

# OVERTURE!

The Newsletter of the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra

Volume CXCVII, Number 3

March 2005

## Collins '07 and Zhang '08 elected to office

by *Cassandra Wolos*

James Collins '07 was chosen president and Elisa Zhang '08 treasurer of the Harvard Radcliffe Orchestra at this year's election on Thursday, February 10. Members of the orchestra selected Collins and Zhang from a pool of very qualified candidates seeking to fill the offices.

The new president-elect has served the orchestra in the past by designing posters and brochures and photographing rehearsals. Collins has also been a member of the Operations Committee.

"I began last year as our graphic designer and loved the feeling of contributing to the

group. I loved it so much that I couldn't get enough! The idea of guiding and strengthening the greatest student group on campus was just something I couldn't pass up," he said.

Collins' platform included new ideas for both the musical and social aspects of the organization. He hopes that an increased emphasis on ties between orchestra members will positively affect the group's ability to make music. "I think my most important goal for the orchestra is to bring us even closer together than we already are," he said. "When our spirits are high and our friendship is strong, we are at our best. Our enthusiasm spills over into our music."

Specifically, Collins plans to "encourage frequent section outings, overnight retreats, listening parties at Dr. Y's house, and many informal get-togethers."

Zhang hopes to serve the orchestra and manage its finances well by "trying to be as monetarily efficient as possible." As she takes on her new role, she hopes to become familiar the workings of the orchestra in general.

"I had always wanted to get more involved with HRO and to learn more about how things actually operate in the organization, so I thought being treasurer would be the perfect

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*New Officers*



*Photo Courtesy James Collins*

Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra president-elect James Collins '07 and treasurer-elect Elisa Zhang look forward to the upcoming year. They will take on their new roles this spring for the final concert of the 2004-2005 season.

### THE HARVARD-RADCLIFFE ORCHESTRA

James Yannatos, Music Director

#### *Third Subscription Series Concert*

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**Stravinsky:**  
Symphony for Winds

**Saint-Saens:**  
Violin Concerto in B minor  
*Stefan Jackiw '07,*  
*Violin*

**Brahms:**  
Symphony No. 1

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**Friday, March 4, 2005  
8:00 PM Sanders Theatre**

# Albany Records to produce Yannatos CD

## Compilation to include composition performed by the HRO in December '04

by Emily Riehl

Albany Records recently agreed to produce a compact disc featuring some compositions by HRO conductor Dr. James Yannatos performed by the HRO.

The recording will include the Yannatos Violin Concerto, premiered at last April's HRO concert, which celebrated Yannatos's fortieth year with the orchestra. Also included will be Yannatos's Symphony Brevis, performed by the HRO in December, and a Bass Concerto written for Edwin Barker and performed by another orchestra.

"I'm delighted, first of all, that we have this relationship," Yannatos reported, referring to the record company. The story of HRO's partnership with Albany Records goes back to the mid 1980s, when the orchestra performed Yannatos's Trinity Mass at Harvard with the Collegium Musicum, a children's choir, four soloists, and actor Jason Robards as narrator.

The performance and the composition, a peace mass protesting the atomic bomb, was a smashing success, and the orchestra received a grant to travel to New York City, where the

concert was broadcast on PBS. The two shows were edited together and a recording was sent to Albany Records. Almost immediately, Yannatos received a call, with the record company saying, "We have to put this out." At that point, the conductor and composer was asked to send his later work as well as "any other music you believe in."

Yannatos was taken aback by the record company's offer. "This was like a *carte blanche*," he said. Part of what makes this opportunity special, besides showcasing Yannatos's compositions, is that the publicity surrounding the release of each recording benefits the HRO.

"Every review that's been written that has been complimentary to my music has always been complimentary to the orchestra," he said. One such CD was even lauded as the "best sonically produced record of the year."

But while Albany Records has been very enthusiastic about Yannatos's compositions, the company has declined to distribute other HRO recordings unless the orchestra can cover its own production costs. Yannatos suspects

that this decision has to do with Albany's business strategy.

Albany Records produces American records only and survives in a tough business by limiting its focus to producing new pieces for which other recordings do not already exist. So, while the HRO has all of its subscription series concerts professionally recorded and occasionally puts out its own CDs, right now this recording process is mostly for archival purposes.

One of the interesting – and also challenging – aspects of the current method of recording live performances is that loyal HRO fans will never know if the concert they are attending will end up on a record. The audience's enthusiasm is sometimes underappreciated by the technicians, though, as applause and spontaneous noise creates headaches in the editing room.

While the resulting concert recordings are never completely perfect, listeners can appreciate the fact that they are at least genuine. As Yannatos joked, "the classical music business is strange, anyway."

## New officers elected

*Continued from page 1,*  
Collins '07

opportunity to see all of the gears turning," Zhang said, reflecting on her new role.

"I also have a lot of ideas that I'm hoping might make an impact, and I'd like to be educated enough in order to serve the group well."

Both Collins and Zhang cited enthusiasm for the orchestra as motivation to run for office.

Said Collins, explaining his passion for HRO, "Ever since the first rehearsal of my freshman year, I knew it would become a major part of my life. Basically, I was hooked from the start."

Zhang, too, felt a strong connection to HRO, beginning even before she enrolled at Harvard. She looks forward to working more closely with the orchestra and "the chance to get to know more great HROers that I haven't already met."

Those with experience leading the HRO look forward to a successful year with Collins and Zhang. Both of Collins' predecessors as president remarked on his enthusiasm and planning for next year.

Said current president Stephanie Hurder '06, "I am really excited for Jimbo and Elisa. They have tons of energy and a lot of great ideas for the HRO."

President emeritus Ethan Gray agreed with Hurder's high opinion of the new officers, adding that all of the candidates for HRO positions were strong.

"Having gotten the chance to speak with all of the entrants, I was confident going in [to the election] that the orchestra would be in the hands of a capable leader," he said. "I am especially happy for Jimbo and expect him to be a great president."

Collins happily anticipates the coming year. "Though I'm eagerly looking forward to beginning my tenure as president in our final concert period of this year, I am perhaps most excited about what I'll get to say at our first rehearsal next September," he said.

"That's when I'll get to welcome the new members to HRO and introduce them to something they will remember forever. It's hard to imagine a greater joy."

## Looking ahead...

### Fourth Subscription Series Concert

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#### Bernstein:

Overture to *Candide*

Conducted by *LaMont Barlow '05*  
assistant conductor

#### Blauvelt:

Pishi  
*Lucy Shelton,*  
Soprano

#### Strauss:

Four Last Songs  
*Lucy Shelton,*  
Soprano

#### Hindemith:

*Mathis der Maler*

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Friday, April 15, 2005  
8:00 PM Sanders Theatre

# Violinist Jackiw '07 to perform Saint-Saens

## *Acclaimed Harvard sophomore has played with major orchestras worldwide*

by Kimberly Kanada

In a sense, Stefan Jackiw '07 is just another high-achieving Harvard undergraduate. Seeing Jackiw leave a practice room or walk to and from classes in the Yard, you might have no idea he is a world-renowned violinist who has performed with many of the foremost orchestras in the Northern Hemisphere. Make that a *particularly* high-achieving undergraduate.

Already heralded as "one of the most significant artists of his generation," Jackiw seems to have already collected the musical accomplishments of a lifetime's work – and all this before turning twenty. At four, Jackiw picked up a violin for the first time; at twelve, Jackiw gave his first performance with a professional orchestra (the Boston Pops under the direction of Keith Lockhart, no less); and now at nineteen, Jackiw can list his musical accomplishments with the air of a veteran.

A Boston native who attended Roxbury Latin School, Jackiw is currently a sophomore music concentrator living in Leverett House. He continues to be an active recitalist in the Boston area and studies with Donald Weilerstein at the New England Conservatory. Indeed, Jackiw lives quite a normal life – when he's not soloing with European orchestras or touring musical festivals, that is.

Jackiw's list of musical accomplishments runs like so many notches on a stick. He has performed with orchestras across the United States and the European continent, including the Chicago Symphony, the Minnesota Orchestra, the Naples Philharmonic, the Pittsburgh, Oregon, and Rochester symphonies, the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Pops, the London Philharmonia Orchestra, the Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg, and the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.

When asked about his career highlights, Jackiw mentions his performances with the Boston Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Philharmonia of London, St. Petersburg Philharmonic, and several appearances including a

tour of Japan with the Baltimore Symphony.

In 2002, Jackiw was awarded the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant. These career grants, endowed by a gift to the Lincoln Center from Avery Fisher in 1974, are designed to recognize and support instrumentalists with the potential for a solo career. Recipients are selected by a committee of musicians and administrators from New York's Lincoln Center and other performing arts organizations

It is exactly these connections that make Stefan Jackiw such a hot commodity. Recognized by both the national and worldwide musical community and the more intimate musical community of Harvard, Jackiw's upcoming performance with the HRO brings an added star power to the concert.

Both Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra's conductor Dr. James Yannatos and President Stephanie Hurder '06 expressed their enthusiasm for Jackiw's approaching performance. Yannatos remarked on Jackiw's expected impact on the members of the HRO, saying "I'm delighted that the HRO will be working with Stefan on the concerto for our third concert. His performance should inspire us all."

Hurder also acknowledged the HRO's good fortune in snagging such a musical powerhouse. "I'm really excited that the HRO will be performing with Stefan," she said.



*Photo Courtesy Don Hunstein, www.stefanjackiw.com*

Stefan Jackiw '07 will perform the Saint-Saens Violin Concerto in B Minor with the HRO on Friday, March 4 at 8 p.m.

"He is a world-class artist, and we are extremely lucky to have him at Harvard with us."

Jackiw chose to perform Saint-Saens's Violin Concerto in B minor with the HRO. "The Saint-Saens Violin Concerto has always been one of my favorite pieces," he explained. "I learned it for the first time several years ago but did not have the opportunity to perform it until this season. It's a really wonderful blend of good orchestral writing, solo virtuosity, and beautiful melodies."

While Jackiw's performance with the HRO might seem like small

potatoes after so many international tours and concerts, he will be playing amongst a group of undergraduate musicians who have come to know him as more than Stefan Jackiw the musician. To musicians in the HRO, Jackiw fills multiple roles, including fellow musician, college student, celebrity, and peer.

Jackiw's future plans demonstrate this mix of extreme musical dedication and collegiate good fun: "[My] future plans include devoting myself fully to music and performing and learning to play squash."

# News Briefs

## Plans for June tour of China called off

After careful consideration and with the help of the Pierian Sodality, the primary student coordinators of the proposed June 2005 trip to China decided to cancel the plans.

"We determined that we could not count on [the China Record Company] to organize a tour of this magnitude in time for this summer," wrote tour manager Matthew Kan '06 and HRO president Stephanie Hurder '06 in a January email to members of the orchestra.

Pierian board member Cathy Barbash looked into the plans for the HRO's tour while on business in China. Barbash, a former tour manager for the Philadelphia Orchestra, once sent that orchestra on a trip to China. She found that the China Record Company had not booked the venues or lined up sponsors. From Barbash's account, "It was clear that a lot of planning that should have been taking place was not, such as hotel accommodations and transportation," explained Kan. "The company had not fully approved the money they'd be spending on the orchestra."

In the end, Kan, Hurder, Barbash, and Pierian President Norman Letvin realized that to continue planning the trip would be a risk: if the China Record Company had failed to come through closer to the summer, the HRO would have had to cancel the tour at the last minute. Instead, the HRO representatives decided to stop the planning process immediately. "We decided that in the interest of everyone's summer plans, this was unacceptable," said Kan.

However, Kan and Hurder believe that the planning that did take place will benefit the orchestra in the long run. "We are now aware of the incredible resources available to us in connections and assistance from the [Pierian] board," they wrote. "We also began creating relationships with other college orchestras and the San Francisco Symphony which will make information gathering for future tours much more effective."

The idea for the trip was created when pianist Yin Ma '08 invited the HRO to accompany her as she travelled throughout China to premiere a new concerto. Under the proposed itinerary, the orchestra would have stopped in five Chinese cities and in Hong Kong to perform.

Comments or suggestions? Please send us e-mail at [hro@hcs.harvard.edu](mailto:hro@hcs.harvard.edu). Your feedback is always welcome.

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