

Cynthia Phelps (from page 1)

Erica Burton, a graduate student of Korey Konkol at the U of M School of Music, played the *Allemande* from Suite No. 6 for Cello by Bach. Mark Hatlestad, an eighth grader and student of Brad Johnson, played the third movement of the Telemann Viola Concerto with Mindy Eschedor, accompanist. Deanna Anderson, a high school senior and student of Korey Konkol, played the first movement of the Walton Viola Concerto with Tyler Wottrich, accompanist.

Master classes strive to introduce students to new and useful concepts and skills (and allow these brave and bold students to try out these ideas on-the-spot), and at the same time be interesting and informative for the audience.

If the balance is not somewhere in the satisfying middle-zone, the master can be either too much the “star” or be too uninteresting for the audience to want to stay in their seats for over two hours. Ms. Phelps seems to be a natural at providing us with a beautiful, enriching afternoon – student and audience, alike. She was very encouraging to each of the four students, explained techniques of the bow arm, elbow position, left hand agility, vibrato, and also demonstrated expressive passages, singing the phrases from time to time. It was easy for the audience of friends, family, teachers and professional musicians to enjoy her gentle, sparking energy and learn something at the same time. The students responded with ease, immediately demonstrating their own grasp of her suggestions. Tyler Wottrich, pianist and student at the University of Minnesota, said, “Cynthia Phelps projected a lot of ideas and did it succinctly. Not only were they great thoughts, but she was able to get right to the point and produce a lot of difference in the playing very quickly.” To add a little levity to the afternoon in an impromptu moment, Ms. Phelps’ friend and ex-colleague from the Minnesota Orchestra, who turned out to be violist and composer, John Tartaglia, presented her with a gift and words of affection between students. It is not hard to comprehend how this beloved violist, who played with amazing strength, clarity, passion, and a full tone that literally defines the viola, has inspired many fortunate, young musicians to play the viola and has led many of the rest of us to revel in the sonorous beauty of our favorite instrument. “Bravo!” to Ms. Phelps, the students, and to the sponsors of this viola-event.



FOURTH ANNUAL

POTLUCK PLAY-IN

SUNDAY, MAY 6

4:30-7:30

LAKE HARRIET

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

