

Letter of Commendation

The Alice and Eleonore Schoenfeld International String Competition

The esteemed Schoenfeld sisters worked alongside Jascha Heifetz and Gregor Piatigorsky in leading the Thornton School of Music's String Department. Eleonore was the director of the International Gregor Piatigorsky Seminar for Cellists at the Thornton School from 1979 until she passed away in 2007.

Both sisters' reputations continually attracted students from all over the world to USC Thornton, many of whom were top prize winners in national and international competitions, became world-renowned soloists, and garnered positions with the most prestigious universities and orchestras throughout the world.

They especially championed the artistry of several students from China throughout their teaching careers that were under their tutelage. How wonderful it is that the Harbin Municipal Government is now honoring the sisters by hosting this year's competition.

Awards that have been bestowed upon them include the Excellence in Teaching Award from USC, the Ramo Music Faculty Award from USC Thornton as well as the coveted emblem as national winners of the Artist Teacher Award by the American String Teacher's Association in 2008.

I can personally attest to their astonishing character and the fact that their continuous tenure at the Thornton School has been unparalleled. Their outstanding leadership and dedication to the international cultivation of string music and their unwavering commitment to their students as well as their amazing generosity of time and donations to our School has been nothing short of miraculous.

It is for these reasons that I applaud and support the efforts of the Alice and Eleonore Schoenfeld International String Competition in the city of Harbin. It is very fitting that the "Music City" of China would host this prestigious competition. I applaud the esteemed city leaders for their vision and support of music at the highest international level.

Best regards,



Robert A. Cutietta
Dean

