# Festivals...

March 4, 5, 6, & 7 2004 will be hosted by the University of Illinois in Champaign/Urbanna IL The Board of Directors meeting will occur on March 3rd. This Festival will feature Liszt works for Piano and Orchestra, Tom Mastroianni and Ian Hobson, co-Festival Directors.

#### Reminder:

Walk-in registration is available at the Great Romantics Festival in Hamilton. Be sure to visit the Great Romantics website for a complete schedule of events and for hotel information.

## Don't Argue With A Child

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small. The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible. The little girl said, "When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah".

The teacher asked, "What if Jonah went to hell?"

The little girl replied, "Then you ask him".

A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they drew. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

# The ABAC - Franz Liszt Music Association, Italy, communicates news about the following music competitions:

The 1st INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION "PREMIO FRANZ LISZT" will take place December 10 - 14, 2003 in Grottammare (AP), Italy. The competition is open to pianist from all over the world under the age of 35. First Prize: 4.000 Euro. The deadline for applications is November 1st, 2003.

The 1st INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FOR COMPOSERS "PREMIO FRANZ LISZT" will take place April 2 - 4, 2004 in Grottammare (AP), Italy. The competition is open to composers from all over the world under the age of 45. First Prize: 2.000 Euro. The deadline for applications is March 10th, 2004.

For further information, please visit our Web site: www.premioliszt.it International Piano Competition "Premio Franz Liszt" International Competition for Composers

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Web site: www.premioliszt.it
International Competition "Premio Franz Liszt"

President: Graziella Castelletti

Artistic Director: Roberto Russo.

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Perpetuating the ideas of Franz Liszt through excellence

# American Liszt Society

Vol. 20, No. 2, Fall 2003

An official publication of the American Liszt Society, Inc.

Founded in 1964

#### Dear Friends:

It is a very great pleasure to invite you to attend the Ninth International Great Romantics Festival, which is once more being hosted by the American Liszt Society, McMaster University, and the City of Hamilton, Ontario. Our annual celebration of the romantic spirit, in music and in words, has become a fixture of the cultural scene. This year's festival promises to maintain the high standards of the previous ones, and offers a variety of events calculated to please both the aficionado and the general music lover. Of particular interest will be the North American premiere of Liszt's orchestration of the Andante cantabile from Beethoven's "Archduke" Trio, op. 97. Liszt's connection with Beethoven was lifelong and profound. He himself largely paid for the statue

that was unveiled in Bonn, in 1845, on the 75th anniversary of the composer's birth, and still stands in that city. His orchestration of the "Archduke" Trio slow movement was written to mark the occasion of the Beethoven Centennial Festival that Liszt mounted in Weimar, in 1870.

The piano gala is a long-standing feature of The Great Romantics Festival, and has become one of its most popular events. This year four pianists will deliver eight of Chopin's greatest Polonaises, and it promises to be one of the highlights of the celebration. Another highlight will surely be the interview with Fernando Laires, President Emeritus of the

The City of Hamilton in association with The American Liszt Society and The School of the Arts, McMaster University proudly presents its Ninth International

Great Romantics Festival

Thursday, October 30 through Saturday, November 1, 2003

A CELEBRATION IN MUSIC & WORDS

American Liszt Society, who will talk about his old teacher Isidor Philipp, one of the aristocrats of the piano whose connections with the nineteenth century were important - he was a pupil of SaintSaens, a teacher of Albert Schweitzer, and he met Franz Liszt. Philipp represents the sort of link with the Romantic Age that we attempt to foster at these festivals. Nor should I fail to draw attention to the presence of Earl Carlyss, who made such a great impression at last year's festival, and has agreed to return as the soloist in Max Bruch's Violin Concerto in G minor with the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra.

No fewer than three lieder recitals grace our festival this year, featuring some of the greatest music to come out of the Romantic period, by Schumann, Brahms, Schubert, Wolf, and Liszt. Our main piano recital will be given by the 19-year-old Latvian pianist Vestard Shimkus, the Grand Prize winner in the 2002 Los Angeles International Liszt Competition, who comes to us as part of his roster of prize-winning recitals. The festival is rounded out with an organ recital, a chamber concert, and some important lectures by visiting speakers.

Whether you are a regular supporter of the Festival or are attending for the first time, you may be assured of a warm welcome and three days of fine music making.

Sincerely,

ALAN WALKER Festival Director PRESIDENT
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The Catholic University of

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Robert Stevenson Alan Walker Andre Watts

#### President's Column Thomas Mastroianni



There are some very exciting plans developing for upcoming festivals that I would like to share with you. The Great Romantics Festival in Hamilton, Ontario promises to be an exciting event for Liszt Members. Details on this festival appear in this issue of the newsletter, so I will only indicate here that at the interim board meeting to begin this festival there will be discussion on a proposal for guidelines in awarding the Medal of the ALS to distinguished individuals.

The next festival to be held at the University of Illinois at Champaign will highlight the orchestral side of Liszt with a presentation of most of the works by Liszt for piano and orchestra. Ian Hobson will conduct the festival orchestra and with Ed Rath is local coordinator. This festival will take place March 3-6, 2004.

The festival planned for April 6-9, 2005 will feature the religious works of Liszt. A performance of Christus and some other choral works are in the planning stages. Paul Barnes is spearheading the efforts at the University of Nebraska, where this festival will take place.

We are constantly attempting to utilize more of the membership and more new performers and scholars in our festivals. If you have an idea for one of our coming festivals, or if your campus would like to host a festival, please contact me. Of course, I cannot guarantee that every possibility will materialize, but I am open and willing to try new avenues. Our festivals are a major source of recruitment of new members. I encourage you to invite talented colleagues, students and music lovers to attend our festivals and to experience the spirit of Liszt. Our membership is growing because Liszt has an important message for the contemporary music world. This message is one of love of music, high standards and collegial support. Our Executive/membership Secretary is Justin Kolb at mellon@catskill.net.

I look forward to seeing you at the festivals.

Thomas Mastroianni

# Julia Mastroianni

Tribute by Joselyn Makowski

The death of Julia Mastroianni, mother of Thomas Mastroianni, and surrogate "Nonnie" to much of the music community for most of her long, fruitful life, leaves a large void. Visitors to the Mastroianni home always considered it a bonus if she happened to be visiting at the same time. Not only did the house smell "delicious" with her fabulous cooking, but you could be pretty sure of being invited to sit in the kitchen with her sharing coffee, tea, biscotti, gossip, laughs and love. What a charming lady she was! I will always be grateful to her for the kindness she extended to my daughter, who was then 16 years old and recovering from a very serious illness, when we were in Italy several summers ago. Julia celebrated her 85th birthday while we were there. She and Lindsay hopped busses and went shopping, had gab sessions in each other's rooms, or Julia introduced her to all the people who lived in the little community on "our" mountaintop. (Typically, Julia, seemed to quickly learn the life history of everyone she met – her openness and friendliness was contagious- there was never a language barrier for her).



Julia Mastroianni

Julia was fiercely proud of her family, and once said to me in Italy," I don't know why they make all this fuss over Marcello Mastroianni – Tom is just as good!" I suggested that more people might see movies than attend classical concerts, but that didn't appease her. Nancy Roldan, president of the Baltimore-Washington chapter wrote, "I enjoyed spending time with Tom's mother during our 1999 trip to Ravello, Italy. It was a joy seeing her not only as part of the group and the audience, but to witness the mother-son interaction, where love permeated all moments".

Sadly, shortly before Julia's death, Mary Ann Mastroianni's brother, Clyde Wilson Prosser, died. He, too, was a familiar friendly presence around the Mastroianni home.

Justin Kolb, ALS Executive Secretary, wrote, "Tom and Mary Ann's care giving was impressive to those of us aware of their sadness during the past few years. The ALS has given a modest contribution to the Mastroianni Student Scholarship Fund at The Catholic University of America as a gesture of our concern and feeling for the Mastroianni family"

#### Steve Cross

From Justin Kolb

Sadly, I must also report the untimely death of the society's friend, Steve Cross, the man who changed the traditional look of the AlS newsletter. He was not only the layout designer, but also the printer. He provided much help to the organization at minimal financial cost, and in fact, was a great help to many music organizations and private studios in the United States, offering layout and web design, database management, and printing services. He was the brother of our fellow Lisztian and board member Jo Makowski. Nancy Roldan offered, "I had the privilege of meeting Steve Cross and witnessing his work, his love for his sister, and for all the causes he supported and improved."

# Harold Schonberg 1916 - 2003

From Gregor Benko

The funeral of Harold Schonberg, who died at age 87 on Saturday, July 26, was held at Manhattan's Riverside Chapel last Wednesday. Harold's wife Helene died at the end of May and he deteriorated rapidly after that, ultimately succumbing to congestive heart failure. He had been declining from various causes including Alzheimer's disease for several months.

Former New York Times critic John Rockwell gave a sweet and appealing eulogy that captured the importance and essence of the man and the critic, pianist Eduardus Halim, spoke of his personal relationship with Schonberg, and then played the recording of Josef Hofmann's 1945 performance of the Chopin C minor Nocturne. It was inexpressibly sad and appropriate and worked it's eery spell, with many weeping. I said a few words and then Jon Samuels (an engineer for RCA Victor, who had provided the discography for Schonberg's biography of Horowitz) told about how good Harold had been to him.

A wonderful, full-page obituary of Schonberg, written by Allan Kozinin, appeared in the Times on July 27. It had one regrettable misprint, listing "Raymond Lowenthal" among Schonberg's favorite pianists, when it should have read "Lewenthal." Friends of Schonberg are planning a Memorial Celebration for the near future.

# Losses in the ALS Family...

#### Editors Note:

How sad it is to report the deaths of so many people whose passing leaves a large hole in the fabric of our organization. Some were well known to all of us-others were the ones behind the scenes, who offered much support in so many ways. Condolences are extended to the families and friends of all of these.

# Bálint Vázsonyi

7 March 1936 - 17 January 2003

A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE

(condensed from newsletter of the International Dohnanyi Research Center)

by Alan Walker

I first met Bálint Vázsonyi in 1966 - or was it 1965? If I am unclear about the date, it is because I feel that I knew him all my life. In those days I was a music producer at the BBC in London, specializing in the preparation of piano recitals for national broadcasting. Bálint sent me a rare tape of Ernst von Dohnányi's last piano recital, which had been recorded in 1959 at The Florida State University, where Bálint had been Dohnányi's pupil.

That was the beginning of a lifelong friendship. I liked the Dohnányi tape very much, and it became the basis of a ninety-minute documentary on the composer's life and work that was broadcast by the BBC a few months later. London was full of Hungarian expatriates, and I managed to interview several who had either been Dohnányi's students or who had known him well in earlier days - among them Ilona Kabos, Louis Kentner, Georg Solti, Béla Siki, Antal Dorati, and of course Bálint himself.

As our friendship grew, I would sometimes see him on an almost weekly basis. He and his wife Barbara would come to my place for dinner; more frequently I would go to theirs, since Barbara was a better cook than I was.

I well recall one of our earliest after-dinner conversations. Bálint was bemoaning the fact that Dohnányi had fallen into general neglect, particularly in his native Hungary. This was in the late 1960s. He spoke with such passion that I suggested he ought to consider writing a biography of his famous teacher. It had a salutary effect on the conversation, and I knew that I had struck a chord. The next time we met, Bálint proudly displayed a set of box-files, which he had meanwhile acquired in order to start what was to become a comprehensive filing

system on all things pertaining to Dohnányi. Work on the biography progressed swiftly and within a couple of years the Hungarian language edition was ready.

From the beginning it was always my hope that Bálint would first publish his biography in English, but he argued that it was Hungary which stood in most urgent need of the book, and the English translation could wait. I am told that four or five of the projected nine chapters of the English version were complete at the time of Bálint's death, and there are plans to have the Hungarian edition translated into English and to incorporate these new chapters within it. But whatever happens, Bálint will always be remembered as the father of Dohnányi research. His book broke new ground and was largely responsible for the dramatic re-assessment of Dohnányi's place in Hungary's musical life that is going on today.

It is a sad fact that praise for an individual is usually reserved for the eulogy, and is rarely handed out during his lifetime. Why is that? I'm very glad that I celebrated Bálint's gifts as often as I did, both in public and in private; I was enormously impressed not only with his grasp of music but with his wider abilities as a communicator of stimulating ideas.

I wrote to Barbara, his beautiful wife, and quoted some words of a Roman philosopher, with which I would like to end this tribute: "It is not when a man is born that one should rejoice, but rather when he has died - if he has lived well." Bálint did live well. We can rejoice in his life. He developed his talents to an extraordinary degree, and I count myself fortunate that he counted me as a friend.

# ALS FESTIVAL REPORT

Thank you to the members who took the time to submit reviews. The following is a compilation of thoughts about the festival.

The American Liszt Society's 2003 Festival once again demonstrated admirably the society's committeent to the ALS mission. The celebration was hosted by the School of Music of the University of Florida on its beautiful Gainesville campus. The festival was designed and produced by ALS President Tom Mastroianni and ALS Life member Kevin Sharpe.

Thematically, it presented Franz Liszt as an effective cultural ambassador, a master pedagogue, and an inspiring visionary. Programmatically, it included a day of performances, a day of master classes, and a day of informative discussion. Lectures were interspersed throughout, and the local community, as well as the local press, was both enthusiastic and supportive. An elegant evening reception for all participants and audience members was given at a local private residence.

The festival opening was formalized with a proclamation from the City of Gainesville, presented by Mayor Thomas Bussings. Dean of UFL's Fine Arts Dept. Donald McGlothlin and Tom Mastroianni also welcomed participants. Alan Walker delivered an engaging and instructive keynote address which was warmly received.

The festival featured Chamber music, vocal performances, and recitals as well as informative and entertaining lectures, discussions, and master classes. The featured artists for the festival, William Doppman and Joseph Schwartz, presented attendees with stunning performances.

Roosevelt Newson's compelling "March Funebre" (Chopin) and Gila Goldstein's extraordinary "Davidsbundler" (Schumann) highlighted their recitals on the first day.

"Liszt the Visionary" drove Saturday morning's popular "Meet the Composer Conversatio ns." The festival's Commissioned Composers, Jennifer Barker, Hye-Kung Lee, Stella Sung, and Jonathan Elliott enjoyed a lively dialogue with pianists Kevin Sharpe, Kevin Orr, and Justin Kolb. The audience participation and applause after the performances was warm and affectionate.

The society owes a debt of gratitude to the composers asked to compose a work for the festival. "These performances of contemporary music are central to Liszt's philosophy and part of the mission of ALS," said Tom Mastroianni.

There is always one event at these festivals that one might describe as "special-special" or "breathtaking." This festival was no exception. When Allison Buchanan, soprano, took center stage, her masterful performance of Liszt and African American Art Songs mesmerized the audience. Allison's performance was part of a morning concert presented by the RITZ CHAMBER PLAYERS (Mitchell Estrin, clarinet; Terrance Patterson, clarinet; Arnold Irchai, bassoon; and Kevin Sharpe, pianist). Their performance of Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert was polished and musically enriching.

Endless Highlights...What a festival!

Talented, well prepared students performed in master classes for Rebecca Penneys, Eugene Pridinoff, and Arthur Green, who gave uplifting instructional advice in a warm manner.

Lecturers Richard Zimdars, Reg Gerig and Reeves Shulstad are each serious Liszt scholars and their easy presentation style and solid content was appreciated by the audience.

Logan Skelton's lecture/recital, "Folk Influences in the Piano Music of Bela Bartok," was the sort of experience that makes the listener feel that he or she is receiving insider information. Skelton is a polished and facile presenter who delighted the audience with his words and electrifying performances of several Bartok works.

Falko Steinbach, also an accomplished pianist, presented commentary and history about contemporary piano music from Germany, which generated excitement and enthusiasm among audience members.

Each festival for the past 39 years has set continually higher standards. Congratulations and Thank You to Kevin Sharpe!

## News of Chapters and Members

### OF NOTE...

New release: SORABJI: Piano Music and Transcriptions Michael Habermann, pianist

Kaikhosru Shapurji Sorabji (1892-1988) is a Neo-Impressionist composer bestknown for composing beautiful, but long and difficult works. He excelled as a transcriber. As arranger, his influences were Liszt, Busoni, and Godowsky.

This is Dr. Habermann's fifth Sorabji recording. He was the first to record the music and has given première performances at various Liszt Festivals (Midland, 1978; Boston, 1982; Washington, D.C., 1993). He teaches at The Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore, as well as privately.

Contents (world-première recordings):

Ravel/Sorabji: Rapsodie espagnole (arr. 1945) Offenbach/Sorabji: Passeggiata Veneziana (1956)

Oftenbach/Sorabji: Passeggiata Veneziana (1956) (after the Barcarolle from The Tales of Hoffmann)

Chopin/Sorabji: Variation 56 from Symphonic Variations (after the last movement of Sonata #2, Op. 35)

Sorabji: Quasi habanera (1917)

Bach/Sorabji: Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue (1940)

Chopin/Sorabji: Pasticcio capriccioso (1933) (based on "Minute" Waltz, Op. 64 No. 1)

On Feb 27, Northwestern University Composition and Piano Departments invited Madeleine Hsu Forte to present a lecture-recital on Messiaen PianoWorks, as well as a Masterclass on Works by Messiaen. In March and April, Forte performed and gave masterclasses in Wroclaw, Poland, and Tallinn, Estonia. Among the composers were Olivier Messiaen, Samuel Barber, and Amy Beach. In September, Romeo Records released a compact disc (no.7222) of works by Samuel Barber, Bela Bartok, Franz Liszt, and Beethoven performed live by Madeleine Forte.

In the spring of 2003, Richard Zimdars, piano faculty member and Co-Director of the Contemporary Chamber Ensemble at The University of Georgia, coached four student pianists for the Ensemble's performance of Stravinsky's "Les Noces." This Fall, at the University of Northern Colorado, he will teach a master class and perform a solo recital of works by Schubert, Liszt, Bolcom, Marga Richter, and Ligeti.

Nancy Roldan presented several chamber music and solo recitals, including the opening recital at Music at Penn Alps, playing the new piano the organization bought after last years International Piano Festival at Penn Alps. The performance featured ALBORADA Music, a group co-founded by Nancy Roldan and Jose Cueto, featuring works by Bach, Grieg, and Brahms. The group also appeared at the St Mary's College Summer River Series, performing an all Tango concert.

A most recent recital on July 12 featured the pianist with soprano Elizabeth Hart, performing Lieder by Liszt and Schumann, Wagner's Liebestod and Liszt's transcription of the same work, and Cantaloube's Songs DAuvergne.

Upcoming performances by the pianist include "The Tango Seduction" sponsored by Hood College on Saturday, November 15. The concert features ALBORADA with violinist Jose' Cueto, Bandoneon virtuoso David Alsina, bassist Ed Malaga, and dancers Tino & Susan, winners of the Kennedy Center 2002 performance award.

Pianist Gila Goldstein performed this past season at the Kennedy Center, Avery Fisher Hall and Chicago Symphony Hall with the Boys Choir of Harlem. She played recitals at the 2003 ALS festival in Florida and Steinway Hall in NY, concerti performances in San Diego, and gave a master class at San Diego State University. A review of the concerti performances stated:

"The most satisfying music making of the TIC Orchestra's March 11 concert was Mozart's Piano Concerto no. 24 in C minor performed with soloist Gila Goldstein. The Israeli-born pianist played with a high degree of musical finesse. Her technique was impeccable; her lyric lines were expressive and well defined.

"In the first half of the program the Ben-Haim's Capriccio for Piano and Orchestra was performed. A work full of difficult challenges, met head-on by pianist Gila Goldstein, a specialist in the music of this great Israeli composer."

San Diego Jewish Press (April 2003)

# BALTIMORE WASHINGTON CHAPTER NANCY ROLDAN, PRESIDENT

The chapter continues with its activities, bringing together musicians from the Baltimore-Washington-Virginia region and other international traveling artists. The Board of Directors has a new member. Soprano Elizabeth Hart is the new Activities Liaison. For further information on activities, she can be contacted at: *ehart2@att.net* 

This year, the Chapter presented its first house concert at the home of Elizabeth Hart and Phil Kolker. Two fund raising events were scheduled.

The first was a "Fund Raising Dinner" at the home of Tom Mastroianni who performed his "magic" as chef extraordinaire, assisted by wine tasting master, violinist Jose Cueto.

The second event will take place on November 9, 2003, at Jordan Kitts Music Company in College Park, Maryland. This day long "Birthday Bash" honoring Franz Liszt, will feature several seasoned and young musicians from the chapter membership. The long list of participants includes talented students from Maryland State Music Teachers Association who are winners of major competitions at the state and national level.

Additionally, other artists participating in the November 9 celebration are ALS members Michael Habermann, Lura Johnson, Nayiri Poochikian, Barbara Doria, among many others.

Please join the ALS Baltimore Washington Chapter in a day of music celebration – November 9. Featured also will be a silent auction.



ALS Founder and long-time President Fernando Laires was featured in an informative and charming interview in the Autumn 2003 issue of Keyboard Companion. The interview was conducted by Helen Smith Tarchalski, ALS Board member and Associate Editor of Keyboard Companion, who was Fernando's student at the Peabody Conservatory. The discussion centered on the state of piano teaching- past, present and future, and as always, Fernando had wonderful advice and memories to share.

#### NEW YORK CHAPTER GILA GOLDSTEIN, PRESIDENT

The New York Chapter (president: Gila Goldstein) will be presenting in its next concert six young pianists playing solely pieces by Franz Liszt. The date is Thursday, November 6 at 7:00 pm, 223 E 52 St., New York City. An exciting program!

All six artists are still students, but are already at the beginning of their professional careers. Two of the pianists, Renena Guttman and Matthew Weissman, were prize winners at the 2002 Los Angeles Liszt Competition.

Also performing will be Ji-InPark, Magdalena Baczewska, Dmitry Shteinberg and Tihamer Hlavacsek.

Concert admission is free, as always. RSVP, call after mid-October, (212) 752-0669.

#### ALS Enrolls 500th Member at Florida Festival

If ALS had member numbers, Dr. Reeves Shulstad, a musicolo-gist would be No. 500. She is currently teaching at Salem College in Winston-Salem, NC. Reeves has presented papers on topics concerning the relationship between music, philosophy, and literature for chapters of the American Musicological Society as well as the Nineteenth Century Studies Association.

Her dissertation, "The Symbol of Genius: Franz Liszt's Symphonic Poems and Symphonies" will be published by Scarecrow Press later this year. Her presentation at the festival in Gainesville was well received with enthusiastic applause.

The ALS membership now numbers 508.

The ALS also welcomes new members Frederick Moyer and Falco Steinbach. Both are pianists.