

KEY NOTE



Dear Academy Family and Friends,

The new year has begun with more Academy students winning local and national competitions. We also enjoyed several richly rewarding enrichment programs in January, including a spectacular master class by violinist Pamela Frank; a most helpful and practical talk on what concert promoters are

looking for, given by Fiona Queen, MIC Director of Performance Activities; an eye-opening session on how we can use our knowledge of how the brain works to improve our learning and practice habits, presented by University of Texas professor Robert Duke; and a fascinating interdisciplinary program on how we can learn style from music and art, by ITA art therapist Leslee Goldman. Any musical organization in the world would be proud to offer such rich and stimulating programs to its students!

We have been working on new guidelines for next year's program, and I would like to share some new policies with you:

- New students applying for the Senior Academy program must be a minimum age of 14 on the day of the first class
- We will also increase the number of what we call Performance Forums next year from three to four. These are opportunities, during the regular Saturday schedule, for students to perform on stage at Bennett Gordon Hall for their peers, relatives, and friends. There is an old saying "The stage is the best teacher" and we would like to offer each of our students the opportunity to perform often during the Academy year.
- We will increase the number of student chamber music recitals.

This May, the Academy will graduate its largest class to date - one third of the Senior Academy! We will all need to make a concentrated and vigorous effort to sustain our enrollment in 2010-2011. Please join me in publicizing this truly extraordinary program for young musicians. I can think of no better opportunity to prepare and nurture "the next generation of classical talent" than the Academy experience.

Warmly,



Jim Setapen
Director of the Academy

AN INTERVIEW WITH JIM SETAPEN AND ACADEMY FACULTY MARKO DREHER



JS: Can you tell me about the program you run in the summer? How did it come to be?

MD: I founded the Okemo Young Artists program in 2006. This month-long music festival offers pre-college students at a high level the opportunity to work intensely on their instrument and perform. This program was modeled on the Weathersfield Music Festival that Roland and Almita Vamos ran from 1992-2002. The Weathersfield Music Festival was an amazing experience for me both musically and socially. I wanted to give my students the same great opportunity that I had growing up.

Watching the enjoyment students get from playing chamber music with friends and performing in the mountains of Vermont is something that truly makes me happy.



JS: What does the Academy mean to you?

MD: The academy means everything to me. It's what I look forward to the most every week. First of all, to get to teach with the level of this faculty is so inspiring. This faculty is world class and rivals any conservatory in the world. Also, getting to work with such amazingly talented students is so rewarding. I love seeing all the students hard work pay off at competitions and in their performances. Getting to watch, and hopefully help them grow musically, makes my job the greatest job in the world.

What one practice tip would you say most students would benefit from?

MD: I don't think students ever practice slowly and carefully enough. I also think that metronome speeds are the key to really clean playing.

What is a composer or piece you particularly love (not necessarily for violin or viola!) and why?

MD: I love all music, but chamber music is my passion. To play, to coach, and to listen to for fun. I especially love the quartet repertoire. I can't pick just one! Two recordings that come to mind are the Cleveland Quartet's recording of the Brahms Quartet No. 2 in A minor and the Pacifica Quartet's recording of the Mendelsshon quartets.

Do you have any upcoming projects or performances upcoming?

I will be giving a master class at Cleveland Institute of Music later this semester and also offering a master class at Dixon Strings on the north side of Chicago. In December I was a guest artist at a faculty concert at Houston Baptists University.

For more on the Okemo Young Artists' Program visit:
www.okemoyoungartists.org.

PROGRAM DATES:
June 16-July 17
Okemo Mountain Resort • Ludlow, VT

SIGNATURE STUDENTS

Awards, Activities, and Competitions

MIDWEST YOUNG ARTISTS (MYA) WALGREENS CONCERTO COMPETITION JANUARY 2-3, 2010

Midwest Young Artists celebrated the fourteenth year of its annual Walgreens National Concerto Competition, held at the MYA Center in Fort Sheridan. Prizes included an opportunity to perform with the MYA Symphony Orchestra and on the prestigious *From the Top* radio program.

OPEN DIVISION SENIOR LEVEL OVERALL WINNER, OVERALL OPEN DIVISION WINNER, AND SENIOR LEVEL STRING CATEGORY WINNER

Allan Steele, cello, student of Hans Jørgen Jensen



OPEN DIVISION - SENIOR LEVEL, STRINGS: HONORABLE MENTION

Ben Fried, cello, student of Hans Jørgen Jensen

Leah Latorraca, violin, student of Desirée Ruhstrat

OPEN DIVISION - JUNIOR LEVEL OVERALL WINNER AND JUNIOR LEVEL STRING CATEGORY WINNER

Gallia Kastner, violin, student of Roland and Almita Vamos



OPEN DIVISION - JUNIOR LEVEL, STRINGS: HONORABLE MENTION

Tabitha Oh, violin, student of Desiree Ruhstrat

Daniel Kaler, cello, student of Hans Jørgen Jensen

OPEN DIVISION - JUNIOR LEVEL, PIANO: HONORABLE MENTION

Yoan Ganev, student of Marta Aznavoorian

DEPAUL CONCERTO FESTIVAL FOR YOUNG PERFORMERS JANUARY 17, 2010

Each year, traditional and Suzuki students in piano, violin, cello and flute have the opportunity to audition for the Annual Concerto Festival held during Winter Quarter. Winners performed a movement of a concerto with the Oistrach Symphony Orchestra on January 30.

OPEN DIVISION WINNERS

PIANO

Yoan Ganev, student of Marta Aznavoorian

Performed *Beethoven: Concerto No. 1 in C Major, Op.15 - Mvt. 1*



VIOLIN

Shannon Kollasch, student of Desiree Ruhstrat

Performed *Haydn: Concerto in G Major, Hob.VIIa: 4 - Mvt. 1*



Laura Park, violin, student of Marko Dreher and Almita Vamos

Performed *Mozart: Concerto in G Major, K.216 - Mvt. 1*



OPEN DIVISION

HONORABLE MENTION WITH DISTINCTION

VIOLIN

Ade Williams, student of Almita Vamos and Marko Dreher

Performed *Mozart: Concerto in G Major, K.216 - Mvt. 1*



CELLO

Garrett Chou, student of David Cunliffe

Performed *Saint-Saens: Concerto No.1 in A Minor, Op.33*



Josiah Yoo, student of Gilda Barston

Performed *Haydn: Concerto in C Major, Hob. VIIb:1 - Mvt. 1*



SIGNATURE STUDENTS

Recent Competitions and Performances

LENNOX INTERNATIONAL YOUNG ARTISTS COMPETITION JANUARY 9, 2010

Open to serious pianists or string students ages 13-19, the Lennox International Young Artists Competition recognizes talented young musicians. The winner receives a cash award and performs with the Richardson Symphony Orchestra. **Ryan Murphy**, violin student of Almita and Roland Vamos and Marko Dreher and Leah Ferguson were accepted into the competition. Special congratulations to **Leah Ferguson**, viola student of Roland Vamos, who won third place.



MTNA SENIOR STRINGS COMPETITION JANUARY, 2010

The MTNA Student Competitions consists of three levels: State Competition, Division Competition, and National Finals.



This March, **Leah Ferguson** will travel to Albuquerque, New Mexico to compete as a National Finalist in the MTNA Senior Strings Competition. Leah earned this opportunity after winning the East Central Division of the MTNA Senior Strings Competition. The Senior Strings Competition will take place on **Sunday, March 21**, during the MTNA National Conference. The national winner of this competition receives a cash prize and will perform in a Winners Concert during the conference. **Hansuh Rhee**, violin student of Marko Dreher, won her Division Competition and is an alternate in the National Finals.

STULBERG INTERNATIONAL STRING COMPETITION SEMI-FINALISTS RESULTS JANUARY 12, 2010

The mission of the Stulberg Competition is to promote excellence in string instrument performance by gifted young artists under the age of twenty. This year, five of the twelve semi-finalists are current Academy students or alumni. Semi-finalists will compete in a live, open competition on Saturday, February 27, in Kalamazoo, before a panel of judges (The Juilliard String Quartet) and an audience.

STULBERG SEMI-FINALISTS

Leah Ferguson, viola
Matt Lipman, viola
Mindy Park, cello (alum)
Allan Steele, cello
Emma Steele, violin (alum)



2010 ALTERNATES

3rd Alternate - Ryan Murphy, violin

STEINWAY YOUNG ARTISTS COMPETITION JANUARY 15-17, 2010

The 19th Annual Steinway Young Artist Competition, sponsored by Steinway of Chicago, took place this January. Comprised of two divisions-solo piano and concert, the competition offers students valuable performance and educational opportunities as well as scholarship awards to the top eight winners.



SENIOR PIANO SOLO DIVISION WINNERS

FIRST PLACE:
Andrew Tung, student of Alan Chow

SECOND PLACE:
Paul Juhn, student of Alan Chow



ILLINOIS HONORS ALL-STATE ORCHESTRA

Sonia Mantell, cello student of Hans Jørgen Jensen, won principal chair in the Honors All-State Orchestra which performed in Peoria, IL at the end of January.



FREMD'S 2010 CONCERTO ARIA COMPETITION

Laura Park, violin student of Almita Vamos and Marko Dreher will perform the Brahms Violin Concerto in D Major with the Fremd High School's Symphony Orchestra on April 9, 2010 after winning the school's 2010 Concerto Aria Competition. Laura was also invited by Maestro Alan Heatherington to perform as part of the violin I section with the Ars Viva Symphony, February 28.



ARTHUR D. MONTZKA YOUNG ARTISTS COMPETITION

Ryan Murphy, violin student of Almita and Roland Vamos and Marko Dreher, won the Arthur D. Montzka Young Artists Competition and will be soloing with the Kishwaukee Symphony Orchestra February 28, 2010.



SIGNATURE STUDENTS

Recent Competitions and Performances

JULES M. LASER CHAMBER MUSIC COMPETITION

JANUARY 24, 2010

Each year the Society of American Musicians (SAM) and the Music in the Loft present the Jules M. Laser Chamber Music Competition. Dedicated to advancing the professional careers of young chamber musicians, the winner receives a cash prize, live broadcast on WFMT 98.7 FM, and performances at the 2010 SAM Winner's Concert and Music in the Loft.

FIRST PLACE: EMERALD STRING QUARTET

Clayton Penrose-Whitmore and Kenneth Jones-Madrid, violins
Ethan Hoppe, viola, and Alex Hersh, cello
Coached by Marko Dreher and Roland Vamos



As the first place winner, the Emerald String Quartet will perform a 30-minute program at Music in the Loft March 5 and 7. Sharing the spotlight at those concerts will be Junior Academy pianist, **Emma Michalak**, student of Soo Lee.

SECOND PLACE: QUARTET DANAE

Sophia Cho and Zach Spontak, violins
Leah Ferguson, viola, and Ben Fried, cello
Coached by Roland Vamos



CONSORTIUM OF COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOLS AT THE CHICAGO CULTURAL CENTER

JANUARY 24, 2010

Special thanks to **Quartet Danae** for performing at the Consortium of Community Music Schools at the Chicago Cultural Center. Their performance of Prokofiev's String Quartet No. 2 in F Major, Op. 92 will be recorded in the future for WFMT.

BLOUNT-SLAWSON YOUNG ARTISTS COMPETITION

JANUARY 30-31, 2010

The Blount-Slawson Young Artists Competition is open to US string, wind, and brass players as well as percussionists and pianists in seventh through twelfth grades. The competition took place at Huntingdon College in Montgomery, Alabama. In addition to cash prizes, the first place winner will make an appearance on the nationally broadcasted *From The Top* radio show hosted by Christopher O'Riley. Congratulations to **Matthew Lipman**, viola student of Roland Vamos, who won first place and to **Vincent Meklis**, violin student of Almita and Roland Vamos, who placed third.



2010 MIC YOUNG ARTIST CONCERTO COMPETITION

FEBRUARY 7, 2010

MIC is pleased to announce a new competition in collaboration with the Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra, the Lake Forest Symphony, and Maestro Alan Heatherington. The first round of competition took place January 24, 2010.

CONCERTO COMPETITION FINALISTS INCLUDED ACADEMY STUDENTS

Daniel Kaler, cello student of Hans Jørgen Jensen
Gallia Kastner, violin student of Almita
and Roland Vamos

Madi Vest, violin student of Shmuel Ashkenasi
Matthew Lipman, viola student of Roland Vamos

CONCERTO COMPETITION WINNER

Matthew Lipman



Matthew will be featured in a performance with the Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra with Maestro Alan Heatherington on **Sunday, May 2, 2010 at 4:30 pm** at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie. Matt performed the Walton Viola Concerto in the final round of competition.

SOCIETY OF AMERICAN MUSICIANS COMPETITION: FEBRUARY 14, 2010

The following Academy students were winners in this year's SAM competition.

JUNIOR DIVISION

Honorable Mention: **Tabby Rhee**, student of Hye-Sun Lee

VIOLIN INTERMEDIATE DIVISION

First Place: **Gallia Kastner**

Honorable Mention: **Giancarlo Latta**, student of Almita Vamos

VIOLIN SENIOR DIVISION

Second Place: **Laura Park**, student of Almita Vamos and Marko Dreher

Honorable Mention: **Ethan Hoppe**, student of Almita Vamos and Marko Dreher



ACADEMY CALENDAR

ACADEMY AUDITIONS: NEW STUDENTS

Help us spread the word about Academy auditions!

TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2010

5:00-7:30 pm

Winnetka Campus, Room 108

300 Green Bay Road

Winnetka, IL

SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2010

12:00 - 5:30 pm

Evanston East Campus, Room 9

Evanston, IL

Contact Sue Polutnik for more information or to schedule an audition.

847.448.8311 • spolutnik@musicinst.org

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

ENRICHMENT GUEST: RITA SLOAN, PIANO

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20 AT 7:30 PM

ACADEMY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

AND ACADEMY STRINGS CONCERT

Bennett Gordon Hall, Ravinia

201 St Johns Street

Highland Park, IL

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

ENRICHMENT GUEST: ORION QUARTET

SATURDAY, MARCH 6

JOEL SMIRNOFF, VIOLIN,

CHAMBER MUSIC, MUSIC ADMINISTRATION

SATURDAY, MARCH 6, AT 10:00 AM

ACADEMY MASTER CLASS WITH

FOUR SCORE FESTIVAL COMPOSERS

Nichols Concert Hall

1490 Chicago Avenue

Evanston, IL

SATURDAY, MARCH 13

ENRICHMENT GUEST: PACIFICA QUARTET

SATURDAY, MARCH 27

ENRICHMENT GUEST: IDA KAVAFIAN, VIOLIN, VIOLA

SATURDAY, APRIL 3 - NO CLASS

SPRING BREAK

SATURDAY, APRIL 10 (TIME TBD)

NEW ACADEMY STUDENT ORIENTATION

Ravinia Festival Campus

Highland Park, IL

SUNDAY, APRIL 10 AT 7:30 PM

ACADEMY CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT

Nichols Concert Hall

1490 Chicago Avenue

Evanston, IL

SATURDAY, APRIL 17

ENRICHMENT GUEST: JANINA FIALKOWSKA, PIANO

FRIDAY, MAY 14 (TIME TBD)

DRESS REHEARSAL: ACADEMY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

AND ACADEMY STRINGS

Evanston East Campus, Room 9

1490 Chicago Avenue

Evanston, IL

SATURDAY, MAY 15 AT 7:30 PM

ACADEMY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

AND ACADEMY STRINGS CONCERT

Bennett Gordon Hall, Ravinia

201 St Johns Street

Highland Park, IL

SATURDAY, MAY 22

FINAL DAY OF INSTRUCTION AT ACADEMY

Final Day of Instruction at Academy

Pizza Party and goodbye to seniors

ACADEMY JURIES: CURRENT STUDENTS

SATURDAY, MAY 29, 2010

8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Highland Park Campus

1991 Sheridan Road

Highland Park, IL