A Monumental Gift

Visual Arts Gets 20 Tons of Marble

by Dee Smith

What started out as a far-fetched dream turned into hard, cold reality for an Academy instructor and her students. Sculpture/ceramics teacher Jean Parsons knew it was an outlandish request. She made it last October during Parents Weekend, but the need was very real. "If you don't ask, you certainly won't receive" was her philosophy, so she requested a donation of $500 for alabaster stone for her sculpture class.

George Milligan of Amherst, New Hampshire, stepfather of current Academy senior Nathaniel Risteen, saw the wishlist item tacked to the board in Stone Student Center. He pocketed Parsons' request and, being a rock-quantity owner, started calling around. Not long after, Jean got a call.

"I practically fell off my chair," she says of her initial shock after hearing that 41,000 pounds—over 20 tons—of white marble was being donated by Imperial Mine Quarry of Danby, Vermont, the same quarry that supplied stone for the Washington Monument and other landmarks in the nation's capital. The stone was transported by a flatbed semitrailer from Vermont to Interlochen, free of charge, last December. Estimated value of the gift: $123,000.

Jean Parsons realizes the magnitude of the gift, saying the pieces of rock would be a brand-new experience for the young sculptors, who are used to working with softer alabaster stone, clay, and plaster. "They are going to have to build up their muscles to work on this. There is enough stone here to last us years, but just like Michelangelo, we are going to take it slow—one chink at a time."

Tools to help shape the marble are being donated by Mr. and Mrs. Chung-in Moon, parents of 1998 Academy graduate Iris Moon.

Visual artists have a lot to smile about atop a semi load of 20 tons of white marble. It's a dream come true for instructor Jean Parsons (far right) and her sculpture students (from left) Noah Wilberding, Jillian Macha, Julia Stawiski, Carl Kamph, Nathaniel Risteen, and Katrina Rehwoldt.

Interlochen Takes to the Road

by Dee Smith

Led by President Ed Downing and his wife, Joyce, representatives from admissions, alumni, advancement, and other departments have been traveling around the country visiting with alumni, parents, and friends.

"This marks the first time that a collaborative travel effort of this magnitude has been undertaken," says President Downing. "The response has been impressive. We have successfully recruited new students for our programs, reconnected with scores of our alumni across the country, and cemented old friendships and forged new ones."

The fall and winter travel schedule included stops in Detroit, Chicago, California, Florida, Texas, and Washington, D.C., among other places. The largest and most comprehensive tour leg took place in January, when Interlochen traveled to Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Francisco. Student and alumni performers highlighted the events.

Academy senior Omar Butler performed in Los Angeles at the National Association ofRecording Arts and Sciences headquarters with Academy alum and world-famous percussionist Peter Erskine, two of his band members, and Academy instructor Bill Sears. Young alums Caroline Campbell (violin) and Elizabeth Brown (cello) performed at the Stephen Birch Aquarium in La Jolla.

Current students who also had their moment to shine on stage were pianist Eri Nakamura and junior camper and jazz pianist Eldar Djangirov, who played at the St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco.

For information on future Interlochen travel plans, contact the President's Office, 616-276-7392.

Eleven-year-old jazz pianist Eldar Djangirov dazzled the audience in San Francisco (top), while senior Academy trumpet player Omar Butler (left) did the same in Los Angeles. Above, President Downing meets with San Diego Youth Orchestra board member Georgia Robbins Sadler, executive director Susan Rumley, and music director Jeff Edmonds.
A Note from Tokyo

by Melanie Drake

Living in five different countries in the past 15 years, I have repeatedly debated with myself how to define "home." The longing for a sense of place can sometimes be a yearning for a creative community, like that of Interlochen—which for many of us provided relief from schools where the arts visited from time to time, but did not dwell. The resources for creative community may spring from unexpected terrain. In a circuitous way, for example, I reconnected with Interlochen by moving to Japan.

In 1990, several days after starting graduate school in London, I bumped into my former classmate Monday Michiru Mariano (IAA '81), in a Hampstead cafe. A decade had passed since we were dorm suites. A singer and songwriter, she had completed an album, and was returning home to Tokyo. Our reunion was loaded with serendipity. Before her departure, she introduced me to William Campbell, a Tokyo friend who had also just relocated to London. In a few years, his Japan stories had convinced me to move back to Tokyo with him, and he became my husband.

In London, I'd been halfway through a dissertation—but in Tokyo, I was suddenly distant from archives, faculty, and peers. In that creative limbo, I reestablished correspondence with Dick Driscoll, the poet, novelist, and former IAA teacher. He responded with a generosity of spirit that made me feel less cut off from a community where poetry matters.

This February marked our sixth year in Japan. My husband and I have become deeply involved in a rural Japanese winery that is a vocational school for mentally-handicapped adults. On the brink of Japan's wine boom, we also founded a company to import Californian wines. In addition, we publish a wine newsletter, and I write a wine column for a daily newspaper here. To develop a sense of community locally, we hold winetastings that feature Tokyo musicians, writers, and artists.

Last winter we hosted the alumni reception for then-President Rich Odel's Japan visit. I had no idea whether more than a handful of guests would respond to the invitation. A dormant Interlochen community emerged; over 35 alumni and parents crowded into our living room, while alumni performed, including pianist Kyoko Koyama, accompanied by her husband, cellist Yunosuke Yamamoto.

Since then I've met people such as composer Professor Koji-Ichi Hatami, who has long been a great supporter of Interlochen. I've listened to his music and had the delight of hearing flutist Sane Nakayama (IAA '76) translate for a Paul Winter concert, and had the delight of hearing flutist Sanee Nakayama (IAA '76) perform works of Villa-Lobos. A lively circle of alumni gathered around our dinner table for an autumn visit by Interlochen faculty Steven Perry (piano) and Elizabeth Kufferath (violin). Last December, several of us had a mini-reunion with Walter White (IAA '81) when we were here performing with the David Matthews Super Latin Jazz Orchestra. And Monday Michiru Mariano's music has found great resonance in Japan and beyond; she is now working on her 16th album.

The fellow Academy and Camp veterans I've encountered have a strong sense of camaraderie—although we may not have been at Interlochen during the same years, or in the same field. Here in Japan, I've rediscovered what a resource Interlochen has in its international alumni, and what a resource we have in each other.

Melanie (JAC 76-77, IAA 79-81) can be reached via email at hotel(5)el.com.

Mailbag

Dear Crescendo,

Here is an item I thought might be of interest to you. At the latest national convention of the American Bandmasters Association, my father, George C. Wilson, was chosen to become an Honorary Life Member. He is past president of that organization. As you know, he was vice president and director of Interlochen Arts Camp for a number of years and was the interim president when Joe Maddy died.

My father turned 90 on September 28, 1998. He still listens to his Interlochen tapes and even presents listening programs called "Music from Interlochen" at the elder residence where he lives. My sisters and I have wonderful memories of summer at Interlochen. We always enjoyed reading Crescendo, which keeps us up to date on what is happening there—and in the lives of some of the people we know.

Sincerely,

Susan Wilson Hayworth
(JAC 45-46, 48-59)

Dear Crescendo,

I enjoyed reading your fall 1998 issue, particularly page 18. I attended NWC 1929-31 and my greatest thrill was to play the "Stars and Stripes" under Mr. Sousa in 1931. His autographed photo still graces my wall, but I am somewhat disappointed that, after 67 years, the signature has faded slightly.

Keep me posted about the special lunch or dinner.

Sincerely,

Edward W. Shineman

PS—The last time I played my cornet was about five years ago, when the Cornell band alumni were invited to Carnegie Hall to join the band for the second half of the program. Do you know how to get to Carnegie? Practice, practice, practice.

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Interlochen invites you to the

49th Annual Chamber Music Conference
August 18-24, 1999

Enjoy six days of intensive study, performance, and camaraderie with chamber music devotees from around the country.

Experience instruction and concerts by the renowned Manhattan String Quartet, as well as notable string, keyboard, and wind faculty who present master classes, lectures, and chamber music recitals.

INTERLOCHEN
Center for the Arts
After a decade-long slumber, a revived "Sleeping Beauty" was presented by Interlochen's dance division as this year's holiday ballet. "Sleeping Beauty" now joins "The Nutcracker" and "Coppelia" as part of Interlochen's rotating roster of traditional Christmas ballets.

Classrooms to Go Online

The Interlochen Corporate Council is spearheading an effort to raise $250,000 to bring up-to-date technology to the school's academic classrooms. The project, called Classroom Connectivity, is designed to equip 24 classrooms with new computers, software, televisions, VCRs, and telephones. The result will be an increased ability to use technology to support academic curriculum, as well as better communications within the institution and with the outside world.

The project was spurred by a report from the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS), which sent an evaluation team to Interlochen last fall as part of its seven-year accreditation process. The report recommended that Interlochen update its classroom technology to bring the Academy up to speed with other independent schools around the nation.

Campaign News

Brahms Gets New Name, Other Renovations Continue

The newly renovated Brahms Residence Hall was renamed McWhorter Residence Hall, after longtime Interlochen trustee Charlie McWhorter for his many years of dedicated service to Interlochen. Trustee Van Smith and his wife, Margaret, used the naming opportunity from their own Campaign contribution to honor McWhorter "for embodying the Interlochen spirit."

The refurbishment is part of the Campaign for Interlochen's renovation and restoration component. Launched with the new construction component in the summer of 1997, this two-year project has already renovated 75 of the 102 summer cabins slated to be refurbished and two of the five winter residence halls—McWhorter and Mozart/Beethoven. Work on the remaining cabins and residence halls is scheduled to be finished by July.

The Campaign has also replaced and upgraded sewer and electrical systems, roofs, windows, roads, boilers and water heaters, sidewalks, and many other infrastructure items. New lighting, sprinkler systems, smoke detectors, chimney liners, and the re-keying of locks in residence halls are other items designed to make Interlochen a safer and healthier environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors.
MOTIFS
JANET ELDER IAC 62-64, 66-68, IAA 64-69, IAC Faculty 70-72, recently killed online with three Interlochen dance majors. They participated in a "Bodystage" sponsored by Dance Magazine and Voice of Dance, a website devoted to the appreciation of dance. As the new coordinator and former principal dancer with the Martha Graham Dance Company, Elder fielded questions about her career and favorite dance pieces. Elder was also recently interviewed on NPR's "All Things Considered.

DR. FREDRICK HEIBERT IAA 74-75, 77-78, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania, received a $15,000 Chairman's Award from the National Geographic Society's Committee on Research and Exploration for his work on the Black Sea Silk Corridor. He has teamed up with Robert Ballard, discoverer of the Titanic, to extend his research to the bottom of the Black Sea, where he hopes to find further evidence of a Bronze Age culture that existed 4,500 to 6,000 years ago.

CHRISTIAN MATTHIES IAA Faculty 91-94) has taken a position as Visiting Assistant Professor of Dance at the University of Michigan School of Music. He also just released his first CD, "Standing Alone: Works for Solo Piano," by Philip Glass.

LARRY THOMAS IAA Faculty 69-72, IAC Staff 70-73) has a new book out, "If Somebody Laughs, It Must Be Funny," a collection of humorous poems and short fiction.

DUDE STEPHENSON IAC Faculty 92-94) was awarded the Citation of Merit by the School of Music Alumni Board at the University of Michigan in October 1993.

allen viezzi/t IAC 58-69) has recorded a new classical CD, "Emerald Concertos and Other Gems," which features the virtuosos as soloist and composer performing his works with the Budapest Symphony Orchestra.

PETER ERSKINE IAA 68-77) recently joined jazz group "The Yellowjackets," in April. Erskine, a drummer and composer, "The Yellowjackets," in April. Erskine, a drummer and composer, will also perform at Interlochen Arts Academy, is being featured on "From the Top," a new hour-long public radio program hosted by renowned concert pianist Christopher O'Riley. The program showcases the nation's most exceptional young classical musicians through individual performances and interviews. Yana's performance of "Cat and Mouse," by Aaron Copland, was taped at New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall on January 15 and is being aired on public radio stations across the country this winter. Call your local public radio station for details.

INTERLOCHEN ALUMNI ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP

Yes! I would like to join the IAO.
Please send me a membership card.

Membership Types:
0 $30 Annual 0 $10 Student 0 $300 Lifetime

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I am presently a member of the Alumni Chapter in ____________________________

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Payment must be mailed to the Interlochen Alumni Organization and mailed to this form to:
Office of Alumni
PO Box 199
Interlochen, MI 49643

Gentle Ben

Benjamin Francis Hornung, son of Claire Smith Hornung (IAC 78-83, Staff 87-92) and grandson of trustee Laisy Francis Smith (IAC 50-53, Staff 53-55), relaxes in the shadow of his favorite Interlochen landmark on his second birthday.

How to Contact Your Alumni Office

telephone 616.276.7632
dial 616.276.6321
e-mail ALUMNI@INTERLOCHEN.12.MI.US
www.interlochen.org

Your Alumni Office

Howard Davis, Interim Alumni Director
Grichell McDuffie, Coordinator of Alumni News and Travel
Sally Zeitz, Alumni Secretary

July

My son, Michael Schwartz, was nine years old when he first attended Interlochen in the summer of 1970. That same year, Marc Schwartz was ten years old and was also in the Junior Boys Division. Although they had never met before summer, Michael and Marc told everyone they were cousins.

In 1971, my former husband and I, along with our daughter, Debbie, who was five years old at the time, spent two weeks at Interlochen, where my husband served as camp physician. Because we were there for an extended period, we were able to spend much time with both our son, Michael, and his friend Marc. The following year, Debbie attended Interlochen in the Junior Girls Division and our families always joked that some day Debbie and Marc would marry each other.

On January 22, 1994, Debbie Schwartz from Michigan (IAC 71) and Marc Schwartz from New Jersey (IAC 68-72) were married. They now have two delightful little boys who, I am sure, will carry on the Interlochen tradition. Music is still an important part of their lives, and I hope it will always remain so.

A footnote: I met my husband, Robert Pangborn, who is the principal percussionist and assistant principal timpanist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, when my three children studied percussion with him. We were married in 1996 and he has spent much time at Interlochen doing residencies with DSO every summer.

Ties that Bind
by Brenda Pangborn

Debbie and Marc Schwartz with their parents, Bob and Debbie Pangborn, at their wedding in 1994.
Congratulations to:  

Elaine Broadd (IAA Faculty) and Mayo-Grazi Xiufang Broadd, adopted in China on October 28, 1998, at the age of eight months. The adoption involved a two-week trip to the city of Fuzhou in southern China, where Mayo-Grazi had been in an orphanage. She celebrated her first birthday on February 28. Elaine says, "Mom and Baby are doing great!"  

Judith Klein (IAA 76, IAA 79-81) and Jack H. White on the birth of Benjamin White-Klein, February 8, 1998.  


CI Hofner (IAA 86-88) and Kelly Goffney on the birth of Kathleen, January 10, 1999.  


Jordan (IAA 77-79, IAA 81, IAA Staff 86-87, 96) and Bonnie Jameson Greenbaum (IAA Staff 87-88, 90-93, 95-96) on the birth of Alyse Danielle on January 6, 1999.  

In Memoriam  

Nathan Gordon (IAA Faculty 61-63, IAA Faculty 62-63) on September 7, 1998.  

IAA Cluster Reunions  

Living, Learning, and Looking Back  

Want to walk the woods with old friends? Reunite your string quartet or dance the night away on Kresge stage? Join us for an Arts Academy cluster reunion. All alumni are welcome at all reunions!  

July 30-August 1  

Seventy-two years of wonder...  
Eight decades of magic...  
Eons of memories...  

The Last Camp Reunion of the Century!  
Join fellow Camp alumni and friends in celebrating 72 years of Interlochen magic...we bid farewell to one century and welcome the next. The weekend event will feature a variety of entertainment and activities, including a special celebration of Junior Girls and Boys staff members throughout the years.
A Father's Legacy

by Art DeLaurier Jr.

Bill Burger was a mathematics professor and author of math textbooks, a man of numbers and words, but music was his passion. Music rounded out his life, filled his soul, inspired him. It was at Interlochen that Bill discovered what a force music could be in his life. He studied oboe at the music camp in the early 1960s and signed on as a charter member of the Interlochen Arts Academy in 1962, during his senior year of high school.

Though he went on to study math and science, eventually taking a faculty position at Oregon State University, Bill always felt a special fondness for Interlochen. He would tell his wife, Adrienne, about the summer of '62, when he and his fellow members of the National High School Symphony Orchestra got to perform with Van Cliburn on the Kresge stage and make music on the White House lawn just two weeks later.

"He told me for years and years and years about Interlochen," says Adrienne. "We used to joke that when we had a child, we'd put our child's name on the list, and when Mary was born, we said 'yes'! We put her on the list for Junior Girls. It was a forgone conclusion that our child would attend Interlochen." Then, in 1991, Bill was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Doctors told him he had 28 days to live. He was only 46. He sat down with Adrienne and, as hard as it was, they talked about the future.

"One of the things he made very clear to me was that he still wanted Interlochen to be part of Mary's life," says Adrienne. "She had already started out on piano and was showing an interest in music, and he said, 'Even though I'm not going to be here anymore, it's essential that she continue.'"

Just eight days before he died, Bill met with his financial advisor and friend, Keith Dragoon, of Northwestern Mutual Life, to make sure they had done earlier would accomplish those ends. "The most important thing was to make sure that Mary got to go to Interlochen and to college," says Keith. "We went over the numbers and I could see the look of relief on his face. It was rewarding to know that the planning they had been right, that we hadn't taken any shortcuts, that we had made it true." "So often people think that when they're in their mid-40s they have lots of time—years and years—to make these arrangements," says Adrienne. "Fortunately, Bill thought far enough ahead to put these things in place while there was enough time." Last summer was Mary's fifth season at Interlochen Arts Camp. It was her first summer as an eight-week camper (all her previous stints had been four weeks) and her longest time away from home, but in following in her father's footsteps she was also following her heart. "This is where my father came for his musical experience, and this is where I now come for mine," says the 13-year-old cellist who has found that she shares her father's love of music. It's something she feels in her heart and mind. And it's something more than that, something soulful and indescribable, like a father's love for his child.

SUMMER IS COMING!

Important Interlochen Summer Festival Dates

April 16: Interlochen Festival Announcements — order forms available! (All $200 and up donors and previous ticket buyers will receive order forms in the mail.)

April 16-25: Exclusive donor order period.

April 26: Box Office begins processing general public orders.

May 10: Box Office phone lines and windows open.

Note: If you are a donor of $200 or more, have purchased tickets in the last year, or are a 'Midwest resident, you are already on our mailing list. If you are none of the above and would like to receive a brochure, please call our box office.

Interlochen Box Office: 616-276-6230
A Class Activist

by Art DeLaurier Jr.

Academy classical guitar instructor John Wunsch majored in political science before switching to music during his third year of college. "I wanted to be an activist," he says of his younger years. "I was passionate about the environment and other issues... and I wanted to make a difference."

Wunsch was also passionate about playing guitar, and as that passion grew, along with his talent and skill, he found himself on another career track. After years of playing clubs in New York City, Wunsch was at the top of his game as a jazz fusion musician. He was in a successful band, had a contract with the top independent jazz label in the country, and was appearing in clubs in major festivals, including the Newport Jazz Festival. Yet, in spite of all his success, Wunsch felt a certain emptiness. "I didn't feel right; there was something missing from my life," he says.

The void was filled when Wunsch started doing volunteer performances at Beth Israel Hospital two hours a week. "It completely changed my life," he says. "Here I thought I had everything I needed. How blind we can be to what we need." Wunsch brings that same energy, passion, and commitment to his guitar teaching, which fills the same deep-rooted need to give back. "I was very fortunate to have good teachers," Wunsch explains, "so I want to pass on the some of that good fortune. I could not have imagined the depth of emotional fulfillment I would get from this job," he adds.

Though small, Interlochen's classical guitar program is meeting with great success. It has grown in just a few years from two students to 17-12 majors and 5 minors—this year. Wunsch credits this to Interlochen's reputation, admissions staff, and the wide range of the school's offerings. "There are very few full-package places that offer guitar," he says. "Where else can they go and get theory, ear training, keyboard, and ensemble experience?"

Over the last three years, all of Wunsch's guitar graduates have been accepted at schools of their first choice—places like Eastman, Oberlin, Peabody, Indiana University, and Principia. But Wunsch's excellence as a teacher is perhaps best measured by the way he helps his students relate their musicianship to a broader context. Following his volunteer ethic, the young guitarists perform in hospitals and nursing homes in communities surrounding Interlochen. "It gives them a nice opportunity to see what music can do for a community," says Wunsch. "It gives them a chance to look at the meaning of their lives, what contributions they can make to society."
When it comes to choral music, Sir David Willcocks is one of the best and most sought-after conductors in the world. Imagine, then, the thrill experienced by musicians from the Interlochen Arts Academy and Traverse City schools and choir groups when they got to perform with him at Interlochen last fall.

"It was a dream come true," says former Camp choir director Mel Larimer, who helped bring Willcocks to Interlochen for the two-day Willcocks Choral Festival last October. "It was one of the most significant events ever for area musicians, and not just because Sir David is the most qualified man in the world to conduct it, but because it involved such a broad segment of musicians."

"This was a community effort," says Interlochen president Ed Downing. "It's proof of what can happen when the community pools its resources, the magic that can result."

The magic included two concerts, the first of which featured the Academy orchestra and the Northwestern Michigan Children's Concert Choir teaming up for a performance of Sir David Willcocks' "The Glories of Shakespeare." The show's finale, Durufle's "Requiem," featured the collective sounds of the Academy choir, Traverse City Central and West high school choirs, Northwestern Michigan College Grand Traverse Chorale, NMC Chamber Singers, and soloists Nicole Philibosian and Jeffrey Norris.

The festival's second performance featured 13 English Cathedral Anthems performed by area church choirs. All participating choirs, brass, percussionists, organists, accompanists, as well as audience members, joined in during various parts of the concert.

Larimer says the feedback he has received since the concerts has been tremendous. "People have come up to me and told me that this was the highlight of their singing lives," he says.

Willcocks, who has enjoyed an illustrious and industrious career that has included long stints as Director of Music at King's College in Cambridge and Musical Director of the Bach Choir in London, was enthusiastic about his time at Interlochen and was especially impressed with the Academy orchestra and choir, says Larimer, who adds that plans are in the works to bring Willcocks back during the 2000-2001 school year.

Sir David Willcocks