

Charles W. Liu

President

Stradivarius International Violin Competition

Dear participants,

Welcome to this, the first Stradivarius International Violin Competition.

This violin competition is not like any you have seen. The primary difference is that it was conceived, organized, and funded primarily by a violin maker. This fact, in and of itself, should communicate a rather different foundation of concept for this event.

This competition is a place where our common vision is wider than the strict confines of the techniques of great playing. This competition incorporates music, shapes and lines, literature, history, nature, and passion. This is where we explore the vastness and beauty of the violin world as we discover some of the greatest players of our time.

One should come away from this event with more than an appreciation of the talents of the players. One should, hopefully, be able to experience epiphanies on the value of the violin in our world and in our lives. The music, and the instruments themselves, say different things to different people. The things they say are profound, and it seems that no message is really right or wrong. The message is, simply, personal and often inexplicable.

Early in our planning, we had anticipated only a Stradivarius violin present at the competition to represent the spirit of the maker after whom this event is named. We never expected the outpouring of support that has brought many of the finest Old Italian violins from collections located in areas as diverse as Europe and Asia. Still, our esteemed Antonio Stradivari sits at the pinnacle of violins at this event.

This competition not only brings out the best in its competitors, but has found inspiration and generosity in the most unexpected places. Everyone from the final judges to the volunteers have gone beyond our hopes and provided elements of remarkable quality to this competition.

When I make a violin, I work to infuse it with my greatest hopes and highest aspirations. When it is in the hands of a skilled violinist, it evolves into something new, and the greater part of the violin reveals itself through the lens of the musician's soul.

In the beginning, I felt much the same way about this competition. In a sense, I had thought of this competition as a blank slate, lovingly crafted for those whose potential could flourish in such an environment. On the day that I chose to create this event, I had no idea that so many people would give so much to see this happen. I am humbled to witness how this competition has evolved.

Thank you for taking your part in this event and giving it life. I believe that you will find it most memorable.

Sincerely,



Charles W. Liu, President of Stradivarius International Violin Competition

