

2001 Klein Competition News

Volume Five, Issue One

Fall 2001

IMK Orchestra Finals to Feature Santa Rosa Symphony and Alasdair Neale in June 2002



Alasdair Neale

We are proud to announce the addition of a final round at the 17th Irving M. Klein International String Competition in June 2002. The Orchestra Finals will feature our top three finalists performing their concertos with the Santa Rosa Symphony conducted by Alasdair Neale at Herbst Theater in San Francisco on the evening of Sunday, June 16, 2002.

"This exciting development in our Competition has been many years in the making," said Mitchell S. Klein, the Competition Director. "We've had an overwhelmingly positive response from our audiences, judges, contestants and our Board of Directors. Music lovers here in the Bay Area will have the opportunity to see our finest contestants in concert with a nationally-renowned orchestra under the baton of a distinguished and celebrated conductor. It should be an unforgettable night of inspired music-making."

(Continued on Page Two)

2001 Klein Competition Winners Announced

Howard Zhang, a 16-year-old violinist from Shanghai, China, was selected as the \$10,000 first prize-winner at the 16th Annual Irving M. Klein International String Competition held at San Francisco State University on June 9-10, 2001. Mr. Zhang was chosen from a group of 12 semifinalists and from a total of over 75 contestants representing 20 nationalities and the finest schools and teachers in the world. Mr. Zhang's final program included the Lalo Symphonie Espagnole and the Beethoven Sonata in F Major.

"The audience and judges were all deeply impressed and moved by the inspiring performances throughout this year's competition, particularly Mr. Zhang's final program," said Competition Director Mitchell Sardou Klein. "The level and artistry of these young performers continues to astound us."

The \$2,000 second prize was awarded to Teng Li, an 18-year-old violist from Nan Jing, China. The \$1,000 third prize was presented to 17-year-old violinist Eunice Keem from Evanston, Illinois. Fourth prize was awarded to 19-year-old violinist Yvonne Lam of Los Angeles, while fifth prize was given to 17-year-old violinist Adam Barnett-Hart, from New York. The Allen Weiss Memorial Prize for best performance of the commissioned work by composer David Liptak was awarded to cellist Jing Li for her interpretation of *A Bridge Across Spaces*.

For more information visit our website at www.kleincompetition.org.

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Where They Are Now: Klein Winner Updates

◆ Violinist **Frank Huang (99, 1st)** and cellist **Jun Jensen (00, 3rd)** are participants in the prestigious Steans Institute at the Ravinia Festival in Chicago. Last year, Huang was awarded the First Prize at the Hannover International Violin Competition.

◆ Cellist **Denise Djokic (98, 1st)** captured the first prize at the 2000 Caprio Young Artists Competition in New Jersey. Denise performs on the 1696 Bonjour Stradivarius cello, whose use she was awarded by the Canada Council for the Arts. She will play this year with the Winnipeg and Windsor Symphonies and the Buffalo Philharmonic, and she is planning her first recording.

◆ Violinist **Christina Castelli (98, 3rd)** was named a Finalist in the 2001 Queen Elizabeth International Violin Competition and is currently in the masters degree program at the Juilliard School, where she studies with Dorothy DeLay and Hyo Kang. She is represented by Astral Artistic Services.

◆ Violinist **Hee-Guen Song (98, 5th)** has just completed her studies at Oberlin with Roland and Almita Vamos and will be continuing her studies at the Juilliard School with violinist Masao Kawasaki.

◆ Violinist **Alberto Parrini (96, 3rd)** and cellist **Brent Samuel (91, 3rd)** are on the faculty at the AFA Summer Music Conservatory. Brent performs with the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

◆ Violinist **Jenny Oaks Baker (96, 4th)** has been chosen as a member of the prestigious National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, DC. Jenny made her debut performance at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Arts last September, and teaches at the Levine Music School.

◆ Cellist **Margo Tatgenhorst (96, 5th)** is a member of the Oregon Symphony and plays on a 1766 Joseph Hill.

◆ Violinist **Nurit Pacht (94, 2nd)** played with the Santa Rosa Symphony in August.

◆ Violinist **Jennifer Koh (93, 1st)** and cellist **Hai-Ye Ni (87, 3rd)** performed the opening concert with the Marin Symphony and conductor Alasdair Neale in October of this year.

◆ Violinist **Vadim Gluzman (93, 2nd)** is working on two new CDs. This season he will tour the US, Europe, Australia and Japan.

◆ Cellist **Alexis Gerlach (91, 2nd)** recently per-

(Orchestra Finals Con't. from Page One)

The first two rounds of the Klein Competition will continue to be held at McKenna Theater on the San Francisco State University campus. As always, the top twelve contestants will perform in the Semifinal Round on Thursday, June 13. The top five will then be selected by our judges to compete in the Piano Finals round on the evening of Friday, June 14. The top three musicians will then be chosen at the conclusion of the Piano Finals on Friday to perform in the Orchestra Finals on Sunday night. For more details, please refer to the Competition Schedule on page three.

The addition of an orchestral performance at Herbst Theater promises to bring a new level of artistry to the Klein Competition. The Santa Rosa Symphony has been described by the San Francisco Chronicle as "superb" and "one of Bay Area's better-kept secrets." The symphony continues to garner praise as one of the finest orchestras on the West Coast.

Conductor Alasdair Neale is no stranger to promoting excellence in young artists. For the past 12 years, he served as the Musical Director of the prestigious San Francisco Youth Orchestra program and also as Associate Conductor of the San Francisco Symphony. He begins this season as Musical Director of the renowned Marin Symphony and also serves as Musical Director of the Sun Valley Summer Symphony and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Orchestra. We look forward to a remarkable collaboration of our young artists, the Santa Rosa Symphony and Alasdair Neale for an unforgettable Klein Competition this year.

(Updates, Continued from left)

formed with the Orchestra of St. Luke's under Peter Oundjian at the Caramoor Music Festival. She and Fabio Bidini recorded the complete Brahms Piano Quartets for Encore Performance Recordings.

◆ Cellist **Carol Oh (91, 4th)** recently made her Russian concerto debut and recorded her second CD, including works of Haydn and Tchaikovsky and is currently teaching at the New England Conservatory.

◆ Violinist **Sang-Mee Lee (88, 1st)** currently plays the "Dushkin" Stradivarius, 1701.

◆ Violinist **Stephanie Arado (86, 1st)** received the McKnight Foundation Artist fellowship as a member of the Bakken Trio.



2002 Klein Competition Winner Howard Zhang

Sixteen-year-old violinist Howard Zhang was born in Shanghai, China, and has studied violin with his father since the age of three. He presently studies with Dorothy DeLay and Itzhak Perlman at the Juilliard School. His principal teachers include Hyo Kang and Abram Shtern. He made his debut at the age of nine when he performed the Bruch Concerto in G minor with the Redlands Symphony (California).



Howard Zhang

Mr. Zhang's final performance at this year's Klein Competition included a breathtaking rendition of the Lalo Symphonie Espagnol, Opus 21, along with an inspired performance of the Beethoven Sonata in F Major, Opus 24.

"Howard's overall performance at the Competition was nothing less than spectacular," said Director Mitch Klein. "He possesses both the fire and flair that captivated our audience and technique and expressivity that won over our judges. As with so many of our winners, he will be an artist to watch in the years to come."

As guest artist, Mr. Zhang has performed most of the major violin concerti with the following symphony orchestras: Vancouver, San Diego, Louisiana, Charleston, Long Beach, Dallas, San Jose, Santa Rosa, Monterey, Puerto Rico, Winnipeg, and Shanghai. He has performed in recitals for the Stradivarius Society and at the Music Festivals of Spoleto, Aspen, and the Perlman's music program. He has been featured in television news articles on PBS and other stations. Mr. Zhang has won the Young Musician/David Rose Memorial Scholarship for the last seven years. In 1993 he won the first prize in the American String Teachers Association Competition. In 1994, he was honored with the loan of a three-quarter sized violin made by Gagliano in 1760, courtesy of the Stradivarius Society and violinist Midori. Mr. Zhang's CD featuring Lalo's Symphonie Espagnol will come out this year. Congratulations!

2002 Competition Schedule

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Semi-finals -

McKenna Theater - SF State U.
10:00 am - Semi-finals Begin
12:30 pm - Intermission/Lunch
2:00 pm - Semifinals Resume
5:00 pm - Finalists Announced

Friday, June 14, 2002

Piano Finals -

McKenna Theater - SF State U.
7:00 pm - Finals Begin
9:30 pm - Judges Meet
9:45 pm - Top 3 Finalists Advance

Sunday, June 16, 2002

Orchestra Finals -

Herbst Theater - San Francisco
7:00 pm - Finals Begin
8:45 pm - Intermission
9:45 pm - Awards Ceremony

Klein Competition Performances Featuring Howard Zhang

As part of his performance prize, Howard Zhang will perform at the following venues in the coming season:

Sunday, November 10, 3 pm - College of Notre Dame, Ralston Concert Series, Belmont, CA. For more information, please visit:

www.cnd.edu/news.#music
or call 650.508.3429

Saturday, April 6, 2002, 8 pm - Santa Cruz County Symphony, Santa Cruz, CA. For more information please visit:

www.santacruzsymphony.com
or call 831.420.5260

Friday, May 9, 2002, and Saturday, May 10, 2002, 8 pm - Peninsula Symphony, San Mateo and Cupertino, CA. For more information, please visit:

www.peninsulasymp.org
or call 650.941.5291





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Mark Your Calendars:
2002 IMK Competition
Semi-Finals and Piano Finals:
June 13 -14, 2002
McKenna Theater, SF State University
Orchestra Finals:
June 16, 2002
Herbst Theater, San Francisco

In Memorium

Lena Flock (1908-2001)

Lena Flock, sister of Irving M. Klein, who for several years generously supported the efforts of the Klein Competition and sponsored our Fifth Place Prize, passed away on October 5, 2001. Her continued faith in the mission of our organization throughout our history has been a wonderful testament to her dedication to young artists everywhere. We will miss her.

Jean Lerner (1918-2001)

Jean Lerner, who hosted Klein Competition winners while they performed with the Santa Cruz Symphony for many years, passed away on July 31, 2001. Her gracious and kind presence was a hallmark of the marvelous experiences of over a dozen First Prize winners performing in Santa Cruz. She will be greatly missed. The Klein Competition extends condolences to her family.

Your Support Makes A Difference!

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