



Young Artists International, Inc.

Dedicated to the continuity of the great tradition of classical music through artistic promotion and career advancement of exceptionally gifted young professional musicians

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Opus 19

November, 2007

Semi-Annual Newsletter published in May and November

Dear Friends, Benefactors, Colleagues:

Celebrating our 10th year was a proud achievement: the quality and quantity of cultural programs we have given to the community; assistance to the careers of exceptional young musicians; and, most gratifying, the life-time friendships and cultural connections we helped forge between 200+ artists from all over the world — all of this, in just ten years.

Considering that we have been so successful operating mostly on the unpaid dedication of a few, it is a miracle that we are continuing and planning our 11th Festival! Invitations for *iPalpiti* are pouring in — from festivals to international tours; rarely we can accept, due to our dependence on increased funding. While we acknowledge that much of the success of Young Artists



International comes from the Maestro and the *iPalpiti* artists, we know that it would not be possible without your economic support. As matters stand, we are not able to achieve all our goals on the shoestring funding we are able to get each year.

My admiration and gratitude to YAI's fabulous and generous board of directors!

To Chairman Jonathan Steinberg – Congratulation on Commendation from the City of Los Angeles for his unwavering dedication from the Mayor Villaraigosa and Councilman Jack Weiss!

We TRUST that you, our friends and benefactors, also take an important role in making these plans come to fruition.

I am looking forward to personally greeting you in all our future events and writing Thank You letters for your generosity!

Laura Schmieder, Director

For the past nine years, we published post-festival thanks from *iPalpiti* musicians and audience, which are so moving. After our 10th Festival, here are simpler expressions from those who hear our concerts for FREE:

Dear I Palpiti Orchestra,

Thank you for the opportunity to experience the wonderful classical music. First of all, I'm a 7th grade student at Berendo Middle School in Ms. Lebovich's class. The piece I most enjoyed was the Spring one specially the way Sayako Kusaka played the violin. When the spring part was played I imagined the birds chirping and the flowers blooming. In the second half I really enjoyed the different ways Happy Birthday was played. I also like the part when the musicians were plucking the strings on the violin and the cello while the pianist played along. Lastly, I also want to thank the person who paid for our tickets because it was a magnificent experience. Once again, I want to thank the Orchestra for the wonderful music and I hope to attend your performance again.

Sincerely, Yoselin Martinez and Yesenia Lopez

Dear iPalpiti Orchestra,

It was wonderful listening to such elegant music you play. You also provided us with free tickets to get inside the Walt Disney Concert Hall. I am 11 years old and I attend 7th grade. My dad and I like the music of one of the four seasons and it was the "Winter Season." We also like the "Happy Birthday" music because it was entertaining and also sweet. Thanks for letting me and the other students from my school to experience your beautiful performance.

Sincerely, Erick Francisco and Alejandro Francisco

Each Festival, we provide FREE tickets to the final *iPalpiti* concert at the Disney Hall to at least 200 students from local schools that operate in the summer, and about the same to local non-profit organizations that help abused children and teenagers at risk. Sometimes, THIS IS THEIR ONLY CHANCE IN THE YEAR TO DRESS UP AND COME IN CONTACT WITH THE SOCIETY. Add to this an opportunity to hear a classical concert performed by laureates (a word many never heard before!) from many countries, and there is a lasting impression, with longing to hear it again.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR ANGELS WHO WOULD SPONSOR our STUDENT COALITION FOR THE ARTS program. Each FREE ticket has a cost, and we need funds to produce the next festival, and in turn, help *iPalpiti* musicians, who, while rich culturally, extremely poor financially.

CALL 310.205 0511 to ask HOW YOU CAN HELP, or send your contribution in the enclosed envelope.

iPalpiti 2007 members came to Los Angeles from 18 countries

Violin

Fumino Ando/Japan
Peter Rainer /Germany*
Robert Kowalski/Poland
Mari-Liis Pakk/Estonia
Aisha Dossumova/Kazakhstan
Vladimir Dyo/Kazakhstan
Sayako Kusaka/Japan
Isabelle Lambelet/Switzerland
Catharina Chen/Norway
Natalija Isakovic/Serbia
Daniel Turcina/Slovakia
Ellen Jung/Canada
Juan Gonzalez/Venezuela

Viola

Rumen Cvetkov/Bulgaria
Boris Rimmer/Israel
Sharon Wei/Canada
Thomas Weilbach/Germany

Cello

Kristaps Bergs/Latvia
Nicholas Canellakis/USA
Xian Zhuo/China
Julie Jung/Canada

Bass

Kristoffer Saebo/USA
Dennis Tremblay**

Piano

Vassily Primakov/Russia
Jennie Jung/Korea-Canada
Bill Cunliffe**

*concertmaster

**guest artists

Notes and Comments

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you that yesterday's night performance was extraordinary. I felt very proud to see Daniel Turcina, one of our talented Slovak violinists, as well as other admirable young artists perform with such passion and enthusiasm. The whole performance was indeed remarkable. It was a real pleasure for me to be there. I look forward to future cooperation.

Sincerely,

Martina Simkova, Deputy Consul General of Slovakia

Dear Laura,

Once again, I enjoyed an adventurous and rewarding evening with Eduard and iPalpiti.

Mendelssohn's teen-age music was played better than the composer could have imagined it; intonation and ensemble of the highest standard made the performance a joy. And then the concert kept getting better!

Thanks again for the opportunity to share the enthusiastic talents of these wonderful young players.

Happy birthday!

Dennis Bade (LA Philharmonic, Sundays Live!)

I continue to be impressed by the quality of the musicians you find, certainly for their artistry and musicianship and also for their being such rich human beings.

Looking at the last ten years, I'm constantly reminded of YAI when I regularly hear Robert Thies, Valentina Lisitsa, Jonathan Karoly, Catherine Leonard, Ken Aiso, and Cameron Carpenter play. Indeed, I must hear Thies a dozen times a year, and Karoly almost every week during the LA Phil season. You understand how extraordinary your selection and education process is, and how each year becomes a high point of the musicians' and audiences' lives.

Warmest regards,

Grant Barnes, Esq.

And, to summarize, just one note from our musician. Rumen Cvetkov, violist from Bulgaria has been with *iPalpiti* since 2004, and it speaks volumes that our "professional" alumni want to come back.

Dear Mrs. Schmieder,

Better late than later or never, I want to thank you tremendously for the, once more, great experience in this year's festival. The chamber music was fantastic. The concert in Disney even more than that. We all know that you have put in so much effort and energy to make this all happen. You deserve our highest admirations and respect. Please send my great love to Maestro and I hope to see you both very soon again.

Yours as always, Rumen

Chamber musician and Co-Principal in Chicago Civic Orchestra under directorship of Bernard Haitink.

Most Recent Alumni News:

Ryo Mikami (Japan) – accepted position of concertmaster, Sapporo Symphony Orchestra, former member, Lausanne Soloists (Swiss).

Alexandru Tomescu – won the Stradivarius "Elder" violin from The Culture Ministry of Romania. The violin belongs to the state and the competition purpose was to designate a violinist who will be entitled to use that violin for the next 5 years. We look forward to see Alexandru next year in Los Angeles, performing on this great violin!

Timur Bekbosunov, tenor (Kazakhstan) – was Misail in "Boris Godunov" stage performance at the Hollywood Bowl/Esa-Pekka Salonen, conductor.



iPalpiti on stage of Disney Hall, after performance of Golijov's Last Round

In the free time from rehearsals, musicians were warmly entertained by our generous benefactors and friends.



Ada & Leonard Sands hosted dinner for **iPalpiti** and special guests at their home



where musicians ate...



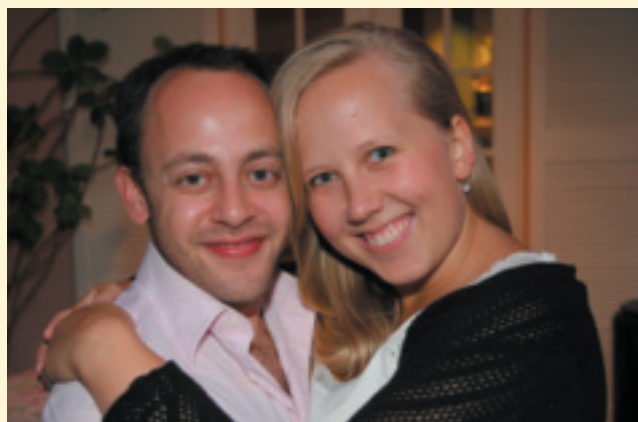
played...



watched funny **iPalpiti** documentary about the 2006 Festival



...and swam



The perfect time for two **iPalpiti** sweethearts: alumni cellist Jason Calloway (currently a member of the Biava Quartet) came to visit from his engagement at the Claremont to be with Mari-Liis Pakk, Estonian violinists – both are going to Mari-Liis' homeland after **iPalpiti** festival.



...and Marilyn Stampler & Jay Markoff hosted goodbye party at their home



Jay was making sure no **iPalpiti** artist leaves hungry



Norman & Anna Volkoff with their favorite Aisha Dossumova, violinist from Kazakhstan

DURING THE FESTIVAL WEEK, *iPalpiti* artists played seven concerts at UCLA, LACMA, Greystone, La Señora Institute, and Disney Hall.

Catharina Chen, Kris Saebo, Boris Rimmer, Xiao Zhan & Jung Trio played at La Señora



Jung Trio performs at Greystone Mansion



Basses rule

Before Disney Hall concert, *iPalpiti* gather at their own poster in the Music Center Plaza



Festival Finale: post-Disney reception at Tesoro



Everyone received Certificates of Commendation





ALEX GALLARDO Los Angeles Times

UNEXPECTED PLEASURES: Sayako Kusaka, right, with Eduard Schmieder, solos on Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons" at Disney Hall.

MUSIC REVIEW

Seasonal renewal from Vivaldi

Adjusting for a soloist's illness, iPalpiti revises its program and goes on with the show.

By CHRIS PASLES
Times Staff Writer

The sudden illness of a key soloist almost derailed the plans of the 10th annual International Laureates Festival, conceived by Laura and Eduard Schmieder, which culminated in a program by the iPalpiti Orchestral Ensemble on Thursday at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. But the resilience of Eduard Schmieder, who conducted, and the prize-winning musicians, ages 19 to 32 and from around the world, prevailed.

Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons" replaced Mendelssohn's Concerto for Violin, Piano and Orchestra in D minor, with Japanese violinist Sayako Kusaka, one of the original soloists, showcased in the familiar score.

The new piece complemented Astor Piazzolla's "Las Cuatro Estaciones Porteñas" (The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires), with jazz pianist Bill Cunliffe stepping in for the ailing Russian pianist, Vassily Primakov. And a piece by Enesco was replaced by one of Mendelssohn's short early but accomplished string symphonies, No. 10 in B minor.

Kusaka was a secure, fluent soloist who tended to use vibrato sparingly and resisted any grandstanding. Indeed, her collaborations with German concertmaster Peter Rainer, American cellist Nicholas Canelakis and Korean Canadian harpsichordist Jennie Jung revealed unexpected pleasures of the score.

Schmieder kept the 22-member orchestra lively and transparent, judiciously using contrasts and degrees of dynamic for expressive ends. The musicians played with vivid unanimity and commitment.

Folk singer and actor Theodore Bikel read the descriptive

poems, presumably by Vivaldi, before each concerto. Dennis Tremblay, Los Angeles Philharmonic principal bass, joined the orchestra throughout.

The emotional high point of the program was Osvaldo Golijov's tragic two-movement work, "Last Round," composed in 1996 in homage to Piazzolla, who died in 1992. Schmieder dedicated the performance from the stage to Daniel Pearl, the Wall Street Journal reporter who was kidnapped and murdered by Islamic militants — Schmieder sadly called them "hypnotized fanatics" — in Karachi in 2002.

The first movement is an aggressive, agitated conflict between two quartets standing across from each other (Piazzolla was a fighter, and the title is meant to suggest a boxing match). The second, "Muertes del Angel" (Deaths of the Angel), is a powerful threnody that evokes a slow-moving cortege. The playing was masterly.

By contrast, Piazzolla's "Four Seasons," which followed to close

the program, seemed anticlimactic, although it was clever, melodious and well-played.

For an encore, the group toasted its anniversary with a witty set of variations on "Happy Birthday."

chris.pasles@latimes.com

The consulates of each musician's country are invited to the Festival concerts. It gives the chance for the Consul to be proud of "their" musician, and for the musician to feel appreciated by the representatives of their country in Los Angeles. We are fortunate to have enjoyed the generous collaboration of many consuls, including those from such countries as Germany, Spain, France, Austria, and Poland.

This summer, Consul General of Canada Hon. Alain Dudoit hosted a fabulous pre-festival event at his residency featuring the Jung Trio from Canada, which was selected as YAI Debut Artists 2007.



Hal Schloss, Jay Markoff, Ron Kenan & Vanessa Morgenstern, Consul Dudoit, Tonya & Misba Gershfeld, Marilyn Stampler, Dr. Jim Montagano



Consul Dudoit & Michele Dudoit with Jung sisters Julie, Jennie & Ellen



Schmieder family (Eduard, Hanna & Laura) with young entrepreneurs: Mark Baum (L), Lila Aviv & James Panther



Mary Cutler, MaryAnn Berman, Marilyn Stampler



Mary & Dr. Jim Eninger (YAI Advisory Board)



Chris Palmeri from NBC, Susan Liebowitz from Dateline NBC, David Saltz from ABC, Lyric Culture President Hanna Schmieder, and actress Jennifer Convy



Consul & Mrs. Dudoit with more distinguished guests



Ron Kenan & Vanessa arriving in style

Our heartfelt thanks to all UAI supporters

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November 2006-October 2007

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Jama Lambert	Hogan Lee	Karen Lorshbough	Matthew Michael
Dr. James Montagano	Francesca Pascarelli	Karl Pascascio	Asya Rachitsky
R.S.V.P./Priscilla Lane	Judge Harold Shabo	Ruth Weglein	Wai Lin Yip

Photographers Dana Ross and his friends Bruce Malone and Paul Redman

We welcome new volunteer force for the year around and the festival 2008

where needs are many: driving artists is one BIG project.

Call to "enroll": 310.205.0511

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Presented throughout the year in private residences and exclusive salons by invitation only.

Upcoming Event

Saturday, November 17, 5:00pm

SOTHEBY's Beverly Hills

5th annual Tribute to Leo Frankel

featuring

JUNG TRIO

with **Nathan Frankel**

guest lead violinist (YAI board member)

performing Haydn's *Gypsy* and Dvořák's *Dumki* trios

&

Grammy nominated Jazz Pianist & Composer **Bill Cunliffe**

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Reception following

~ For information call 310.205.0511 or visit www.YoungArtists.org ~

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In partnership with Warner Bros., Lyric Culture has designed a custom T-shirt with guitar pick pendant necklace inspired by a line from *August Rush*, a film about a child with remarkable musical talent (Starring Robin Williams, Jonathan Rhys-Meyers, and Keri Russell. Opens November 21, 2007.)



www.lyricculture.com

***"The music is all around us.
All you have to do is listen."***

**Proceeds from the sale of the product
will benefit Young Artists International.**

Sold in high-end boutiques, limited number will be available at our Sotheby's event on November 17.

If bought through YAI, your purchase is tax-deductible.

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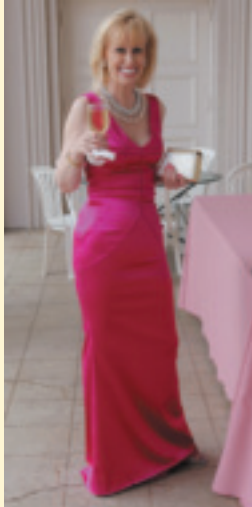
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The Festival opened with a 10th anniversary celebration GALA
at Ebell Club of Los Angeles.



Helena Kröl-Kolodziey
chaired this event

Honorees Mary Levin Cutler and Ada & Leonard Sands

iPalpiti "Heartbeat" Award was designed for the occasion by Alex Shagin, famous medal & awards artist.



*M. Gershfeld presented iPalpiti "Heartbeat" Dedication Award
to Founding Chairman **Mary Levin Cutler**, Theodore
Bikel/Event's Celebrity Host, Laura Schmieder, YAI Director*



*Ada & Leonard Sands – recipients of
iPalpiti "Heartbeat" Visionary Award*



*Michael Gershfeld, standing, introduced as
YAI's First Chairman*



*Kara Fox (center) Gala Planning Committee member
with guest friends*



Maestro with Patrons Bill & Sally Feathers



*Mr. & Mrs. Robert Borenstein, guests of Benefactors
Marylin Stampler & Jay Markoff*



Benefactors Barbara & Hugh Smith with guest



*Brian & Sheryl Stecher with YAI board member Lillian
Brem, and Patrons Bert Rosenblum & Adele Heller*



*Honoree Mary Cutler with friends
Nedra Zachary and Peter Hubner*



*Benefactor Hanna Schmieder with father/Maestro Schmieder,
Dana Wilkey & John Flynn ("monopoly" buyer of almost all
Live Auction items – inspired by Rich Caparella of KUSC; Dana
bappily displays diamond necklace just acquired by John)*

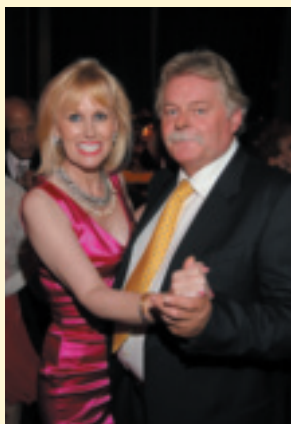


*Volunteers Cookie Ross, Jeanine Carter & Francesca
Pascarelli ready to present iPalpiti commemorative pins*

iPalpiti performed and dancing was the call of the night with the Jim Farmston Band



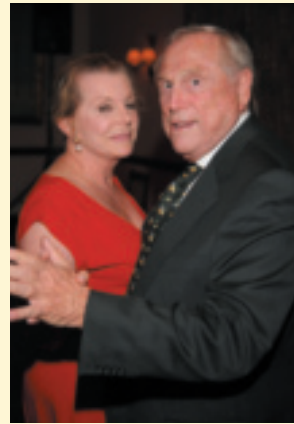
Benefactors Anna Volkoff & Norman Rachitsky



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*Guests of Honorees Ada & Leonard:
Marcia and Richard Ebrlich*

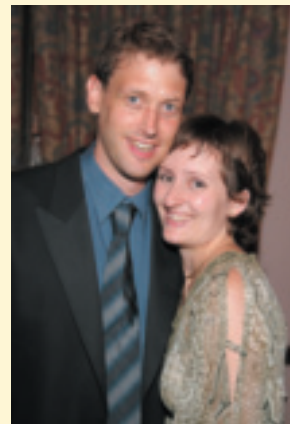
...and iPalpiti artists dance too:



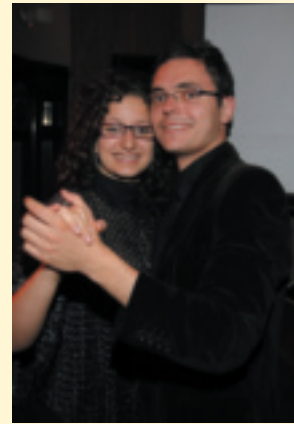
*Concertmaster Peter Rainer
(Germany) & Soloist violinist
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*Maestro with Canadian violinist
Sharon Wei*



*Swiss violinist Isabelle Lambelet &
German violinist Thomas Weilbach*



*Serbian violinist Natalija Isakovic &
Slovakian violinist Daniel Turcina*

*Thank you to the Gala Committee and
everyone who made it a success*

Dr. Ludmila Bess

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Dr. Alex & Natalia Gershman

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Judge Harold Shabo

Ann Goldblatt

Todd Hawkins, Event Coordinator

Todd began working with YAI in 2004 as a summer intern, and now, a graduate of UCLA, is President of the Todd Group, an entertainment service firm.

YAI Summer intern 2007 was **Eric Brown**, graduate of USC in film and communications, he produced the greeting reel for the Gala opening.

SAVE THE DATE
Annual Appreciation/Holiday Party

Sunday, December 9, 3 pm

Hosted by Kara Fox
at her home in Santa Monica.

Once a year we gather at this event for Friends of YAI and board members, enjoying the holiday spirit and a chance to showcase their own talents.

Invitations coming!