

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 1, 2017

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The Bardavon Announces the 45th Annual

HUDSON VALLEY PHILHARMONIC STRING COMPETITION

Finals are open to the public at Vassar College's Skinner Hall!

(*Poughkeepsie, NY*) The Bardavon 1869 Opera House, Inc. and the Hudson Valley Philharmonic (HVP) String Competition Committee announce the **45th Annual HVP String Competition**. The free competition featuring nearly 30 musicians will be held at **Skinner Hall on the Vassar College campus on Saturday, March 18 and Sunday March 19, 2017.**

The full two-day schedule is as follows:

First Round: Saturday, March 18, 9:30am - 6pm

Semi-final Round: Sunday, March 19, 10am - 12pm.

Finals: Sunday, March 19 at 3pm (Three finalists play concertos)

There is no admission charge and the competition is open to the public.

This international competition attracts a wealth of young musical talent from the finest conservatories in the US and abroad. The contest began in 1966 under the direction of Maestro Claude Monteux, who was at that time the HVP's artistic director/conductor. It was originally started as a way to find string players for the orchestra.

The HVP String Competition is often credited for launching the careers of world-renowned orchestral and solo string musicians. Many previous winners have gone on to illustrious classical music careers. Previous notables include: violist Marcus Thompson '67 (Boston Chamber Players), cellist Fred Sherry '68, violinist Ani Kavafian '73 (Lincoln Center Chamber Players soloist), violinist Adela Pena '85 (Eroica Trio), and violinist Judith Ingolfsson '96 (1998 Indianapolis International Violin Competition winner).

The 2017 first-prize winner will receive \$3000, a solo performance with the HVP during its 2017-18 Season, **and for the third time a solo performance at the "Musical Landscapes of Italy" festival in August in San Quirico d'Orcia, Tuscany founded by Poughkeepsie native Steven Slade!**

Steven Slade began his musical education in his native Poughkeepsie. He studied with Christine Fredenburg until his graduation from Roy C. Ketcham High School. Steven obtained his Bachelor Degree in Violin Performance at the University of Colorado, studying with Abraham Chavez. He attended the Aspen Music School and was a member of the El Paso Symphony Orchestra during the ensemble's 1975-1976 season. Subsequently he moved to Europe, continuing his studies with Kato Havas in London and later in Geneva with Corrado Romano. He was a member of the Orchestra dell'Angelicum in Milan, Italy and for many years regularly played in the Orchestra dell'Arena di

Verona. He is a founding member of the Orchestra da Camera Milano Classica as well as the early music group La Follia Barocca and has organized concert tours for both ensembles in the US, including performances at Vassar College in 2004 and 2009. Steven has appeared as soloist with orchestras in England, Mexico and Italy and has performed numerous recitals in Europe and the U.S. He plays on a violin made in 1911 by Giuseppe Pedrazzini named the "Vesuvio". In 2014, he co-founded Paesaggi Musicali Toscani, a classical music festival which takes place every August in and around San Quirico d'Orcia in the Tuscan Hills south of Siena. The festival
URL: http://www.paesaggimusicalitoscane.it/en/index_en.html

The judges for this year's competition include two former HVP String Competition winners:

Hiroko Yajima: samandhiroko@earthlink.net

Violinist Hiroko Yajima was our second-ever String Competition winner in 1967! Among her many accomplishments since then was winning a Fulbright Fellowship to study at The Juilliard School with Ivan Galamian and Dorothy DeLay, performing as a soloist with orchestra at Carnegie Hall, and being chair of the Mannes School of Music's string department since 1998.

James Kreger: jbkreger@aol.com

Cellist James Kreger was our 1969 HVP String Competition winner! In addition he was the top American prizewinner at the International Tchaikovsky competition in Moscow in 1974, and has taught at The Juilliard School for nearly three decades.

Carole Cowan: [cowancarole@gmail.com](mailto:cowanarole@gmail.com)

HVP Concert Master Carole Cowan earned her Bachelors in Music from Northwestern University, and both her Master's and Doctorate from the Yale School of Music. She is Professor of Music at the State University of New York at New Paltz, and Artistic Director and President of Newburgh Chamber Music.

The HVP String Competition is open to the public at no charge, and gives audiences a rare opportunity to hear and see some of the best young violinists, cellists, and violists in the world, before their careers have even begun. For more information call the Bardavon Box Office at 845.473.2072 or log on to www.bardavon.org.

Interviews:

HVP String Competition Chair:

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Judges:

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Carole Cowan: [cowancarole@gmail.com](mailto:cowanarole@gmail.com)

"Musical Landscapes of Italy" Festival Steven Slade: stivalone1@gmail.com

The Bardavon 1869 Opera House, Inc. (the Bardavon) is a New York State nonprofit corporation that owns and operates two historic theaters—the 944-seat namesake theater in Poughkeepsie and 1510-seat Ulster Performing Arts Center (UPAC) in Kingston—and the region’s premiere orchestra, the Hudson Valley Philharmonic. It presents top-notch music, dance, theater, and classic films for diverse audiences in both its venues; stages free annual outdoor events in local communities; and partners with regional schools to offer unique arts-based learning experiences. The Bardavon also continues to restore and preserve its historic theaters for today’s audiences and future generations to enjoy.

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