



Carlsen Cello Foundation News

Fall/Winter 2007

...putting cellos in the hands of deserving students

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hello to everyone,

We're pleased to send you some more updates on the latest activities and accomplishments of the terrific young students currently playing Carlsen Cello Foundation instruments. This fall, I'm excited to announce another reason to celebrate. 2008 marks the tenth year since the Foundation earned official 501c3 non-profit status, and we are already planning events and projects to celebrate this anniversary.


As many of you know, I started out in the early 1990's, loaning a handful of cellos out to local students. But today we have 48 instruments distributed to talented young cellists all over the country. Judging by the number of applications and letters of thanks from young cellists, the need for the kind of help we provide is stronger than ever.


I hope you enjoy reading about what some of these musicians have been doing this year and about their ambitions. We will keep you informed of dates and plans for special events to commemorate the Foundation's tenth anniversary.

And as always, remember that, just as mastering an instrument requires ongoing, never-ending practice, so too, the Foundation continues to need your support in the form of financial contributions and donations of instruments. Please "write your own check", and help out as much as you can. Thank you.

Ray Carlsen
Founder and Director

STUDENTS WRITE IN


 Susan An writes from Korea that she took lessons last year with several teachers with whom she hopes to study in the future. She worked with Richard Aaron and Darrett Atkins at the Aspen Music Festival and during the year with David Geber, Timothy Eddy and Ron Leonard. She studies this fall on full scholarship with Mihai Teitel at the University of Hartford.

 14-year old Christine Wong writes that she participated in the Seattle Young Artists Music Festival and Concerto Competition this past spring and received special recognition in both. Over the summer, she spent a week at the Vivace! Chamber Players Camp and also performed in Amy Barston's masterclass at the Japan Seattle Suzuki Institute.

Dear Dr. Carlsen,

I am eternally grateful for your good will and kindness in loaning me your beautiful cello. Since I have been practicing on your cello, I have significantly improved my technique and I ~~from~~ send my greatest thanks to you. Take care,
Fiona Kine ☺

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 Like many ambitious students, Caroline Nicolas of Ann Arbor has mapped out a series of competitions she plans to enter this year. "The first one is the Orchestre Symphonique de Montreal Standard Life Competition. The repertoire is all standard except for the required Canadian piece. My Canadian piece is "Wolf" by Michael Colgrass... Also this year is the Naumberg Competition and the International Stepping Stone (another Canadian competition) As you can see, I have my work cut out for me! So, nothing too exciting yet, just lots of practice and preparation." (We beg to differ on the "nothing too exciting part...")

PROFILE: RACHEL APTOWITZER



Sometimes, things just work out for the best. Rachel Aptowitzer's parents planned for her to start piano at the Ron Shulamit Conservatory in Jerusalem. When there didn't seem to be a good fit in a piano teacher, the head of the school recommended a wonderful cello teacher, Sabena Frankenberg. And the rest, as they say....

We heard this story via a telephone interview from Jerusalem where Rachel is studying special education so that she can eventually become, perhaps among other things, a music therapist. She wants to be able to "use the cello to help people". For Rachel, the path to this goal

involves many steps besides her intense practicing schedule. Now 18, Rachel has been studying and passing exams (with honors) in theory, analysis and history towards her Performer's Associate Diploma at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto - Rachel has dual Israeli/Canadian citizenship - and she is just a year away from getting her full Teacher's Associate Certificate. RCM examinations set standards of excellence worldwide in music education and performance.

While living in Boston from 2000-2003, Rachel was Principal Cellist of the Repertory Orchestra of the Greater Boston Youth Symphony, one of the premiere U.S. youth orchestras. Then in Ottawa, she studied privately for three years with Denis Brott. She has spent four summers on full scholarship at Aspen and two at Banff working with renowned cellists and teachers including Yehudi Hanani, Also Parisot and Richard Aaron. And last summer, Rachel participated in Canada's National Arts Centre Young Artists Programme founded and run by Pinchas Zukerman for some 60 exceptional international students. There she was awarded the opportunity to be recorded by Radio Canada and broadcast nation-wide.

Asked about inspirations and guiding forces, Rachel answered....."my parents...great people and great musicians". Her mother is a cardiologist and played cello for 10 years. And her father and his father are both cantors. Rachel also loves writing, and especially poetry.

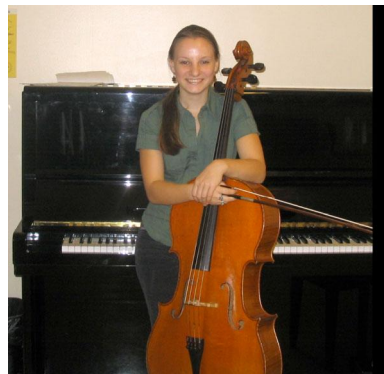
In Israel, she plans to teach, play in a piano trio, and hopefully perform some of her current repertoire - Schumann Concerto and Rococo Variations. Before we hung up, Rachel wanted to make sure to say something about the cello she has felt privileged to play: "I've had this cello during the most critical period in my development as a cellist (since she was 13). I always could feel I had a good cello, and didn't need to struggle to get a better one."

PROFILE: VALERIYA SHOLOKHOVA

17-year-old Valeriya Sholokhova moved with her family in 2001 from Kiev, Ukraine to New York City so that she could get a better music education. Shortly thereafter, she began attending the Special Music School for gifted children and accumulating an impressive list of honors: Second Prize at the 2004 and 2006 International Cello Competition in Liezen, Austria; Third Prize at the Antonio Janigro International Competition for Juniors in Porec, Croatia; and First Prize at the Wagner College Young Musician's Competition in New York, to name a few. Meanwhile, Valeriya's mother, Lyudmila, went to work as the Yiddish Catalog and Acquisition Librarian at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

In July 2006, Valeriya returned to her native Kiev, where she performed the Elgar Concerto at the Jeunesses Musicales Festival in Ukraine. This past year included the Vivaldi Double Cello Concerto as winner of the Special Music School's Concerto Competition; playing Haydn D Major Concerto in a masterclass for Steven

Isserlis; and six weeks at the Perlman Music Program, an intensive summer residency program run by Toby and Itzhak Perlman for only about 38 exceptionally gifted



students from all over the world. She also participates in the New York Youth Symphony's Chamber Music Program.

Now a senior, Valeriya says she keeps busy "by going to an intensive high school. After school I go straight to the music school to practice and hang out with friends.... I value my friends and teachers greatly - someone always ends up having the answer to any questions that I have." And of course, now she embarks on the daunting task of choosing and applying to colleges.

Since 2005, Valeriya has played a Carlsen Cello Foundation instrument labeled Theophile Pierre, Luthier, made circa 1780.

FROM AN ALUM

"I am extremely grateful to Dr. Carlsen and the Carlsen Cello Foundation for the loan of a cello that I used while in school at CIM (Cleveland Institute of Music). I had previously been playing on the same cello that I bought when I was 13 and, while it worked fine, it was no match for the learning experience I had from playing the very capable instrument on loan from the Foundation.

It was a tremendous learning experience to play on the Carlsen Foundation cello. I felt great excitement and joy, producing sounds that on my old cello had been beyond my reach. What an important opportunity to give to as many deserving cello students as possible."

Joshua Roman

Principal Cellist, Seattle Symphony

The Carlsen Cello Foundation angel was drawn by Audrey Carlsen, director Ray Carlsen's daughter. Audrey's whimsical and lively creation also adorns every letter informing applicants that they have been awarded a cello from the Foundation.



Carlsen Cello Foundation

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We regularly include short features about recipients of Foundation cellos.

You can see a full list of these young artists, and more, at our website
www.carlscellofoundation.org