

Overtures

Virtuoso Program Newsletter

A publication of the San Domenico Music Conservatory

A Message from the Managing Director

Robin Creighton Ravazzini '90
Virtuoso Program Managing Director



As autumn turns to winter here on campus, our students are busy with a myriad of projects and performances. Virtuoso Program seniors are filling out their college applications, our chamber groups are heading out to present recitals at local retirement homes, and the orchestra is starting work on music for an exciting concert we are presenting in San Francisco.

On Sunday, March 29 at 7:30pm, the Virtuoso Program Orchestra da Camera will give a special performance in the concert hall at the San Francisco Jewish Community Center. The featured piece will be Brahms' Double Concerto with students Mayumi Wyrick '09, violin, and Mariko Wyrick '11, cello, as soloists.

For the first time in Virtuoso Program history, we will welcome a group of San Francisco Symphony members to sit in the Orchestra da Camera and perform alongside our students!

Prices for this special event are \$40 for premium seats including parking and \$25 for general admission. We expect this performance to sell out, so reserve your seats today by contacting the San Domenico Music Conservatory concert hotline (415) 258-1921 ext. 1674 or email music@sandomenico.org.



Coming Soon! Keep an eye on the San Domenico website (www.sandomenico.org) to see the Virtuoso Program's new pages. The school has recently launched a new site and we will soon be posting sound clips of Virtuoso Program concerts and adding a blog feature to keep you informed of program news and student and alumna updates.

Also, Virtuoso Program graduates will soon receive an email survey we are sending to all 150 program alums asking them for feedback on how the Virtuoso Program benefited their lives. This valuable information will help us evaluate the program and make plans for the next generation of talented young women enrolled in the Virtuoso Program.

SAVE THE DATE!

Spring Benefit Concert

Sunday, March 29, 2009
7:30pm
at the

Jewish Community Center of San Francisco

Featuring Brahms Double Concerto with
Mayumi Wyrick '09, violin and Mariko Wyrick '11, cello

Guest musicians from the San Francisco Symphony
will be joining the Orchestra da Camera
for this memorable performance



Virtuoso Program Class of 2009
From L to R: Hortensia Suleman, Ceci Li, Mayumi Wyrick, Angel Llanos,
Jaynee Park, Genevieve Durst and Maggie Simpson

From the Podium

George Thomson, Virtuoso Program Music Director



2009 marks the bicentenary of the birth of Felix Mendelssohn. This winter, Virtuoso Program musicians are learning a great deal by working on a number of pieces by this great composer. His music, while tremendously rewarding to play, presents unique challenges to the young performer. Its technical demands are daunting, but perhaps more difficult to students to master is the

music's expressive idiom: sentimental but not mawkish, passionate but always decorous. It is music, as it were, with flawless table manners and an unerring sense of etiquette.

The training afforded by the Virtuoso Program provides the ideal conditions for this sort of learning. Here the students can immerse themselves in the music from many perspectives--in the orchestra, in chamber music, in their solo practice, and in the study of Mendelssohn's life and personal history.

Among the wonderful things we're learning is how an artist develops and finds her or his voice over time. Two of the pieces we're working on were written by Mendelssohn in his teen years: the String Symphony in c minor when he was just fourteen, and the famous Octet just two years later. The Symphony is long and ambitious, and there are passages in it that sound startlingly mature and fully-formed; there are also other episodes which, while totally correct and presentable, are worked out with an earnestness that seems designed to please one's teacher more than one's audience. By the time of the Octet, however, Mendelssohn had grown in wisdom and experience to the point that every note seems absolutely indispensable. Nothing is wasted, there is nothing in excess. A lot can happen to a talented musician between the ages of fourteen and sixteen -- as we here in the Virtuoso Program prove anew every year!

Alumna Donors

We are pleased to list the Virtuoso Program graduates who recently made gifts to the Virtuoso Program Scholarship Fund to provide today's students with the gift of music education:

Rachel Antonsen '07, Sarah Aroner '01, Eileen Blum Bourgade '86, Camille Buchanan '08, Kelly Brown Bush '83, Bridget Chang '04, Karoline Lewis '85, Jessica Lin '93, Andrea Maffei '08, Michelle Markle '08, Penelope Nichols '75, Rachel Noyes '94, Anne Rainwater '02, Margot Schwartz '00, Rachel Taylor '07, Karolinka Tekiela '07, Sophia Yin '84, Emily Yu '97

**Vivaldi at San Domenico
October 19, 2008**



Donor Alex Slenkin and Virtuoso Program president Maggie Simpson '09



Artist-teacher Zaven Melikian with Virtuoso Program founder Faith France



The Jean Bolton Donnell String Trio: Maggie Zeng '10, Allie Simpson '11 and Hortensia Suleeman '09



Alum parent Christopher Ris (center) with donors Sally Christian and Dr. Ron Friedman