

PRESS RELEASE

A Local Violin Shop Sponsors an International Violin Competition and Experiences Remarkable Activity and Support.

Salt Lake City, Utah, January 26, 2007—The Stradivarius International Violin Competition experiences remarkable activity in relation to the violin competition in Salt Lake City, Utah. Charles W. Liu Fine Violins teams with the University of Utah School of Music to Sponsor a violin competition involving some of the most talented young players in the world. Support and excitement over the competition arrives from unexpected places. The 1st Prize Winner's solo appearance will be provided by the Utah Symphony.

Charles W. Liu Fine Violins sponsors *The Stradivarius International Violin Competition*. The University Of Utah School Of Music will host the event on June 11-14, 2007 at Libby Gardner hall on the University of Utah Campus.

This competition has received applications from over twenty US states and Canada. The competition has also received inquiries and applications from some of America's leading music schools and conservatories, such as: the Curtis Institute, Juliard, USC and Peabody. Potential competitors have made serious inquiries from Europe and Asia as well, but based on the nature of the application process, the competition expects to receive roughly 90% of applications immediately following the application deadline. The competition judges will announce the names of the finalists, those who will compete in Salt Lake City, a few weeks before the competition meets at Libby Gardner Hall.

In addition to the many symphony players, music professors and heads of music departments in various universities extending their support for the competition, This event has drawn attention and assistance from the heads of other International music competitions, such as Glen Kwok (Executive Director of *The International Violin Competition of Indianapolis*), and Paul Pollei (Founder and Artistic Director of the Gina Bachauer Piano Competition). Strad Magazine, an international periodical dedicated to the violin, has provided free full page advertising for the event. Announcements have also appeared in Strings Magazine, and the A.S.T.A. (American String Teachers Association) Magazine.

The current panel of judges reads as follows: Andres Cardenous (Concert Master of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra) will act as the presiding judge followed by Robert Lipsett (professor at USC), Victor Danchenko (Professor at Curtis Institute of Music & Peabody School of Music), Alvaro DeGranda (Retiring Assistant Concert Master of the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra), David Park (Assistant Concert Master of the Utah Symphony Orchestra), Jenny Oaks Baker (National Symphony), and (Tula) Nokuthala Ngwenyama (soloist).

The grand prize is \$10,000 in cash and a hand made violin by Charles W. Liu (valued at \$10,000). The most coveted part of the Grand Prize will be the concert appearance with the *Utah Symphony* in 2008. *The Stradivarius International Violin*

Competition Will make a Stradivarius violin available for the winner to use for this concert appearance. Charles W. Liu is currently negotiating for (perhaps as many as) 3 Antonio Stradivari violins to be present for the top 3 finalists to use in the public portion of the competition, the *Finalist Concert*. These violins are valued at (approximately) three to four million dollars each.

In addition to the main competition, young violinists may enter a youth category and experience the excitement of international competition first hand, thus encouraging local youth to reach for international standards. As humble as this statement may be, the competition has received applications from young violinists that have played concerts at Carnegie Hall and performed internationally.

In addition to the amazing performances we expect from the competitors, Jenny Oaks Baker has offered to perform a concert on one of the evenings following the competition events. She is a violinist with the National Symphony Orchestra, recording artist, local celebrity and a native of Salt Lake City.

Representatives of *The Stradivarius International Violin Competition* state that the goal of the competition is to direct world-wide attention to Utah as a respected center for the arts. When asked, Charles Liu said, "This city has an excellent fine arts community with a symphony orchestra that rivals the finest in the world. This competition should help the world experience Utah's artistic focus while discovering some of the greatest new musical talents of our time."

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