



Viola Notes



NEWSLETTER OF THE MINNESOTA VIOLA SOCIETY

ROBERTO DIAZ DRAWS A CROWD

The Minnesota Viola Society hosted a master class on Friday, January 13, 2006 at Hamline University in St. Paul, featuring Roberto Diaz, which drew an audience of over 70 viola enthusiasts.

The event was co-sponsored by the Minnesota Viola Society, Hamline University, and the Artaria String Quartet. Several constituencies collaborated to make this event possible. Artaria String Quartet first violinist, Ray Shows, a childhood friend of Roberto Diaz, hatched the idea to bring Roberto to the Twin Cities for a viola quintet concert. In addition to the master class and quintet concert, Mr. Diaz spent a morning coaching

chamber music groups in St. Paul. It was a homecoming of sorts for Diaz, a former member of the Minnesota Orchestra. Pictured (below) from left to right: Deanna Anderson, Kate Leger, Erica Burton, Roberto Diaz, Krista Windingland, Kirsti Petraborg



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is a great time to be a violist. Having recently returned to the comfort and camaraderie of a viola section after a several-year absence from the far-away exile of the violin section, my appreciation for the viola has never been greater. It is *Don Juan* this week in Duluth and it is nice to be reminded that *Don Juan* is actually more than one page in length!

I was astounded how many

folks read the article I wrote for (another publication) about how violin playing has made me a better violist and the Strauss this week has reinforced this point again. Now that I am well into my second year of a two-year term, it is time to think about the presidential line of succession. Stella Anderson will take over the reins in January and we will have elections in the fall for President-Elect. The

person who fills this position will be an integral part of our society for six years, two years each as president-elect, as president, and as past-president. This person will have more influence on the future of our young organization than any current board member. Who will rise to this task? Who has the vision to lead us into the future? Will it be you?