

## Where Are They Now?

### Updates on Some of the Past Winners of the Johansen International Competition (JIC) for Young String Players

#### 2006 JIC WINNERS

**Narek Hakhnazaryan** (cello, first place, 2006) was named First Prize Winner in the 2007-2008 Young Concert Artists International Auditions. He was awarded a \$5,000 career development grant, and will be presented in the 2008-2009 **Young Concert Artists Series** in New York at **Carnegie's Zankel Hall**; in Washington, DC, at the **Kennedy Center's Terrace Theater** on October 27, 2008; and in Boston at the **Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum**. He won 5th Prize and Russian Composers' Union Prize (for youngest finalist) at the 2007 Tchaikovsky International Competition, as well as the Gold Medal at the 2006 Aram Khachaturian International Cello Competition in Armenia.

**Tessa Lark** (violin, first place) attended the Steans Institute at the 2007 Ravinia Festival, where she performed chamber works with Atar Arad (former violist of the Cleveland Quartet) and Miriam Fried, with whom she studies at the New England Conservatory of Music. She currently has the use of a Degani violin, which is on loan to her from the festival. She performed the Beethoven Violin Concerto with the Gettysburg Chamber Orchestra in Sept. 2006. Ms. Lark has toured the world as a member of the Starling Chamber Orchestra. In Nov. 2005, she was a featured soloist during the Starling Chamber Orchestra's concert at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC.

**Benjamin Beilman** (violin, third place) was selected as a Finalist and received an Honorable Mention Prize of \$500 at the National Symphony Orchestra Competition in March 2008. He won the gold medal at the 2007 Stulberg Competition. He was also the grand-prize winner of the American String Teachers Association national solo competition, and will solo with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra in the 2007-2008 season. He recently won a \$10,000 prize as the youngARTS Gold Award winner from the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts. Mr. Beilman was also selected as a Presidential Scholar in the Arts, and performed at the Kennedy Center in June 2007. He participated in the 2007 Marlboro Music Festival, and began attending the Curtis Institute of Music in Fall 2007.

**Vicki Powell** (viola, first place) was named the youngARTS Gold Award winner in music at the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts 2007 ARTS week. She also participated in Seiji Ozawa's International Music Academy of Switzerland, where she worked closely with Seiji Ozawa, Nobuko Imai, Pamela Frank, and Robert Mann. In March of 2008, she went on tour as part of "Curtis on Tour" with Roberto Diaz, with whom she studies at the Curtis Institute. She has made two appearances on "From the Top," where she collaborated with Christopher O'Riley and Joshua Bell. Ms. Powell and the other members of Alethea String Quartet won the Bronze Medal at the 2006 Fischhoff Competition.

**Megan Griffin** (viola, second prize shared, 2006 ), performed the Mendelssohn *String Quartet, Opus 87*, with Itzhak Perlman at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in March, 2008. Currently in her freshman year at the Juilliard School of Music, she claimed honors for the College Division (18-23 years) in the 2007- 2008 Young Musicians Foundation of Colorado Awards. She served as principal violist for the Denver Young Artists Orchestra and the Colorado All-State and Western States orchestras. She won first prize in Aurora Symphony Concerto Competition, as well as third place in the Boulder Philharmonic Concerto Competition. In the summer of 2005, she attended the prestigious Perlman Program, founded by Mr. Perlman.

**Junpin Qian** (viola second prize shared, 2006) will leave his native China in August to enter the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia as a student of Roberto Diaz. In March 2008, he was awarded the Art Talent Scholarship Award of Shanghai. In 2007, he won both the first place in the National Viola Competition held by the China Viola Association and the Tang's Scholarship awarded by Shanghai Conservatory of Music. He was also invited to perform in the Shanghai Spring International Music Festival in the years of 2006 and 2007. In 2006, he received a full scholarship in the examinations of the Asian Youth Orchestra, and became first chair for Viola as well as winning the second prize of the 15th Fu Cheng Xian Remembrance Scholarship Awards. He performed with Jay Liu, assistant principal viola of the San Francisco Symphony, on a recording of the Brahms Sextet, which was heard on music stations in Hong Kong and Southeast Asia. Mr. Qian has attended the Master Classes of Christopher Hogan, Donald McInnes, Pinchas Zukerman, Hariolf Schlichtig, Hatto Beyerle, Paul Coletti, Roberto Diaz, Nuboko Imai, and Yaoji Lin.

## **2003 JIC WINNERS**

**Hyun Su Shin** (violin, first place) was a 2007 Laureate in the Tchaikovsky International Competition. In 2006, she won Second Prize and Audience Award (presented for the first time in the competition's history) at the Hannover International Violin Competition. In 2005, she not only won third prize in both the Sibelius International Competition, and the Tibor Varga International Competition, but she also performed as soloist with the Prague Symphony Orchestra. In 2004, she won third prize and was the youngest prize winner at the Paganini International Competition.

**Joel Link** (violin, second place) won first prize in the Junior Division of the 2004 Yehudi Menuhin Competition. He performs in the Ottawa String Trio with his brother **Alexander Link** (viola, first place, 2003) and sister Elenita, violin. They won the 2003 Fischhoff (gold medal) and the 58th Coleman (grand prize) chamber music competitions.

**Wonhyee Bae** (violin, third place) won first place in the 2007 Lipizer International Violin Competition held in Gorizia, Italy. In addition, she was third-place winner at the 12th International Johannes Brahms Competition, held in Pörschach, Austria, in 2005. In May, 2006 she was a finalist in the 6th International Violin Competition Leopold Mozart.

**Seung-Min Kang** (cello, first place) was awarded first prize in the 2006 inaugural Gaspar Cassado Cello Competition in Tokyo, and also won first prize in the 2004 Dong-A Daily Newspaper Competition in Korea. She has appeared as a soloist with the Korean National University of Arts Orchestra, the In-cheon Philharmonic Orchestra, the Su-won Philharmonic, and the Gang-nam Symphony.

**Christina McGann** (violin, third prize, 2000) is a member of The iO Quartet, the Billy Joel Graduate String Quartet in Residence at Purchase College. The residency is made possible by a significant grant from the Billy Joel Endowment Fund. She recently received her Bachelor of

Music degree from the Juilliard School, where she was a performing member of the Juilliard Electric Ensemble. She has studied violin with Robert Mann, Donald Weilerstein and Victor Danchenko. Ms. McGann has an active performing career, and has appeared as soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra and the National Philharmonic Orchestra in Washington, DC.

## **2000 JIC WINNERS**

**Eunice Keem** (violin, first prize shared) was a member of the Junior Faculty at the 2006 International Music Academy in Pilsen, Czech Republic. She also won 3<sup>rd</sup> prize at the 2006 Indianapolis International String Competition for best performance of a Caprice by Paganini. She is currently a member of the Ravel Trio.

**Teng Li** (viola, first place) is Principal Violist of the Toronto Symphony, and is also a member of Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center Two. In April 2007, she performed with violinist Joseph Silverstein and cellist Fred Sherry in a Chamber Music Society Premiere Program. In the fall of 2006, she joined the music faculty at the University of Toronto

**Dan Zhu** (violin, honorable mention) performed with the China Philharmonic in the Forbidden City Concert Hall in 2007. He was invited to perform at Italy's 2006 Spoleto Festival by Jean-Yves Thibaudet. Mr. Zhu was a Laureate at the 2006 Montreal International Music Competition, and at the 2005 Queen Elisabeth Violin Competition. During 2005-6, he toured Germany and the UK as a soloist with the Munich Symphony

**Tao Ni** (cello, first place) performed at the Caramoor International Music Festival in 2006, as well as in a special performance in Shanghai. He won the 2005 Borromeo String Quartet Guest Artists Award, which resulted in a performance and a recording with the quartet.

**Nicholas Canellakis** (cello, third place). As a member of the Vertigo Quartet, he won first prize in the Musicatri International European Competition in June 2006, and gave a series of concerts in Italy and Spain. The group also received a Barrymore Award from the Theatre Alliance of Philadelphia for the production of the acclaimed play *Opus*, which was first performed at the Washington Stage Guild. Mr. Cannellakis was a participant at the Verbier Festival and Academy in Switzerland. He performs regularly as a soloist at Bargemusic in New York City, where he has collaborated with pianist Yefim Bronfman and violinist Mark Peskanov.

## **1997 JIC WINNERS**

**Mikhail Ovrutsky** (violin, first place) is currently concertmaster of the Beethoven Orchestra of Bonn. He won the 2006 European promotion prize for young artists, was fifth place and audience favorite in the 2005 Queen Elizabeth Competition, and was a recipient of the Anne-Sophie Mutter Circle of Friends Foundation stipend.

**Julie Albers** (cello, second place) will perform Tchaikovsky's *Rococo Variations and Pezzo Capriccioso* with the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra in August, 2008. She began a two-year residency with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center Two in the fall of 2006, and previously won the \$25,000 grand prize in the 2003 Gyeongnam International Music Competition, South Korea. Her New York recital at Steinway Hall was filmed by NHK for telecast in the Far East.

**Denise Djokic** (cello, third place) was named by MacLean's magazine as one of "25 Young Canadians who are Changing our World" in 2006. She was also featured as the subject of the documentary film "Seven Days, Seven Nights," which aired on Bravo TV. Ms. Djokic won both the 2006 and 2003 East Coast Music Awards for "Classical Recording of the Year." She has been awarded use of the \$4 million 1696 "Bonjour" Stradivarius cello by the Canadian Council.

**Yumi Kendall** (cello, judges' award) is the assistant principal cellist of the Philadelphia Orchestra. She is also the cellist of the Dryden String Quartet. She performed with pianist Christoph Eschenbach on the Curtis Institute Alumni Recital Series in January 2007, and at the German Embassy in April, 2007.