda Gurrena Barnebl for her leadership in recognizing and supporting excellent young musicians at an important point in their early careers" said Executive Director, Genevieve Twomey. "Kento Hong is a profoundly talented and inspiring violinist whose impact on Meadowmount has been notable. His presence on stage as a soloist and chamber musician is both compelling and impressive."

### **Kento Hong, violin**

Japanese-Taiwanese American violinist Kento Hong has drawn critical attention and won numerous awards, including the 2021 Yehudi Menuhin International Competition (4th prize), 2022 Thomas and Evon Cooper International Competition (6th prize and audience prize), and the 2024 Arthur Grumiaux Competition (3rd prize). He has also won first prizes in other competitions, including the Chicago International Violin Competition, the Camerata Artists International Competition, and the Chappaqua Orchestra Concerto Competition.

Kento has performed at major venues, including Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, sharing the stage with renowned artists like Maxim Vengerov and Jaime Laredo. Kento was selected as an active finalist participant in the Kronberg Academy Masterclass 2023 and has been a guest artist on NPR's *From The Top*. In the Fall of 2024, he received the \$50,000 Gurrena Fellowship career grant from the Meadowmount School of Music.

Kento has been a student at Juilliard's pre-college division since age 10, studying with Dr. Ann Setzer.

Kento is also a 2024 National YoungArts Finalist and a frequent concertmaster of Juilliard's leading Pre-college ensembles. Beyond music, Kento is passionate about arthritis research, having won 2nd prize at the Regeneron ISEF in Biomedical Engineering and several other science awards. He often explores the connection between science and art in his public communications. Kento Hong was born in New York in 2006 and began violin studies at age 6 under Aimee Kreston.

### **Meadowmount School of Music in Brief**

Founded in 1944 by legendary violin teacher Ivan Galamian, the Meadowmount School of Music is a seven-week summer program for violinists, violists, and cellists. Musicians ages 10 to 30 from around the world gather at the school's campus in the Adirondack Mountains in northern New York to immerse themselves in an environment where they can focus on personal and artistic development through intensive training with leading faculty, individual practice, chamber music, and performance opportunities.

Meadowmount has long been regarded as the premier destination for young musicians and has helped create some of the greatest artists of our time. Meadowmount alumni are well represented internationally among soloists and chamber musicians, principal players of leading orchestras, and distinguished teachers. Notable alumni include Itzhak Perlman, Yo-Yo Ma, Pinchas Zukerman, Jaime Laredo, Lynn Harrell, Kyung-Wha Chung, Ani and Ida Kavafian, Joshua Bell, James Ehnes, and Jessie Montgomery, among others.

With a capacity enrollment of 180 on the 49-building, 240-acre campus, the school retains an intimacy that provides for individual attention and fosters camaraderie among the students. Many students return year after year and alumni retain strong connections and return as faculty and guest artists, ensuring the continuity of the Meadowmount teaching tradition. The faculty roster that has over the years included Gregor Piatigorsky, Josef Gingold, Isaac Stern, Leonard Rose, Sally Thomas, Dorothy DeLay, has recently featured violinists Ann Setzer, Gerardo Ribeiro, I-Hao Lee, Paul Kantor, and Janet Sung, violists Ayane Kozasa and Caroline Coade, and cellists Hans Jørgen Jensen, Thomas Landschoot, and Wei Yu – a lineage that is unmatched in the field.