

## PRESS RELEASE

The *Stradivarius International Violin Competition* announces its 2<sup>nd</sup> Competition for July 5<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in Libby Gardner Hall at the University of Utah, School of Music

*Salt Lake City, Utah, Nov. 3, 2009—The Stradivarius International Violin Competition announces its second competition for July 5<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Charles W. Liu Fine Violins teams with the University of Utah, School of Music to Sponsor a Junior Division international violin competition, which will attract some of the most talented young players, ages 11-17, in the world. These players will compete for money, prizes and honors before a panel of internationally acclaimed judges.*

The idea for this competition was the inspiration of Charles W. Liu. He established the *Stradivarius International Violin Competition*, a non-profit corporation, in 2006 as a way of showing members of the string instrument community his gratitude for their overwhelming support for his violin shop. Due to the huge success of the first competition, Charles Liu has been anxious to host another. The 2010 event holds particular interest since it is the ONLY competition of this magnitude in the United States. No other competition of this level and difficulty targets violinists under the age of eighteen.

Dr. Robert Walzel, Dean of the School of Music at the University of Utah, has again offered to host the event at Libby Gardner Hall, and the Utah Symphony will provide performance opportunities for the competition's winners.

The *Stradivarius International Violin Competition* is committed to assembling a panel of judges with world class credentials and experience. The 2007 competition was highly successful in this respect. The 2010 Stradivarius Competition panel of judges will include: Andres Cardenes (Concert Master of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra), Liang Chai (Chair of String Department, China Central Conservatory of Music), Stephen Clapp (Emeritus Dean, Juilliard School of Music), Laura Klugherz (Professor of Music, Colgate University), Nicolas Mann (Chair of String Department, Manhattan School of Music), Anne Akiko Meyers (Professor of Violin, University of Texas at Austin), and Valentin Zhuk (Concert Master, Dutch Radio Symphony Orchestra/ Professor of Violin, Sweelinck Conservatory)

Fifteen competitors from throughout the world will be invited to Salt Lake City after the pre-selection round. After hearing the competitors live, our judges will select five finalists, all of whom will win a prize. The first prize is \$7,500 in cash and a hand made violin by Charles W. Liu (valued at \$12,000). The First Prize Winner will perform with the Utah Symphony in their 2011 summer season. The competitors will come from some of the finest music schools in the world and be students of the most reputable violin teachers. At this time, the *Stradivarius International Violin Competition* is targeting upcoming artists between the ages of 11-17. The competitors are sure to be among the best in the world and this event will, once again, be truly remarkable.

In addition to the Junior Division international category, the *Stradivarius International Violin Competition* is also featuring a Utah Division for violinists age 11-18. Young, local violinists are encouraged to enter and experience the excitement of an international competition first hand. The SIVC urges our Utah students and teachers to reach for international standards. The finalists of the Utah Division will have an opportunity to perform before our International Judges. The First Prize Winner will receive a cash prize along with a performance opportunity with the Utah Symphony and the Salt Lake Symphony.

For further details, please visit our website at [www.stradcompetition.org](http://www.stradcompetition.org) .

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