



Bowdoin
INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

notes

www.bowdoinfestival.org

Lewis Kaplan, *Artistic Director*

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“2008 was an outstanding season. I’ve never seen so much press on the BIMF ... at Thornton Oaks enthusiasm has hit a new high. Looking forward to the adventures 2009 will bring.”

~ Marlise Swartz
*Director of Marketing,
Thornton Oaks*

A Glorious Summer of Beethoven



2008 proved to be a glorious summer for the Bowdoin International Music Festival, its faculty, students, and loyal patrons.

This year we presented the full range of Beethoven’s masterful oeuvre: every violin and cello sonata in a new sold-out Monday night series; the great piano sonatas, trios, and string quartets in the MusicFest and Upbeat series; the Ninth Symphony on the 4th of July; and the Emperor Concerto in the season finale. We also witnessed the next generation of great musicians refining their skills, playing the works of the masters across Maine’s Midcoast in our Artists of Tomorrow, EuroFest, and Community concerts. All in all, our record-shattering season saw 13,000 people attend 91 concerts and public events in our fleeting six-week season.

“The August 1 performance of the Beethoven “Emperor” Concerto by Alberto Nosè, before a sold-out crowd at Crooker Theater, was the best I have ever heard, and that includes those by Horowitz and Rubinstein. The young pianist’s example raised the level of the student-faculty orchestra, conducted by Lewis Kaplan, to a new plane. A performance Beethoven himself would have enjoyed.”

~ Christopher Hyde
*Portland Press Herald,
August 6, 2008*

Mark Your Calendars

The 45th Annual Bowdoin International Music Festival
June 27–August 8, 2009

Artistic Director Lewis Kaplan will preview the 2009 Festival in the spring *Notes*.



Welcome

By Nancy Connery,
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

The BIMF Board of Trustees elected two outstanding new members at its annual meeting in July. Susan Lavan and Patricia Brown both bring immense enthusiasm for the Festival and well-honed skills to support the vital "behind-the-scenes" work that takes place all year long.

Susan served on the BIMF Board in the past with great distinction and was named Trustee Emeritus in 2007. Her decision to resume full-time residency in Harpswell and an active role as Trustee was very welcome news.

Pat Brown is a relative newcomer to Brunswick, Maine and the Festival but she has already made a big contribution. This spring she inspired and helped arrange our successful "Dine-On" fundraising event on the opening day of the Festival; the evening raised \$16,000 for the Scholarship Fund. Pat has had a storied career in the New York publishing world, serving as Managing Editor of Bon Appetit and Editor-in-Chief of Cuisine, among many other accomplishments.

I look forward with great enthusiasm to serving with Susan, Pat, and all of my fellow board members as we work towards a great 2009 festival.

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Nancy Connery, Chairman	Deborah F. Hammond Sam Hayward George Isaacson
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Student Sponsorships and the Dunlap Fund

Your gifts of \$1,500, \$2,700, \$5,000, or more may be applied to student sponsorships (3-week tuition; 6-week tuition; 6-week tuition plus room, board, and all fees, respectively; more for multiple sponsorships).

The personal connections that develop from these sponsorships are a great source of pleasure for donors and students. This year, amid lobster dinners, boat rides, and virtuoso student concert performances, there were ocean swims, extended family gatherings with students as the guests of honor, neighborhoods and communities coming together in shared support. One such story that now spans several generations and a recent marriage:

On May 17, 2008, Sally and John Moulton of Harpswell were married. Sally is the daughter of the late Jack Dunlap, a great supporter of the festival and the namesake of an endowment fund set up by his family to support Maine students in Jack's memory. 15-year-old pianist Will Bristol of Freeport, Maine, a 2007 recipient of a Dunlap scholarship, played at Sally and John's reception. The happy couple asked their



guests to make donations to the John M. Dunlap Jr. Endowment Fund that in lieu of gifts. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of Sally, John, and their guests, the Fund grew by more than \$6,000 and will provide far more than that, over time, for future young Mainers like Will.

Two weeks after the wedding, Will performed a special season preview for 135 residents and guests at Thornton Oaks in Brunswick. Then, in July, thanks to a Dunlap scholarship, Will returned to participate in his second Bowdoin International Music Festival, alongside some of the world's top professional and student musicians, now his colleagues.

Student News



Latvian violinist **Baiba Skride '98** was the subject of *Strings* magazine's May cover story. Skride, took first place at the 2001 Queen Elizabeth Competition, playing so exceptionally that she provoked spontaneous applause from the jurors. She has, at age 26, a worldwide touring schedule, a young son, and several recordings released under her deal with Sony Records.



Adrienne Watkinson '03 was named Miss Maine at the Miss Maine Scholarship Pageant at Crooker Theater on June 21. Watkinson took home a \$10,000 scholarship and a \$2,000 wardrobe allowance for her participation in the 2009 Miss America pageant. She won the preliminary talent competition with her solo violin performance and competes with her platform, "The Importance of the Arts in Society Through String Education." A recent graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music, Watkinson plans to study violin at DePaul University following the completion of her commitments to the Miss America system.



Two Bowdoin Festival alums, **Joyce Yang '01-'02** and **Sa Chen** (bottom), are just finishing their third and final year of touring as winners of the 2005 Van Cliburn Competition. Yang's most recent tour dates crossed the United States, with a stop at the Aspen Music Festival on July 17, while Chen played in venues from Texas to Japan and Europe.



Leann Osterkamp '08 was one of just 22 U.S. teenagers invited to compete in the prestigious New York Piano Competition in June, just before coming to the Festival.



On August 2, **Jennifer Pike '01**, the youngest ever winner of the BBC Young Musician of the Year award, performed Max Bruch's Violin Concerto as soloist with The National Youth Orchestra of Scotland at Leeds' Toan Hall. The NYOS, comprising 12-21 year old musicians of the highest caliber, performs throughout the year in a variety of high profile venues in Scotland, the UK, and around the world.



Maine native **Dr. Anastasia Antonacos '93-'94**, an accomplished pianist and teacher, is now a member of the piano faculty at the University of Southern Maine and Bowdoin College and has gained a reputation here and abroad as soloist and superb keyboard collaborator. On June 14 she conducted a masterclass at the Franco-American Heritage Center in Lewiston.

Nathan Lesser '07, violin, has been accepted to the highly selective Double Degree program at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. He studies with Gilda Joffe and plays regularly with the Bangor Symphony. Lesser has also been selected to join young musicians from all over the country to attend the National Symphony Orchestra's Summer Music Institute (SMI) at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C.

Special Events

The Bowdoin International Music Festival will present two extraordinary events in New York City this fall. On October 6 and November 3 at the Christ and St. Stephen's Church in Manhattan (near Lincoln Center), several of this summer's most inspired young players will perform works prepared during their studies at the 2008 festival. Performers will include Jessica Park, Laura Lutzke, and Tian Tian. For more information, contact Matt Herrick (see page 7 for staff directory) or visit www.bowdoinfestival.org.

"to provide gifted music students from around the world with an opportunity to study chamber music"

Faculty News

In late February, violinist **Glenn Dicterow**, concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic, played a prominent role in the orchestra's historic visit and performances in Pyongyang, North Korea. In an astounding feat of musical diplomacy, the orchestra performed for an audience of 2,500 members of the country's communist elite at the East Pyongyang Grand Theater. The Philharmonic began the concert with "Patriotic Song," North Korea's national anthem, followed by "The Star-Spangled Banner." The entire audience stood for both anthems, and stood again for a five-minute ovation at the conclusion of the concert.

During his first year as Institute president, Smirnoff will continue to tour with the Juilliard—which was founded in 1946 as the school's resident quartet—while the ensemble searches for his successor.



In February, **Joan Kwuon** performed with **Andre Previn** at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. A frequent collaborator with Previn in chamber repertory, Kwuon's performance was praised in a New York Times review by Vivian Schweitzer, who wrote, "Ms. Kwuon's fiery, intensely musical and impassioned playing... offered vibrant contrasts between moods and styles."



Composer **Roberto Sierra**, a guest composer many times at the Festival, is the first composer to be commissioned by

the Sphinx Commissioning Consortium, an alliance between the Sphinx Organization and twelve American orchestras seeking to build the repertoire of works by Black and Latino composers. Sierra was chosen from among composers nominated for the commission by the 12 orchestras and the Sphinx Organization.



In this photo, New York Philharmonic music director **Lorin Maazel** applauds as award winning South Korean pianist **Yeol-eum Son '07** acknowledges the crowd's cheers after performing in Seoul, South Korea, Thursday Feb. 28, 2008 (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder).



Immediately following his second summer with the Bowdoin Festival, **Joel Smirnoff** assumed the presidency of The Cleveland Institute of Music. Smirnoff, a native New Yorker, said he's eager to begin his new life in Cleveland. "My real love at this point is my relationship with the lives of young people and helping them in the mastery of becoming empowered musicians and people."



Boosey & Hawkes is now representing all of **Sebastian Currier's** future works and most of his existing catalog. Currier's music has been

enthusiastically embraced by violinist **Anne-Sophie Mutter**, who commissioned and premiered his violin and piano piece *Aftersong*, and who has commissioned him to write a new concerto for violin and orchestra. Currier is currently composing a piece for panoramic video, electronics, and string quartet in collaboration the **Ying Quartet**, video artist **Pawel Wojtasik**, and **Mass MoCA**.



Sergiu Schwartz was invited to conduct master classes at Korea National University of Arts and Seoul Art High School (Korea), Shanghai Conservatory

and Beijing Central Conservatory (China), Jerusalem Rubin Academy of Music and music schools in Tel Aviv (Israel). Schwartz also appeared in recitals at the Baruch Performing Arts Center in New York, Kumho Art Hall in Seoul (Korea), Buchmann-Mehta School of Music at Tel Aviv University and Jerusalem Theatre (Israel), in a live broadcast recital on Israel's classical music station.

Annual Miracle

By Peter Simmons

Each year as the final concert approaches and the season nears its end, I think what a miracle it is that we all get to share this great festival, right here in this small town on the coast of Maine. Miraculous that so many wonderful musicians—professional and aspiring—will travel here each year from around the world to perform all this great music and to learn from one another, largely for the joy of it.

Miraculous that a summer performing series thrown together on a moment's notice nearly 45 years ago has grown into "one of the great festivals of the world" (Joseph Polisi, President of the Juilliard School). Miraculous that so many individuals and businesses in our area have given their time and treasure over so many years to sustain it and help it grow.

But it's really not a miracle at all. It's the result of a great deal of dedication and hard work on the parts of hundreds of people. There are many people and groups to thank, and I'd like to think we do a good job of showing our gratitude. I'd like to enumerate them here, for the record:

- **Lewis Kaplan**, co-founder (with the late Robert Beckwith), artistic director, impresario, teacher, colleague, friend. There would be no Festival without Lewis, and I am grateful for his vision, perseverance, and guidance over the years.
- Board Chair **Nancy Connery** and the Festival's board of trustees. Our trustees provide robust financial support, fiscal oversight, and professional guidance whenever we need it. They are an extraordinary group and I am lucky to work with them.

- Our highly professional permanent staff. **Chris Grosser**, business manager and faculty housing coordinator; **Jen Means**, director of admission and housing; and **Matt Herrick**, development officer. Not only are they skilled at what they do and utterly dedicated to the festival, but they are incredibly nice people to know and fun to work with.

- Our summer staff, especially stage manager **Richard Francis** and director of residential life **Kevin Sullivan**, who return year after year to take positions of great responsibility and importance to the Festival.

- Our volunteers, especially **Will Hertz**, for his program notes and commentary, and **Lorna Flynn**, who provides much-needed part-time professional help, and keeps us all in line in the office in the off-season.

- Our faculty, who have such great musical ability and are such dedicated teachers.

- Our extraordinary students, the future of classical music.

Music Heard

Music heard with you
was more than music
and the blood that flowed
through our arteries
was more than blood
and the joy we felt
was genuine
and if there is anyone to thank,
I thank him now,
before it grows too late
and too quiet

~ by Adam Zagajewski

- Our sponsors and program advertisers, who provide the 'seed money' to get the concert programs up and running each year.

- Our media sponsors, who help us to get the word out about our great programs.

- Our tremendously generous patrons and audience members. You are why we're here; your encouragement sustains us throughout our intense summer schedule, your feedback lets us know how we're doing and how we can do it better, and your financial contributions support our concerts and scholarship funds to make this festival even better with each passing year. Thank you!

... under the tutelage of a world-class faculty."

Appreciation

"I have been to several summer music festivals and BIMF was by far the best...the whole festival atmosphere encouraged me to challenge myself, listening to professionals and other students at the concerts, observing masterclasses and being exposed to a wide range of repertoire."

~ 2008 Student

Dear Lewis and Peter,

I'm writing to thank you for the kindness, cooperation and support extended me during my brief residency at Bowdoin during the past two weeks. The talented students in my composition class were a delight to work with... and your staff members are certainly the most dedicated and congenial of any I've encountered. Small wonder that the Festival has such a superb reputation! My only regret is that I had so little time to spend with my charges—just as I was getting to know them, I had to leave!

"Please extend my warmest regards to everyone associated with the Festival. I hope that the remaining weeks will be successful ones—I have no doubt that they will be!"

~ Claude Baker,
Composition faculty 2008

EuroFest Concert

Elijah Kellogg Church, Harpswell: July 20, 2008

Louise Huntington, a member of the church's music committee, wrote to us after the concert:

"I might not be able to convey to you properly what a complete smash hit the Festival concert was at the Kellogg Church on Sunday. Our church music committee and choir were all completely excited about the event.

"The program was absolutely perfect. People were amazed, astonished, and thrilled with Suliman (Tekali)'s performance of the Ysaye Ballade. Then Hummel and Mozart were just right for Sunday afternoon.

"Everyone involved in putting on the following reception was hoping the performers and audience would stay. Not only did they stay, but they talked

"I want to say how much I and everyone else I've spoken with enjoyed this afternoon's concert at the Kellogg Church—all of it"

~ Gail Johnson,
Kellogg Church Music Committee

and ate and ate and talked. The chair of our music committee was enchanted by Suliman, and I think in the end she persuaded him to say he'd come if he can to play at a Sunday a.m. service.

"I'm not sure you meant we should become addicted to having an outreach summer concert in Harpswell, but we can only hope you'll be able to send groups down again."

Upward Bound Chronicle

A blog written by UB staff *By Falicia Hatch*

"Early this month, UB was honored to have three young students from the Festival play at Ladd House during noon meeting. First, Boris Abramov played the violin, which was amazing. He did a wonderful job. Next, there was Milena Pajaro-Van de Stadt, who played the viola. She did an outstanding job as well. Lastly, there was Rosemarie Bart, who played the cello. To be so young and to play the cello as well as she did, one must be truly gifted. The performances were terrific,

and UB students hope to be able to listen again in the future.

"In other news, students from the Upward Bound and Bowdoin International Music Festival programs have been engaging in various sporting events across campus. The tally is currently tied at 1-1, which UB decisively winning a soccer match this weekend while BIMF dominated in slow-pitch softball. UB looks to jump into the lead this afternoon in a second softball match, led by TA Ali Coleman, a member of Bowdoin's varsity team."

Festival News

Faculty Housing

Chris Grosser has already started finding housing for the Festival's international cast of renowned faculty and guest artists. This summer she heroically housed 73 musicians! If you own a private, well-kept house or apartment that could be rented for one to six weeks during the summer, Chris would love to hear from you; she is always looking to add to our wonderful group of faculty or guest artist hosts. Our best prospects are houses or apartments within six miles of the Bowdoin College campus that do not require shared facilities.

Support the Festival

Our Fiscal Year ends on October 31, 2008. If you would like to help us finish the year strongly, please contact Matt Herrick or visit our website at www.bowdoinfestival.org/donate.htm to make a secure online donation.

If you would like more information about sponsoring a student (*see page 2*), or about joining a growing number of people making bequests or other planned giving arrangements for the festival, please contact Matt Herrick.



"I love this festival because of its brilliant teachers and promising students. Exciting things are going on every day."

~ 2008 student

Staff Directory

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"to provide Maine audiences with classical music

performed to the highest artistic standards."

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