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Julia Fischer Violin

"Artist of the Year" 2007 Gramophone Awards
(by an overwhelming majority of the 14 million individuals who cast their vote)

"Instrumentalist of the year" 2007 Echo Award

German violinist Julia Fischer is recognized worldwide for possessing a talent of uncommon ability and as an exceptionally gifted artist, reflected in the numerous awards and effusive reviews she has received for both her live performances and recordings, including being named "Artist of the Year" at The Gramophone Awards in 2007 and "Instrumentalist of the Year" at the 2009 MIDEM Classical Awards.

Frequently praised for her technical mastery, Ms. Fischer is also lauded for her imaginative and illuminating interpretations of the classical repertoire, with the *Financial Times* saying: "She may have spitfire technique... but in Fischer's case the notes are not an end in themselves but purely a means to expressing musical truths."

In September 2010 Decca released Ms. Fischer's recording of Paganini's 24 Caprices, a showcase of both her virtuosity and also her passion for the composer's work and her belief that the caprices are not mere display pieces, but intriguing and meaningful musical works. Ms. Fischer, who learnt her first Paganini caprice when she was ten-years-old, recorded the caprices at Munich's August Everding Hall.

The Paganini recording follows her 2009 best-selling debut recording for Decca of Bach violin concertos with the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields. Upon its U.S. release the recording became the fastest-selling classical music debut in iTunes history. Ms. Fischer subsequently toured 11 European cities and 10 U.S. cities as director and soloist with the Academy and she will tour with the ensemble again in March 2011 to four Swiss cities.

Other European tours Ms. Fischer will undertake during the 2010-11 season include: recitals in Germany and Prague with pianist Milana Chernyavska; a four-city tour of Germany and France with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Vladimir Jurowski performing Beethoven and Shostakovich; recitals of Schumann sonatas with pianist Martin Helmchen in London (Southbank Centre), Germany and Spain; performances of the Brahms Double Concerto with cellist Daniel Müller-Schott and the Ungarische Nationalphilharmonie and Zoltan Kocsis in Germany, and with the Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte Carlo and Yakov Kreizberg in Monte Carlo and Spain. Following concerts at the 2011 Salzburg Easter Festival with the Berliner Philharmoniker and Sir Simon Rattle in April 2011, Ms. Fischer will perform three concerts with the Cleveland Orchestra and Franz Welser-Möst in May 2011 performing the Berg Violin Concerto.

Previous recordings were released on the PentaTone label. Her debut CD, a recording of Russian Violin Concertos by Khatchaturian, Prokofiev and Glazunov with the Russian National Orchestra under Yakov Kreizberg, won Germany's coveted ECHO Award in 2005. Ms. Fischer recorded Bach's Sonatas and Partitas for Solo Violin in 2005 and this recording earned worldwide critical praise including the rare distinction of winning three of France's most prestigious awards: the Diapason d'Or from *Diapason*; the CHOC from *Le Monde de la Musique*; and the highest rating from *Classica Repertoire*. The Bach recording also saw her awarded the *BBC Music Magazine* Award as "Best Newcomer" in 2006. In 2007, her Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto recording saw her awarded the ECHO award for "Instrumentalist of the Year".

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March 2011

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Born in Munich in 1983 to a pianist mother from Slovakia and a mathematician father from Eastern Germany, Ms. Fischer began learning the piano with her mother at age three, but was soon persuaded to take up the violin as well because, as her brother also played piano, her mother thought it would be nice to have another instrument in the family. She began violin lessons at the Leopold Mozart Conservatoire in Augsburg, and three years later, she became a pupil of Ana Chumachenco at the Munich Academy of Music (Musikhochschule). At just 11-years-old, she won the Yehudi Menuhin International Violin Competition, an event that catapulted her towards a career as a soloist. Throughout her career, Ms. Fischer has always maintained her piano studies. On January 1st, 2008 she made her professional piano debut at the Alte Oper Frankfurt performing the Grieg Piano Concerto with the Junge Deutsche Philharmonie and conductor Matthias Pintscher. On the same program, she performed the Saint-Saëns Violin Concerto No. 3. A DVD of this concert, recorded by Unitel Classica, was released by Decca in September 2010.

Ms. Fischer lives in Munich, Germany.

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