



# Viola Notes



N E W S L E T T E R   O F   T H E   M I N N E S O T A   V I O L A   S O C I E T Y

**STELLA!!!!!!!!!!**

**A MESSAGE  
FROM THE  
PRESIDENT**

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Greetings, Fellow Violists,  
At long last a missive from the missing president who is present at functions but averse to modern-day electronic air waves. I have to also apologize for not acknowledging the energetic and charismatic (can that be—he’s a violist!) leadership of David Arnott, a man of many talents and hats, one of which is filling out the violin section of the Duluth Symphony. Among David’s projects this past Spring was our Viola Day with Michael Kimber, filled with a multimedia presentation from this wonderfully talented man. Not only did we learn how many of his compositions were created, but we were treated to hearing him perform snippets of his compositions. He also included a fascinating session on tuning with a great handout. Now, what could be more appropriate with ending this session then by performing his multi-

viola works. He presented duos (with former student David Arnott), trios and viola quartets. All are accessible (playable), clever, humorous, and terrific pieces for trios and quartets of violas (see photos). For those of you who weren’t there—you missed out on a wonderful exchange of information and camaraderie. Later in the Spring we had our annual Pot-Luck Play-In. All who attended agreed that violists are great chefs and bakers besides being great human beings and musicians. We are planning another event this spring—so do come! One other event that needs to be mentioned: On September 24<sup>th</sup>, Matthew Young, violist in the Minnesota Orchestra, will be presenting a recital at Hamline University at 7:30p.m. He won the prestigious McKnight Fellowship this past Spring. We are also fortunate to have surprise guests preceding and following the concert. So come and enjoy the mellifluous and stentorous tones of our favorite instrument. Other projects are underway. For the past two years, the Minnesota Viola Society has been involved in presenting “viola for violinists” classes to both GTCYS and MYS orchestras. There have been a few crossovers. I, myself, have presented such a class to the Augsburg College Suzuki Education workshop for the past two years and also have been successful in recruiting students. This June, Renee Moore-Skerik, the first president of the Minnesota Viola Society, presented a lovely recital in Golden Valley. Even though the temperatures hovered around 100 degrees, there were many violists in the audience who enjoyed Renee’s choice of programming both old (Schumann Fairytales, and Brahms) with brand new (Dominic Dousa, who happens to be from Rochester, MN). They are both faculty members in the deep south. A committee has been working on whether it would be feasible to sponsor a viola competition. If any of you would like to work on one of these projects or have any ideas on something our society should present to our membership, please write to me. Meanwhile, I look forward to seeing you on September 24<sup>th</sup>.