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## Q&A YUKI MANUELA JANKE

**You have been awarded the second prize at the 50th international violin competition "Premio Paganini". Were you disappointed for not having being awarded the first prize? In your opinion, what was the reason why you didn't receive the first prize?**

Yes and No. I would lie, if I say that I wasn't disappointed for not having being awarded the 1st prize. But music isn't like sport or math. You can't say if it's correct or wrong. I think, everybody who is allowed to the finale round has more or less about the same high level. But every Jury has another opinion who is the best.

For example: In one of the competitions, where I have participated, I got in the first round 95points (out of 100points) from one of the Jury. From another Jury, I got 65points (60points was the lowest point).

**So you can see how different opinions every Jury has.**

I think: if you have a completely different Jury, you have a completely different result. At the competition, you need fortune.

I don't know why I wasn't awarded the 1st prize. If I have had the possibility to ask the Jury where my concrete lack of being awarded the 1st prize was, it would be useful for me.

Anyway, I'm very happy to be the highest prize winner at the Premio Paganini.

**Last October you came back to Genoa on the occasion of the Paganiniana 2004. You played the Guarneri del Gesù, the violin owned by Paganini. What were your first impressions? What distinguishes this instrument from other violins?**

Incredible! It has a very fine sound. It has sufficient volume. I could play double harmonics in the piece by Paganini without difficulty. I never saw such violin which is nearly perfect! I was really happy to be allowed to play with the Cannone.

**You come from a family of musicians, one of your elder brothers studying violin participated to the Premio Paganini - 2002 edition. How much is important to live in a musical environment? Were you influenced in the choice of violin as an instrument (as your discipline)?**

I have two brothers and one sister. My older sister is a pianist, with whom I always play together if I have a recital.

One of my older brother is a cellist, and as you know, my other brother is a violinist. We have frequently concerts as chamber music, usually Piano Quartet, sometimes also Piano Trio.

My parents are also both pianists.

I'm the youngest one, so when I was born, everybody played and practiced several instruments. There were piano, cello and violin at home, so the instruments were like a toy for me, when I was a little child. Music is for me nothing else as daily life.

Till I was 3 years old, I tried to play several instruments, but who has chosen violin for me were my parents.

They thought of a possibility for chamber music, if I play the violin. I think, the musical environment is for me very important.

**Who are the interpreters that you draw inspiration from?**

I have a great respect for my teacher, Prof. Igor Ozim. There are many interpreters, who I also like. For example, Maxim Vengerov, David Oistrakh, Salvatore Accardo, Herman Krebbers, Jacqueline du Pré, Daniel Barenboim, etc...

**The Premio Paganini has become biennial since its 50th edition. What is your opinion about this change?**

My brother participated at Paganini- Competition in 2002, so I wanted to take part in 2003 and prepared for it.

When I was informed that it became biennial, I was a little bit disappointed.



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But if you know that the competition is always every second year, it wouldn't be a problem.

**What's your impression of the city of Genoa?**

Genoa is wonderful! There are so many historical and old buildings, quiet atmosphere, beautiful sea and scenery and blue sky... I really like this city.