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*Bronze Medalist Vincent Meklis, Silver Medalist Brannon Cho, and Gold Medalist Matthew Lipman*

## 2012 Stulberg String Competition Medalists

From a field of 111 competitors 12 semifinalists were selected by an independent panel. The 12 semifinalists performed at the Dalton Recital Center before a panel of nationally recognized judges. From the 12, six finalists were chosen to perform at the evening concert. That evening, on May 19, three received the coveted Stulberg String Competition medals.

Matthew Lipman, who has been hailed by The Chicago Tribune for his “splendid technique and musical sensitivity” and “warm, burnished, singing tone”, was awarded the Gold Medal. This summer Matthew is appearing at Ravinia and will be featured at the Stulberg Midsummer Night’s Interlude. Matthew will be featured in May 2013 at the Grand Rapids Symphony’s Rising Stars Series. The medal includes a \$5,000 stipend which Matthew says will be great as he continues his studies at Julliard. Matthew plays a viola by Matteo Goffriller, 1700.

Brannon Cho began his cello studies at the age of 7. As the Stulberg Silver Medalist, Brannon will be appearing with the Western Michigan University Orchestra on October 14. Brannon made his debut with the Colonial Symphony in his home state of New Jersey. He has performed in Carnegie Hall and on From the Top radio

show. In addition he has won the top prize at the 2011 Lennox International String Competition, ASTA National Competition and the 2012 Johansen International String Competition.

Vincent Meklis added to his list of awards with the Stulberg Bronze Medal. Vincent has begun pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree in violin performance at the University of Southern California, Thornton School of Music. He has been a guest soloist with various orchestras, including performances at Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall and the Terrace Theatre at Washington, D.C’s Kennedy Center. He is the recipient of the Dorothy Richard Starling Foundation scholarship in violin. He will be the guest soloist at the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony’s November 4 2012 concert.

The task of making the tough decisions on May 19 were judges Matt Haimovitz, Rachel Barton Pine and Roland Vamos. Mr. Haimovitz is a cellist who has been called “trailblazing”, “brings visionary approach”, “champion of new music”. Ms. Barton Pine, violinist, has appeared with the world’s most prestigious ensembles. She is also a former Stulberg participant and medalist! Roland Vamos is nationally recognized for his excellence in teaching. He is the recipient of many awards and has most recently written a method book.

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*Master Class Performers hit the road to venues around the Kalamazoo community.*

### Master Class Outreach

Once again Stulberg Master Class participants started their year of outreach performances with a well received performance at Friendship Village. Violinist Donny LaTour, violist Ryan Grover, and cellists Alex Smith, Ellie Lambrix and Cullen O'Neil performed for an audience of 45 residents. This varied program included pieces by Felix Mendelssohn, Johann Nepomuk Hummel, David Popper, Edouard Lalo, and Dimitri Kabalevsky. The residents appreciate the kids bringing the performance to them and we look forward to the next opportunity to entertain them!

Violist Jeremy Evans performed Johann Sebastian Bach and violinist Samir Deshpande performed Samuel Barber for a small audience at Ministry with Community on May 25th.

We once again collaborated with Communities in Schools for a concert at Woods Lake Elementary. Violinist Liya Jin performed Max Bruch and violist Maisie Snyder performed G.F. Handel for an audience of 50 1st through 5th graders. This was our most enchanted audience, with the elementary students raptly listening to the Master Class participants play.



## Elizabeth Rohs Retires as Stulberg Administrator

**By Kenneth A. Fisher, M.D.**

After ten years of service as administrator for the Stulberg International String Competition Liz Rohs is retiring from the organization. I was the Competition President from July 2008 through June 2011 and would like to share with you how important and productive Liz was during those years.

Because of Liz's competence and warm and friendly personality, she was able to immediately develop positive relationships with our contestants and their families and with those in the Kalamazoo Arts community. People enjoyed visiting with her in the office or on the phone.

As we all know 2008 was a difficult year for not-for-profits because of the serious recession. At the same time we also had to deal with a \$22,000 loss. Fortunately previous boards had sequestered some reserve funds and with Liz's help we were able to weather that storm. At about the same time our board and our donor list needed to be expanded to meet the needs of the organization

and replace many of the original supporters who were reaching an advanced age. I can testify that Liz was instrumental in our progress along those lines. At the same time we had to increase our support from foundations. Using her grant writing skills Liz was able to double our support from local foundations.

Another major problem was that we were in essence a one day event with little other community exposure; we had to expand our presence in the Kalamazoo region. This created a great deal more work for Liz, but true to course she accomplished this task enthusiastically with fine results. We have had Competition finalists and Master Class participants perform for schools, organizations, retirement communities and special events. After a good deal of study with information from Liz regarding other string competitions, we decided to try a different date for the competition weekend moving it from the first weekend in March to the third weekend in May. So far the response has been quite favorable.

Liz created a Facebook page to improve our image and stay in touch with former finalists. Another task was the need to address our by-laws and charter which were written as a membership organization; however we functioned as a directorship. With Liz's guidance we were able to address these problems, re-write the by-laws and our charter with expert assistance, and at minimal cost. During this time Liz also oversaw the creation of our first newsletter.

We both came to the conclusion that for the competition to reach its full potential we needed leadership from a professional in the field of not-for-profits, an Executive Director. Liz admirably was willing to make any financial sacrifice necessary to facilitate this hire. That wish has now reached fruition with the hiring of Alisa Carrel.

If Esther Stulberg were still with us she would be thrilled with our accomplishments for which, in no small part, Liz Rohs was a major contributor.

## Meet Alisa Carrel: New Executive Director of Stulberg Competition

Reprinted with permission from Mlive.com Thursday, May 17, 2012 By John Liberty



KALAMAZOO, MI -- Alisa Carrel's mother, who lives in Three Rivers, has been sending her articles about the Kalamazoo area for years. "Trying to lure me back. It worked," Carrel said during an interview Tuesday.

Carrel, 44, is the new executive director of the Stulberg International String Competition, which will be held Saturday at the Dalton Center Recital Hall on Western Michigan University's campus. She officially begins her duties on July 16, but Carrel is in Kalamazoo this week to meet with members of the arts community and to offer a brief introduction during Saturday's

competition, which features some of the best young string instrumentalists in the world.

Carrel was born in Kalamazoo and raised in Battle Creek. She graduated from the Interlochen Center for the Arts with a piano performance focus in 1985. She graduated from the University of Texas with a degree in music in 1989 and earned her masters of arts administration from Florida State University in '91. After graduating, she moved to the Washington, D.C., area.

Before joining the Stulberg, Carrel, who also plays piano, was the director of the office of arts for the city of Alexandria, Va. "We are excited about Alisa's joining us at The Stulberg and her broad experience in arts administration. We are confident that she will make The Stulberg Competition an even stronger presence in the international string competition," said Stulberg

board president Joy Light.

Carrel said she will look to achieve the board's objectives while also utilizing her experience in the corporate world, as well as her work with federal and city governments and nonprofit organizations. She also would like to see more awareness of the Stulberg in the area.

She said she plans to spend the first few weeks of her new post acting as a sponge and absorbing all the information she can. She said she was excited to join an thriving arts community. She is also overjoyed to be a lot closer to home. "I've never felt more welcomed to a community than I have in Kalamazoo. I've had the opportunity to meet wonderful people. I've been so impressed with everybody and how warm they are and how many people have been saying, 'Welcome back home.' It feels really good," she said.

## Morris Stulberg, Founder Stulberg International

### String Competition Passes away at 90

*Morris Stulberg was a life-long resident of Marshall, Mi. Many in Marshall remember him as a successful businessman, heading Marshall Iron and Metal Company; as a philanthropist and as a community leader. He had leading roles in local theatrical productions and was a much sought after master of ceremonies.*

*Following the death of his brother, Julius, in 1974, Morris along with his sister-in-law, Esther Stulberg, laid the foundation for the Stulberg International String Competition. He spent many years helping guide the Competition. He remained a Lifetime member of the Board of Directors.*

*Born on May 5, 1922 in Marshall, Michigan, Mr. Stulberg was the second of four children born to Jewish immigrants, Max and Rebecca (Pudik) Stulberg. After an honorable discharge from the US Army, where he was awarded the Bronze Star, he entered the University of Michigan. Upon graduation with a degree in business, he returned to Marshall.*

*The Stulberg Board of Directors extend condolences to his family and friends.*

## Returning by Popular Demand: Stulberg on the String

### A Midsummer Night's Interlude

Thursday, July 19, 6:00pm

Starring Susan Anthony & Friends

Plus Matthew Lipman, 2012 Stulberg International String Competition Gold Medalist

\$80 per Person, \$40 Tax Deductible\*

For Reservations: call Helen Horn 491-1144 or email hmhorn@gmail.com

What a night! A unique evening of music from classical to swing to pop. World renowned soprano and Gull Lake resident Susan Anthony returns to Gull Lake with her friends Barry Ross, Steve Kamerling, Raymond Harvey, Steve Jones,

Jennifer Barlament, Juanita Nash, Joe Reish. Joining them is this year's Gold Medalist, Matthew Lipman, viola. Matthew will be coming from Chicago where he is performing this summer.

A sell out last year, this fun-filled evening includes dinner

with entrée choice, wine and of course the great music.

**New this year: Silent Auction!**

*\*All proceeds go to the Stulberg International String Competition.*



### SUPPORT US

Make a difference to future generations by donating online at [www.stulberg.org](http://www.stulberg.org).

### OUR MISSION

The Stulberg International String Competition has been helping young artists achieve their dreams since 1975. Our mission is to promote excellence in string instrument performance by gifted young artists under the age of 20.

## Upcoming Events 2012-2013 Season

*Midsummer Night's Interlude*  
Gull Lake Country Club

Thursday, July 19, 2012

Silver Medalist Concert  
Cellist Brannon Cho with  
Western Michigan University Orchestra  
Miller Auditorium

Sunday, October 14, 2012, 3pm

Bronze Medalist Concert  
Violinist Vincent Meklis with  
Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra  
Chenery Auditorium

Sunday, November 4, 2012, 4pm

Strings Around the World in Concert  
Stulberg 2012 medalist  
Kalamazoo College  
Light Fine Arts Building

To be announced, November 2012

Gold Medalist Concert  
Violist Matthew Lipman with  
Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra  
*Rising Stars Series*

Friday, May 17, 2013, 8pm

### 2013 Stulberg Competition & Master Classes

**May 18 & 19, 2013**

### SUPPORTERS

The Stulberg International String Competition is a 501(c)3 Nonprofit Organization. The Competition's primary source of funding comes from individual donors. The Stulberg also receives support from the the Arts Fund of Kalamazoo, the Burdick-Thorne Foundation, the Dorothy U. Dalton Foundation, the Harold and Grace Upjohn Foundation, Irving S. Gilmore Foundation, the Butui, Pinehurst and Fetzer Funds of the Kalamazoo Community Foundation, the Stulberg Family Trust Fund and matching gift programs of IBM and Merck Partnership for Giving .

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