

PRESS RELEASE

The first Stradivarius International Violin Competition has successfully concluded. The competition has selected its winners, and they were announced in the Awards Ceremony by Utah Governor Jon Huntsman Jr.

Salt Lake City, Utah, June 15, 2007—The Stradivarius International Violin Competition announces the winners of its Main Category. Utah Governor Jon Huntsman Jr. awarded the grand prize at the awards ceremony and Prizewinner's concert.

The Stradivarius International Violin Competition concluded its final day on June 14, 2007, at Libby Gardner Hall at the University of Utah.

The Competition is delighted to announce its winners for the Main Category:

Yoonshin Song won the Grand Prize of \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars), a violin (hand made by Charles W. Liu, the President of the competition and respected violin maker), and an invitation to appear as a soloist with the Utah Symphony in their 2008 Concert season. She also decided to accept the invitation to play on a rare Stradivarius violin for the final concert of the competition.

Yoonshin Song is from Korea. She holds a Master's Degree in Violin Performance and is currently studying at the *New England Conservatory*. She has won distinctions at numerous national and international violin competitions, including the *Lipizer International Violin Competition* in Italy. The German press has called her a "Diva on Stage".

Andrej Power won second place. The prize was \$5,000 (five thousand dollars).

Andrej Power is from Sweden. He currently studies at the *Royal College of Music in Stockholm*. He began to play the violin at the age of three, and was soon making solo and television appearances. In addition to winning competitions, he has toured extensively throughout Europe and the US. He performed in the Swedish King's and Queen's 25th wedding anniversary gala.

Sharon Park won third place, and a prize of \$2,500 (two thousand and five hundred dollars)

Sharon Park is from the USA. She is currently studying at the *New England Conservatory* in Boston, and she performs on a rare 1745 Januarius Gagliano violin, graciously on loan from the *Mandell Collection of Southern California*. She has received several international level distinctions and awards, and she has soloed with numerous orchestras.

The Final Concert and Awards ceremony is dedicated to Melba Lindsay Burton (1899-1991). She was a well known Utah violin teacher who taught many of the violinists who eventually became musicians for the Utah Symphony. Many artists in the

Utah symphony hold to the idea that she was, in large part, personally responsible for much of the orchestra's artistic quality, and that she had made a significant contribution to art and culture in Utah. In addition, some of her former students have found musical success outside of Utah.

The Final Concert and Awards Ceremony began at 6:30 pm last evening (Thursday, June 14, 2007). Eric Glissmeyer (Program Director for KBYU-FM) was the master of ceremonies for the evening. His extensive knowledge of classical music, and his many years of experience in addressing a music audience made him the perfect choice for the voice of the competition.

Utah Governor Jon Huntsman Jr., a strong advocate of the arts, showed his support for this event by announcing the winners of the Main Category, and commenting on the value of the arts and events like this competition. He spoke of his hope that this competition would help draw more attention to Utah as a center for the arts. He concluded by addressing Charles W. Liu (the founder and President of this violin Competition) in Mandarin, Mr. Liu's native language.

Following the reception after the awards ceremony, Mr. Liu said, "I could not have done this without the help of several people. The competitors, the judges, the volunteers, and the public that supports this event were all critical for success. Dr. Walzel, Dean of the School of Music at the University of Utah, really provided a critical piece of the competition by offering us the use of Libby Gardner Hall and becoming a co-sponsor of the event.

I also want to thank my staff. Daniel Chapman was the Director of Operations, and he was brilliant in both placing the right people in the right places, and designing advertising. Michael J. Fraughton, our Director of Public Relations, assisted with advertising, communicating the vision for the event, making many telephone calls and writing a lot of letters. Eldon Gomez kept my violin shop (effectively the office for the event) running while everyone was away, and he performed critical jobs of various types on short notice. Melissa Price was in charge of artist logistics. In hind sight, she had, perhaps, the most difficult job of my staff. She managed to arrange virtually all of the scheduling for rehearsals and performances. In addition, she accommodated the artists in virtually every possible way. Some of the competitors shed tears when they said goodbye to her. When many of the artists remember this competition, they will think of her."

When asked about what to expect in the future, Liu said that he would relax for a few weeks before starting to plan his 2009 competition, to which Joseph Silverstien has already given a verbal confirmation that he will act as a judge.

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