



## Charles W. Liu President Stradivarius International Violin Competition

Dear Guests,

As President, I welcome you to the Third Stradivarius International Violin Competition. During our time here, I am confident that we will continue to discover some of the newest and greatest violin talents of our time.

Our past competitions have produced many remarkable outcomes. 2007 winner, Yoonshin Song was recently appointed as concertmaster of the Detroit Symphony. Our 2010 winner, Marie Rossano is currently studying at Curtis.

In 2012, we started the Stradivarius International Advanced String Camp. This year the advanced string camp will run concurrently with the competition, allowing the campers to learn more about the process of competing in an international competition. Master classes will also be given by members of the judging panel, which includes some of the most distinguished violinists and instructors from all the major conservatories.

I was particularly eager this year to target younger musicians (ages 11-17) because of the incredible talent I have seen. I wanted the music community to understand what our very young children are capable of. The pre-selection recordings and DVDs reiterated to me the necessity of showcasing the level of excellence to which our musicians should aspire. This year we also had a live pre-selection round in China, judged by Nicholas Mann of the Manhattan School of Music, as well as many other distinguished professors of the most respected music conservatories all over China. The pre-selection committee picked three violinists out of a pool containing all of China's finest young violinists to join us for the semifinals in Salt Lake City. As a result, I am proud to say that many of the best young violinists in the world are with us here today for the competition.

The Stradivarius International Violin Competition is the only competition of such high caliber for this age group in the United States. The repertoire is rigorous and demanding; certainly more substantial than many youth international competitions from around the globe. There is so much dedication and potential in these young musicians and I hope that this competition can be a stepping stone for them in achieving their dreams.

I am pleased to see that many Utah competitors have joined us. I created the Utah Division because of the rich musical background I have witnessed in our community. I hope that through this experience together, we will strive to raise the bar and create a chance for local playing to reach international levels in the near future.

This competition is unique in that it was conceived, organized, and funded primarily by a luthier. This should lend understanding to the passion and art behind the work it takes to put something like this event together. When I make a violin, I try to infuse it with my greatest hopes and aspirations. When it is in the hands of a skilled violinist, it evolves into something new and special. I have put my hopes and dreams into this competition. Now, please enjoy watching as these talented young musicians turn what I have created into something even more extraordinary.

Best wishes,

  
Charles W. Liu, President of Stradivarius International Violin Competition