



## MENTOR'S DESK

### Midori Orchestral Residency: Mentoring by an Artist

by Jane Linde Capistran

The Fargo-Moorhead community and surrounding region just experienced an incredible mentorship week by violin superstar Midori and her graduate student Moni Simeonov. The impact on the youth in the orchestra programs was powerful! It all started two years ago, when the Fargo Moorhead Symphony (FMSO) and the Fargo Moorhead Area Youth Symphonies (FMAYS) teamed up to write the proposal/application for the Orchestral Residency Program. We were selected as one of two

Barber with my students, and there was a hush in the room as she gave suggestions to the orchestra. I could see and hear the level of playing in the orchestra rise with her presence. The next night's performance of the Barber was filled with tenderness, colors, power and sensitivity by soloist and the orchestra. I was so proud of the students, and members of the audience continue to tell

we celebrated on Super String Day. Over 700 string players, middle school to high school, gathered for a day of mini-work-



Midori performs Kreisler *Praeludium and Allegro* with the FMAYS Junior High Concert Strings conducted by Brian Cole



Midori rehearses Beethoven with the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony conducted by Bernie Rubenstein

me what joy shown in their faces while they were on stage!

The week continued with more master classes by Midori, school visits and performances, Super String Day and side-by-side performances of the Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis*. Throughout all of these events, the students continued to be more and more excited about living and breathing music non-stop! The momentum of Midori and Moni's visit was a bit unexpected, but once they were here, it was a continuous whirlwind of master classes—watching them play, hearing their beautiful

shops (bluegrass and fiddling, electronic music, symphony showcase with performers from the FM Symphony and Youth Symphony), mass orchestra rehearsals and a finale concert, with Midori and Moni participating. They both played Leclair *Sonata No. 5*, Midori solo Bach and Moni a Hungarian work. The day culminated in a mass orchestra performance by the middle school students and high school students. Moni was featured soloist with both the orchestras, playing the Largo from Vivaldi's *Winter* and *Celtica* by Brian Balmages. Midori sat in the orchestra and played along side of the students!

cities that Midori would visit for her 2010 residencies—preparation began!

Midori was tireless in her time during the residency, and was eager to do as much as possible with students and symphony musicians. After taking the red-eye flight to Fargo, she began her first day presenting at the Mayor's luncheon and coaching two student quartets from the Youth Symphony. The Mozart *Oboe and Piano Quartet* members were nervous, but her pleasant demeanor and wonderful comments put them at ease. That evening she traveled to three different rehearsal rooms to put together her concerto repertoire: Kreisler *Praeludium and Allegro* with the FMAYS Junior High Concert Strings conducted by Brian Cole, the Barber *Concerto* (first movement) with the FMAYS Senior High Symphony Orchestra under my baton, and the Beethoven *Concerto* with the FMSO, Bernie Rubenstein conducting.

It was a magical sound as she began the

sound as soloists and together, listening to all their instruction and coaching, being inspired by Midori's practice schedule! It was true mentoring on many levels.



Midori playing in the orchestra at Super String Day held at Horizon Middle School, with 700 students participating

Her visit became a gift to the region as

It was a great gathering, inspired by Midori who said, "I enjoy being part of the community. I enjoy being part of society."

Check out Midori's website at [gotomidori.com](http://gotomidori.com). Also, read Midori and Moni's blog about their visit in Fargo-Moorhead at [orobservations.wordpress.com](http://orobservations.wordpress.com).

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