



## Steinway Society News – Quarterly Update

### Our 2008-2009 Piano Series

By Nancy Daggett Jensen, Artistic Director

The inaugural concert of our 2008-2009 series began with a brilliant recital presented by Dr. Gwendolyn Mok, Chair of Keyboard Studies at San Jose State, playing a program entitled *In Homage of Great Composers*. Dr. Mok demonstrated on both the Steinway D and her beautifully restored Erard concert grand. Her introduction to each piece was engaging and informative and both her playing and the interactive performance charmed her audience.



We were honored to present Grammy-winner **Garrick Ohlsson** at a new venue, the McAfee Theatre in Saratoga, which proved a great success. With a state-of-the-art new theater, increased seating capacity and a new Steinway D grand, this theater holds promise for future events. Sharon Brook aptly titled her review of this extraordinary concert: *Precision, Poetry and Panache*.

The **Lee Trio** is hailed as one of the premier chamber ensembles on the international stage. The trio is comprised of three sisters who grew up in the Bay Area: Melinda Lee, piano, Lisa Lee, violin, and Angela Lee, cello. Their precision and intuitive work as a trio served to punctuate their individual virtuosity, making the evening a stunning success.

This season continues on December 7 with a recital by Adam Neiman, winner of the 1995 Gilmore Young Artist Award and an artist of rare depth, sensitivity and virtuosity. 2009 presentations include our Young Artist program and recitals by Valentina Lisitsa, Imogen Cooper and Jon Nakamatsu. *We look forward to seeing you again this season, and sharing with you the wonderful talent we have found all over the world.*



### Introducing the *Henry A. Schiro Music Literacy Program*

By Sarah Samoranos, Program Coordinator

I was honored last winter to join SSBA's Executive Director Henry Schiro to help him realize his dream of introducing music literacy back into our inner-city schools. We partnered with After-School All-Stars to fund and launch the program in February, with 4 teachers and groups of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Grant, Lowell and Horace Mann Elementary Schools, all located in downtown San José.

At graduation in May, our teachers performed pieces that our students had composed the melody lines for. It was inspirational, and this fall, we have added more instrument training. After just 2 weeks, our students are reading music, playing songs on their recorders and are able to count out rhythms reading music.

We are exploring ways of expanding the program to serve a wider demographic area with additional funding and school-based support, as currently, our program is only allowed in an after-school venue.

### Steinway Society the Bay Area Community Concerts

By David Dumont, Co-Founder

Our Community Concerts are an important public service that we offer every year to the San José/Silicon Valley community *free of charge*. This year, we were excited to present the wonderful **Saint Michael Trio** on November 16<sup>th</sup>. These seasoned and engaging performers are Artists-in-Residence at Menlo College and were perfect for this offering as they are not only highly praised for their vivid interpretations of the classic chamber literature, but they were true to their reputation in the way they make their concerts

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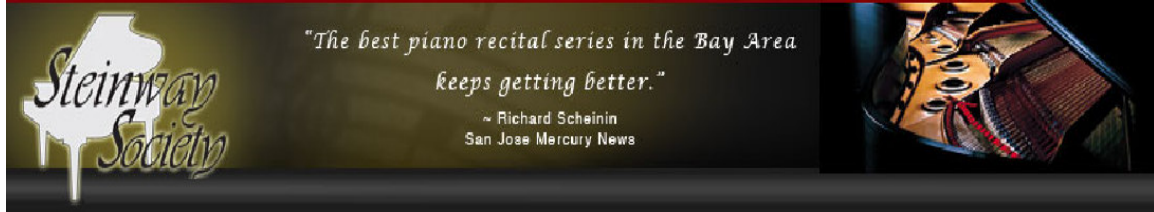




*Message from  
our President,  
Sarah Clish*

This has been a busy year for Steinway Society The Bay Area. We have forged new relationships, strengthened existing ones, and we experienced the great loss of one of our own, Henry Schiro, our Executive Director. We are grateful for the wonderful outpouring of generous support we have received this year from both corporate-based sponsors, as well as many, many personal donors who, through their giving, have reaffirmed the community's appetite for excellence in piano performance, as well as their deep concern for the children in our community who no longer have access to music in their schools.

As you read this first "SSBA Quarterly Update" we know you will be impressed with what our mighty little organization has done this year. It has all been possible because of Henry and our executive team, a Board of Directors who are not afraid to roll-up their sleeves and make things happen, the wonderful, dedicated Music Literacy Program teachers and extraordinary volunteers we are so fortunate to have. We can do more, and we very much look forward to a new year, filled with exciting concerts and events, and to expanding our outreach to more community schools to restore music to our children and youth here. We also look forward to having you participate with us in our audience, and through the generosity of your continued financial support. We cannot do it without you, and with you, we can do so much more together for our community!



## *The Joy of Salon Concerts!*

*By David Dumont, Co-Founder*

In 1994, SSBA was founded with a mission to recreate opportunities for intimate recitals reminiscent of the salon concerts of days-gone-by. We would present world-class concert pianists, and young, developing talent. Our goal was to use the proceeds to forward music education in our community through scholarships and music programs.

Today, SSBA has matured into what is widely recognized as "a cultural gem" with an esteemed reputation. With that, we have been able to attract the attention of major recording artists who are eager to include SSBA in their list of celebrated venues, we are moving forward with initiatives for expanded educational programs.

A **Salon Concert** is an excellent way to bring friends and family together, and have also proven to be a great marketing tool for businesses. This year we have helped host many in-home and corporate events, all of which have been overwhelming successes.



A few of our corporate Salon Concert events this year: **Beshoff MotorCars**, where we presented 5 young artists to a packed showroom of enthusiastic clients and prospects, **Silver Creek Country Club** where the incomparable Saint Michael's Trio was presented with a food and wine dinner party, and

**C&H Premier Jewelers**, where noted pianist Sandra Wright Chen played for a "standing room only" crowd.



Our in-home Salon Concerts are always a hit, and with our industry partners we can supply the pianos for you in-home or corporate event. We make the events "turn key" with the featured artist (or artists depending on the event-sponsor's preference), and contacts for catering.

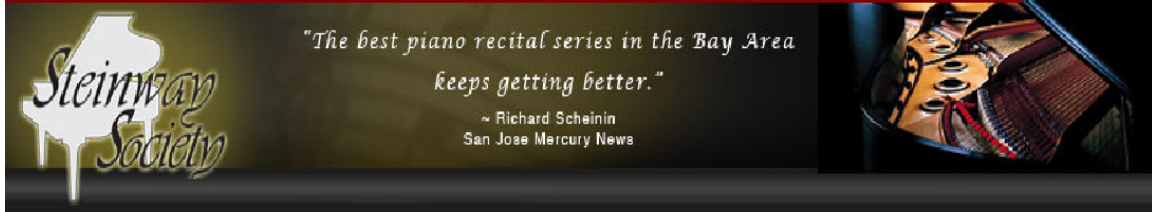
*To schedule your own memorable Salon Concert, simply contact us at SSBA. You provide the place and your audience, and we bring you a memorable, quality event that you will be proud to be a part of!*

*Community Concerts...continued from page 1- interesting and accessible through lively dialogue and commentary.*

On January 25, 2009, we will be presenting our annual **Young Artists Concert** featuring carefully selected, exceptional young pianists, many from the Bay Area, each of whom have won in prestigious local or national competitions. This concert is

eagerly anticipated by many Bay Area families and Steinway Society friends, as these concerts showcase exceptional up-and-coming young artists whose talent is every bit as compelling as that of seasoned professionals.

*Community Concerts are open seating and are well attended so make sure to get there early!*



*All New This Season...*



*Passport to Music Gift Cards*

*Just in time for holiday giving!*

Steinway Society The Bay Area is pleased to offer our new **Passport to Music Gift Cards** that can be redeemed for concerts during our season. Now available for the Valentina Lisita and Imogen Cooper concerts. *At the special rate of two seats for only \$40, they make great holiday or corporate gifts.* Call 408-286-2600 x23 for more information and to purchase them.



**Honor and Memorial Gifts** are a great way to recognize the importance of family and close friends in your life. To make a donation in their honor, contact us at 408-295-6500. With your gift comes Season Program recognition for your recipient, and many other options for honoring them.

*A Record Turn-out! Mid-Summer Music Camp 2008*

*By Jinye Wang, Camp Director*

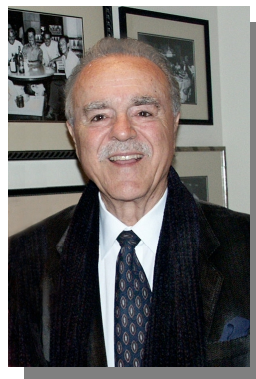
**T**his year's Mid-Summer Music Camp was the biggest ever! The sight of 105 students that first evening was overwhelming and exciting for us. We not only had virtuosos, we had kids that hadn't yet learned to read music this year, so it was a wonderful melding of all levels.

We were able to provide scholarships to fifteen children from the **Mexican American Community Services Association (MACSA)** to attend the Music Literacy section we opened this year.

We wish to thank **Dr. Gwendolyn Mok**, San José State University's Coordinator of Keyboard Studies, for the generosity of her time, and facilities, along with all of the other great faculty members that made this possible.



Also, thanks goes to the many dedicated volunteers who miraculously kept track of all those great kids, and who made our Camp go smoothly.

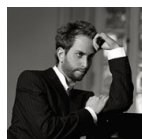


*And most of all, we want to dedicate all of this success to Henry Schiro, because without his hard work, his inspiration and his love for children and music, this camp would not have happened.*

*Give the Gift Of Music!*



## Our Upcoming Concerts



**Adam Neiman**  
*Exalted Music for  
the Soul*  
December 7, 2008

Winner of the 1995 Gilmore Young Artist Award and recognized as an artist of rare depth, sensitivity and virtuosity.

**Valentina Lisitsa**  
*From the Ukraine  
With Love*  
February 8, 2009



Described by critics as a "bona fide angel playing" this electrifying pianist has received rave reviews since arriving in the U.S. in 1991.



**Imogen Cooper**  
*An Intimate  
Conversation With Schubert*  
March 22, 2009

Feel your heart soar to Schubert's tender and heart-wrenching melodies – Britain's "queen of the keyboard" is recognized worldwide as one of the finest interpreters of Schubert and Schumann.

**Jon Nakamatsu**  
*Our Star Returns*  
May 2, 2009



Born, educated, and trained in the Bay Area, the amazing talent of the world famous "poet of the keyboard" is back by popular demand!

Tickets available through our Box Office 408-286-2600 x 23 or [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com)

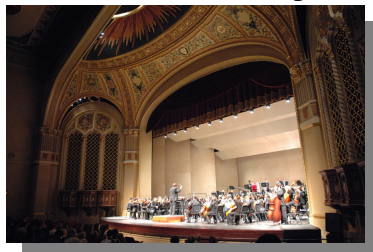
## Our Collaborations

By Lori Rothenberg, Director of Outreach

**W**e achieved overwhelming success with collaborations we pursued with other arts and community service organizations.

Our community outreach included partnering with **After-School All-Stars** to present and fund our Henry A. Schiro Music Literacy Program, and aligning with San José Unified School District, and **Mexican American Community Services Association (MACSA)** for presentation of the program.

We collaborated with the **San José Youth Symphony (SJYS)** to present world-famous, local talent Jon Nakamatsu to a near sold-out audience of over 900, at the California Theatre, which was a "venue-first" for both SJYS and SSBA. Prior to the performance on June 1<sup>st</sup>, we did the dress rehearsal with 9 foot Steinway concert grand piano at Grant Elementary School located in the heart of downtown San José. We had a packed house of



parents and their children, and the San José Mercury News

took it all in and gave us a full page article the next day! It was exciting to see so many families at the dress rehearsal, and then, thanks to the generosity of ticket donations, to see so many of them in attendance at the concert.

Our latest collaboration, the second with the generous **Castellano Family Foundation**, and with **Mexican Heritage Corporation**, was a bittersweet success, as the programming was the vision of Henry Schiro, and that vision was to paint for the audience at the 500+ seat **Mexican Heritage Plaza** event a bold tapestry of Mexican culture by combining Hispanic classical music and literature. Pianist **Patricia Garcia Torres**, from Guadalajara Mexico, joined with noted author, playwright and director **Luis Valdez** to bring Henry's vision to life, and to a packed house, his dream was realized.



I was with Henry when he visited Luis Valdez, just a week before his passing, and the synergy as they talked through how this important presentation

would unfold was magical.

*On November 8<sup>th</sup>, when Luis presented the excerpt of **Memory of Fire – Century of the Wind** by **Eduardo Galeano** to Patricia's backdrop of **Aaron Copland's El Salón México**, Henry's vision became a breathtaking and moving reality that had our audience on their feet with applause that seemed would never end.*