

10 January 2012  
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## **Menuhin Competition goes to America in 2014**

The Menuhin Competition – the world’s leading competition for young violinists – will be held in the USA for the first time in 2014. It will be hosted by the Butler School of Music (BSOM) at The University of Texas at Austin from 21 February to 2 March.

Gordon Back, artistic director of the Menuhin Competition, said: “We are thrilled that 2014 will be the Menuhin Competition’s first year in the United States. I believe Yehudi Menuhin would have loved the vibrant music scene of Austin, which I’m sure will be an enormously inspirational environment for the competition. We are very excited that the Butler School of Music has the vision and creativity to stage this unique music event.”

2014 also marks the Butler School of Music’s centennial. “Hosting the Menuhin Competition’s first North American appearance is testament to the Butler School of Music’s rising prominence, not only in this country but around the world,” said BSOM Director Glenn Chandler. “The Butler School and the Menuhin Competition share a common goal of cultural exchange in education.”

The Menuhin Competition is held in a different city every two years. Past hosts have included the Royal Academy of Music in London, the Royal Welsh College of Music in Cardiff and the Norwegian Academy of Music in Oslo. The Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing will host the competition in April 2012, where 11 of the 42 selected competitors will be American.

Past winners of the Menuhin Competition have gone on to major international careers, including Nikolaj Znaider, Julia Fischer and Ray Chen. To date, 23 of the prize winners have been from the United States.

The competition is open to violinists of any nationality under the age of 22. Accepted applicants vie for cash prizes, scholarships, concert engagements and the loan of fine violins. The competition is the only one of its kind, combining competition rounds with a 10-day festival of performances by and master classes with jurors. Past jurors have included such distinguished violinists as Maxim Vengerov and Miriam Fried as well as Pamela Frank, who will chair the jury in Beijing.

Violinist Yehudi Menuhin was one of the twentieth century's most celebrated violinists. He founded the Menuhin Competition in 1983 with the goal of enabling young violinists from all over the world to study in an environment rich with cultural exchange. Menuhin established the Yehudi Menuhin School in England in 1963 and the Menuhin Festival in Gstaad in 1957.