



News @ Notes

Competition Winners

SOLO CATEGORY:

1ST PLACE: James Dorsa
Jupiter's Moons performed by
the composer

2ND PLACE: Graham Lynch
Petenera performed by
Rebecca Pechefsky

3RD PLACE: John Mayrose
Cascada performed by
Jillon Stoppels Dupree

DUO CATEGORY:

1ST PLACE: Ronald McKean
Sacred Harp Dyads
performed by John Pruet, violin
and Elaine Funaro, harpsichord

2ND PLACE: Alex Shapiro
Slip performed by
Margaret Humphrey, violin and
Asako Hirabayashi, harpsichord

3RD PLACE: Graham Lynch,
Auspicious Cranes
performed by John Pruet, violin
and Elaine Funaro, harpsichord

Contact Us ...

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2008 Aliénor Awards Concerts: Musings of an Impressed Newcomer

To call myself a newcomer to Aliénor isn't completely accurate. I've been aware of the competition for years and even own scores by some of the past years' winners. But I had never before attended an Aliénor Awards Concert nor had the privilege of premiering one of the finalist compositions. And I have to say, I was impressed. As I sat in the audience with fellow harpsichordists Jillon Stoppels Dupree and James Dorsa, we could sense the audience's mounting anticipation. For, as Elaine Funaro explained before the concert, it was they who would choose the winners from the finalists—three prizes in the solo category and three for the duo category, pieces with harpsichord and violin. And so they sat with ballots on laps and pencils poised, ready and eager to absorb each new work from beginning to end.

Though winners were eventually chosen, there was no piece that went without votes. Among my own personal favorites were John Mayrose's "Cascada," enhanced by Jillon's sensitive rubato, James Dorsa's powerful (one might even say cosmic) "Jupiter's Moons," performed by the composer, and Graham Lynch's brooding and evocative "Petenera," which I myself was fortunate enough to play. But I enjoyed the three other solo pieces—Daniel Basford's driving and rhythmic "Little Suite," brilliantly executed by Randall Love; Dagmar Feyen's cerebral "Evolutions," livened by Sonia Lee's imaginative articulation; and Katelyn Clark's tour-de-force rendition of Neil Kaczor's "4 Pieces." The violin-and-harpsichord pieces on the second half also had much to recommend them; Ronald McKean's melodious "Sacred Harp Dyads" was the audience's favorite, though Graham's "Auspicious Cranes" is also one I plan to investigate further. Alex Shapiro's wild and wacky "Slip" created a small storm of controversy,



L to R: Margaret Humphrey, Elaine Funaro, Asako Hirabayashi, James Dorsa, Sonia Lee, Jillon Stoppels Dupree, Rebecca Pechefsky, Randall Love, Katelyn Clark, John Pruet

continued inside

About Aliénor...

A little background: 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. Her name was actually Alia Enor (literally “another Enor,” since her mother was named Enor). Aliénor is an elision of Alia Enor.

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.



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Behind the Winning Scores

James Dorsa recently returned to Los Angeles after freezing for three years in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He spends his free time in the kitchen concocting hot and spicy Mexican and Asian dishes using rare experimental peppers. He has a DMA in harpsichord from the University of Michigan, and holds degrees in performance and composition from California State Northridge.

Graham Lynch was born in London. In addition to his classical music studies, he spent some of his teenage years playing keyboards in rock and jazz rock bands. He has music degrees from Bath Spa University College, Kings and Royal College of music, (PhD in composition). He has a longstanding interest in tango nuevo. Within recent years Graham's music has been performed, broadcast, and recorded in over twenty countries. Graham now lives in the far south west of England, in Penzance, with his wife and their three children.

John Mayrose is a composer as well as an active performer on all kinds of guitars, mandolin and banjo. He holds a Ph.D. in music composition from Duke University and has participated in the Aspen Music Festival, the Oregon Bach Festival, and the Bowdoin Summer Music Festival. John is a performer and composer in pulsoptional, a band of composers based in North Carolina.

Ronald McKean is an organist, composer, and improviser of international recognition. As Artist-in-Residence at First Presbyterian Church, Oakland CA, he gives weekly organ concerts. Recognized as a leader in improvisation, he has competed nationally and internationally, winning first prizes at the San Anselmo Festival; Haarlem Festival, Holland; and A.G.O. in U.S.A. He has served as Professor of Organ and Harpsichord at California State University, Hayward.

Alex Shapiro is a familiar face in the Pacific Coast's new music community, as a composer, activist, essayist and event moderator. Educated at The Juilliard School and Manhattan School of Music as a student of Ursula Mamlok and John Corigliano, she resides on Washington State's San Juan Island, and when not kayaking or tide pooling, she updates her website, www.alexshapiro.org.

Each winner received \$600, plus an additional \$500 for 1st place, \$300 for 2nd place, and \$200 for 3rd place. A total of \$10,000 was awarded in this competition.



Larry Palmer, president of SEHKS, casting his vote.

Summer Aliénor Events: Get Tickets Now!

Hold the date for the second annual Memorial Day Concert and Reception featuring Aliénor winning compositions from the 7th competition. The date is May 26, 2008, at 3:00 pm at the Funaro/Love home in Durham, NC. John Pruett will be featured on violin and viola, with Elaine Funaro, harpsichord. The reception will be provided by chef Eric Love. There will be a silent auction as well. Tickets for the event are \$50. Please email e.funaro@gmail.com if interested in attending. It sold out last year.

Another event is a performance of “Nod to the 90’s” by Elaine Funaro at the home of Dordy Freeman in Hilton Head, SC on May 9, 2008. This concert concludes Dordy's class on the history of the harpsichord. The performance is a one-hour concert/costumed event featuring music from the 15, 16, 17, 18, and 1990's, with stories interspersed throughout. The pieces from the 1990's are all **Aliénor Award** winners. Elaine has performed this show over a dozen times at universities throughout the U.S.



TOP: Elaine Funaro and Geoffrey Burgess (Duo d'amore), BOTTOM: Jillon Stoppels Dupree and Randall Love

Geoffrey Burgess for another honorable-mention piece, selections from Jackson Berkey's "Pedal Points Twenty-O-Six." The evening came to a rousing conclusion with the premiere of Dan Locklair's "Arias and Dances," commissioned for this year's competition. Afterward a crowd of harpsichordists (myself among them) surrounded the composer, wanting to know where they could obtain the music.

All in all, two very stimulating evenings, and just thinking of the amount of work Elaine put in over the last year filled me with awe. The pieces will be published in the near future, and there is no shortage of previous winners already published. So, harpsichordists, get to work! — *Rebecca Pechefsky*

THANK YOU to the competition judges for selecting the pieces played at the Awards Concerts: Don Angle, Jillon Stoppels Dupree, and George Lucktenberg.

A Moment to Remember

I was driving George Lucktenberg, the former director of Aliénor (my first harpsichord teacher from high school at Interlochen), and James Dorsa, one of the performers and composers of the evening concert to the "gala reception" following the finals of the Aliénor competition. We were discussing one of James' doctoral recital programs, where he performed all contemporary music. It turned out that the first two pieces on his program had been written for and premiered by George. Small world! It was a special moment. We truly had a passing of the baton. Also, at that time, we did not know that James was to win the solo category in the competition. The harpsichord future is in good hands.

Long live the harpsichord!

Elaine F. Love

2008 Aliénor Awards

continued from front

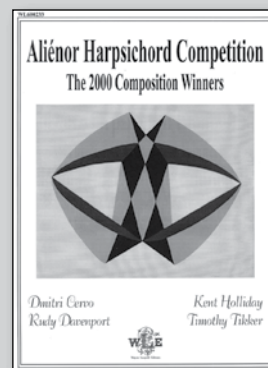
giving rise to strong reactions, both positive and negative. After being stirred up, we were all pleasantly calmed down by an honorable-mention piece, Asako Hirabayashi's Fandango.

And this was only the tip of the iceberg. The previous evening Elaine had given a stunning performance of a series of honorable-mention pieces, with ten preludes selected from larger suites. Arranged carefully and so that one flowed naturally into the next, there was nevertheless a great variety of musical styles from Janine Johnson's wistful "Prelude #4" to Philip Underwood's challenging "La Rejouissance #3" to Pablo Escande's sonorous "Interludium II."

Then Elaine was joined by baroque oboist



George Lucktenberg



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What's Next

With the kind support of all our donors (thank you all so much), we reached our \$10,000 goal and received matching funds to host our competition. Now that we have the 2008 competition successfully behind us, our next steps are:

- Support performances of Aliénor music and other contemporary harpsichord music around the country
- Prepare for the 2012 competition
- Work on building the endowment to support the competition in perpetuity

If you would like to help host an event, please contact Elaine Funaro Love at e.funaro@gmail.com. Contributions to the permanent endowment are tax-deductible and can be mailed to:

Aliénor
3 Sylvan Road
Durham, NC 27701

New Friend to Aliénor

Aliénor recently received a donation and wonderful letter from Helga Kasimoff in California. Kasimoff has been providing harpsichords to musicians in the movies for the past 45 years. She pointed out that recent customers have been John Williams (Munich), John Powell (Horton Hears a Who) and the "Dixie Chicks".

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Competition Finals: Announcing the 2008 Award Winners!

The masterpieces of tomorrow are waiting to be written.

World Premiere of Piece Commissioned by Aliénor

Aliénor was excited to present the premiere of “Arias and Dances” during the opening awards concert on March 7. Acclaimed composer **Dan Locklair** was commissioned by Aliénor to write this quartet for the 2008 Aliénor Awards concert. Elaine Funaro Love, director of Alienor, encourages the strong tradition of writing for this group of instruments, as Sylvia Marlowe did over 50 years ago with the “Sonata for Flute, Oboe, Cello and Harpsichord” by Elliot Carter. “At that time (in 1952, before the harpsichord had made its way into pop) it seemed very important to have the harpsichord speak in a new voice, expressing characters unfamiliar to its extensive Baroque repertory.” (Elliot Carter). The commission was partially funded through a grant to Aliénor from the **Mary Duke Biddle Foundation**.



Dan Locklair (R) praises the performing quartet.

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www.harpsichord-now.org