Newsletter



May 2003

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Executive, Catherine Carmack, Sharon Norman, Janet Steinberg, Heather Hay, Brian Mix, Michael Unterman American Cello Council Delegate, Judith Fraser

Letter From the President

A word of thanks to all who attended the Cello Club's "Rostropovich Weekend" in January. January 25, 2003 was, without a doubt, the largest gathering of cellists in the history of the Vancouver Cello Club!

The Play-In party was truly a memorable and festive occasion and Maestro Rostropovich was very appreciative of the reception. Our special thanks to Joanne Harada of the Vancouver Symphony, and to Judith Fraser and Sharon Norman who donated so much of their time to make the event a success.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank Doug Sparkes who provided the Club with a wonderful photographic record of the occasion. For those of you who have not seen Doug's pictures, they will be on display at our AGM in June. Slava's visit has supported a terrific amount of "cello energy" this spring: the Banff CelloFest, great concerts by visiting guests and wonderful workshops. Let's hope it keeps going through Yo Yo Ma's visit to Vancouver in May , 2004!

Since January of this year, your executive has met on a number of occasions to respond to directives that have recently come to the Club from the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency. In short, many of the charitable activities of the Vancouver Cello Club have suddenly come under scrutiny of the federal government. There is a possibility that the status of the Vancouver Cello Club (vis a vis the federal government) may change. And with that change, there is the possibility that the Cello Club may no longer have the ability to promote the type of scholarships and activities that we have promoted in the past.

I would like to urge all members to attend our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday evening, June 10th, 2003, at 7:00 pm at the Vancouver Academy of Music. This will be a very important meeting and an opportunity for the membership to learn about the issues now facing the Club and to hear about our future plans and projects.

And, as always, light refreshments will be served following our business meeting.

Support your Club! See you at the AGM.

Lee Duckles, President

!! SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS!!

The AGM of Vancouver Cello Club
Will be held **TUESDAY**, **June 10**, **2003** at 7:00 pm in Room 22B
At the Vancouver Academy of Music, 1270 Chestnut Street.
All members are **URGED** to attend. Refreshments served.

ADULT ENSEMBLE FOR MAY WILL BE JUNE 2, 2003 AT 7:30 PM



VSO Cellists: Lee Duckles (Pr.), Janet Steinberg, Joseph Elworthy, Christian Markos, Olivia Blander, Zoltman Rozsnyai, unseen are: Natasha Boyko, Charles Inkman

VSO CELLO WORKSHOP at the VANCOUVER ACADEMY OF MUSIC AUGUST 18-23, 2003

This August the members of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra cello section will present a fiveday Cello Workshop at the Vancouver Academy of Music. This workshop provides a inique opportunity for intermediate/advanced students to access the skills and expertise of the entire VSO cello section. Eight instructors in five days, offering participants a diversity of ideas reflected by the international makeup of the VSO celli. In addition to daily master classes with professional accompanists, there will be daily cello ensemble classes, guest speakers, and specific master classes addressing the subject of orchestra excerpts and trail auditions for senior students considering a career as an orchestral musician. Daily schedule will run from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm with a one hour lunch break. Deadline for registration is June 20, 2003.

For further information: 604-786-2471

CELLO CHIT CHAT

Notes from your Editor and Treasurer

It has been a busy year for me with Cello Club activities. January was exciting with our marvelous "Slava" luncheon and play-in. I thought we might have around 60 cellists, but to have 88 left Audrey Nodwell rushing upstairs to photocopy more music and me looking frantically for more chairs and stands. A special thanks to Jean Ireland, Joan Myers, Shirley Lecker and all the other great people who helped set up lunch. It was special to have Paul Marleyn arrive with his class from the University of Winnipeg, and add to the festivities with a performance including Varga's arr. of J.S. Bach's D-"Chaconne". I want to especially thank Paul for taking on the job of conducting our cello ensemble — what a sound, and what a great job he did on the podium! It was a very



special occasion, and made more meaningful because Rostropovich was ill with the flu and needed all his energy to conduct the evening VSO concert.

The Cellofest No. 5 in Banff February 7 - 9 was another marvelous occasion with master teacher Bonnie Hampton in great form. Twenty-four Vancouver cellists attended with a similar number from Mt. Royal College, Calgary. All our Cello Club members did us proud and had a great time.

In March, during spring break, I went to La Paz, Baja, Mexico. During this period I heard their Youth Orchestra perform, attended their music school where I gave a talk to the students on my life as a professional musician and coached their cello section. They are an exceptional group of kids, who play extremely well and whose music school has no money... what devoted teachers they have, do it for love. I am planning a return trip with other teachers I can con into donating their services next spring break.

April was full with various music festivals and the Canadian Music Competition. I also was in Edmonton to adjudicate their Kiwanis Music Festival for 5 days. As well **Lee Duckles**, our President, on sabbatical from the VSO, served on the jury for the Shean Competition in Edmonton, which was won by **Arnold Choi** (cello) from Calgary. Fifty-nine cellists took part in the Kiwanis Festival in Vancouver.

Cello Jello

 Brian Yoon won the Eve Bene Scholarship at the VAM's Kay Meek Competition May 24th and will perform a concerto with the ASO next year.

 Cello Jello members were all accepted to Music Bridge in Calgary for the summer. However, our student rep, Michael Unterman's Ulysses Quartet was accepted for 9 weeks at Banff. This means Jonathan Lo will attend Music Bridge. The Ulysses Quartet was recommended to the Provincial/National Music Festival Finals and made the finals of the Canadian Music Competition as did Jonathan Taylor's trio. Jonathan's trio also was accepted to Orford Summr Camp.

 Michael, Brian Yoon and Jonathan Taylor were recommended to the Provincial finals of the Kiwanis Festival. Winners of the Helmut Hoebig Memorial Scholarship and Judith Fraser scholarship were Jonathan Lo and Michael Unterman.

• John Kadz was a supportive and positive adjudicator and we all enjoyed the master classes after the Festival. Especially helpful was the adult class. John has just the right suggestions to help with everyone's problems.

If anyone is in the Winnipeg vicinity in June (15th – 29th)

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In our Musician's Union monthly paper was a recent ad for a new book:

"Notes from the Pit" – a funny, satirical romp through the deep south by Canadian cellist/novelist Helen Kopec (a former student of lan Hampton). "Skewered along the way: pretentious conductors, clueless brides, pompous ministers and more..." You can order this (U.S. \$16) at www.helenkopec.com or call (404) 688-5156.

Another book of interest is Janet Horvath's recently released "Playing (less) Hurt – an injury prevention guide for musicians". This book is an essential reference for educators and their students.

www.playinglesshurt.com or (651) 222-7420

Zara Nelsova, 84, a Cellist Who Worked With Bloch

Zara Nelsova, a prominent cellist who recorded Ernest Bloch's "Schelomo" for cello and orchestra with the composer conducting, and appeared with major orchestras in North America and Europe, died on Oct. 10 at her Manhattan home. She was 84.

She studied Bloch's cello works with him in 1949, and he dedicated two of his three suites for unaccompanied cello to her.

...Ms, Nelsova also played the Walton and Barber cello concertos with those composers conducting.

She performed as a soloist with conductors who included Leonard Bernstein, Pierre Boulez, Daniel Barenboim, Zubin Mehta, William Steinberg and Seiji Ozawa, and she played at many international festivals

. Zara Nelsova was born on Dec. 24, 1917, in Winnipeg, Canada. Her parents emigrated from Russia in 1910. Her father, Harry, was a professional flutist.

Ms. Nelsova began lessons at 5, studying with her father and playing a converted viola. Her two older sisters played piano and violin, and the three formed the Canadian Trio,

which performed in Canada, England and Australia.

A grant from the Manitoba Ministry of Education helped the family moved to England in 1929. There Ms. Nelsova studied at the London Violoncello School and made her solo debut at 12 with the London Symphony Orchestra under Sir Malcolm Sargent.

The trio toured from 1930 until 1939, when Ms. Nelsova returned to Canada. She became principal cellist of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and soon had solo engagements in Boston. She studied with Gregor Piatigorsky, Emanuel Feuermann and Pablo Casals, and made her United States debut in 1942.

In 1955 she became an American citizen. From 1963 to 1973 she was married to Grant Johannesen, an American concert pianist, with whom she toured. She also played at the White House for President Richard M. Nixon.

She was a professor at the Juilliard School from 1985 until earlier this year. She played a Stradivarius cello named the Marquis de Corberon and dated 1726, and continued performing until 1997.

Because our January newsletter was devoted predominantly to Rostropovich, we are late with our notice of the death last October of Canadian-born cellist, ZARA NELSOVA.

The obituary is reprinted from the New York Times (Friday, October 18, 2002). The New York Violoncello Society held a memorial evening tribute to Zara Nelsova.



Isobel Rolston, Zara Nelsova, Judy Fraser Cellofest #2 at Banff, 1996

RESCHED FD DATE DUE TO THE BLIZZARD IN FF UARY MONDAY, April 28, 2003 - 8:00 PM

KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION - 15 EAST 65th St.

A Eribute to Zara Nelsova

(1917-2002)

PROGRAM

GEORGE NEIKRUG - Moderator

Kaddish George Neikrug, Cello Nina Lugovoy, Piano

Ravel

II. Prelude

Emanuel Moor

Zara Nelsova, Recording

J.S. Bach

III. Andante solo violin Sonata in A minor Robert Mann, Violin

IV. Requiem

David Popper

Brinton Averil Smith, Cello Samuel Magill, Cello Michael Mermagen, Cello Barbara Stein Mallow, Piano

During the evening we welcome reminiscences from the audience who knew her and loved her.

We look forward to having you join us for this very important memorable evening.

GEORGE NEIKRUG was a pupil of Emanuel Feuermann, and still concertizing, and was influenced by D.C.Dounis for teaching and string playing. After his Town Hall debut in 1947, he has held principal positions with the Baltimore, Pittsburgh and Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestras, as well as principal cellist of the Paramount Pictures Recording Orchestra and the Columbia Recording Orchestra. He performed Bloch's Schelomo with Leopold Stokowski and the NBC Symphony Orchestra a Carnegie Hall. He has concertized in major cities throughout Europe and the United States, and performed all six Bach solo suites at Lincoln Center. He teaches at Boston University and gives Master Classes throughout the world.

MAESTRO by Victoria Yoon

Rostropovich

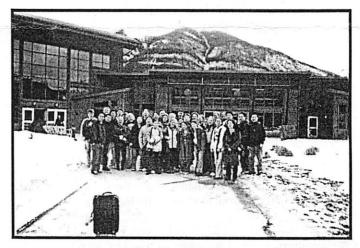
On January 25, 2003 the world's greatest musician ever born, Maestro Rostropovich, came to Vancouver. Unfortunately, due to his illness, he had to leave but just to see Maestro was a huge privilege. He has some Russian accent when he speaks English but this doesn't bother me at all. Just to hear him on his experiences and his own opinions of his cello was great and the fact that he "loves cello" was so good to hear that I makes me



love cello even more than before. During the dress rehearsal at the Orpheum on the following day, I was absolutely amazed by his performance despite of his illness and the age of 75. He and his cello were together that it almost looked like he is a cello, not a man playing the cello. It was a great experience to be part of Vancouver Cello Club and have a one time life opportunity to see and hear the world's greatest musician ever born.



John Kadz, Isobel Rolston, Bonnie Hampton Cellofest #5



Cellofest #5 - Banff, February 2003

Pro Nova Ensemble

Sunday, May 25 / 7:30 pm Mt. Seymour United Church, 1200 Parkgate, North Vancouver

Wednesday, May 28 / 7:30 pm North Shore Unitarian Church, 370 Mathers Avenue, West Vancouver

Soloist: CARLA DODEK, Piano in Faure's Piano Quartet, op. 15.

Music in the Morning

October 14, 15, 16, 17 / 10:30 am V.A.M. – 1270 Chestnut

Paris Piano Trio Program includes Brahms, Mozart & Tchaikovsky

V.S.O. with Desmond Hoebig

October 31 & November 1 / 8:00 am Orpheum – Haydn D Major Concerto

November 3 / 8:00 am Bell Performing Arts Centre in Surrey

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NDCA Festival June 27-29

Lawrence University - Appleton, Wisconsin info@newdirectionscello.com

Cleveland Cello Society held a "cello workshop like no other" March 15. Baroque cello, tango band, movement classes, and improvisations and a performance with NDCA director Chris White.

MATT HAIMOVITZ is doing an extended tour playing mostly solo Bach Suites in bars and nightclubs in the US and Canada. There was an article about the tour in the Nov/Dec of STRINGS magazine entitled "Bach on Tap". He played in Ithaca, NY (home of the NDCA) in December on his 32nd birthday playing Suites 1 & 3 of Bach plus a Hendrix-style version of the Star Spangled Banner as an encore.

Congratulations to SOPHIE (WILLER) and STEVE REEN on the birth of a daughter, VIRGINIA MAY, May 14, 2003.

Former Vancouver cellist JASON DUCKLES has just returned from a 10-day tour of Central Asia with Yo Yo Ma and his SILK ROAD PROJECT. Jason participated in concerts and workshops in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan with Yo Yo, 16 musicians and an "entourage of armed security". Despite the hardships of travel in those regions (especially with a cello), Jason said the concert was "an utterly amazing experience".

Congratulations to HEATHER HAY, the newly appointed *Principal Cellist* of the Vancouver Opera. Heather won the position in auditions held May 13th.

SUMMER POPS YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Music Director: JIM LITTLEFORD 604-430-3820 / 604-274-3221 / www.spyo.ca

Ages 13-19 years

\$350 for 10-day workshop, music & uniforms

Tour cost not included.

The Summer Pops Youth Orchestra is composed of approximately 100 teenagers who attend an intensive, two-week workshop in early July and perform about a dozen free public concerts around the lower mainland during the rest of the summer. In addition, about 75 of the senior members go on a 7-10 day bus tour, during which they play daily concerts in the communities they visit.

The Summer Pops Youth Orchestra repertoire is extremely varied, ranging from popular medleys and show tunes to light, classical and contemporary compositions. Above all, the music is fun. It gives the performers a chance to let their hair down and simply enjoy making music with their peers, after their more serious winter studies. It's great entertainment, great education, great music and great fun.



SUMMER STRINGS & ORCHESTRA

July 14-18; 21-25 pm, Carson Graham Sr. Secondary Strings, Chamber Music and Composition

July 27 – July 31, p.m., Capilano College Orchestra with Clyde Mitchell & Faculty

Strings, Chamber Music, and Composition

One or two week (two week recommended) afternoch sessions of small group lessons, chamber music, composition instruction and sessions with the computer music program "Finale" and an optional Celtic music group lessons. There is a potential of joining a variety of recreational activities after the afternoon sessions.

Orchestra

A full orchestra experience of symphonic literature with strings, winds, brass, and percussion instruments. Included is sectional coaching, possible small group technique sessions (as needed) and full rehearsals.

Locations and Schedule

Carson Graham Secondary School is located off of Lonsdale or Westview exits of the Upper Levels Highway No. 1. Daily Schedule: 12:30-3:30PM \$150.00 per week

Capilano College is easily accessible over the Second Narrows Ironworkers Memorial Bridge on Purcell Way. Daily Schedule: 9:00AM -3:00PM \$325.00 per week Rehearsal: Sunday evening July 27 Performance: Thursday evening, July 31

Ability Level and Age

Students will be intermediate to advanced level (from age 12-18) with good music reading skills. You may contact the director for more information.

Continuance of some sessions dependent on enrolment. Please indicate your skill level and experience on the registration form.

FACULTY

Clyde Mitchell: Conductor, Large Ensemble Dr.Frederick A. Schipizky, Composition, String Bass Carolyn Cole: Violin and Master Classes Lindsay Mellor: Violin and Ensembles

Peter Van Ooyen: Violin and Viola

Heather Hay: Cello

Claude Giguere: Celtic Music

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Cello: Pamela Highbaugh Aloni

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Camp Options

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- Conductor, Sharon Dodding

FOR VIOLIN, VIOLA, CELLO, DOUBLE BASS

9:00am – 3:30pm Mon. to Fri., performance Sat. afternoon No previous orchestral experience necessary.

Ages 9 through and including adults welcome.

Must have sightreading ability. Orchestra positions are based on the Orchestral Reading Audition held on Saturday, July 19.

Music level equivalent to Book 2 "A Tune a Day".

For violin, included in your fee is the option of Level II Fiddle Class instead of Chamber Music

Second LevelOrchestra Camp - Conductor, Trudi Conrad

FOR VIOLIN, VIOLA, CELLO, DOUBLE BASS

9:00am – 3:30pm Mon. to Fri., performance Sat. afternoon Minimum of 2 years orchestral experience required.

Ages 11 through and including adults welcome.

Must have intermediate to advanced sightreading ability. Orchestra positions are based on the Orchestral Reading Audition held on Saturday, July 19.

Minimum of 5 years private instruction required for violin and viola, 3 years for cello and bass.

Telephone: (250) 592-2485 info@victoriastringorchestracamp.com
Cello: Laura Backstrom & Martin Bonham

News from Misha Levental in California...

Hey Judy,

Many things have happened since we last spoke! My cello career had calmed down until just recently. Now almost everything I do has some relation to cello. Barbara, the manager of Oakland Youth Orchestra (I don't know her last name) sent a message to OYO students that the long island youth orchestra needed extra musicians for their summer tour. They're going to Russia, Korea, China, Alaska, and Guam, My dad phoned the conductor of this orchestra, who was actually also the founder, and told him that I would like to be a part of this tour. With Just references from my orchestra teachers (including Michael Morgan) \ would be able to get accepted without an audition! So, a couple days ago, t was accepted to go on the summer tour. I'm very excited! Many of the places we're going to are places which I'd never go to on my own! A week before yesterday, I went to a master class featuring... Mstislav Rostropovich as the master class teacher. The master class involved a sextet (from the San Fran Youth Symphony) playing Brahms, and a trio playing Mendelssohn. Slava gave some great tips. The master class really benefitted me as a cellist. It was neat to hear Slava's accent, because it sounded just like my grandfather's! The Saturday after that, I saw a concert that involved both Slava and Steven Isserlis. Slava was the conductor throughout the whole concert, and Isserlis played a Britten cello concerto. Isserlis' performance was fantastic. He had fine technique and a brilliant sound. After the concert, I was able to get Slava's long-awaited autograph on my picture with me and him at Tanglewood- This week has been one I will never forget!

Talk to you soon Sincerely, Misha

THE SEVI ITH AMERICAN CELLC CONGRESS

May 16-21, 2003 | Arizona State University | Tempe, AZ

Tribute to: Nelsova | Honors the Past

Mstislav Rostropovich Festival

Stellar Artists: as of 2/2/2003

Jody Atwood Tanya Carey Orlando Cole Samuel Cristler Sean Grissom Bonnie Hampton Ross Harbaugh Jerry Kessler Han Jorgen Jensen
Thomas Landschoot
Eddie Lee
Barbara Mallow
Takumi Matsumoto
Barbara Hedlund
Ron Leonard
Richard Mooney
Douglas Moore
George Neikrug

David Schepps
Eleonore Schoenfeld
Alice Schoenfeld
Mark Russell Smith
Jeffery Solow
Mark Summers
Laszlo Varga
Phyllis Young

Highlights

-Congress Orchestra: Grand Canyon Suite, Hoe Down, Adagio -Symphony Audition Preparation Workshop

-Suzuki Association of America Presentation
-Symposium: Teachers, Student, and Parents
-Contemporary Cello Technique
-Outstanding Youth Recitals

-Cello Comparison: New and Old
-String Quartet Playing With Specialists For All Music Lovers
-Cello and Bow Makers: Care, Repair, & Maintenance with Quality

-Congress Play-ins: Invited Congress Guests Include American Cello Council Clubs & Independent Clubs As Well As Other Play-In Hopefuls

-Outstanding Exhibits: Interested makers and Dealers and Accessories Request Application



Music Schools Attending

Arizona State University School of Music Indiana University School of Music New England Conservatory of Music Manhattan School of Music Curtis Institute University of Michigan School of Music San Francisco Conservatory of Music Mannes College of Music Julliard School Cleveland Institute Peabody

Early Registration: \$300 Contact Barry Olson bolson@aol.com (480) 838-3128 For More Info Check: www.desertcello.com

Reminder: Bring your own stands and floor protection!





Gregor Piatigorsky

Gregor Piatigorsky was a member of the faculty of the University of Southern California School of Music from 1962 until his death in 1976. In recognition of his brilliant achievements as an artist and teacher, the University established the Gregor Piatigorsky Chair in Violoncello in 1974. The Piatigorsky Seminar for Cellists is one of the activities of this Chair.

As a teacher, Gregor Piatigorsky was known for his warmth, his concern for each student, and the unique ways he found to encourage those who studied with him to increase their skills and knowledge through self-examination, study and openness to the new in their art. The Piatigorsky Seminar for Cellists is designed and conducted in that spirit. It brings together distinguished artists and teachers and exceptionally gifted young cellists to study and perform a varied repertoire and to discuss artistic, technical and professional issues of significance to cellists. Performances, demonstrations of techniques and pedagogical approaches; explorations of new concepts, repertoire and professional opportunities are intrinsic parts of the seminar's offerings.

Gregor Piatigorsky

Seminar for Cellists

June 8-14, 2003

Faculty ~ Lluis Claret, Steven Isserlis, Janos Starker

Professor Eleonore Schoenfeld

Director, Gregor Piatigorsky Seminar for Cellists Thornton School of Music, Ramo Hall 112 University of Southern California

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