2010 Solo Competition

Sunday, October 24, 2010

THE BOSTON CONSERVATORY
8 The Fenway, Boston, MA
2010 MA ASTA SOLO COMPETITION

Greetings,

I would like to extend my personal welcome to the 2010 MA ASTA Solo Competition at The Boston Conservatory. We are proud of the participants in this event for they bring honor to themselves, teachers, parents and musical supporters. Winners of this event will be submitted to the ASTA 2011 National Solo Competition for further honors.

Massachusetts American String Teachers Association is a state voice and advocate for string education in public schools, colleges/universities and in the private studio arena. This event is one of the many ways in which our voice speaks out.

In addition to this, MA ASTA provides sessions at the MMEA All-State Conferences, selects musicians for the National High School Honors Orchestra, hosts monthly Studio Teacher Forums, and is implementing the inaugural year of the ASTA CAP (Certificate of Advancement Program). We also recognize the outstanding achievement of our string educators through the Orchestra Director and Private Studio Teacher of the Year Awards.

This state chapter is closely connected to the national ASTA. Besides the ASTA Solo Competitions, members can access a multitude of services through the national office and website, including:

- American String Teacher Journal
- Member Discounts with String Industry Council Members
- Instrument Insurance
- Comprehensive Website at www.astaweb.com
- Online Discussion Groups
- Access to String Employment Opportunities
- National High School Honors Orchestra
- State Chapter Membership
- Conferences
- Professional Development Documentation Program
- Institutional Members
- String Industry Council
- Advocacy and Outreach

As a string educator and performer, one should be a part of this voice. Membership information can be obtained at www.astaweb.com.

I hope you enjoy this competition. Your support to these young artists is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Margot B. Reavey
President, Massachusetts ASTA
American String Teachers Association (ASTA) &
Massachusetts ASTA
presents

2010 Solo Competition

Sunday, October 24th, 2010
The Boston Conservatory

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APPLICATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 1
Welcome to the Solo Competition!

Congratulations to all the string players participating today. I’m excited to finally hear all of the great music that has been prepared and polished. Please thank your family, teachers and friends for all the support you have received that has been helpful to you on your musical journey thus far. You ought to be proud of your own hard work and accomplishments. Best of luck to you all and I hope you find this experience valuable.

This competition has been months in the making, and couldn’t have happened without the strong support of our wonderful sponsors. Please take notice of their advertisements and strongly consider thanking them for their support and patronize their businesses. All the cash & merchandise awards were provided through their generous sponsorship, and the competition itself could not survive without their donations.

For announcement of winners of the competition, as well as further information on our state chapter of ASTA, please visit the MA ASTA website at:

www.maasta.org

If the reader may permit, I would like to also personally mention and thank a few people who have been extremely helpful as I have made my first attempt at organizing such a competition. First of all, my wife Annelise and daughter Zalia, my mentor Andrew Mark, the members of the MA ASTA Board including Margot Reavey, Joan Ellersick, Ken Culver. Also, Karl Paulnack and The Boston Conservatory, and lastly the student volunteers who are making today a more enjoyable experience for everyone.

Have fun!

Scott Thomas Lesser

Scott Thomas Lesser
Competition Chair, Massachusetts ASTA
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Participant Biographies

**Miriam Barfield** graduated from Florida State University, where she studied with Pamela Ryan. She currently studies viola at The Boston Conservatory with Patricia McCarty.

**Heidi Bauer** grew up in the mountains of Colorado with her five siblings, all musicians. She was home-schooled until her junior year of high school when she moved the MA to attend Walnut Hill School for the Arts as a cellist. Heidi is an avid chamber musician. At age 17, she also enjoys cooking and making people laugh.

**Mari Black** Over the past few years, violinist Mari Black’s energetic playing has led her to many memorable performances throughout the country. Locally, she has been featured as a concert soloist with the New England String Ensemble, the Boston Virtuosi, the Concord Symphony, and the Waltham Philharmonic, and appeared in live performance and media broadcasts with artists such as Mark O’Connor and Willie Ruff. Mari has received numerous national awards, including the ASTA Alternative Styles and the MTNA National Competition.

**Alexia Delgiudice** began has been playing viola since the age of 10 and has been involved in Chamber music since the age of 12. Now at age 16, she is one of the principal violists for the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra. Ms. DelGiudice won the New York Viola Society award (2010) and the Young Promise Awards International competition (2009). Alexia’s teachers have been Katherine Almquist for 6 years and her current teachers are Patricia McCarty and Mai Motobuchi.

**Matthew Flynn** is currently pursuing his Bachelors of Music at Boston University under Professor Marc Johnson. This past year he spent time studying cello under Amanda Truelove at London’s Royal College of Music. He has also studied with Maryan Pietropaolo, Richard Hagar, and Mihail Jojatu. He has been a repeat soloist with the Vivialdi Festival Orchestra, and was recently a winner in the Performing Through Art competition at London’s National Gallery.

**Bryan Hayslett** Native of Dallas, Texas, Bryan Hayslett studies cello with Terry King at The Hartt School and anticipates the completion of his Bachelor of Music degree in May. Mr. Hayslett recently performed in Carnegie Hall as a first-prize winner of the Alexander & Buono International String Competition and earned the principal cello position of the Hartt Symphony Orchestra this semester. Beyond cello, Mr. Hayslett enjoys woodworking, bicycling, and caring for his small collection of bonsai trees.

**Helen Hess** originally from White Plains, NY, started playing violin when she was 7 and viola at 10. She made the permanent switch to viola upon enter college. Ms. Hess is currently a senior at The Boston Conservatory where she is studying with Patricia McCarty and earning her Bachelor of Music degree in Viola Performance.

**Chia Li Ho** is native of Taiwan. She began her musical education in her home country at the age of five, studying violin and piano. She is now pursuing a Master of Music degree in violin at The Boston Conservatory under Rictor Noren.
Tom Hoffman has been studying violin at The Boston Conservatory with Sharan Leventhal since 2006.

Eric Hollander is currently studying viola with Patricia McCarty as a freshman at The Boston Conservatory. Previously, Eric has studied with Mrs. Marry Hoffman, Mrs. Bonnie Scheer, Mr. Karl Davies of the Lyric Opera orchestra Chicago, and Mr. Honggang Li of the Shanghai String Quartet. Over the past few years Eric has attended numerous music festivals including The Illinois Chamber Music Festival, the Illinois Music Educators Association All-State Festival, and Bowdoin International Music Festival.

Madison Johnson is a native of Fort Collins, CO. She began studying viola at the age of twelve, a time when her life was dominated by volleyball and sleepovers. She made the difficult decision to drop volleyball in order to study viola seriously at the University of Northern Colorado with Dr. Juliet White-Smith. She is currently earning her Masters under Patricia McCarty at the Boston Conservatory.

Abby Magoon first started playing the viola six years ago. Until age 16 her desire was to be a mechanical engineer, but she changed her mind and is currently attending The Boston Conservatory where she studies with Patricia McCarty. Abby is from Attleboro, MA and is proud to be a commuter.

Sasha Scolnik-Brower is presently a sophomore at Phillips Academy, Andover. He is cello student of Andrew Mark and Natasha Brofsky, and is a member of the Boston Youth Symphony, Federico Cortese, conductor. Former teachers have included Jan Muller-Szeraws and Tom Kraines. In 2008 he won third place in the New England String Ensemble competition, second place in the Massachusetts ASTA competition, and was a semi-finalist in the American String Teacher Association competition.

Weiting Sun Born in 1991, Taiwan, Weiting Sun began playing cello at the age of 9. She graduated from the high school division of Shanghai Conservatory in 2009 and now is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Cello Performance at the Boston Conservatory.

Jeffrey Tan, 15, began playing the violin at the age of seven. He has won several state competitions including the Massachusetts Music Teachers Association’s annual Bay State Contest and was selected as the state junior strings representative for the northeast divisional MTNA competition in 2007. Currently, he goes to Phillips Academy in Andover, MA and studies with Vera Rubin.

Evan Wood is a 9th grader at Dover-Sherborn Regional High School. He studies cello with Andrew Mark and is a member of the Boston Youth Symphony orchestra. He also plays the trombone with the Rivers Youth Symphony Orchestra and enjoys soccer, tennis, and skiing.

Yi Qun Xu from Beijing China, began to play the cello at age of 9, and she was admitted to primary school attached to Central Conservatory of Music by No.1 place in April 2004 and recommended for admission to Middle School Attached to CCOM in 2007. In 2009, she came Walnut Hill School and studying with Laurence Lesser now. Yi Qun is the First Prize winner at 7th International Antonio Janigro Cello Competition (early youth group) on Oct 25th, 2008.
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Judges Biographies

Judith Eissenberg  Second violinist and a founding member of the Lydian String Quartet, Judith Eissenberg is Professor of the Practice at Brandeis University, where she has been on the faculty since 1980. With the LSQ, she has won numerous international prizes, including the Naumburg Award for Excellence in Chamber Music. She has also commissioned new works, recorded, and toured extensively in the United States and abroad, performing on period and contemporary instruments.

With an expertise in chamber music, she has played, in the Boston area, with the Boston Chamber Music Society, The Boston Conservatory Chamber Players, Emmanuel Music, and others. Ms. Eissenberg is co-founder and director of Music From Salem, a chamber music festival in upstate New York; is on the faculty of the Chamber Music Conference and Composers' Forum of the East; and coaches chamber music at The Boston Conservatory.

At Brandeis, she founded and directs MusicUnitesUS, whose mission is to further the understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures through music, and enjoys teaching Intro to World Music as well as Chamber Music Performance and Analysis: From the Perspective of the Performer.

Jennifer Elowitch  Violinist Jennifer Elowitch is the Artistic Co-Director and Executive Director of the Portland Chamber Music Festival, with whom she has appeared on WGBH radio in Boston, NPR’s “Performance Today,” and at the Harvard Musical Association. The festival and was recently the subject of a feature story in “Chamber Music” magazine and celebrates its eighteenth season in August, 2011. Solo performances include concertos with the Portland Symphony Orchestra and the Chamber Orchestra of Boston.

As a chamber musician, she has been a guest artist with the Franciscan and Fidelio Quartets, the Winsor and Andover Chamber Music Series, the Williamstown and Walden Chamber Players, and the Mark Morris Dance Group. She is also a founding member of the Longfellow Piano Trio. A committed performer of contemporary music, Ms. Elowitch has appeared with Boston Musica Viva, Collage New Music, and the Fromm Players at Harvard. She is the Assistant Principal Second Violinist of the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra, performs often with the Boston Symphony, and was a longtime member of the Emmanuel Chamber Orchestra, with whom she toured Europe.

A graduate of the Eastman and Yale Schools of Music and the New England Conservatory Preparatory School, her principal teachers were Eric Rosenblith, Sylvia Rosenberg, and Syoko Aki. She also attended the Juilliard Quartet Seminar and the Georg Solti Project at Carnegie Hall. A noted teacher, Ms. Elowitch has presented workshops and master classes at The Boston Conservatory, Community Musicworks in Providence, New England Conservatory, and at Lawrence University (WI). Formerly a member of the faculties at the Longy School of Music, Brandeis University, and the University of New Hampshire, she is currently on leave from the faculty of the New England Conservatory Preparatory School. Ms. Elowitch lives in Maine with her husband and three children.
Ronald Lowry is an active performer in many of Boston’s leading musical organizations. Called a “superb cellist” by the Boston Globe’s Richard Dyer, he is the principal cellist of the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra and the Boston Ballet Orchestra. Former principal cellist of the National Symphony of Costa Rica, the Handel and Haydn Society, and the Harvard Chamber Orchestra, Mr. Lowry performs frequently with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and with the Boston Pops.

As a soloist, he has been featured with the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra and the Boston Ballet Orchestra on several occasions as well as the Concert Arts Orchestra of Boston, the National Symphony of Costa Rica, the New England Symphony Orchestra, and several other orchestras in the greater Boston area. He has presented recitals in Jordan Hall, the Isabella Stewart Gardener Museum, the Worcester Museum of Art, on WGBH radio in Boston, and throughout the New England region.

Mr. Lowry is heard frequently as a chamber musician. He has been a guest artist with the Boston Chamber Music Society, the Muir String Quartet, the Boston University Faculty Artists, and the First Monday concerts at the New England Conservatory. Mr. Lowry is currently the Artistic Director for the Needham Concert Society. He has premiered numerous compositions with contemporary ensembles such as Collage, Griffin Ensemble, NuClassix, Composers in Red Sneakers and with the Boston Musica Viva, with whom he was the cellist from 1990 until 2004. He is on the faculties of the New England Conservatory Extension Division, the Longy School of Music and the Rivers Music School. Mr. Lowry graduated with Honor from Indiana University and the New England Conservatory. His teachers include Janos Starker, Lawrence Lesser, Aldo Parisot, Ronald Leonard, Gabor Rejto, and Rodney Farrar.
2010 Awards Listing

The following prizes are to be awarded by the discretion of the judges. Number of prize-winners as well as semi-finalists chosen to compete in the National Semi-final round is also up to their judgement.

$600 Prize Money courtesy of Boston Symphony Orchestra, Carriage House Violins & Shar Music Products.

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What is the National Solo Competition?

The National Solo Competition is open to ASTA members or students of a current ASTA member with instrument categories of Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Harp and Guitar. Participants must first compete at the state level. For entry into the semi-final round, each state competition chair submits to the national chair applications, fees and recordings of contestants from his/her state who have been selected by either a live state competition or a recorded screening evaluation.
2010–2011 SEASON OCTOBER 2 – MAY 7

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