



News @ Notes

Greetings, Everyone!

We are entering the final months before our **eighth international competition**. I would like to thank every one of you who has helped make this all possible. Your dollars are paying for our distinguished judges to listen to over eight hours of new music for the harpsichord. Your dollars will pay for performers to come and play these new and exciting pieces at the finals in March in Cincinnati. Your dollars help pay for the printed publication of these pieces so that others may enjoy them! Please consider a donation today to this priceless gift that will keep giving back in more music for the HARPSICHORD!

Fondly,

Elaine → 

P.S. Envelopes are included in this newsletter to make it easy to give. I especially encourage any person who enjoys harpsichord music but who has not donated to Aliénor yet to consider making a first-time gift.

Contact Us ...

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70 Scores Compete in 2012 International Contest



Benny the postman, carrying the Aliénor scores

The entries have arrived and now the judges have their work cut out for them: we received fifty solo scores from as far afield as Munich, Seoul, Paris, Sao Paulo, Buenos Aires, Tokyo and Novi Sad, Serbia plus 16 American states and Canada. Composers were asked to seek inspiration from the compositional style of Bartok's *Microcosmos*, and many of the works they sent have interesting rhythmic combinations and exciting colors. In addition to the solo pieces, we had 18 entries for the chamber/vocal competition. We will announce the six final winning scores on our website (www.harpichord-now.org) by January 1st, and each piece will be assigned to a harpsichordist

to be performed at our joint conference with the Southeastern and Midwestern Historic Keyboard Societies (SEHKS/MHKS) in Cincinnati on March 23, 2012. The audience will have the last word when they vote for their favorite pieces and help choose the winning compositions.

International Festival Held in Parma, Italy

Proceballo presented its second international contemporary harpsichord festival this past July. Diadorim Saviola (harpichordist) and Chiara Agosti (flutist) graciously hosted a series of 3 very different concerts, each taking place in a different mountain town in the environs of Parma, Italy. The first evening featured Elaine Funaro performing a program entitled "Passato/Futuro," playing music by Aliénor competition winning composers that have been influenced by music of the past: Stephen Yates' *Capriccio*, influenced by the early Italians, winning preludes influenced by François Couperin, and Tom Robin Harris' *Two Movements* that quotes J.S. Bach. She also premiered parts of Paul Whetstone's 'recycled' Bartok's Suite for Children with his *Pippi Goes Bela-Cycling* suite.



L-R: Diadorim Saviola, Elaine Funaro, Vivienne Spiteri, Raivo and Imbi Tarum, Chiara Agosti

continued on page 3



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About Aliénor...

Aliénor was named in honor of Eleanor of Aquitaine, a famed 12th century patron of the arts. Eleanor was the richest woman in Europe, and was married successively to King Louis VII of France and King Henry II of England. Eleanor was mother to the English Kings Richard the Lionhearted and John Lackland, who was forced to sign the Magna Carta in 1215. She is one of the most notable women in European history.

Married to the Music: Composers & Performers

As we approach the upcoming competition, leading me to reflect on our past 7 competitions over the last 30 years, I realize that there have been 5 winning composers married to harpsichordists. Music is a gift; each of those pieces showed both a deep understanding of the instrument and a special rapport with the performer. What a privilege for us listeners and players to be a part of such a special relationship! When I contacted musicians about this article Lei Liang wrote back saying “I am not surprised that there are 5 winning composers married to harpsichordists – it is the most attractive instrument ever!” -EF



Ivar Lunde, Jr./Nanette G. Lunde

Suite No.2 for Harpsichord, Opus 80 written by Ivar Lunde, Jr. (b. 1944), was a winner in the first Aliénor Competition held at Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, in 1982. **Ivar Lunde, Jr.** is former principal oboist of the Norwegian National Opera, and Professor Emeritus of Music at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire where he taught oboe, theory and composition.

Nanette G. Lunde is a past president and founder of the Midwestern Historical Keyboard Society, and is Professor Emerita of Music at the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire where she taught harpsichord, piano, Baroque performance practices, basso continuo, and the course Women in Music.

Albert Gliinsky/Linda Kobler

Sunbow by Albert Gliinsky (b. 1952) won the audience prize at the Mount Vernon College, Washington, DC. Aliénor

Competition in 1986; and in 2004 his chamber composition *Tapestry Concerto* won an honorable mention. Both pieces were written for Linda Kobler, his wife. **Albert Gliinsky** currently is Professor of Music at Mercyhurst College in Pennsylvania.

Active in the performance of contemporary harpsichord music, **Linda Kobler** had numerous pieces written for her by such composers as Vincent Persichetti and Ellen Taaffe Zwilich. She is a regular commentator for National Public Radio’s “Performance Today” and writes liner notes for Sony Classical. Linda Kobler served for seven years on the faculty of The Juilliard School in New York City.



John Howell Morrison/Vivian Montgomery

My Love Lives Down That Long Dirt Road by John Howell Morrison (b. 1956) was a winner at the Clayton State College, Morrow, Georgia, in the 1994 Aliénor competition. The piece was written for Vivian during their first year of marriage. **John Howell Morrison** is on the composition and theory faculty of the Longy School of Music.

Vivian Montgomery holds prizes from numerous international early keyboard competitions and was the recipient of a Solo Recitalist Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. Since 2003, she has been on the faculty of the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, teaching harpsichord and historical performance practice. They live in Medford, Massachusetts with their son, Ezra.



Takae Ohnishi/Lei Liang

Some Empty Thoughts of a Person from Edo by Lei Liang, (b. 1972 Chinese-American) was chosen as an honorable mention at the Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, Aliénor competition in 2004. **Lei Liang** currently serves as Associate Professor of Music at the University of California, San Diego and received the 2011 Elliott Carter Rome Prize this year. He lives at the American Academy in Rome, Italy with his wife, Takae Ohnishi, and their son, Albert Shin Liang.

Harpsichordist **Takae Ohnishi** has performed extensively in major cities in the U.S. and Japan as a soloist, chamber musician and continuo player. She has been serving as Lecturer of Harpsichord and Baroque Chamber Music at the University of California, San Diego after receiving her Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Stony Brook University.

Pablo Escande/Sakurako Mitsuhashi

Interludium II from Partita by Pablo Escande (b. 1971, Buenos Aires), was one of the 10 honorable mention preludes included in the “Aliénor Prelude” book from the Salem College, Winston Salem, North Carolina, Aliénor competition of 2008. **Pablo Escande** lives and works in The Netherlands, where he has been principal organist at the Onze Lieve Vrouwenkerk in Hilversum since 1993. He is married to harpsichordist Sakurako Mitsuhashi and will be moving with her to Japan in the beginning of January 2012.

Following her University studies in Tokyo, **Sakurako Mitsuhashi** went to the Netherlands to study at the Conservatory in Utrecht. She has participated in the Bruges Competition and was a semi-finalist in the Aoyama Music Award in Kyoto. Her first solo CD, NEO-BAROQUE-New Harpsichord Dimensions was released in the Spring of 2010.

Hot off the e-Press!

- Available for download, by Elaine Funaro: [Into the Millennium](#) (winning compositions from the earliest Aliénor competitions) and [Harpsichord at the Holidays](#) www.arabesquerecords.com
- Check out the latest CD from Sally Mosher on her website: www.newmixmusic.com.
- YouTube is a treasure trove of harpsichord performances. Christopher Lewis, Sheli Nan, Rebecca Pechefsky, Sally Mosher and Asako Hirabayashi are all well represented in this medium. Also, check out vintage Don Angle performances. www.youtube.com



A huge thank you to Florence Peacock (above) for hosting the Aliénor Fall Gala! Elaine Funaro performed her “Nod to the 90’s” dramatic show to a supportive crowd.

Festival

continued from page 1

The second concert featured Canadian harpsichordist Vivienne Spiteri in a highly experimental and intimate program: she began by asking audience members to close their eyes and experience the music as if in a dream. She then began to play *Dream* by John Cage in her own arrangement, very freely interpreted and reminiscent of an unmeasured prelude. Louis Andriessens’ *Overture to Orpheus* was the only other acoustic piece. The rest of the program featured Ms. Spiteri interacting with pre-recorded tape sounds and intricate harpsichord writing.

The final concert featured Estonian musicians Imbi (harpsichordist) & Raivo Tarum (cornetto and baroque trumpet), whose program intertwined Italian Baroque music for trumpet and harpsichord with contemporary solo Estonian harpsichord music.

Kudos to Diadorim for organizing this unique festival where musicians from around the world were able to exchange ideas and share their love of the harpsichord in such a varied context. Also, great thanks to Diadorim and Chiara for being such generous hosts to all the musicians!

For complete information about the festival and all that “Procembalo” does, go to: www.procembalo.org

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Fall 2011: Ready, Set, Score ... 2012 Competition Judging in Progress!

The masterpieces of tomorrow are waiting to be written.

Harpsichord Engages Students

As part of the tour for her one-woman show “Nod to the 90’s”, Aliénor Artistic Director Elaine Funaro introduced several groups of local students to the harpsichord. Elaine’s desire to share this performance with students was aided by a grant from The Mary Duke Biddle Foundation, which provided funding for the performances at Salem College in Winston-Salem, St. Mary’s School in Raleigh and the NC School of Science and Math in Durham.

One student commented: “Her (Elaine’s) playing was exciting. ... My favorites were the French pieces, especially the story about the guillotine and La Marseillaise! I thought the change of costumes was fascinating. They helped me to imagine the lives of the people from the period of the musical style and to pay more attention to changing musical styles.”

Another student wrote: “It was a fantastic program! My favorite was the last contemporary piece (one of the Aliénor winning

pieces). Usually I do not like contemporary classical music, but this piece was exciting!”

Providing a joyful experience of harpsichord music while educating listeners, notably new, young listeners, is an important part of Aliénor’s mission. This is possible only with the help of donors and friends. Please consider using the enclosed envelope to send Aliénor a year-end, tax-deductible gift.

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In This Issue:

Update on Competition 2012

Wedded Winners

Harpsichord Festival in Italy

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