

A preview of the next Morrison Artists Series season...

...and a look at the Irving M. Klein International String Competition coming up June 4-7 at SF State



*A Morrison Chamber Music Center post
from Artistic Director Richard Festinger*

This will be my final newsletter of the 2014-15 Morrison Artists Series season. It's been a wonderful season, and my thanks to you, our audience, for your indispensable role in the series' continuing success. With the superlative performances of the past months still fresh in mind, it's already time for me to be looking forward to the coming 2015-16 concert season, a particularly significant one because it will be the 60th Anniversary of the Morrison Artists Series! But before I get into the details of next season, I want to write a few words about a really remarkable event coming up.

Celebrating its 30th Anniversary this year, the **Irving M. Klein International String Competition**, internationally recognized as among the most prestigious of classical music competitions, attracts a number of the world's finest young string players to San Francisco State University each June to compete for prizes that include both performance opportunities and monetary awards. Soloists on violin, viola, cello and contrabass compete performing selections from the solo works of J.S. Bach, and classical and romantic sonatas and concertos, and each year an accomplished composer is commissioned to write new works designed both to develop the solo string repertoire, and to test in a unique way the contestants' interpretive skills.



Zlatomir Fung, cello, 1st Prize

Competitors must be in the age range of 15 to 23, but don't let their youthfulness fool you — these are exceptionally accomplished artists, and Klein Competition laureates typically go on to have high profile careers as concerto soloists, sought-after chamber musicians, and section leaders in major orchestras worldwide. The first year I

[Zlatomir Fung, Klein Competition 1st Prize, 2014](#)

attended the competition was a revelation to me, and I now look forward to each installment as one of the high points of my musical year.

The 30th annual Irving M. Klein Competition will take place June 4 to 7, 2015, at San Francisco State University. The semi-final round will be held on June 6, and the final round on June 7, but I highly recommend you also take in the **Klein Competition Celebration Concert**, featuring distinguished Klein laureates from past years, June 2 at 7pm at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Full details can be found at their web site: http://www.californiamusiccenter.org/about_cmc.php.



Angela Wee, Klein Competition 3rd Prize, 2014

Now for the promised **2015-16 Morrison Artists Series preview:**

The 2015-16 season opens Sunday, September 27, 2015 with the **Alexander String Quartet**, as San Francisco State's resident string quartet continues to delight and inspire Bay Area audiences with superb performances of classical, romantic and modern repertoire.

Sunday, November 8, 2015 we present the virtuosic **Fidelio Piano Trio** from London, well known on the international stage for its thrilling interpretations of music of all styles, in its San Francisco debut performance.



Telegraph String Quartet

December 4, 2015 is the date of next season's special Showcase Performance by a top-notch young local ensemble. This coming season the superb **Telegraph String Quartet**, the 2014 Grand Prize winner of the prestigious Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition, will take the McKenna Theater stage.

Friday, February 19, 2016, the **Amphion String Quartet** joins forces with the dazzling young **harpist Bridget Kibbey** in a concert of remarkable works for this unusual and sonorous combination of instruments.



Bridget Kibbey



Amphion String Quartet



Jay Campbell

Sunday, March 13, 2016 we present **cellist Jay Campbell**, the most exciting young cellist to recently emerge on the concert stage, in recital with **pianist Conor Hanick**. Jay's vivid performances illuminate as never before the richness of the repertoire for this most evocative of musical instruments.



Calefax Reed Quintet

Sunday, April 17, 2016, the **Calefax Reed Quintet** will take the McKenna stage, an innovative ensemble from the Netherlands that has spawned an entire new genre of chamber music for reed quintet, featuring stunningly colorful arrangements of traditional repertoire, alongside new works commissioned from some of the world's leading composers.

The season will close Friday, May 6, 2016 with a program of a cappella vocal music by **New York Polyphony**. Praised for their "rich, natural sound that's larger and more complex than the sum of its parts," New York Polyphony is regarded as one of the finest vocal chamber ensembles in the world.