



## Celebrating a Brilliant Performer

by Larry Bedini

When I first saw **Tessa Seymour** at the 2005 Stewart Brady Competition, I was taken by the delicacy of the girl. I remember thinking, "This child will be performing on an instrument that is, in some way, almost as big as she is." I saw her as somewhat frail and wondered how she would handle such an instrument, since it required a strong control.

She sat down to play, paused, positioned herself, gave a nod to the accompanist and suddenly started to play. She performed with such vitality and strength and sureness that my first reaction was, "Wow! What power this girl has." In no time all my concerns vanished. I was so taken by the power and security she demonstrated. I could also envision a great future in store for her because of the beauty and sensitivity of her playing. When she finished, I was swept away by the brilliance of the performance. She won the Margaret Brady Study Grant Award, and I could not have been happier that Tessa became a winner of our first-ever **Stewart Brady Competition**.

Tessa has performed for us at two of our

Y.E.S. events to rousing ovations. She is, also, one of the sweetest youngsters one could meet. I'm sure success will never spoil her. Her career has progressed beautifully and from all signs will blossom in the coming years. I know I speak for all of you when I say how proud we are that the Foundation is helping further the prospects for a deserving young artist like Tessa.

Here is more information about this young artist so you all can know some of the many things she has done and will be doing:

Tessa, now 14, lives in Berkeley and is a student of Jean-Michel Fonteneau at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Preparatory Division. She made her solo debut at the age of 10 with the Stockton Chamber Orchestra and previously performed at the Beijing Conservatory of Music in China when just 8. Other solo appearances include with the Modesto Symphony Orchestra and the Piedmont Prometheus Symphony as the Felix Khuner Concerto Competition winner.

Tessa was selected in 2005 to participate in the Yehudi Menuhin Chamber Music Seminar with her Luna Trio. Also with the Luna Trio, she was a semi-finalist in the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition in 2006 and may be returning again this year with the Trio. In June 2005, she joined the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra.



Tessa Seymour, cellist extraordinaire

At age 12, Tessa appeared on host Christopher O’Riley’s *From the Top* radio show and won the Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Award. Last October, Tessa performed on *From the Top*’s new “Live at Carnegie Hall” television series, which aired in May 2007. Also in the spring, she performed solo at the Bill Graham Center in San Francisco for His Holiness, the 14th **Dalai Lama**. This past summer, Tessa attended the Yellowbarn Young Artists Program for Chamber Music and toured France with Walnut Hill’s Summer Chamber Music Program as the Zander Scholarship Winner.

Her latest event was a performance of Bloch’s *Schelomo* on Sunday, November 11th at 2:00 p.m. in Davies Symphony Hall with the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra. This was a sell-out performance and a much anticipated event. It was thrilling to hear the Youth Orchestra. I’m embarrassed to say it was a first for me. I loved seeing and hearing them play; they were absolutely wonderful. Once again, I felt proud of the work our Foundation does, having chosen



Tessa’s sister Kelsey, their mother, Kirsten, and Tessa Seymour holding flowers presented by Mr. Bedini after her performance at a recent Y.E.S. event. (photo by Sonia Savio)

Tessa as a winner in our 2005 competition. All of you would have been equally proud. Tessa walked on stage carrying her beautiful Testore *Camilla* cello, dated 1720, and was radiant. She began playing and immediately one knew her poise and sureness of hand would bring out the mournful beauty of the piece. She is amazing to watch. How could anyone not be impressed? Tessa played with all of the poise and professionalism of a performer who knows her craft and instrument. I sat there with tears welling up. The moments in the piece that called for heavy emotion were there every time. The orchestra played under the exciting baton of **Benjamin Shwartz**. He has a terrific rapport with the young musicians. Just as a point of interest, Tessa performed with the orchestra because she won the 2007 Youth Orchestra Concerto Competition.

Here is a young person who will, undoubtedly, go on to gain much success in the years to come. The good news for us is that she will be performing for us next year at one of our events. She will be bringing us her Luna Trio. You’ve made us proud, Tessa. We thank you, my dear.

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# Christopher French

## Shows Mastery of Acting and Performance

by Josh Campbell

Solo cellist, **Christopher French**, featured artist on our event November 3<sup>rd</sup>, treated everyone to a splendid combination of virtuoso cello performance paired with dramatic readings. The music ranged from an unaccompanied sonata by Johann Sebastian Bach to the complexities of Dmitri Shostakovich. Chris chose a soliloquy from Shakespeare's *Hamlet* and an excerpt from the long-running Broadway classic *A Chorus Line*, among others, to complement each musical rendition.



Larry eloquently introduced each pairing, with descriptions creating a context in which to better appreciate Chris's dramatic monologues as they related to each musical score. It was a

unique opportunity to experience great music in a new and more emotionally captivating way.

Pianist **Roxanne Michaelian** was a big hit, enthralling everyone with her elegant playing in the Shostakovich *Cello Sonata*.

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All event photos by John Keefe



Sheri Stock, Ellen Nelson, Harry Larson and Emily Mugge



Marsha Hattem  
and Joseph Koerpel



David Fortner, Chris French, Thomas Elliott and Larry



## More November Event Photos



David Claridge and Martha Walsey with Larry



A November Feast



Stanley and Dixie Lee Mahy



Martin Beresford toasting Nienke Lels-Hohmann



Erika and Robert Schittli, Rita Bachmann and Monika Eggen





Yolanda Kollar, cellist Chris French, Anne Matthew, Ann Carter, Barbara La Grandeur and Thomas Elliott



Larry with Nienke Lels-Hohmann



Peter Graham, Vincent Fuqua and Mark Bernstein



Vivian Petrucci and Gretchen Elliott



P. J. Kaur with Larry



Marshall Mugge with Norma Baldwin and Judy Girard

## He Can Pump You Up!

by Thomas Elliott

Y.E.S. Foundation members are keenly aware of our mission in promoting young aspiring artists and the role that our competition (and many others like it) plays in fostering the advancement of the Arts.

Larry and I have had the opportunity to appreciate how competitions come to bear in a completely different (yet no less competitive or affecting) way in another niche of life: the world of the Strong Man.



Over the past few years, we have each come to know and value **Richard La Rocca** through our interaction with him as our personal trainer. In addition to carrying a full load of clients at a local gym, Richard competes nationally throughout the year at various strong man competitions. In the picture above, it is no day at the beach as he practices for an event known as the *farmer's walk*. The weight he is carrying in *each* hand is four-hundred pounds. (Yes, that's 400!)

As I gaze at the visage above, suddenly the prospect of a couple of hours practicing the viola doesn't seem nearly as daunting....

## The Holiday Season Is Upon Us

It is the most *wonderful* time of the year – the time for merry making. It's the time for the hustle and bustle of shopping to get that terrific bargain – the time for gift giving and great sharing – a time for camaraderie to abound.

It's also that time when we have the **Y.E.S. Foundation for the Arts Christmas Party**; and what a party it always is! We will have *wonderful* treats to eat, *wonderful* treats to see, *wonderful* well-wishers and *wonderful* hugs.

Remember that this event is **FREE** for all paid-up members of the Foundation. If you're not paid-up you can renew your membership at the door at the time of the event, or you can get a jump on things and renew by sending in a check or using our website.

Also, remember that your guests will need to pay \$45.00 to attend the event. They can apply their \$45.00 to new membership, becoming an active partner of our extraordinary group.

Be prepared to eat a lot! We'll have a special surprise treat, also. **Ellen Nelson**, one of our longtime members, is going to make a delicious entrée for us. Also, don't fail to bring your camera: there *possibly* might be a small decoration lying around here and there.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.



# Our Next Event

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## Y.E.S. Annual Christmas Party



**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT THAT WILL  
MAKE YOUR HOLIDAY SPIRITS SOAR!**

**Saturday, December 15, 2007**  
at the residence of  
**Lawrence Bedini**  
3368 Jackson Street  
San Francisco, California 94118

**Dinner Buffet: 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.**  
**Entertainment: 7:45 to 9:15 p.m.**

**Please R.S.V.P. by December 13**  
**(415) 885-1YES (1937)**  
online: [www.yesfoundationforthearts.org](http://www.yesfoundationforthearts.org)

**FREE TO MEMBERS ONLY**

**Guests pay \$45.00**

**Guests may apply admission  
charge to new membership**



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**MasterCard / Visa Accepted**



## Remembering the Past and Looking Toward the Future



In February 2006, **Ferenc Illyeni** gave seventy-five Y.E.S. Foundation members a sensational demonstration of his virtuosity on the violin.

We are pleased to announce that Ferenc will be returning for an exciting matinée recital on **Sunday, May 25, 2008**. This is certain to be a sell-out, so be sure to save the date. A special treat will be hearing Ferenc perform for the first time in San Francisco on his **Fernando Landolphi violin, Milan 1750**.

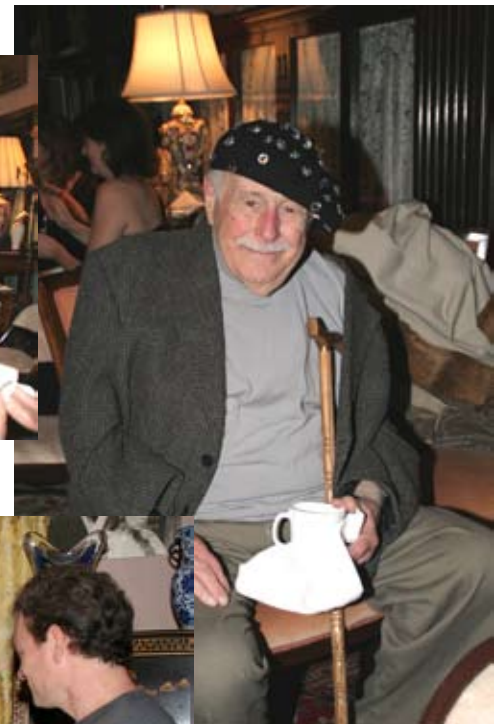
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Board member Steve Lundgren with wife Debbie and daughter Tate.



An excited crowd at the recital in 2006



San Francisco legend Enrico Banducci



Thomas Elliott and Rita Weikal congratulate Ferenc

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## Our Mission Statement

The Y.E.S. Foundation for the Arts exists to help promote great art by granting scholarships to young, aspiring instrumental and vocal students. In so doing, the Foundation seeks to raise awareness about the Arts and to encourage schools and teachers in supporting the artistic dreams of students throughout the Bay Area.