



Volume 7

Spring -Summer 2007

Letter from the President

Our eighth year is off to a great start! Twelve aspiring, young instrumentalists were awarded prizes and performed at our annual JDAF gala concert in May.

As we follow our past competition winner's careers, we are thrilled to hear about their upcoming projects and see them perform at different venues. You will read about many of these talented performers in this newsletter and learn how their careers are progressing since winning their JDAF awards.



To our loyal supporters, thank you for continuing to give a helping hand to our extraordinary talent. To our new friends, welcome aboard! We look forward to having you join us not only at gala events, but to enjoy the art tours and the many exciting upcoming fundraising happenings.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to the music professionals who composed the jury for our recent instrumental competition. Braden Tone, conductor, Barbara Meister, pianist/teacher and Misha Quint, cellist/teacher.

Yours for the Arts,
Joyce Dutka

JDAF AWARD WINNERS PERFORM AT GALA CONCERT

Award winners of the JDAF 2006-2007 Instrumental Competition performed at Liederkranz Hall in Manhattan on Friday, May 4th. The recital hall located at 5 East 87th Street near Fifth Avenue was a new venue for JDAF. The elegant décor of this historic hall provided a lovely backdrop for showcasing our twelve talented young artists. Highlights of the program included a passionate interpretation of Chopin's *Scherzo in E Major* by pianist Krystian Tkaczewski, a moving Bach Largo from *Sonata No. 3 in C major* by violinist, Elissa Cassini and the dazzling technique of pianist Chris Atzinger playing the Fuga: *Allegro con spirito* from *Sonata for Piano* by Samuel Barber. We also enjoyed two selections by our special award winner, Marimbist, Fumito Nunoya. Pianist, Amir Khosrowpour, who came running in after performing as an award winner for another competition the same night, provided the perfect ending to our concert. He received our enthusiastic applause for his exciting performance of *Superstar Etude No. 1* by Aaron Jay Kernis. Afterward, our raffle prize winners were announced and guests enjoyed an Austrian dessert reception.

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2006-2007 INSTRUMENTAL COMPETITION AWARD WINNERS

Twelve extraordinary, young performers representing their native countries of France, Korea, Japan, Poland, Cuba and the U.S. were chosen as our 2006-2007 Instrumental Competition Winners. Over \$9,000.00 in prize money was awarded to the artists at our gala concert in May.

FIRST PLACE		SECOND PLACE		THIRD PLACE	
Orlay Alonso	Piano	Elissa Cassini	Violin	Akimi Fukuhara	Piano
Chris Atzinger	Piano	Amy Gustafson	Piano	Mikrung Kim	Violin
Sooyun Kim	Flute	Amir Khosrowpour	Piano		
Tali Kravitz	Viola	Krystian Tkaczewski	Piano	SPECIAL AWARD WINNER	
		Zodiac Trio	Ensemble	Fumito Nunoya	Marimba

2007 GALA PHOTOS



JDAF President Joyce Dutka with Sooyun Kim, First Place award winner for flute.



JDAF Board members attending from left to right: Rhoda Klein, Marjorie Oberlander, Joyce Dutka, Harryette Helsel, Suzanne Nason and Bobbie Lefkowitz.



Joyce Presenting the Second Place Piano award to Krystian Tkaczewski.

JDAF FUNDRAISER NEWS

JDAF'S December 2006 fundraiser to the Yeshiva University Museum at the center for Jewish Studies located at 15 West 16th Street in Manhattan was a smashing success.

A docent led portion of the exhibit *Resistance and Memory in Belgium 1940-1945* was followed by the artist Saara Gallin's fascinating explanation of how she created her beautiful stained-glass installations. We want to thank everyone who attended. We hope that all of you who weren't able to make it can join us next time. Check our website at www.jdutka.com for future trips and other fundraisers this year.



Saara Gallin at the Center for Jewish Studies

JDAF AWARDS GRANTS

In January of 2007, the Joyce Dutka Arts Foundation, Inc. approved a grant of \$500.00 to the **Bronx Opera Company** for general support of its arts-in-education programs for Bronx schools.

Also in 2007, **Underworld Productions**, a community opera company with artistic, education and philanthropic goals will receive a grant for \$500.00. Established in 2004, *Underworld Productions* promotes an ensemble experience of mutual support and community building. They seek to engender a wider audience for opera by ensuring maximum participation, including those of diverse backgrounds and ages. They aim to de-mystify opera so that all may enjoy it by creating stylish, inclusive, and accessible performances with high musical and dramatic standards.

2007 ARTIST'S SPOTLIGHT

WQXR FEATURES THREE JDAF AWARD WINNERS

Robert Sherman, the host of WQXR's *Young Artist's Showcase* featured three recent JDAF instrumental award winners on the May 6, 2007 broadcast. Recordings from pianists Amir Khosrowpour, Amy Gustafson and the clarinet, violin, piano ensemble Zodiac Trio were played throughout the show. Mr. Sherman recently notified JDAF that he will once again feature a recording from pianist, Amir Khosrowpour performing the Lowell Liebermann Piano Concerto No. 2 on his August 1, 2007 broadcast from 9:00 pm to 10:00 pm.



Amir Khosrowpour, piano



Amy Gustafson, Piano



Zodiac Trio, Clarinet, Violin, Piano



Elissa Cassini performing at the JDAF gala concert on May 4, 2007.

Franco-American violinist **Elissa Cassini** has performed throughout the United States and Europe in concert and recital both in solo and in chamber music settings. Her studies have taken her to Paris, Amsterdam, Boston and presently New York, where she is pursuing a Masters's degree at The Juilliard School.

Since winning her JDAF award, Elissa has been performing as concertmaster with her new project the **Arcos Chamber Orchestra** that she founded along with conductor John-Edward Kelly and principal cellist Dane Johansen. In the spirit of Bela Bartok, they intend to build an artistic bridge reaching from the origins of European musical culture to the most exciting contemporary music of our time. The next New York performance will take place at the International House's Davis Auditorium on January 25, 2007 at 8:00 pm. It will be a portrait concert for the Swedish composer Anders Eliasson. Not to be missed!! For more information visit www.arcos-orchestra.com.

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PAST AWARD WINNER'S NEWS



Eve Gigliotti, first place award winner, sang the title role in *Carmen* with the Bronx Opera in May. In June of this year, she played the role of Angellina Rinucci in a new play by Tom Rowan entitled "The Second Tosca" about the journey of an opera singer.



Othalie Graham, first place award winner, sang Odabella in *Attila* with the Sarasota Opera in February of 2007. This year she also sang in *Turandot* with the Michigan Opera and *Elijah* with Byrn Terfel and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.



Melody Alesi, first place award winner, recently sang with the Tampa Opera under the baton of Maestro Anton Coppola. She was personally invited to sing three major roles in his opera *Sacco and Vanzetti*.



Megan Weston won first place in the JDAF Competition and was also a winner of the 2006 Lee Schaenen Foundation Awards held in Chicago. In January of 2007, she sang Barber's *Knoxville: Summer of 1915* and Copland's *Emily Dickinson Poems* with the San Diego Chamber Orchestra.



Julie Baron, first place award winner, made her April 2007 debut with the Anchorage Opera, singing Stephano in *Romeo and Juliette*. This summer, she will be singing at the Pine Mountain Music Festival in *Candide* and *Docteur Miracle*.



Karim Sulayman, a second place JDAF award winner for Arts Songs, recently sang the tenor solo in *Canata 110* at the International Bach Festival in Toronto. He also sang Faure's *La Bonne Chanson* for the Music & Poetry Series at Toronto's Walter Hall and Bach's *St. John's Passion* under the baton of Maestro Bernard Labadie with the Arion Ensemble in Montreal.



Jesse Blumberg, first place JDAF award winner for Art Songs, recently sang in the world premiere of *The Grapes of Wrath* with the Minnesota Opera and the Utah Opera. In June of 2007, he won first prize in the National Music Cups Competition.



David Rosenmeyer, a past JDAF grant recipient made his conducting debut at Carnegie Hall with the Oratorio Society of New York in March of 2007.

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