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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*The California Music Center and San Francisco State University, College of Creative Arts  
are pleased to announce*

**The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Irving M. Klein International String Competition**

*Featuring the world's most outstanding young string players and a special*

*Final Round with the Marin Symphony, conducted by Alasdair Neale*

*June 7 -10, 2007 at McKenna Theatre, San Francisco State University*

(San Francisco, CA – February 6, 2007) The annual **Irving M. Klein International String Competition** is recognized as the world's leading competition for young string artists. For the past 22 years, the Klein Competition has given classical music virtuosos between the ages of 15 and 23 a place to showcase their skills and to initiate their careers.

**Mitchell Sardou Klein**, Director of the Klein Competition remarked that “the young artists who have applied to the Klein Competition are extraordinarily exciting and accomplished musicians. They represent the highest level of young string players in the world, and certainly among them are solo performers who will make a major mark on the world stage in years to come. They represent the greatest music and the most celebrated teachers, and include many nationalities and styles of performance.” Past winners such as **Alyssa Park, Wendy Warner, Mark Kosower, Jennifer Koh, Alban Gerhardt, Frank Huang, and François Salque** are shining examples of young artists whose stellar careers started at the Klein Competition.

This year, the Klein Competition will launch additional features to enhance the quality and significance of the competition. **For the second time in the history of the competition, the top three finalists will perform their concertos with an orchestra.** The Klein Competition is pleased to welcome the esteemed **Marin Symphony**, conducted by **Alasdair Neale** to this concluding event. The Marin Symphony is one of Marin County's oldest and most prestigious arts institutions; it offers twelve concerts of meticulously selected and performed classical music during the concert season (October through May). Selected works range from time-honored classical favorites to the today's most fresh and innovative compositions.

The Marin Symphony's maestro, Alasdair Neale, is quickly earning an international reputation for masterfully insightful and precise interpretations of the classical music repertoire.

With the backing of the Marin Symphony, the finalists of the Klein Competition will be required to perform complete works from the repertoire of Brahms or Barber (violin); Walton or Bartok (viola); Dvorak or Shostakovich Concerto No. 1 (cello); and Koussevitzky or Bottesini Concerto No. 2 (bass).

**First prize** of the Irving M. Klein International String Competition is \$10,000 from the Maurice Kursh Memorial Award and solo appearances with the Peninsula and Santa Cruz Symphonies, recitals in San Miguel de Allende (Mexico), and the Ralston Series (California), plus a benefit concert and other performances to be announced.

**Second prize** is \$5,000 from the William M. Bloomfield Memorial Award.

**Third prize** is \$2,500 from The Alice Anne Roberts Memorial Award.

Another new feature to the competition is the institution of **Semifinalist Awards in the amount of \$1,000 for each semifinalist.**

All of the cash prizes are to be applied toward future educational and vocational training expenses for the winners. In addition to these cash prizes there will be a Special Award from The Allen R. Weiss Memorial Prize for best performance of commissioned work. The composer of this year's commissioned works is Joel Hoffman.

The Irving M. Klein International String Competition is a singular event filled with the thrill and excitement of a competition, and the bravura artistry of classical music. Since its inception in 1985, the Klein Competition has earned recognition as one of the leading string competitions in the world. The award carries the prestige that has helped many top soloists gain prominence in the competitive world of classical music.

The Klein Competition draws entrants from up to 20 countries each year. From this pool of applicants, the panel of judges will select 8 to 10 of the world's most outstanding young cellists, violinists, bassists, and violists to compete in San Francisco at the Klein Competition. Over several days, the musicians will compete in a rigorous series of concert events culminating in the June 10 Final Round at which three Semifinalists will perform with the Marin Symphony.

The distinguished jury of the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Klein Competition includes members of the Alexander String Quartet, members of the Cypress String Quartet, Ronald Caltabiano, Peter Gelfand, Marc Gottlieb, Joel Hoffman, Byung-Woo Kim, Mark Kosower, Joshua Kosman, Patricia Taylor Lee, David Liptak, Melvin Margolis, Jeffrey Miller, Donna Mudge, Alice Schoenfeld, Margaret Tait, and Camilla Wicks.

In the words of Director Mitchell Sardou Klein this year *"will be a magnificent event and a true testament to the impact and artistry that the Klein Competition has helped to develop over the past 22 years."*



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## The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Irving M. Klein International String Competition

### Schedule of Events

*Co-sponsored by the California Music Center and  
San Francisco State University, College of Creative Arts*

**WHAT: The Irving M. Klein International String Competition**

**WHEN: Semi-final round:** June 7, 2007 @ 10:00am - 3:00pm

**Second round:** June 8, 2007 @ 7:00pm

**Finals\*** with the Marin Symphony, conducted by Alasdair Neale: June 10, 2007 @ 4:00pm

*\*An award ceremony will immediately follow the Final Round on June 10.*

**WHERE:** McKenna Theatre, San Francisco State University (1600 Holloway Avenue, San Francisco)

**TICKETS:** June 7 (Semi-final round) - Free

June 8 (Second Round) - \$10 general admission, \$5 students and seniors

June 9 (Finals with the Marin Symphony) - \$35 and 25; \$15 students and seniors

All Rounds Combined Tickets: \$40 and \$30

**BOX OFFICE:** Advance tickets [www.kleincompetition.org](http://www.kleincompetition.org); tickets also available at the door.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION:** (415) 282-7160 [www.kleincompetition.org](http://www.kleincompetition.org)

*High-res jpegs and interviews with Mitchell Sardou Klein, Director Klein Competition is available through NEQA/PR.*

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