

Overtures

The San Domenico Virtuoso Program Newsletter

Fall 2012

Thirty-five Years Young

by Rob DeNunzio
Music Conservatory Director

This past October's "Vivaldi at San Domenico" concert offered us the chance to celebrate a special anniversary, and with that, an opportunity to throw a party! We invited alumni and their families spanning three and a half decades of Virtuoso Program education to reunite on the occasion of the Virtuoso Program's longest-running tradition, and drew an audience of graduates spanning back to the very first string quartet and from thousands of miles away, some of whom even joined the current students on stage for Vivaldi's *Gloria* with the San Domenico Singers.

Marin Symphony and Sun Valley Summer Symphony Music Director Alasdair Neale joined us as special guest conductor for the afternoon, and in typically eloquent fashion, took a moment to address the audience regarding his personal history with the program:

*"It's been a wonderful experience for me to reconnect with this program, to reconnect with the musicians—not in any literal sense, of course, because I was conducting this wonderful group more often in the early 90s; of course these people that I'm sharing the stage with were not there, probably weren't even born! But what of course they have in common with the musicians that I worked with back then is that they are part of something that somebody like myself, who has been involved in the education of young musicians for the whole of my life, values tremendously—and that is a tradition of excellence. The ramifications of being part of a tradition of excellence are profound and take longer to go into than we have time for here. Suffice it to say that they influence not just how one plays scales or how one plays in tune or uses the right bow stroke, but lessons that these young women learn in this wonderful program are ones that benefit them for whatever chosen profession they go into in the rest of their life. **These are deep-set life skills of discipline, focus, energy, creativity, sensitivity, responding, working with others -- these things that they learn here will stand them in great stead for the rest of their lives.**"*

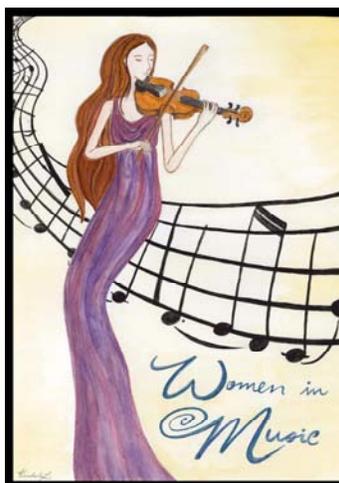
It was an inspiring afternoon and a reminder of the value of the deep work our students, faculty and staff contribute to ensure our continued successes, and how lucky we are to have the commitment of so many supporters who continue to enable us to provide scholarship support to all of our students.

Save the date!

Please join us on Sunday, March 3, 2013 for our third annual

"Women in Music"

Virtuoso Program Benefit Concert



Highlighting works by female musicians from throughout history and around the world, and featuring the Virtuoso Program Orchestra da Camera, this concert is sure to inspire you with the vibrant artistry and incredible biographies of these composers of lesser-performed works. Special guests and premieres of new music help make this one concert you won't want to miss.

The concert begins at 3:00 p.m. and will be followed by a light reception. Make sure you're on our mailing list so that you receive an official invitation as the day of this special event gets closer!



Enjoying the post-concert reception, Virtuoso Program founder Faith France surrounds herself with maestri: Alasdair Neale, George Thomson, and Ann Krinitsky.

Faculty Profile—Miles Graber

Virtuoso Program students have the distinct privilege of working each week with a truly gifted piano accompanist, Miles Graber. We recently asked him to give us a little insight to his background, and thought our friends would enjoy hearing what he had to say about himself.



Where were you born?

New York City, specifically the Bronx, in 1946.

Where did you grow up?

NYC. I left at age 17, to go to college.

Where did you go to school?

I went to Bronx High School of Science, and then I went to Dartmouth College, since my plan was to do pre-med and be a doctor. But I attended Juilliard Prep the whole time I was in high school, and that was pretty much the only actual formal music education I ever had. I graduated Dartmouth in 1967, and then went to Tulane University (in New Orleans) for medical school. I got my M.D. from Tulane in 1971, and proceeded to be a doc for 30 years. After those 30 long years, music finally recaptured me, and I've been enslaved by the muse ever since.

Who are some of your favorite composers?

A tough question. There are so many. With much consideration, I guess I would have to say Mozart and Brahms. But don't hold me to that. Maybe Jimi Hendrix.

Who are your favorite performers?

Absolutely, Arthur Rubinstein. But then, I'm a pianist.

What makes a soloist easy and fun to accompany?

All that you need for me to love you is to be engulfed by the music. "Easy and fun" for me is if you're loving what you do. I can always feel that, and a person's level of skill is of little importance to me compared to the level of passion for the music.

Where else do you work?

A very important place for me is the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. I am a staff accompanist in the Prep Division and the Collegiate Division, and I find my work there extremely rewarding. I do lots of professional playing, but for many years now I have found my work with the Conservatory students and with the amazing young artists at San Domenico to be more fulfilling than anything else I do.

Who plays you in the movie?

Oh, Brad Pitt, of course.

Virtuoso Program Concert Calendar

Be sure not to miss any of these upcoming concerts in the coming months and take advantage of experiencing exquisitely crafted music by soloists, chamber ensembles, and orchestra!

Monday, December 10, 7:00 p.m.: Winter Chamber Music Concert

Wednesday, February 13, 7:00 p.m.: Winter Solo Recital

Sunday, March 3, 3:00 p.m.: "Women in Music" Benefit Concert

Wednesday, April 10, 7:00 p.m.: Spring Solo Recital

Monday, April 29, 7:00 p.m.: Spring Chamber Music Concert

Friday, May 24, 7:00 p.m.: Orchestra da Camera Final Concert

Alum updates

Having just finished an internship with the Stuttgart Philharmonic, **Emilia**

Burlingham '06 is currently performing with the Stuttgart Opera. This year-long engagement has her performing different operas each month, and in her spare time she is looking to audition or a full-time orchestra position. **Anne Rainwater '02** is back in the Bay Area setting up a private teaching studio, coaching chamber music, and performing, including a solo piano concert at 142 Throckmorton in Mill Valley this past October.

Satomi Hofmann Arnold '90, having just completed a run of the "Phantom of the Opera" on Broadway, came through San Francisco to perform in "Legacy of the Tiger Mother", which won "Best of Fringe 2012" in the San Francisco Fringe Festival.



San Domenico Virtuoso Program Faculty & Staff

Ann Krinitsky, Virtuoso Program Director

Eugene Chuklov, Violin Teacher and Chamber Music Coach

Ruth Kahn, Viola Teacher and Chamber Music Coach

Sergei Riabtchenko, Cello Teacher and Chamber Music Coach

Miles Graber, Piano Accompanist

Rob DeNunzio, Music Conservatory Director

Teresa Notari, Administrative Assistant



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