

DAYS OF PERCUSSION AND INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION IN ITALY

by Carmela Marani

Percussionists and drummers from all over the world attended the 4th edition of the International Festival "Days of Percussion" October 17–21 at the G. B. Pergolesi Conservatoire in Fermo, Italy. The event was organized by the Italy PAS in collaboration with the Conservatoire and sponsored by the Marche Region, the Province, the Town Hall and the IAPA.

The five days in Italy were extremely well organized by the Italian PAS chapter, and included an incredible assortment of clinics, master classes and concerts. The International Competition, which was also part of the festival, included big names from every part of the world among its competitors, from China to Europe, from Brazil to Canada, bringing Fermo to the center of attention in the international musical world. Congratulations to the Italian PAS President, Antonio Santangelo, and to Maria Vittorio for this percussion feast.

"It was a great pleasure to come back to Italy to take part in such an important festival," said Sergio Bellotti, drum teacher at the Berklee College of Music in Boston. "I had the opportunity of performing in a concert/master class at PASIC 2005. Master Santangelo proved that it is possible to elevate the level and professionalism of such festivals in Italy, too, and all in a spirit of absolute serenity, a perfect cohesion between the classical world and jazz and an impeccable technical/practical organization. Percussion lovers in Italy can count on the Santangelo team for a percussive future that is in no way inferior to the world panorama."

"I had the honor to participate as a jury member and teacher in one of the most serious and interesting competitions in my life," said Agostino Marangolo. "I breathed three days of culture and professionalism. The level of teachers and participants was very high. May there be many more of these festivals, because they are good for our country. A word of credit to the impeccable organization of Antonio, who has been devoting himself for years to the upgrading of our instrument with seriousness and professionalism."

Alfredo Romeo commented, "The Days of Percussion represented an extremely positive experience, both from the teaching and human point of view, for all who took part. As far as the teaching was concerned, students were

able to draw information first hand from sources that are among the most authoritative in the international percussive panorama. A climate of healthy competition, solidarity, support and reciprocal encouragement among the participants helped them deal with the demanding, stressful experience of a competition with a direct elimination.

Master Antonio Santangelo, the artistic director, President of the Italy PAS and soul of the festival was enthusiastic. "I have been organizing events that aim at upgrading these instruments for years, and I can say that today in Italy we are highly competitive with this international



(L–R) Francesca Santangelo, Maria Vittorio, Antonio Santangelo (Italy PAS) with PAS president Rich Holly.

festival in Italy which has witnessed the meeting of exclusive circles of world concert performance with very many young talents from every part of the world. I thank John Beck, Klaus Tresselt, Rich Holly, Michael Burritt, Mike Quinn, Marta Klimasara, Ivana Bilic, Keith A. Aleo, Sergio Bellotti, Andrea Dulbecco, Ria Ideta, Neil Grover, Agostino Marangolo, Giovanni Piazza, the CaTeFrà Trio and the Pergolesi Percussion Ensemble, who believed in this event and who have enriched us with new emotions with their musical artistic wealth."

The evening concerts, which were always packed, allowed the general public to know and appreciate the whole range of instruments included in the name "percussion."

In the Composition Competition, students ranged in age between 16 and 43. The winners all received prizes of grants, diplomas and instruments made available by Sabian, Zildjian, Marimba One, Pearl, Timpanisticks, Adams, Ricordi/BMG, Drum Art, Innovative Percussion, Percussion & Drums Magazine, SIAE and

Jeunesses Musical International. The composers won publication of their works by Honey-Rock. The winners of the International Competition of Composition and Performance for Percussion Instruments and Drums were as follows:

COMPOSITION

Judges: John Beck, Michael Burritt (USA), Klaus Tresselt (Germany), Roberta Silvestrini and Italo Vescovo (Italy)

Absolute 1st Prize, Andrea Verrengia (Italy); 1st Prize, Jales Dominique Raymond (France); 2nd Prize, Fabio Mengozzi (Italy); 3rd Prize, Gerold Leander Kaiser (Germany)

DRUMS

Judges: Rich Holly (USA); Agostino Marangolo and Sergio Bellotti (Italy)

Cat. A 1st Prize, Giancarlo De Trizio (Italy); 2nd Prize, Tonio D'Arminio (Italy)

Cat. B Absolute 1st Prize, Antonino Errera (Italy); 3rd Prize, Dario Congedo (Italy)

MARIMBA

Judges: Michael Burritt (USA); Marta Klimasara (Poland); Ria Ideta (Japan)

Cat. A 1st and 3rd Prizes not awarded; 2nd Prize, Kamil Taborek (Poland)/Guillaume Le Picard (France)

Cat. B Absolute 1st Prize, Anthony Calabrese (USA)/Ting Wang (China)

VIBRAPHONE

Judges: Keith Aleo (USA); Andrea Dulbecco (Italy); Ivana Bilic (Croatia)

Cat. A Prizes not awarded; Cat. B 1st Prize, Fernando Chaib (Portugal)

TIMPANI/DRUM & MULTIPERCUSSION

Judges: John Beck, Keith Aleo, Neil Grover, Rich Holly (USA); Klaus Tresselt (Germany)

Cat. A 1st and 3rd Prizes not awarded; 2nd Prize, Guillaume Le Picard (France)

Cat. B Prizes not awarded

In the Grand Final, where all the absolute winners of the various categories of instruments performed, the American Anthony Calabrese was the absolute winner and will perform a solo concert with the Italian International Orchestra in the 2007 concert season.

PERCUSSIVE ARTS SOCIETY 2007 SOLO MARIMBA COMPETITION

PURPOSE: To encourage the highest level of artistic expression in the art of performance and literature for solo marimba. The contest is designed to select four finalists to compete at the 2007 PASIC. The contest will include cash awards for the finalists as well as matching grants to their respective percussion programs, as follows:

- First Place:** \$1,000 plus a matching grant of \$1000
- Second Place:** \$750 plus a matching grant of \$750
- Third Place:** \$500 plus a matching grant of \$500
- Fourth Place:** \$250 plus a matching grant of \$250

The matching grants will be awarded to the institutions represented by the four Finalists at the time of PASIC 2007, and can be used for scholarships, equipment needs or repairs, guest clinicians/performers, or other percussion area needs.

PROCEDURES: The contest is for college level students who are current Percussive Arts Society members, ages 18-25 years of age at the time of entry. Each performer must submit a CD plus 4 copies (5 total) to PAS. Please write the repertoire contained on each track on your CD's (do not include your name). All entries will be numbered to insure anonymity and will then be evaluated by a panel of judges. Each finalist chosen to compete at PASIC 2007 will not have to pay the convention fee but will be expected to assume all costs pertaining to the event including travel, room-board, etc. Finalists will be required to verify age. Selections on the CD must be from the repertoire listed below. The first selection must be the required composition, the second selection must be an entire piece from Category I, and the third selection must be an entire piece from Category II. Disqualification will occur if the selections are not recorded in their entirety, the repertoire included is not from the required list as stated below, or selections have been electronically altered or edited.

REPERTOIRE LIST:

Required Composition:

Siciliano mvt. from Sonata No. 1 in G Minor for Violin Solo, BMV 1001 by J.S. Bach

Category I - Choose one piece from the following:

*Variations on Japanese Children's Songs by Keiko Abe . Scirocco by Michael Burritt
Caméléon by Eric Sammut . Rhythmic Caprice by Leigh Howard Stevens
Rumble Strips by Gordon Stout . Ilijas by Nebojsa Zivkovic*

Category II - Choose one piece from the following:

*Dances of Earth and Fire by Peter Klatzow . See Ya Thursday by Steven Mackey
Velocities by Joseph Schwantner . Mirage for Marimba by Yasuo Sueyoshi
Khan Variations by Alejandro Vinas*

APPLICATION FEE: \$35 per entry payable to PAS

**SEND APPLICATION MATERIALS TO:
PAS, 701 NW Ferris Ave., Lawton, OK 73507**

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS APRIL 16, 2007

Performer's Name: _____

Age _____ PAS Membership # _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Country _____

ZIP or Postal Code _____ E-mail address _____

Phone Number _____

Summer Phone Number _____

Teacher _____

CD Track Information _____



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