

## PRESS RELEASE

**The Stradivarius International Violin Competition is delighted to receive welcome letter from White House at the conclusion of its first competition. The Grand Prize winner of the Youth Category is to provide two performances in Utah.**

*Salt Lake City, Utah, June 22, 2007—The Stradivarius International Violin Competition receives a welcome letter from the White House near the end of the competition, and The Grand Prize winner of the Youth Category, eleven year old Mindy Chen from California, will perform at the end of the Suzuki String Institute and the Gina Bachauer Summer Festival on Saturday and Sunday .*

At the successful conclusion of the Stradivarius International Violin Competition, Charles W. Liu, President and organizer of the event was surprised retrieve his mail and find a personal message from President George W. Bush addressing those gathered for the violin competition.

In the letter, the President expressed his personal appreciation for the efforts and talents all of those involved with the Stradivarius International Violin Competition (that took place on June 11-14, 2007). He also expressed the value of art, and particularly music, to our nation.

Charles W. Liu, the President of the competition stated, "Some people claim that the culture of fine art is declining in America, but from where I stand, I have seen only a deep love and support for the arts from the highest levels. The international music community has demonstrated that this place is perfectly suited to discovering some the greatest artistic talent in history."

Perhaps the most immediate confirmation of this statement is the invitations for the eleven year old Grand Prize winner of the competition's Youth Category, Mindy Chen, to perform this Saturday and Sunday.

The Intermountain Suzuki String Institute is currently in session for the 2007 summer string camp, and they will conclude their event with a concert on Saturday at noon. Mindy Chen has been invited to play the 1<sup>st</sup> movement of Nicolo Paganini's Violin Concerto No. 1 in D, the music that she used to win in the violin competition.

This Sunday Evening, Mindy Chen is scheduled to perform with the Gina Bachauer Piano Festival to claim one of several prizes as the 1<sup>st</sup> grand prize winner of the youth category. While this event has clearly maintained a piano emphasis throughout the years, their larger mission is to support the music community. Miss. Chen is capable of delighting any classical music audience with her remarkable level of ability for a violinist of any age.

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