



VIOLA

Viola Congress

by J. David Arnott

I had the pleasure of attending the Viola Congress at the University of Minnesota this past June and it was absolutely fabulous! Many kudos to Korey Konkell for his masterful organizational skills. Great performances were the norm every day. Several notable master classes included those given by Yizhak Schotten, Donald McInnes, Patricia McCarty, and Roland Vamos. There were three rooms of instrument makers on

site — an opportunity to play a couple dozen makers without leaving Minnesota! It was a wonderful opportunity to renew old friendships, make new ones, and do some much-needed networking. The highlight of the week had to be the Saturday evening concert featuring four viola concertos: John Harbison (Sabine Thatcher), Krzysztof Penderecki (Roberto Diaz), Tibor Serly (Atar Arad), and Bela Bartok (Paul Neubauer).

The pick-up orchestra made up of Minnesota Orchestra members and St. Paul Chamber Orchestra members conducted by Mark Russell Smith was just terrific! Next year in Reykjavik!

J. David Arnott is an Assistant Professor of Music at The College of St. Benedict/St. John's University where he teaches violin and viola and directs the symphony orchestra. †