

*Zakhar Bron* (Violin)

Winner of the first prize in the National Competitions of the USSR and in the Queen Elizabeth and Wieniawski International competitions in Brussels (1971) and Poznan (1977), respectively, Zakhar Bron was born in Uralsk in 1947. After receiving his first important training at the Stoliarsky School of Music in Odessa from the age of 13 to 19, he continued his musical education at the Gnessin Conservatory in Moscow under Boris Goldstein. Zakhar Bron's musical training was completed with studies in the Moscow Conservatory under Igor Oistrach, where his outstanding success as a student led to him being immediately invited to become the master's assistant.

Just as Zakhar Bron's concert performance career has been at the highest level, so too has been the quality of his teaching. Very few people play an instrument really well, and even fewer are capable of teaching it; still less are those capable of creating a veritable school and producing further maestros. Prof. Bron has shown that he is one of those very few, doing so at the Glinka Conservatory in Novosibirsk, in the Hochschule of Lübeck and in the Rotterdam Conservatory, as well as in his ceaseless offerings of advanced international courses and lectures throughout the world. There is scarcely a musical capital in Europe or Japan that has not been privileged to witness Bron's rigorous teaching principles, and his students regularly win the highest honours in the most important competitions.

When the Reina Sofia School of Music was founded in Madrid in 1991, Professor Bron was awarded the Grupo Endesa Chair for the Violin, a post which he continues to hold today.

*José Luis García* (Violin)

José Luis García (born in Madrid in 1944) is one of the most prestigious Spanish musicians in the world, in the threefold capacities of soloist performer, director and teacher. He began his studies at the age of six and won the Sarasate Prize in 1960. He continued training at the Royal College of Music in London, where he was awarded the Stoutzker Prize. At 22, he became the youngest professor of that re-

puted institution, and in 1967 he won the Harriet Cohen Award. Amongst his teachers, Sergiu Celebidache holds a special place, having been the strongest influence on the violinist's way of making music, and a person with whom Prof. García has performed on various occasions.

José Luis García has been the concert director of the legendary English Chamber Orchestra for more than 20 years, and has recorded hundreds of records with the group and with the best musical publishing houses, as well as having travelled around the world. From time to time, Prof. García has combined his work with this orchestra with numerous appearances as a soloist and director in the U.S.A., Canada and Israel. For the last ten years he has been the guest director of the Symphonic Orchestra of Fort Worth, Texas.

Prof. José Luis García has always balanced his concert activity with that of teaching, most of which he does in the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, of whose orchestra he is also the director, and in the Reina Sofia School of Music. In this centre he is titular professor of the Grupo Endesa chair for the Violin, and of the IBM Chamber Orchestra chair.

*Gérard Caussé* (Viola)

Since Primrose, only Gérard Caussé has known how to restore the liberty and renown of the viola as a soloist's instrument.

The first to perform of the celebrated *Ainsi La Nuit* Quartet of Henri Dutilleux, Caussé has defended and legitimated the creation of musical repertoires expressly for this instrument, leading composers such as Masson, Nunes, Grisey, Lenot, Hersant, and more recently Jolas and Reverdy, to dedicate a great number of works to him. Gérard Caussé is widely lauded amongst musicians, especially amongst those who play the viola, for the importance of his work to strengthen the repertoire of works for the instrument. His personal intimacy with the classical repertoire has led to his winning many of the most prestigious prizes: Fondation de la Vocation, Prix Sacem, Grand Prix du Disque, Priz Gabriel Fauré, Academie Charles Cros, etc.

Caussé is constantly exploring all of the possibilities of the classical repertoire, beginning with Mozart, whom he considers "the first