



Quarterly Report
March 5, 2012

My greetings and best belated New Year's wishes. My apologies that it has been a while since I last sent out an update as to our activities, - I have been very busy with lots of music adventures (yes, that is a very good description. So with that, let me begin with a review of recent goings on.

I think many (most) of you know that we did a series of recording sessions with Gary Levinson this past October. Gary is a friend for 30 years, and he has soloed with us a couple of times (and he will be back soon). A year ago, he approached me about making a recording. I told him that I/we would be thrilled, but I could not take the time to raise the money. He understatedly said that he thought he could. The upshot is that he did, and so then we did, and we have what everyone thinks will be a very successful project. We recorded three pieces by Tchaikowsky – *Souvenir d'un lieu cher* – and the Vivaldi *Four Seasons*. We are hoping that the disc will be ready for sale by the holidays. More as it develops.

On the expanding of audience/community service side of things, we have some very good news to report. Thanks to a significant grant from the State Arts Board and the Cultural Heritage Legacy Fund, starting in June we will begin touring to 10 Greater Minnesota communities. We will be partnering with two of their local library systems, and similar to all of our programs, our free admission and children welcome policies of course will apply. I can tell you that from the phone calls I have been receiving, the excitement this project is generating is incredible!

Other Artistic news is also very exciting. In January, we had pianist Andrew Staupe perform Mozart with us. He was fantastic, and drew terrific houses. Last month we had cellist Soo Bae for a return engagement. As expected, she too was terrific, and we had another excellent set of houses. On March 16 (7pm at Metro State) and March 17 (2pm at the Basilica) we have my son Loren performing Beethoven's *Emperor Concerto* with us. I suspect many of you already know of Loren and his accomplishments. That being said, I can tell you not only as a proud dad, but also as someone who is quite careful about picking soloists, this program will be very special. Do please plan to join us. If you want to come on Friday night, call Ray (612 871 1701) at the office, and ask him to save you some seats. Metro is always filled.

And finally we will finish up on Friday, March 30 at 7pm at Metro State, and 4pm on Sunday, April 1 at Temple Israel with violinist Hye-Jin Kim. Hye-Jin is also coming back for a return engagement – when we have exceptional talent the first go around, I try very hard to get them to come back again (and again...). Hye-Jin will play Louis Spohr's 8th violin concerto. For those of you who are not familiar with Spohr, he lived during the same time as Beethoven, and was almost as popular.

Music in the Schools is also doing very well. Our program this year is Music Tells a Story – the academic tie of course is literature. The kids' responses have been very and I mean very gratifying. When I announce that we will be playing (Tchakovsky's) *Romeo and Juliet*, they squeal (yes, literally squeal) with delight and giggle with anticipation. It just does not get any better than that! And we will work with 21 schools and probably close to 11,00 children this year!

As you know, none of this could happen without your continued financial help. I can't say thank you enough times, but do know that your support is helping us to serve thousands of community members and their children – something that I am very proud of and grateful for.

Also, let me reiterate. All of our financial reports are available online at all times. Just visit our website to view them 24/7. The Sinfonia is a fiscally conservative organization and is in a very fine financial position.

I hope to see you at some upcoming concerts. Until then, again my thanks and very best regards,

Jay

Jay Fishman
Executive Director