

Quarter Note

From the
**Music Friends of the
Fairfax County
Public Library**

June 2009

Concerts at the Alden Soloist Josef Spáček Wins Major International Violin Competition

By Myriam Collyns

Many of you will recall a wonderful concert at the Alden theater back in March when a young Czech violinist entertained us with his brilliant performances of the Bach Chaconne, Ysaÿe Balade, and much more--including an impromptu performance of a Paganini caprice, by audience request! You will be interested to learn that Josef Spáček graduated from the Curtis School of Music last month and then traveled halfway around the world to win first prize in the prestigious Michael Hill International Violin Competition in Auckland, New Zealand.

Like other major international violin competitions, the Michael Hill competi-

tion requires contestants to demonstrate their mastery of solo and chamber performance through a grueling series of rounds. Finally Josef and two other young virtuosos reached the final round on June 11 where they performed concertos with the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra.

Josef came away with first place after giving an exhilarating performance of Prokofiev's second violin concerto.

The New Zealand Herald's music critic commented: "We were transfixed from the very first phrase, bursting with rich tone yet subtle in its inflections, and we were not released until the final tumultuous flourish". Sound familiar from March?

Where to next for



Josef Spáček playing at the Alden Theater in March.

Josef? After what should be a more relaxing summer in Prague and playing with his quartet at the Vail Music Festival in Colorado and the Angel Fire Festival in New Mexico, Josef starts studying for a masters at Juilliard in the fall, where he will study with Itzhak Perlman. But lets hope he can still find time for a return visit to the Alden before too long!

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Ruth Thoenelt, Concerts at the Alden Usher and MCC Service Award Winner

By Anita Lamkin

We have long known that our *Concerts at the Alden* ushers are special people. Without them, the show could not go on--literally!

So we are thrilled that our head usher, Ruth Thoenelt, recently received

the 2008 Gordon Randall Service Award from the McLean Community Center at the Volunteer Recognition Reception on Sunday, March 29.

They could not have chosen a better recipient. Ruth is a pillar of our ushering team--committed, punctual, and a fine ambassador for the Music

Friends. Her experience has taught Ruth how to be firm, but polite, in enforcing the rules of the theatre. Since beginning to usher for *Concerts at the Alden*, she has become one of our most dedicated and vocal supporters.

Ruth, from all of the Music Friends, congratulations and thank you!

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DONATE NOW TO SUPPORT OUR 35TH SEASON!

- Contributions received by July 31 will be recognized in our Season Brochure and all concerts programs throughout the season.
- Does your employer have a matching program for charitable contributions? Let us know!
- Please consider increasing your donation level to help us keep live chamber music free in Fairfax County.
- Send your donation to: Music Friends, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 324, Fairfax, VA 22035-0059

Thank You!

To our 2008-09 Season Donors

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If your name is not listed and it should be, please contact us at: fairfaxmusicfriends@gmail.com

We want to acknowledge our generous supporters!

Financial Outlook for 2009-2010 Season

The Music Friends of the Fairfax County Public Library have long-enjoyed the strong financial support of the Fairfax County Public Library system. In the coming year, with the budget constraints imposed on the Library, we will be receiving only half of the amount of operating funds we have been awarded in the past. The Library will also be offering less "in-kind" support (such as printing and mailing functions) than in the past.

Your Board of Directors is committed to continuing to provide a full season of top quality professional performances, **free of charge to the public**. In these distressed economic times, we believe that free access to the arts is more important than ever for the

residents of our community. We will also continue our showcase for developing artists, the Young Soloists series.

You will notice cutbacks in some areas. We will no

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longer be mailing season brochures to our subscribers; they will be available at concerts and on-line at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/aldenconcerts. Our occasional newsletter, *Quarter Note*, will be distributed by email, only.

We will be exploring more avenues of developing financial support for the Music Friends. And, we are looking to you, our members, for help. Please contribute to the *Music Friends* to support our efforts. If you are already a donor, we thank you for your continued support—and ask that you consider increasing your level of sponsorship. All our donors are recognized in our season brochure and in the concert programs (unless you request not to be listed). The *Music Friends* is a 501(c)(3) organization.

We look forward to your continued support of "the premier showcase for great chamber music in Northern Virginia"!

Partners in the Arts with the Alden Theatre

We are glad for the partnership of the Alden Theatre at the McLean Community Center in presenting the *Concerts at the Alden*. Throughout our season, we are supported by the Alden Theatre's staff in scheduling and staging our concerts. We especially want to thank Sarah Schallern, Director, and Jennifer Garrett, Technical Director, for their assistance.

Please help us work with the Alden Theatre by

observing their house rules. For safety reasons, no camera or microphone tripods are allowed on the

floor. (You may place them on a seat, but please be considerate of other patrons.) No food or drink is allowed in the theatre. The balcony can only be opened for seating when we have enough ushers to monitor it.

If a member of your party needs wheelchair



seating space in the theatre, please let us know two weeks in advance. There is always limited space available, but with advance notice the seats can be reconfigured to accommodate more wheelchairs.

Our ushers are always available to assist you with any questions.

Young Soloists Recital

Sunday, June 21 at 3:00 p.m.

Don't miss our last concert of the season!
Five young pianists will perform at the Alden Theatre
as we wrap up the 2008-09 season.

Jonathan Ko, age 9, studies with Rosita Kerr Mang.

Alec Zhang, age 11, studies with Rosita Kerr Mang.

Alissa Wang, 11, studies with Jun Yang.

Kristine Hu, age 13, studies with Marjorie Lee.

Kelly Hwu, age 17, studies with Rosita Kerr Mang.

Please join us!

Josef Spaček

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You can hear Josef's competition performance on the Internet by visiting www.michaelhillinternationalviolincompetition.com and selecting the Audio on Demand link (a plug-in may be required).

Editor's Note: We have just learned Josef has several upcoming orchestra engagements, including with the Vienna Philharmonic. Our congratulations to this fine young artist and friend of the Concerts at the Alden!

Our Essential Ushers (And you can be one, too!)

Without our corps of dedicated volunteer ushers, the great performances of *Concerts at the Alden* would not reach our audiences. The Alden Theatre requires that we have at least four ushers working at each performance. This rule is for the safety of the audience and the doors cannot open until we have the full complement of ushers in place. Additional ushers are required to open the balcony.

This season, we have been fortunate to have several individuals who were

regular volunteers to perform this essential service. Ruth Thoenelt, Jackie Wilson, Linda Savoia, Francesca Savoia, and Angelina Savoia were your friendly ushers at most of our concerts. They were ably assisted on occasion by Louise Gold, Nona Chalfant, Laurie Cole, Peter Wilmot, and Ryo Kaneko. And as always, our Artistic Director Anita Lamkin was at the reception desk greeting patrons and being an all-around good will ambassador for the Music Friends.

Please volunteer to join our usher corps! We al-

ways need to expand our pool of available ushers so that our concerts can go on without delay or risk of cancellation. Being an usher requires a very brief, one-time training session by the Alden Theatre staff (done just before the concert—no special trip necessary!). We ask our ushers to arrive 30 minutes before the concert so that we can open the doors for patrons on time. Ushers can enjoy the entire performance, so you won't miss a musical moment. (And high school students: you can earn community service hours by ushering for us!)

Contact Anita Lamkin at 703-324-8344 to volunteer, for our final concert this year, or to plan ahead for 2009-10.



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for great chamber
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Quarter Note is a publication of the Music Friends of the Fairfax County Public Library. Laurie Genevro Cole, Editor

For more information about the Music Friends, please visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/aldenconcerts, or call 703-324-8344.

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