

GIOVANNI GUZZO, violin

“Guzzo’s technique was immaculate, and his Szymanowski was also stylish and driven. He ripped through the cadenza with terrific verve and left me wanting to hear much more from him”.
Andrew Morris, Classicalsource

30 year old violinist Giovanni Guzzo is rapidly rising as one of the most versatile performers of his generation. Born in Venezuela to parents of Italian and Venezuelan heritage, he has captivated audiences around the world with his unique and passionate approach to his performances. Following his sensational solo debut with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in London, critics described him as a “wonderfully magnetic” and “commanding” performer.

Giovanni started his musical studies with the piano at the age of five and violin at the age of six. At the age of 12 he became the youngest violinist to win the National Violin Competition “Juan Bautista Plaza” in Venezuela. A protégé of the renowned French virtuoso violinist Maurice Hasson, Giovanni was granted a scholarship to study at the Royal Academy of Music in London, from where he graduated with the highest honours. He previously studied with Zakhar Bron at the “Escuela Superior de Musica Reina Sofia” in Madrid.

A keen recitalist and chamber musician, Giovanni has worked closely with some of today’s leading musicians, including Martha Argerich, Joshua Bell, Martin Fröst, Daniel Hope, Stephen Hough, Kristóf Baráti, Mats Lidstrom, Gábor Takács-Nagy, István Várdai, the Takacs Quartet and Maxim Vengerov, to name but a few. His talent has been recognised with numerous awards including Her Majesty the Queen’s commendation for Excellence, Gold medal at Marlow Music Festival, PROMIS award given by the London Symphony Orchestra, and the Manoug Parikian and Myra Hess award.

Giovanni has performed on several occasions for the Royal Family, most recently performing for Her Majesty the Queen on the famous 'Viotti ex-Bruce' Stradivarius violin. He appears regularly in live Television and Radio broadcasts, most recently on BBC performing the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto. He was also the youngest musician ever invited to perform a solo recital at the World Economic Forum in Davos in front of world leaders and some of today’s most influential personalities.

As a soloist Giovanni continues to perform with the finest symphony orchestras and in some of the most prestigious venues around the world, including London's Wigmore Hall and Zurich's Tonhalle. He is a regular guest at Verbier Festival in Switzerland and Mecklenburg Vorpommern Festival in Germany.

At the invitation of its music director, Iván Fischer, he is principal guest leader of the world-famous Budapest Festival Orchestra and was recently appointed Violin professor at the Royal Academy of Music in London, one of the youngest musicians to receive this distinction in the history of the prestigious institution.

Giovanni Guzzo plays on a 1759 Nicola Gagliano violin, kindly on extended loan to him by a private benefactor.