Dear Friends,

The mission of the Friends of Music is clear: to foster the music programs of the Jacobs School of Music by supporting the school through scholarships. At our October board meeting, the Friends pledged $406,000 for scholarships for 2011-12, with $5,000 specifically designated for Travel Grant scholarships.

During the preliminary round of last year’s Travel Grant competition, I thanked the judges and commented to them that every year, winning an international competition provides a life-changing opportunity for at least one of our Travel Grant finalists. Numerous opportunities to perform often come immediately, and a career is launched. One of the judges, Jacobs violin professor Kevork Mardirossian, exclaimed, “That is my story!”

Kevork’s first competition was in his native country of Bulgaria, when he was a 22-year-old student. Because the then Soviet-controlled state also funded the arts, expenses related to the competition were covered—with one exception: contestants had to make their own arrangements to get there. In Kevork’s case, this meant a trip from southern to northern Bulgaria, using three or four buses over one-and-a-half days and taking along sandwiches his mother had prepared. He slept in bus stations along the way. What a difference Friends of Music Travel Grant funds would have made!

Kevork has vivid memories of this grueling trip to the Obretenov Violin Competition, where he won first prize and the gold medal. The following year, he performed 20-30 concerts; within a couple of years, the number grew to 300, all within Communist countries. His extraordinary career later expanded throughout Europe, Asia, and the United States.

He exclaimed, “I’m so glad that the Jacobs School and the Friends of Music support the students in this endeavor. The level of competition is much higher than in my day, and unless you’re a child prodigy like Joshua Bell, you have to win a competition to start a concert career.”

Recently, my husband, Steve, and I were excited to witness the emerging career of one of our Travel Grant recipients, Ljubomir Puskaric. With funds from the 2010 competition, Ljubomir traveled to Slovenia, where he won first place among 75 contestants from all over the world in an opera competition and thus began his career.

After that competition, Ljubomir wrote to the Friends of Music: “Your wonderful help to students is actually incredible from my point of view. This was my first first-prize, and I am so happy that I was able to go to this competition; it would have been very difficult to go there without your help ... So please do receive my best regards ... and inestimable words of gratitude.”

On Nov. 7, 2011, we saw Ljubomir in the role of Tchelkalov in Chicago Lyric Opera’s production of Boris Godunov. On Dec. 31, he was awarded the Best Musician of the Year award at the Zagreb Philharmonic, receiving a cash award of 10,000 euros. How amazing, when less than two years before, Ljubomir needed the support from the Friends of Music to travel to Slovenia.

At the end of my conversation with Kevork, he commented, “It really is amazing that in this small town in Indiana, students from all over the world find a group like the Friends of Music—people who provide not only financial support through scholarships and travel grant funds, but often also provide personal contact and encouragement.”

Yes, that’s what we’re all about, and that’s why we give to the Friends of Music. Your help makes such a difference to these talented young students. Thank you for your ongoing support. Your dollars often mean changed lives!

Jo Ellen Ham, President
Friends Take Time to Celebrate

On Sept. 30, 2011, the Friends of Music gathered in the Indiana Memorial Union’s Tudor Room to celebrate the 100th year of music instruction at IU, the 40th anniversary of the dedication of the Musical Arts Center, and the progress on Jacobs’ new Faculty Studio Building.

Dean Emeritus Charles Webb took the guests on a quick excursion through the first 40 years of the MAC before Dean Gwyn Richards whisked them through the first 100 years of the Jacobs School, with a look at what’s to come. The group then continued celebrating at a performance of Così fan tutte, opening IU Opera Theater’s 2011-12 season.

A large portion of the evening’s income will provide scholarships for Jacobs students.

1. From left: Monika Kroener, chair of the Friends of Music Emeritus Board, visits with Ellen Carter and Kathy Anderson.
2. IU President Michael McRobbie and IU First Lady Laurie Burns McRobbie toast to the past and future of the Jacobs School of Music.
3. Dean Gwyn Richards takes members of the Friends of Music through a brief tour of the first 100 years of music on the IU campus.
Travel Grant Competition Celebrates 20th Anniversary

By Judy Schroeder

The Travel Grant Competition celebrated its 20th anniversary on March 31, 2012. Since the first competition in 1993, nearly $200,000 has been awarded to 183 winners. This money has been used to take students from the Jacobs School of Music to competitions around the world.

Both the Friends of Music and the Jacobs School contribute $5,000 to the grants. The judges, a representative panel of Jacobs faculty members, determine the allocation of the combined $10,000. The audience for the finals ranks the contestants, and People’s Choice funds are distributed according to their votes.

Last year, Friends of Music members contributed an additional $9,535 for a record People’s Choice. “We hope to match that amount in 2012, although it will be a tall order,” says Helen Butler, competition co-chair.

At the beginning of the spring semester, all students in degree or diploma programs at the school are invited to compete for a grant to a national or international competition listed in the World Federation of International Music Competitions guide. Contestants are required to prepare a program of three pieces from differing stylistic periods. Judges, another group of Jacobs School faculty, hear anywhere from 25 to 50 preliminary contestants, depending on how many people apply, and then choose from eight to 12 finalists.

Over the years, students have commented on how valuable it was to their career to take part in a major competition. Saxophonist Matt Evans, a 2009 winner, went to the Aeolus International Wind Competition in Düsseldorf. It was not only his first international competition, but also his first time abroad.

In 2006, pianist Fernando Cruz used his award to enter the Fundación Guerrero International Piano Competition in Madrid and finished third. “Playing with that orchestra, one of the best orchestras in Spain, and with renowned conductor Adrian Leaper was definitely a prize in itself,” he said at the time. Helpful as it may be to their careers, many music students find attending a competition a financial strain. Violist Robin Hong, a 2005 winner, said, “Travel to and from competitions can be quite expensive.” Freed of financial constraints, she appreciated being able to “better focus on the music itself and my preparation for the competition.”

In the first competition, in 1993, $5,500 was divided among seven winners, including a trio that included cellist Emilio Colón, now a Jacobs School professor. Colón says, “This competition marked the beginning of my professional life as a chamber musician. I will be forever grateful for the opportunities and experiences that came as a consequence of the support received from the Travel Grant Competition.”

Bruce Storm, a past president of the Friends of Music, recalls, “Mark McAlister came to me with the idea. I sent him to Charles [Webb] to explore the possibility. With help from Charles and Henry [Upper], we launched the first competition. We were excited to not only give scholarships, but also to contribute to the needs of distinguished music students.”

By the following year, the total prize money had doubled. “Charles asked me if I thought we could raise some additional money at the reception, to round out some deserving grants that were not in our budget. I frankly thought he was crazy, and I was so embarrassed making that first plea,” Storm recalls. “My words must have hit a chord because Dr. John Pless and his wife, Lois, spoke up and pledged $1,000 and started the chemistry flowing.”

In 1996, harpist Ann Yeung became the only person ever to be a finalist in three Travel Grant Competitions. The rules now allow students to win only twice, a distinction achieved by harpist Maria Luisa Rayan-Forero, double bassist DaXun Zhang, baritones Christopher Bolduc and Christopher Burchett, saxophonist Zachary Shemon, and pianists Winston Choi, Tina Chong, Clinton Cormany, and Jeremy Denk.

The People’s Choice, where audience members act as honorary judges and vote for their favorite contestant, was started in 1999. The first winner was soprano Edlyn de Oliveira, who went on to win the Robert Jackson Encouragement Award at the George London Foundation Competition. She also was a semifinalist at the Placido Domingo Operatic Competition in Puerto Rico.

This year’s winners were

Donatello String Quartet, including
Borislava Ilitcheva, violin
Jeremy Gabbert, violin
Laurent Grillet, viola
Josue Valdepeñas, cello
Illya Friedberg, piano
Sharon Harms, soprano
Yi-Yun Loel, harp
Michael Miraglia, trombone
Villa Guitar Duo, including
Rodrigo Almeida
Daniel Duarte
KaJeng Wong, piano
Hyun Ji You, piano
Past Winners Play Starring Roles Today

**Pianist Jeremy Denk** was a winner in the very first Travel Grant Competition in 1993 and won again the following year. A pupil of György Sebők, Denk earned a master’s degree from IU. Since then, he has performed with major orchestras in such locations as Atlanta, Dallas, Houston, London, Philadelphia, and San Francisco. In October, he performed Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 13 in C Major with the St. Louis Symphony, and, in December, he made his debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, performing Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 3 under the baton of Michael Tilson Thomas. In February, he performed Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 1 at Carnegie Hall with the Orchestra of St. Luke’s. He recorded Corigliano’s Violin Sonata with Joshua Bell for Sony Classical, and the two tour together regularly. In 2010, Denk released his first solo recording, *Jeremy Denk Plays Ives*. He is the author of the widely read blog “Think Denk.”

**Soprano Mariana Zvetkova** won a Travel Grant in 1996 and used it to travel to the Queen Elisabeth Voice Competition in Brussels, where she won the Count de Launoit award. She studied at IU with Martina Arroyo. Zvetkova won the Grand Prix of the International Competition in Toulouse in 1998 and second prize at the Puccini Foundation competition in 1999. This summer, she will sing Brünnhilde in Wagner’s *Siegfried* at the National Opera of her native Bulgaria, where last year she sang Brünnhilde in *Die Walküre* and Fricka in *Das Rheingold*. In 2001, she recorded Dvořák’s *Stabat Mater* on the Deutsche Grammophon label under the baton of Giuseppe Sinopoli. Her international career has taken her to La Scala, Munich State Opera, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Tokyo National Theater, Lyon National Orchestra, Radio France, and Semper Oper in Dresden. She has sung the title roles of both Strauss’s *Ariadne auf Naxos* and Puccini’s *Turandot* on three continents and *Tosca* on two.

**Soprano Twyla Robinson** won a Travel Grant in 1997. This season, she is performing with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra in *Der Rosenkavalier* and makes her Opera Colorado debut as the Countess in *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Last summer, at the Aspen Music Festival, she performed in Mahler’s Symphony No. 2. In 2010-11, she made her debut with the New York Philharmonic in Mendelssohn’s *Elijah* and with San Diego Opera as the Marschallin in *Der Rosenkavalier*. She has sung Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9 with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Seattle Symphony, New Jersey Symphony, the Cleveland Orchestra, and the London Symphony Orchestra at New York’s Avery Fisher Hall and the Barbican Centre in London. As an opera singer, Robinson has won particular acclaim for her portrayal of Mozart heroines at the New York City Opera, San Francisco Opera, Florida Grand Opera, and New Orleans Opera.

**Harpist Maria Luisa Rayan-Forero** won Travel Grants in 1997 and 1999. She earned an artist diploma, a master’s degree, and a doctoral degree at IU. She won the silver medal at the USA International Harp Competition in 1998 and 2001. She received first prize in the Young Professional Division at the 13th American Harp Society Conference. A native of Argentina, Rayan-Forero has performed at the Musikgebouw in Amsterdam, National Concert Hall in Dublin, Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, Carnegie Hall in New York, Libby Gardner Hall in Utah, and Geary Theatre in San Francisco. In 2010, she performed at the China Harp Festival in Shanghai. Her publications include arrangements for solo harp of Bach’s Partitas, BWV 825-827, Mozart’s Sonata in F, K.332, and Piazzolla’s *Cuatro Estaciones Porteñas*, *Serie del Angel*, and *Libertango*. She lives in Chicago with her husband, Antonio Forero, and their two preschool children.

**Mezzo-soprano Kate Lindsey** won a Travel Grant in 2004. She earned her bachelor’s degree with distinction from IU in 2003. As part of the Metropolitan Opera’s Lindemann Young Artist Development Program, the Virginia native sang in Massenet’s *Manon*, Verdi’s *Don Carlos*, and Gounod’s *Faust*. As a company member, she has played Cherubino in Mozart’s *Le Nozze di Figaro* and sung in operas by Gounod, Puccini, Dvořák, and Wagner. She has also appeared at the Boston Lyric, Los Angeles, Santa Fe, Seattle, and Wolf Trap operas, the Bayerische Staatsoper, the Lille Opera, and the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées. Her repertoire includes Rosina in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, Angelina in *La Cenerentola*, Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*, Nicklausse in *Les Contes d’Hoffmann*, Zaida in *Il Turco in Italia*, and Idamante in *Idomeneo*. She was named Seattle Opera’s Artist of the Year in 2010. She recently was awarded a prestigious grant from the festival Musique et Vin au Clos Vougeot.

**Double bassist DaXun Zhang** was a Travel Grant winner in 2001 and 2002. He used one of the grants to become the youngest artist ever to win the International Society of Bassists Solo Competition. He received his Artist Diploma from IU in 2005. He is the first double bass player to win the Young Concert Artists International Auditions in 2003. That same year, he was the first double bassist to win first prize in the WAMSO Competition, leading to a performance with the Minnesota Symphony Orchestra. In 2006, he performed his arrangement of Waxman’s *Carmen Fantasy* at Lincoln Center. In 2007, Zhang won an Avery Fisher Career Grant, only the second double bassist in the history of this prestigious award. He received the 2010 Aoyama Music Award. He has performed extensively with the Silk Road Project and is an assistant professor of double bass at the University of Texas at Austin.

**Violinist Sarah Kapustin** won a Travel Grant in 2003. She earned her bachelor’s degree from IU in 2002 and an artist’s diploma the following year. In 2007, she was awarded first prize in the International Markneukirchen Instrumental Competition, resulting in a radio broadcast and solo engagements throughout Germany. With Jeanette Koekkoek, she played all 20 Beethoven sonatas to great acclaim in Italy, repeating the cycle at IU in summer 2007. She is a former member of the Atlas Trio, the Dubinsky Quartet, and the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, and has appeared at Alice Tully Hall and Carnegie Hall, Cité de la Musique in Paris, and Mexico City’s Sala Nezahualcóyotl. Kapustin is currently first violinist for the Rubens Quartet, which performs throughout Holland and elsewhere.

**Baritone Christopher Bolduc** won Travel Grants in 2005 and 2006. He earned his master’s degree and a performer’s certificate at IU. He was a national semifinalist in both the 2007 and 2008 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and was a member of the Young Artist Programme for Basel Opera. As a resident artist at the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia, he performed Figaro in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, the title role in Eugene Onegin, Lescaut in *Manon*, Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*, Ford in Falstaff, and Olivier in Capriccio. This season, he returns to the Basel Opera to sing the Count in *Le Nozze di Figaro* and Dancaire in Carmen. Future plans include the title role in Don Giovanni for Cologne Opera.
The Society of the Friends of Music Donors

The mission of the Society of the Friends of Music is to raise scholarship funds for deserving, talented students at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. The society was established in 1964 by a small group led by Herman B Wells and Wilfred C. Bain. We are pleased to acknowledge outright gifts made between Jan. 1, 2011, and Dec. 31, 2011.

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