A Message from the Managing Director
Robin Creighton Ravazzini '90
Virtuoso Program Managing Director

Most teenagers spend their summer vacations relaxing at the beach or hanging out at the mall, but the talented young women enrolled in San Domenico School’s Virtuoso Program differ from most teenagers. Virtuoso Program students spend much of their summer vacations practicing their instruments. This is because they love music and they want to strengthen their playing skills so that they will return to school in the fall ready for chamber music practices, orchestra rehearsals and concerts.

Our 2008 National Orchestra Festival win and associated media attention brought many questions about Virtuoso Program students. Who are these girls? Do they all plan to be professional musicians? We put together a brief list of qualities to illustrate what makes these students special.

A typical Virtuoso Program student:
• Is a high school female string player who is passionate about music;
• Challenges herself to improve, learn and excel in all areas of life;
• Explores her potential for a music career while also focusing on academics, and;
• Aspires to develop and share her musical gifts with her community.

Statistics show that young people who study instrumental music build a life foundation comprised of skills that open the door to successful careers in many different fields. Whether or not they pursue a career in music, Virtuoso Program graduates contribute to the community as professional and amateur performers and as patrons of the arts.

Each year we measure Virtuoso Program success by the quality of schools that accept our program graduates. All six young women who graduated from the Virtuoso Program in June 2008 will be attending excellent schools this fall: Andrea – Dominican University, Camille – Yale University, Lisa – University of California Berkeley, Michelle – Boston University, Min Seon – San Francisco Conservatory of Music and Terri – University of Wisconsin, Madison. We wish them much success in college and beyond!

Virtuoso Program 2008-2009 Calendar

Sunday, October 19, 3:00 p.m. “Vivaldi at San Domenico” Benefit Concert*
Monday, November 3, 7:00 p.m. Virtuoso Program Solo Recital
Monday, December 8, 7:00 p.m. Fall Chamber Music Recital
Thursday, February 12, 7:00 p.m. Virtuoso Program Solo Recital
Sunday, March 29, tbd Winter Benefit Concert*
Thursday, April 23, 7:00 p.m. Freshman-Sophomore Recital
Monday, April 27, 7:00 p.m. Junior-Senior Recital
Sunday, May 10, 7:00 p.m. Spring Chamber Music Recital
Friday, May 22, 7:00 p.m. End of Year Orchestra da Camera Concert

* Invitation event. Please call the Music Conservatory Office (415) 258-1921 x1700 or email music@sandomenico.org to be added to our mailing list.

Virtuoso Program Class of 2008

Music Director George Thomson and Managing Director Robin Ravazzini congratulate the Virtuoso Program’s Class of 2008: Michelle Markle, Lisa Wu, Terri Lin, Min Seon Kim, Andrea Maffei and Camille Buchanan.
From the Podium
George Thomson, Virtuoso Program Music Director

In 1725 Antonio Vivaldi published his eighth collection of instrumental music, giving it the fanciful title "Il cimento dell'armonia e dell'invenzione," or "The contest between harmony and invention." Vivaldi seems to be suggesting a friendly competition between two sets of compositional virtues: on the one hand, imagination and fantasy, and on the other, structure and order.

The first four works in this opus are the concertos we know today as "The Four Seasons," arguably among the most famous and imaginative pieces in the entire concert literature. True to the title of the collection, they are at once fanciful (replete with musical imagery, including storms, slippery ice, buzzing flies, tipsy shepherds, both barking and howling dogs, and gunfire) and carefully ordered (each is based on a rhyming sonnet, presumably written by Vivaldi himself, whose text is actually keyed line by line to a corresponding spot in the music).

Just as there is much pleasure to be had from this music, so also is there a great deal to learn, especially for young people. Their vivid and engaging language is technically challenging but immensely rewarding for players. This year, following on from our second national championship, we have an orchestra with the capability to present all four of these remarkable works in a single concert--something which the Virtuoso Program has not attempted in many years. Each work will have a different student soloist, who will impart a unique personality to each "season." The players and audience will be able to appreciate the true impact of the works taken as a whole.

We invite you to join us this October as "Vivaldi at San Domenico" returns to its roots, as it were, with a celebration of the master’s most famous music. Let the contest between harmony and invention begin again!

~ Save the Date ~
Vivaldi at San Domenico
Sunday, October 19
3:00pm
Featuring
Ceci Li ’09, Lyly Li ’11, Jaynee Park ’09 and Maggie Zeng ’10
as soloists for Vivaldi’s The Four Seasons

Virtuoso Program Accolades

Congratulations to you and your orchestra on taking “grand champion” honors at the National Orchestra Festival… I am pleased to see such talent recognized… and I look forward to following your achievements. San Domenico’s orchestra sets an excellent example for other student musicians.”

- Jared Huffman, California Assemblymember, 6th District

“Wow! Just great!... Very mature and musical. You have every right to be proud of your achievements.”

- John Clinton, Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic
2008 National Orchestra Festival Adjudicator

“This group is the embodiment of music itself. You play with such joy and commitment. It was a pleasure to hear you! Keep up the good work!”

- Kathleen Horvath, Case Western Reserve University
2008 National Orchestra Festival Adjudicator

“Bravo! It was an inspiring pleasure to hear your music today. Outstanding!”

- Ray Ostwald, String Educator, Conductor and Author
2008 National Orchestra Festival Adjudicator

Invite Your Friends and Family!

If you have friends or family members who would enjoy receiving Virtuoso Program concert invitations and newsletters, please phone the Music Conservatory Office at (415) 258-1921 x1700 or email us at music@sandomenico.org and we will add them to our mailing list.