

When Roman Patkoló won the Johann Matthias Sperger competition in the year 2000, nobody would have predicted that only seven years later this unusual double bassist would join me in premiering Sir André Previn's Double Concerto for Violin, Double Bass and Orchestra under the direction of the composer. Roman Patkoló's talent had impressed Sir André Previn so much that he tailored his work and wrote a virtuoso part exclusively for him, as the public has never heard before. Previn's work highlights the impressive, soloistic potential of the double bass. Therefore launching the momentum for more double bass compositions and raising a stronger interest with the audience.

The former Sperger competition winner Roman Patkoló, at only 25 years old, is already a double bassist with a world-wide reputation. That was not given to him. He went through the hard path of competitions, about which Hector Berlioz said, are for horses, not for humans. A true statement, which only partially describes the reality. Because they can also be very useful for musicians: not only for personal esteem and standing, but also as a starting point for great potential development.

I am proud, once again, to be associated with the Johann Matthias Sperger competition ideal. To the double bassists I wish much joy in their music making and above all a more substantial presence in our concert halls!

Anne-Sophie Mutter
(Übersetzung: Vincent Osborn)