Florio Flourishes

**Thomas Florio**, a doctoral student of Brian Horne, won the National Association of Teachers of Singing Artist Award (NATSAA) competition July 2, 2010, in Salt Lake City, Utah. He earned a $10,000 prize, a $1,000 gift certificate from Hal Leonard Publishing, and a sponsored recital at Carnegie Hall on Oct. 30, 2011. In addition, he will be a featured artist at the 2012 NATS convention in Orlando, Fla. He was also named the winner of the Kirsten/Browning Award for the most vocal promise, earning him an additional $1,500. Florio, a baritone, was the first man to win the biennial competition since 1991.

In addition, Florio was awarded the $2,500 first prize in the Shreveport Opera Singer of the Year competition and won second place and a cash prize of $5,000 in the Houston Grand Opera Eleanor McCollum Competition for Young Singers. Florio and Mark Van Arsdale, former student of Robert Harrison, were two of the eight finalists presented in the Concert of Arias on Feb. 3, 2011.

Florio was also a winner in the Middle/East Tennessee District of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in January and won the $2,500 second-place prize in the March 2011 Orpheus Vocal Competition.
Tina Chong, piano student of Arnaldo Cohen, won first place in the Canadian Music Competition’s 2010 Stepping Stone competition, which is open to all instruments.

Aron Frank, a junior from West Lafayette, Ind., studying composition with Claude Baker and violin with Federico Agostini, won the IU Table Tennis Tournament in September 2010.

Emma Gerstein and Jiyoun Hur, students of Thomas Rober-tello, were first-prize winners at the 2010 Alexander and Buono International Flute Competition. They performed in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in October 2010.

Doctoral student Elliott Bark won the Bowdoin International Music Festival’s third-annual student composition competition with his work “autumn leaves canvas” for harp.

George Brahler, a student of Joey Tartell, has accepted a position with the Dallas Brass. Originally from Lawrence, Kan., Brahler is pursuing his master’s degree in trumpet performance at the Jacobs School. He will join Paul Carlson, D.M.A. tuba, who joined the Dallas Brass in September 2010.

International Piano Competition Winner

Yihan Chen, a student of Karen Taylor in the Young Pianists Program, captured the Grand Prize for Best Concerto Performance (all Young Artists levels) at the 54th World Piano Competition (WPC) July 1, 2010, in Cincinnati. He advanced to the finals after winning the Gold Medal in the Level 10 Concerto division.

The award included an opportunity to perform the Liszt Piano Concerto No. 1 in E-flat Major with the competition’s World Symphony Orchestra during the WPC Artist Finals on July 18 and an invitation to perform in Carnegie Hall this fall in the showcase recital featuring WPC winners.

In addition to his piano studies with Taylor, Chen studies composition with Don Freund.

Tim Miller recently accepted a teaching position at IU Southeast for the 2011-12 school year. He will be teaching beginning and twentieth-century ear-training classes, Theory III, and giving composition lessons. His piece “Sketches on Scars” was recently premiered at the 2010 Midwest Composer’s Symposium held at the University of Cincinnati Conservatory.

Daniel Seong Hyeon Lee’s work “Break Dance!” for clarinet, cello, and piano was awarded the top prize for new composition at the Toronto Ki-wanis Music Festival 2010. He received a scholarship from the Kiwanis Foundation.

Dongho Lee, a doctoral student of Christopher Young, won first prize and the audience prize at the biennial National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance in July 2010 in Washington, D.C.

Hye Jung Lee, a student of Costanza Cuccaro, will be singing in the BBC Cardiff International Voice Competition. She is one of only 20 singers worldwide to be selected to participate in this prestigious competition in Wales, which takes place June 5-20, 2011. In October 2010, she was a co-winner of the Indiana District Met National Council Auditions.

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Shin-Yeong Noh is one of two first-prize winners in the fourth annual “Just Love to Sing” Opera Competition in New Hampshire. In the final performance, she sang “Caro Nome” from Rigoletto by Giuseppe Verdi. Noh is a master’s degree student of Teresa Kubiak.

Nimrod Ron, tuba student of Daniel Perantoni, won first place and $1,200 at the International Tuba and Euphonium Conference Mock Audition Band Contest in Tucson, Ariz., in May 2010.

Jonn Sokol’s “Twice the Rising Sun” received the 2010 ASCAP Foundation Morton Gould Young Composers Award. The piece received its world premiere, by the MAYO Orchestra, in May 2010 at Bloomington’s Buskirk-Chumley Theater.

Ericka Tyner, student of Jeff Nelsen and Richard Seraphinoff, won first place in Horn Category III at the Susan Slaughter Solo Brass Competition at the International Women’s Brass Conference in June 2010 in Toronto, Canada. She then advanced to the final round, where she competed with nine other first-place winners from all of the instrumental categories and won third place in Overall Category III (ages 29 and older).

Jacobs Students participate in the 2011 YouTube Symphony Orchestra

For the second year, the Jacobs School is well represented by two talented instrumentalists in the international YouTube Symphony Orchestra. Bassist Matt Gray, a student of Bruce Bransby, and Bloomington-born violist Caroline Gilbert, a student of Alar Arad, were selected among thousands of entries, all auditioned by YouTube video, to participate in a week-long series of rehearsals culminating in a performance at the Sydney Opera House on March 20, 2011. See the videos at youtube.com/symphony

Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions Winners 2010-2011

Joe Beutel, student of Timothy Noble, won in the Middle/East Tennessee District competition.

Laura Boone, student of Scharmal Schrock, won in the Phoenix District competition and received an Encouragement Award at the Los Angeles Regional competition.

Joshua Conyers, student of Timothy Noble, received an Encouragement Award in the Indiana District competition.

Sian Davies, student of Costanza Cuccaro, won in the Michigan District competition.

Meghan Dewald, student of Costanza Cuccaro, received an Encouragement Award in the Michigan District competition.

Nicholas Fitzer, student of Costanza Cuccaro, received an Encouragement Award in the Michigan District competition.

Thomas Florio, student of Brian Horne, won in the Middle/East Tennessee District competition.

Angela Kloc, student of Costanza Cuccaro, won in the Wisconsin District competition.

Ursula Kuhar, student of Marietta Simpson, won in the Kentucky District competition.

Hye Jung Lee, student of Costanza Cuccaro, won in the Indiana District competition.

Jesse Malgieri, student of Timothy Noble, won an Encouragement Award in the Florida District competition.

David Margulis, student of Patricia Stiles, won in the Florida District competition.

Lacy Sauter, student of Costanza Cuccaro, won in the Middle/East Tennessee District competition.

Anthony Webb, student of Robert Harrison, received an Encouragement Award in the Indiana District competition.
Senior Scott Strathman took top honors in the Audio Engineering Society recording competition, winning the Classical Surround category for his recording of Gustav Mahler’s Totenfeier played by the IU Festival Orchestra conducted by Lawrence Renes.

Percussionist Jesse Willis, student of Michael Spiro, was offered the position of Assistant Professor of Music/Director of Percussion Studies at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, S.C.

International Violin Competition Winner

Brian Allen, a 16-year-old member of the Violin Virtuosi and the String Academy Chamber Orchestra, won the Lions Clubs International Global Youth Music Competition at the 93rd annual Lions Clubs International Convention June 30, 2010, in Sydney, Australia. In his first international competition, Allen competed against finalists from Australia, Canada, China, Ecuador, England, Korea, Taiwan, and Tunisia. Prior to the final portion of the competition in Sydney, he won the regional and national titles after competing against other American violinists via YouTube.

In addition to his expenses-paid trip to Australia as a finalist, Allen received $10,000 for his first-place win over eight other talented violinists from across the globe. From Bedford, Ind., he began playing the violin at age three and plans to make it his career.

Williams Pronounced “Iron Composer”

Natalie Williams, doctoral fellow and associate instructor in composition, took first place in the Analog Arts “Iron Composer” competition at Baldwin-Wallace College, Ohio, in October 2010. She was selected as a finalist from a nationwide call for scores and competed alongside four other accomplished composers from across the country.

Run in the same manner as the popular Iron Chef television program on the Food Network, the competitors were supplied with the secret musical ingredient of “sticks and stones” and asked to write a piece for flute, cello, and percussion.

Each composer was given only five hours to compose, notate, and produce a piece incorporating the secret ingredient, followed by a 30-minute rehearsal with the performers.

Her instructors include Claude Baker, Don Freund, and Aaron Travers.

New “Opera Idol” Match

Countertenor Michael Match, a doctoral student of Patricia Havranek, learned July 26, 2010, that he had won Cincinnati’s second annual Opera Idol Competition with his rendition of “L’angue offeso” from Handel’s Julius Caesar. He received a $3,500 contract with Cincinnati Opera.

Nearly 60 amateur opera singers turned out to perform before a panel of professional judges in the competition’s initial open audition in early June.

Through multiple rounds of voting, six finalists were chosen. Videos of those finalists in performance were posted on the Cincinnati Opera Web site, and the public was invited to view the videos and vote for their favorite. More than 4,500 total votes were cast.