



*José Luis García* (Violin)

José Luis García is one of the most internationally prestigious Spanish musicians as solo performer, orchestra conductor and teacher. In 1966, at the age of 22, he was appointed Professor of Violin Virtuosity at the *Royal College of Music* in London, becoming the youngest professor in the history of that renowned institution. For many years he studied with the great orchestra conductor Sergiu Celibidache, who had a significant influence on the violinist's approach to music and with whom Professor García has performed on various occasions. For more than 20 years, he was the concert director of the legendary *English Chamber Orchestra*, travelling around the world and recording hundreds of records with the group. During the past 20 years he has continued to develop his activity, especially as orchestra conductor, and frequently performs with the Saint Louis and Fort Worth Symphony Orchestras, and with orchestras in Israel. José Luis García currently combines his artistic career with teaching, and this now includes the *Reina Sofia Music School* in Spain. In this centre he is Head Professor of the Chair of Violin and of the Chamber Orchestra Chair.



*Gérard Caussé* (Viola)

In the opinion of many, since Primrose it is only Gérard Caussé who has been able to restore to the viola its freedom and renown as a solo instrument. The first to perform the celebrated *Ainsi la Nuit* Quartet of Henri Dutilleux, Caussé has supported and encouraged the creation of musical repertoires expressly for this instrument, leading composers such as Gérard Masson, Emmanuel Nunes, Gérard Grisey, Jacques Lenot, Philippe Hersant, and more recently Betsy Jolas and Michèle Reverdy, to dedicate a great number of works to him. His personal intimacy with the classical repertoire has led to his winning many prestigious prizes. Professor Caussé is constantly exploring all of the possibilities of this repertoire, beginning with Mozart and ranging through Bartok, Bruch, Berlioz, Stravinsky, Britten and Martinu. He shares this eclecticism both in his orchestral work and in his chamber music performances with musicians such as Emmanuel Krivine, Charles Dutoit, Kent Nagano, Gidon Kremer, Agustín Dumay, Dimitri Sitkovetsky, Vladimir Spivakov, Misha Maisky, François René Duchable, John Eliot Gardiner, etc. His recordings include over 35 records issued by EMI, Erato and Phillips. He plays a Gasparo da Salo viola from the year 1560. He is Head Professor of the Chair of Viola at the *Reina Sofia School of Music*.