



Charles W. Liu

President

Stradivarius International Violin Competition

Dear Guests,

As President, I welcome you to the second Stradivarius International Violin Competition. During our time here, we will have the opportunity to discover some of the greatest young players of our time. With the combined strengths of international soloists, guests, local musicians, and others, we will experience an astounding musical banquet!

Our 2007 competition produced many remarkable outcomes. After a very successful competition, previous competitors have pursued professional careers, and have won other prestigious international competitions.

I have invited Andrej Power, 2nd prize winner of the 2007 Stradivarius International Violin Competition, from Sweden, to perform at our opening ceremonies. Sarah Moench, who was also a SIVC semi-finalist, will showcase her skill on Thursday night as part of our benefit concert. The 1st prize winner, Yoonshin Song, will perform with the Utah Symphony on July 21 at the Deer Valley Festival following this event.

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.

The Stradivarius International Violin Competition is the first, and only, of its kind in the United States. It is the only competition of such high caliber to target this specific age group. The repertoire is rigorous and demanding. Much of it is comparable to our Main Category requirements from the previous competition, and it is certainly more substantial than many youth international competitions from around the globe. There is so much dedication and potential in these young musicians. I hope that this competition can be a stepping stool for them in achieving their dreams.

I am delighted to see that so 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 the international levels in the near future.

This competition is extremely 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