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Berenberg Bank Foundation of 1990: Director Luise Kautz receives Berenberg Culture Prize 2016

Hamburg. The Berenberg Culture Prize was awarded last evening for the 26th time. The 10,000 euro award went to Hamburg School of Music and Theatre graduate Luise Kautz.

This year's winner, **Luise Kautz**, was born in Bonn in 1987. In November 2015 she completed her bachelor's degree in Musical Theatre Direction at the Hamburg School of Music and Theatre (HfMT). Before that she had taken a bachelor's degree in Theatre and Media at the University of Bayreuth, and in 2011 a master's in Theatre Science at the Free University in Berlin. Luise Kautz has already directed some productions, like "The Abduction from the Seraglio" and "The Impresario" (2015 in the Laiszhalle in Hamburg). Most recently she directed "Pelléas et Mélisande" by Claude Debussy at the Hamburg Theaterquartier as the final part of her studies. "Luise Kautz has extraordinary directorial talent, and her exciting stagings captivate audiences," said Board of Trustees member Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Hermann Rauhe, who awarded the Berenberg Culture Prize together with Dr. Hans-Walter Peters, spokesman of the Berenberg managing partners.

Each year the Berenberg Bank Foundation of 1990 awards the Berenberg Culture Prize, one of the most generously endowed young talent awards in North Germany. In addition, the Foundation promotes art education by providing scholarships and project funding. "Hamburg as a cultural metropolis is very important to Berenberg, and we feel a special responsibility to help young artists, and thereby further anchor Hamburg's reputation as a city of culture," says Peters. Over 900,000 euros have thus far gone to benefit new cultural talent.

Peters expressed his special thanks to Katharina Trebitsch (film producer) and Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Hermann Rauhe (Honorary President of the School of Music and Theatre, HfMT), who have supported the Foundation's work since the beginning, for several years now together with the two other members of the Board of Trustees Prof. Elmar Lampson (President of the HfMT) and Prof. Martin Köttering (President of the University of Fine Arts of Hamburg, HFBK).

Scholarships went to 26 year old cellist **Olena Guliei** and guitar duo **Reichelt & Nissen** (Luisa Marie Reichelt, 22, and Johann Jacob Nissen, 24). Olena Guliei has been at the Hamburg School of Music and Theatre since 2012, doing her master's in 2014 and currently studying toward her concert examination. Luisa Marie Reichelt and Johann Jacob Nissen are two young Hamburg guitarists. Both are studying classical guitar at the Hamburg School of Music and Theatre.

Starting in 2016 the Berenberg Bank Foundation of 1990 will donate the **Berenberg Film Prize of the HFBK** worth 5000 euros. The prize supports young film graduates from the University of Fine Arts of Hamburg (HFBK). The awards ceremony will take place on 28 April 2016.

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About Berenberg

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