

## **Elin Kolev**

Elin, born 17 December 1996 in Germany, began his musical training on the violin at the Robert Schumann Conservatory in Zwickau at the age of 5. At just 8 years old, Elin had his soloist debut with the Vogtland Philharmonic Orchestra Greiz/Reichenbach during their "Classics under the Stars" program, dazzling more than 5,000 spectators who gathered on the main town square of his Zwickau hometown.

By barely 10 years old, Elin was granted an exception to enroll in Leipzig's "Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy" University of Music and Theatre as an underage student and study the violin under Prof. Carolin Widmann. Elin also took master-level classes with Dr. Friedemann Eichhorn and professors Thomas Brandis and Igor Ozim.

All the while, Elin continued to win first place awards in the "Jugend musiziert" (state-wide music competition for children and youths in Saxony) and Germany's regional "EnviaM Young Talent Competition 2007". Yet international acclaim would also be on Elin's agenda. Entering the "5th International Eugene Ysaye Violin Competition" in Austria, Elin went on to win the first prize.

One of the biggest highlights to date for the young musician was being named "Best Young Talent" and honored with the "Pablo de Sarasate Award" on 13 July 2008 at the New York Ibla Foundation's "17th Grand Prize", an annual competition held in Ragusa Ibla, Sicily. 252 musicians of all ages from throughout the world gathered to play their great variety of instruments before a 42-person international jury.

During the competition, Elin had seven exulted performances in Ragusa. His eighth will come on 27 April 2009 at the Winner's Concert in New York's famed Carnegie Hall. Elin will crown his trip to the USA by performing a brief concert series through Redford, Virginia, Minot, North Dakota and Little Rock, Arkansas.

Elin has been sponsored by the Sächsischen Mozart - Gesellschaft e.V. (Saxon Mozart Society) and the Albert Eckstein Foundation since 2009.

## **Awards / Prizes**

1st Prize, Jugend Musiziert state-wide music competition for children and youths in Saxony

1st Prize, Enviam Young Talent Competition 2007, Germany

"Best Young Talent" and "Pablo de Sarasate Award" at the IBLA Grand Prize 2008 in Italy

1st Prize, 5th International Eugene Ysaye Violin Competition 2008, Austria