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PRESS RELEASE

THE FIRST RELEASE FROM CATALPA CLASSICS FEATURES GOLD MEDALIST JUDITH INGOLFSSON

DISC COMMEMORATES THE CARNEGIE HALL DEBUTE BY THE 1998 WINNER OF THE INTERNATIONAL VIOLIN COMPETITION OF INDIANAPOLIS

Violinist Judith Ingolfsson is the featured artist on the first release from the new independent recording label Catalpa Classics. Ingolfsson, winner of the 1998 International Violin Competition of Indianapolis, made her Carnegie Hall debut in April 2000 with a program that included all the music on the new disc, which will be in stores in September. Reviewing the concert in the New York Times, Allan Kozinn wrote, "she gave a technically assured and interpretively astute recital....Ms. Ingolfsson produced a tone that is firmly centered, gracefully rounded, and tinted to match the score at hand."

The Strad, in a review in the May/June issue by Edith Eisler, was even more enthusiastic, describing Judith Ingolfsson's Carnegie Hall performance as "an extraordinarily impressive recital." Eisler continued, "She is a truly outstanding player. Her effortless virtuosity is a tool in the service of the music; her tone is ravishingly beautiful, pure, and adaptable, her sense of style is unerring, her expressiveness is simple, direct, and strongly felt."

The Ingolfsson CD includes Ernest Bloch's *Poème Mystique*; Autumn Music by Ned Rorem, which was commissioned by the Indianapolis competition; Bach's Unaccompanied Sonata No. 3; and Henryk Wieniawski's *Fantaisie brillante* on themes from Gounod's *Faust*.

Judith Ingolfsson was named 1999 Debut Artist of the Year by National Public Radio's Performance Today program. The award citation said, "Ms. Ingolfsson's personality and temperament are reminiscent of a pre-World War II violinist. She plays with a remarkable intelligence, musicality, and sense of insight." Catalpa president Nancy Baun commented, "We are thrilled to have an artist of Judith's stature on the first Catalpa Classics release."

This fall Ingolfsson is to return to Carnegie Hall as part of a tour with the Iceland Symphony Orchestra on October 9. Her tour will also include performances at the Kennedy Center in Washington on October 11, and at the Orange County Performing Arts Center in Southern California on October 15.

"Catalpa Classics was established as an alternative to traditional record labels," explained label president Nancy Baun. "It's a shared undertaking whose artists participate in the management, marketing, and artistic decisions of the label." Catalpa was founded by the Eaken Piano Trio, ensemble-in-residence at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Nancy Baun, who is also the label's artistic director, was formerly that ensemble's cellist.



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Future Catalpa releases will include trios by Felix Mendelssohn and Anton Arensky performed by the Eaken Piano Trio. Catalpa Classics recordings are distributed by the Empire Music Group in New York.



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PRESS RELEASE

The New York Times, April, 2000

"JUDITH INGOLFSSON GAVE A TECHNICALLY ASSURED AND INTERPRETIVELY ASTUTE RECITAL AT CARNEGIE HALL...AND MADE HER PERFORMANCE A JOURNEY TO THE SOULFUL CORE....SHE GAVE A SIZZLING ACCOUNT, PRODUCING BOTH FIREWORKS AND A SINGING TONE."

Icelandic violinist Judith Ingolfsson is the 1998 gold medal winner of the quadrennial International Violin Competition of Indianapolis, the violin world's most prestigious prize. Her artistry was recently heralded as "effortless; her tone ravishingly beautiful, pure and adaptable; her sense of style unerring; and her expressiveness simple, direct and strongly felt (Strings)."

Ms. Ingolfsson's Carnegie Hall debut recital in April 2000 affirmed her ascendancy as a rising star and gave notice of a virtuoso of extraordinary technical command, sensitivity, and compelling presence. In addition to her triumph in Indianapolis, that same year she received the Nathan Wedeen Management Award sponsored by Concert Artists Guild. She was also third prize laureate and audience favorite at the 1997 Paganini Violin Competition.

Since making her solo orchestral debut in Germany at the age of eight, Ms. Ingolfsson has appeared with numerous orchestras internationally. Recent season highlights include the Philadelphia Orchestra led by Wolfgang Sawallisch, the St. Louis Symphony conducted by Jesus Lopez-Cobos, the Indianapolis Symphony, and the San Diego Symphony with Gerard Schwarz. She has also performed with the Kansas City Symphony, Pacific Symphony, Grand Rapids Symphony, Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra, and the Orchestra of Teatro Carlo Felice in Italy. In October 2000, Ms. Ingolfsson will embark on a 15-city North American tour with the Iceland Symphony that will include the Kennedy Center and a return visit to Carnegie Hall.

As a recitalist, Ms. Ingolfsson is admired for her lyricism, profound musical conviction, and elegance of interpretation. She has performed throughout the United States, including recent engagements in New York City, Philadelphia, Cleveland, and abroad in Austria, Spain, Switzerland, Hong Kong and Iceland. Her festival appearances include the Spoleto Festival, the Cape and Islands Chamber Music Festival, the Menuhin Festival in Switzerland, and the Orlando Festival in the Netherlands.

Ms. Ingolfsson's critically acclaimed performances have been broadcast on PBS and WQXR of New York City, CBS Sunday Morning, and NHK of Japan. In 1999, National Public Radio's Performance Today named her Debut Artist of the Year praising her "remarkable intelligence, musicality, and sense of insight." Her debut recital CD will be released later this year on the Catalpa Classics label.



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PRESS RELEASE

A native of Reykjavik, Ms. Ingolfsson studied with Jascha Brodsky at the Curtis Institute, and David Cerone and Donald Weilerstein at the Cleveland Institute. She plays the 1683 Stradivarius formerly owned by Josef Gingold and currently on loan from the International Violin Competition of Indianapolis.



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PRESS RELEASE

THE NEW YORK TIMES Thursday, April 6, 2000

A WINNER'S CHALLENGES, ON A STRADIVARIUS

By Allan Kozin

Judith Ingolfsson won the gold medal at the International Violin Competition of Indianapolis in 1998. Since then she has done a good deal of performing, and on Saturday evening she gave a technically assured and interpretively astute recital at Carnegie Hall, with Ronald Sat as her able accompanist.

The concert was part of her prize, which also included \$30,000, a recording and use of the 1683 Stradivarius violin that belonged to Josef Gingold. Ms. Ingolfsson produced a tone that is firmly centered, gracefully rounded and tinted to match the score at hand.

She began with Ned Rorem's "Autumn Music", a challenge-filled work composed as a test piece for the Indianapolis Competition. Mr. Rorem is not a dazzler by nature, so although the work never entirely lets up on the technical demands it also tests the connections between performers' ears and hearts. There is, within the bravura writing, a melancholy strain that Ms. Ingolfsson and Mr. Sat brought out affectingly.

Ms. Ingolfsson saved her warmest tone for Bloch's Sonata No.2 ("Po?me Mystique"). She moved easily between the work's ruminative and ecstatic passages and made her performance a journey to the soulful core of the work. She retained that lush, Romantic tone in her performance of Brahms's Scherzo from the "F.A.E." Sonata, which closed the first half of the program.

In a taut account of Bach's unaccompanied Sonata No.3 (BWV 1005) just after intermission, Ms. Ingolfsson did a fine job of keeping the voices and relationships in the fugue clear and distinct, and she gave a sizzling account of the closing Allegro assai. She ended the concert with Wieniawski's "Fantaisie Brillante," a diffuse showpiece that invites a violinist to produce both fireworks and a singing tone, areas in which Ms. Ingolfsson had by then shown her considerable strengths.



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PRESS RELEASE

STRINGS Magazine
May/June 2000

JUDITH INGOLFSSON CARNEGIE HALL RECITAL DEBUT

By Edith Eisler

As winner of the 1998 International Violin Competition of Indianapolis, Judith Ingolfsson made her Carnegie Hall debut in an extraordinarily impressive recital. Born in Iceland, she studied with Jascha Brodsky, David Cerone and Donald Weilerstein, has won several prizes and appeared widely with Orchestra, in recital and at festivals.

She is a truly outstanding player. Her effortless virtuosity is a tool in the service of the music; her tone is ravishingly beautiful, pure and adaptable, her sense of style is unerring, her expressiveness simple, direct and strongly felt.

Ned Rorem's Autumn Music, commissioned by the Competition, taxes the violin's and the violinist's resources to the utmost.

Bloch's Poème Mystique was noble, atmospheric, austere but warm. Brahms' Sonatensatz was so urgently dramatic that some expressive details were lost. In Wieniawski's Faust Fantaisie, the hair-raising pyrotechnics were tossed off with stunning ease, style and flair. Most striking, however, was Bach's C- major Solo Sonata: grand and noble in concept and execution, with every chordal and contrapuntal voice standing out, it was played with flawless sound and intonation, perfectly controlled pacing, phrasing and dynamics. The excellent pianist was Ronald Sat.



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PRESS RELEASE

THE STRAD
April, 2000

By Heather Kurzbauer

Judith Ingolfsson has been in love with the violin for most of her 26 years. She remembers early encounters with classical music as a two-year-old concertgoer: Bach's Brandenburg Concertos were much more meaningful to her than kiddie toys. When her godfather, a member of the Zurich Tonhalle Orchestra, showed up with an 1/8th-size violin, Ingolfsson's love for the instrument was requited. Lessons with the Iceland Symphony's concertmaster preceded instruction at the country's much-feted children's music school. She subsequently trained at the Curtis Institute and with David Cerone at the Institute of Music in Cleveland, Ohio, the city where she is still based.

1998 was a golden year for Ingolfsson: she won a special management award at the Concert Artists Guild Competition in New York and the Gold Medal at the International Violin Competition of Indianapolis. Solo appearances with several major US orchestras launched a career that will eventually expand to include her first love, chamber music: 'For all musicians the best kind of music-making because of its variety and intense degree of communication.'

Her list of 'desert island' concertos spans the centuries to include Mozart's Concerto No.5, the Brahms and the Barber. 'Mozart because it encourages spontaneity as it changes each time one plays it, Brahms because of its endless amount of challenging material and Barber because it is so satisfying to perform.'

Keep abreast of the travels of a spirited, individualistic artist by clicking on her website: www.judithingolfsson.com.

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PRESS RELEASE

Concert Artists Guild , April 2000

Biography: Judith Ingolfsson

JUDITH INGOLFSSON, violin

**NATHAN WEDEEN AWARD, 1998 CONCERT ARTISTS GUILD COMPETITION
FIRST PRIZE, 1998 INTERNATIONAL VIOLIN COMPETITION OF INDIANAPOLIS
DEBUT ARTIST OF THE YEAR, 1999 NPR PERFORMANCE TODAY AWARD**

Icelandic violinist Judith Ingolfsson is the recipient of numerous prestigious competition prizes. In 1999, she was named "Debut Artist of the Year" by National Public Radio's Performance Today. Ms. Ingolfsson won First Prize at the 1998 International Violin Competition of Indianapolis, where she received the first 24-karat Joseph Gingold gold medal, and a special prize for the best performance of a Bach work. Other recent prizes include the Nathan Wedeen Management Award at the 1998 Concert Artists Guild Competition, Third Prize and the Audience Award at the 1997 Paganini International Violin Competition, and First Prize at the 1997 D'Angelo International Young Artist Competition.

Since making her solo debut with the Waiblinger Chamber Orchestra in Germany at the age of eight, Ms. Ingolfsson has been featured as soloist with numerous orchestras, including the Philadelphia Orchestra, Kansas City Symphony, Pacific Symphony, New Haven Symphony, Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra, Iceland Symphony, and the Orchestra of Teatro Carlo Felice in Italy. Highlights of her 1999-2000 season include appearances with the St. Louis Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony, San Diego Symphony, Grand Rapids Symphony, New York Pops at Carnegie Hall, and the release of her debut CD on the Catalpa Classics label. Conductors with whom she has recently collaborated with include Wolfgang Sawallisch, Jesus Lopez-Cobos, Gerard Schwarz, David Lockington, Gilbert Varga, Patrick Summers and Jorge Mester.

In a New York Times review of her recent Carnegie Hall recital debut, Allan Kozinn had much praise for Ms. Ingolfsson's "technically assured and interpretively astute" playing, her "lush, Romantic tone," and "sizzling" performance of Bach.

Ms. Ingolfsson has also presented recitals at venues such as the Cleveland Museum of Art, Steinway Hall and the Kosciuszko Foundation Town House in New York City, Astral Emerging Artists Recital Series in Philadelphia, Arts Renaissance Tremont in Cleveland, Musical Excursion Series in New Orleans, Hong Kong Chamber Music Society, and the Jeunesses Musicales in Switzerland, Spain and Austria. Her acclaimed performances have been broadcast worldwide on PBS, WQXR of New York, CBS Sunday Morning and NHK of Japan. Festival appearances include the



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Spoletto Festival (USA), the Cape and Islands Chamber Music Festival, Summer Music in Iowa, the Menuhin Festival in Switzerland, and the Orlando Festival in the Netherlands.

Ms. Ingolfsson will return to Carnegie Hall in October 2000, performing the Katchaturian and Sibelius Concerti on tour with the Iceland Symphony, conducted by Rico Saccani. The tour will commence in Reykjavik on October 2, and will include 15 performances in the U.S. and Canada, including the Kennedy Center, UMS-Ann Arbor, Orange County Performing Arts Center(CA) and other venues.

Judith Ingolfsson is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music and the Cleveland Institute of Music. She has studied with Jascha Brodsky, David Cerone and Donald Weilerstein. She performs on the 1683 Stradivarius violin formerly owned by Josef Gingold, on loan from the International Violin Competition of Indianapolis.

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