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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Announcing the Semifinalists for the 22nd annual
Irving M. Klein International String Competition**

Featuring nine outstanding musicians from the United States, South Korea, and Canada!

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

New! Final Round with the Marin Symphony Conducted by Alasdair Neale

(San Francisco, CA – April 30, 2007) The California Music Center and San Francisco State University College of Creative Arts announce with pleasure the Semifinalists for the **22nd Irving M. Klein International String Competition**.

Held **June 7-10** at **San Francisco State University's McKenna Theatre**, the distinguished Klein Competition is the leading international string competition that pits some of the world's most dazzling young cellists, violinists, and violists against each other.

This year, 65 young musicians entered the 2007 Klein Competition – they represented 15 countries and ranged from 15 to 23 years of age. From this group, **nine exceptional young artists from the United States, South Korea, and Canada** advanced to the Semifinalist stage of the competition. The Semifinalists are comprised of six violinists and three cellists. Over the course of three days in June, the Semifinalists will perform a series of concerts to vie for first prize: \$10,000 and a series of solo appearances and recitals.

The annual Klein Competition presents the best and the brightest young string artists in concert – this year, the contestants are unusually gifted. **Mitchell Sardou Klein**, Director of the Klein Competition observed that **“this group of Semifinalists represents the most outstanding conservatories and teachers. The leading musical artists of the present era, like Itzhak Perlman, Cho Liang Lin, Donald Weilerstein, Paul Katz and others, are sending their most outstanding students to the Klein Competition.”**

Two of the Semifinalists are from the Bay Area – Andrea Segar from Berkeley, and **David McCaroll** from Santa Rosa.

The 2007 Klein Competition Semifinalists are:

Andrea Segar (violin, 20 years old). Andrea is a **Berkeley native** who is currently studying with Donald Wielerstein at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, MA.

David McCarroll (violin, 21 years old). David hails from **Santa Rosa** and is also a student of Mr. Wielerstein at the New England Conservatory of Music.

So Jin Kim (violin, 21 years old) is from South Korea. So Jin studies at the Juilliard School in New York City with Cho Liang Lin and Naoko Tanaka.

Alice Yoo (cello, 22 years old) is from Syosset, New York. She studies with Paul Katz at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, MA.

Madeleine Kabat (cello, 20 years old) was born in Cleveland, OH and studies with Norman Fischer at Rice University in Houston, TX.

Jing Wang (violin, 21 years old) is a Canadian citizen born in Guilin, China. Jing studies with Sally Thomas at the Juilliard School in New York City.

Siwoo Kim (violin, 17 years old) is the youngest contestant in the group. Siwoo was born in South Korea and studies with Roland and Amita Vamos while attending high school in Westerville, Ohio.

Paul Dwyer (cello, 23 years old) is from Munster, IN and studying at Oberlin Conservatory in Oberlin, OH. His teacher, **Amir Eldan** is a cellist who won 4th place at the 1997 Klein Competition.

Lydia Hong (violin, 19 years old) was born in Chicago, IL. She studies with Itzhak Perlman and Donald Weilerstein at Juilliard School in New York City. Lydia is a seasoned competitor as three years ago she advanced to the Semifinalist stage of the Klein Competition.

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.

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 including 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.

Two Fourth Prizes of \$1,500 will also be awarded: the Thomas and Lavilla Barry Award and the Jules and Lena Flock 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 distinguished jury of the 22nd 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, Joshua Kosman, Patricia Taylor Lee, David Liptak, Melvin Margolis, Jeffrey Miller, Donna Mudge, Alice Schoenfeld, Margaret Tait, Camilla Wicks, and Mark Kosower (first place winner of the 1992 Klein Competition).

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. The Semifinalists 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.”*

Share the discovery of these shining young stars, in person at the 22nd Annual Irving M. Klein Competition. Interviews with the Semifinalists and representatives of the Klein Competition can be arranged through NEQA/PR. Please contact Karen Hall (415) 621-3186 x112 or Brechin Flournoy (415) 621-3186 x104 to secure your V.I.P seats at the Klein Competition and/or to interview these wonderful, young artists. It's not to be missed!



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The 22nd 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: Semifinal 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 10 (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; tickets also available at the door.

PUBLIC INFORMATION: (415) 282-7160 www.kleincompetition.org

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

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