



## AMERICAN STRING TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Suli Xue, Artistic Director  
The Alice and Eleonore Schoenfeld International String Competition  
President, Schoenfeld International String Society

Dear Suli Xue,

On behalf of the American String Teachers Association (ASTA), I am writing to congratulate you on the occasion of the 2014 Alice & Eleonore Schoenfeld International String Competition, to be held in Harbin, August 18–25, 2014. Founded in 1946, ASTA is the oldest and largest association of string teachers in the United States, with nearly 10,000 members. We are very active today in the United States with a focus on the development of string pedagogy, teaching resources, and increasing the number of string players across our country. We are one of two founding members of the national Music Education Policy Roundtable, which works to influence national educational policy for the benefit of music. ASTA remains the nation's leader in string teaching to this day.

The Schoenfeld sisters' careers, as both performers and teachers, provide a rich legacy and example for many of the leading musicians and teachers today. The important pedagogical work of Alice and Eleonore is well known, and their heritage includes some of the finest musicians and teachers around the world. Their students have won many international competitions and prizes and now perform in many of the world's finest orchestras and chamber ensembles.

Our organization's relationship with Alice and Eleonore over the years has been very personal. We've witnessed how they have dedicated their lives together for the betterment and service to their art and their devotion to their students—unquestionable. We here at ASTA are proud to have awarded Alice and Eleonore multiple awards for their outstanding leadership and teaching, including the National Distinguished Service Award and coveted Artistic Teacher Award.

The 2014 Alice and Eleonore Schoenfeld International String Competition will continue the legacy of the sisters by bringing attention to some of the finest young talent from around the world. The winners of this competition will no doubt serve as the musical leaders and performers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We also are pleased that Harbin is the location for the 2014 competition. The 2010 UN designation of Harbin as "The Music City" is confirmation of the leading role the city plays for the arts in all of Asia. We congratulate the city for serving as the home to the competition and hope that the event will continue to enrich the artistic life of the local community. Competitions such as this will only enhance the reputation of the Music City around the world. We also believe that the emphasis on cultural development and the focus on young talent will demonstrate high levels of international cooperation.

We are pleased that Dr. Brenda Brenner, President-Elect of the American String Teachers Association and Associate Professor of Music (Music Education), from the prestigious Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, is able to be present at the competition. She is a highly regarded performer and pedagogue, having served as the chair of the ASTA Solo Competition in recent years.

Best wishes for a successful competition!

With kind regards,

Stephen J. Benham, Ph.D.  
ASTA President