In May, 2009 Sphinx Competition Laureate Tony Rymer had the opportunity to sit down with acclaimed cellist Yo-Yo Ma for a one-on-one coaching. The pair met at the New England Conservatory, where Tony was an undergraduate studying with cellist Paul Katz. During their time together, Tony played a portion of Dvorak’s Cello Concerto, and the two discussed how one must use the entire body to produce an ideal sound, practice techniques, fears and frustrations, and career planning.

Sphinx Artistic Director and Vice President of Programming Afa Sadykhly Dworkin described the day as incredibly inspiring. “Yo-Yo’s generosity and insight are truly an inspiration to young artists. We can’t thank him enough for his time.”

“I found my time with Mr. Ma to be invaluable. He has more experience with performing than almost anyone and is one of the world’s leading cellists,” said Tony. “Spending time with such a great performer, musician, cellist, and person is about all that an aspiring cellist like me can ask for.”

Since the inception of the Sphinx Competition, opportunities for Sphinx artists to work with luminaries like Yo-Yo Ma have been an important part of the Sphinx Professional Development Program. Isaac Stern attended the first Sphinx Competition in 1998, and subsequently invited Sphinx Laureates to his New York studio for private coachings. These opportunities continue to be an integral part of the Organization’s work building diversity in classical music and preparing young musicians for successful careers.

Coca-Cola Foundation supports Sphinx Artists

The Sphinx Organization is proud to announce that it is among the recipients of support from The Coca-Cola Foundation. The gift of $30,000 will support the Sphinx Organization’s Musical Encounters Program.

Musical Encounters brings talented Sphinx artists into underserved communities around the country to serve as ambassadors of classical music to students and their families. In conjunction with the Sphinx Competition’s Professional Development Program and the annual tour of the Sphinx Virtuosi, Sphinx artists visit classrooms, music programs, and community centers where they perform and discuss familiar music as well as works by composers of color. In 2010, Musical Encounters reached more than 10,000 students throughout the country.

“This support from The Coca-Cola Foundation will enable us to make these important educational opportunities available to some of our region’s most underserved young people,” said Aaron P. Dworkin, Sphinx Founder and President.

Vanessa Williams to Lead Return to Carnegie Hall

The Sphinx Virtuosi and Catalyst Quartet will return to Carnegie Hall this fall in a concert launching Sphinx15, the celebration of the Sphinx Organization’s 15th anniversary. Actress and recording artist Vanessa Williams will be the evening’s honorary chair.

The Sphinx Virtuosi at Carnegie Hall
Co-presented by Bloomberg and the Sander and Norma K. Buchman Fund

Wednesday, October 12, 2011
6:00 pm
Stern Auditorium / Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall

For ticket information, please visit www.SphinxMusic.org.
For VIP packages and sponsorship opportunities, please contact Alison Piech at (646) 429-1987, ext. 709.
PRESIDENT’S NOTE

Dear Friends,

I hope this message finds you enjoying the summer weather. As I write this, young violinists, violists, and cellists from around the country are feverishly practicing at Oberlin Conservatory. These young musicians are all students in the Sphinx Performance Academy. Their intensive experience at SPA includes numerous private lessons, string quartet coachings, masterclasses, and recitals. In a few weeks, another group of students will have a similar experience in Chicago at Roosevelt University’s Chicago College of Performing Arts.

The musicians at SPA really are the next generation of classical music. I want to express our sincere appreciation to Chris Jenkins, the dean of the program, as well as the Catalyst Quartet and all the faculty members who make the program successful and inspire our students each summer. We are so pleased to thank Joan Harris and the Irving Harris Foundation, Cracker Barrel Foundation, Frances Walker-Slocum, and D’Addario Music Foundation for their support of SPA this summer. We also thank Oberlin and Roosevelt University for their continued partnership and commitment to diversity and artistic excellence.

This fall we’re looking forward to the fourth annual Sphinx Virtuosi tour and Carnegie Hall concert. At Carnegie Hall, we will formally launch Sphinx15, the celebration of our 15th anniversary building diversity in classical music. You’ll be hearing much more about Sphinx15 during the coming months and year. Our supporters have been a crucial part of our success over the past 15 years, and will play an important role as we build our capacity for artistic excellence and sustainability.

Warm regards,

Aaron Dworkin
Founder and President

“I’m just in awe of what Sphinx has accomplished, but even more excited about its future.” - Yo-Yo Ma, cellist
Sphinx on Tour

Don't miss the Sphinx Virtuosi and Catalyst Quartet as they embark on their fourth annual national tour this fall. The tour has been made possible by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation with additional support from Target and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

September 19
Mercer University - Macon, GA

September 21
New World Center - Miami, FL

September 23
Sarasota Community - Sarasota, FL

September 25
Beaches Fine Arts Series - Jacksonville, FL

September 27
Central Michigan University - Mount Pleasant, MI

September 28
Interlochen Center for the Arts - Interlochen, MI

October 2
Harris Theater - Chicago, IL

October 4
University of Cincinnati - Cincinnati, OH

October 7
University of North Carolina at Greensboro - Greensboro, NC

October 12
Carnegie Hall - New York, NY

October 19
Stanford Lively Arts - Stanford, CA

November 4
Charlotte Concerts - Charlotte, NC

Repertoire available for the 15th Annual Sphinx Competition
presented by

Xavier Foley, 2011 Sphinx Competition Laureate, recently won first place in the International Society of Bassists concerto competition. He is attending the Perlman Music Program this summer, and will enroll at the Curtis Institute in the fall.

Violinist Danielle Belen’s debut recording on Naxos received a rave review on TheWholeNote.com. The reviewer wrote, “There isn’t a single moment on the entire CD when you don’t feel that she is in complete control, both technically and musically.” The CD features violin music by Lawrence Dillon, and includes a guest appearance by Sphinx Competition alumnus Juan-Miguel Hernandez.

Milena Pajaro-van de Stadt, 2006 Sphinx Competition Laureate, graduated from the Curtis Institute in May with an Artist Diploma. Her summer includes visits to Colombia for Scott Yoo’s Medellin Festicamara, Virgina Tech International Music Festival, and Emilia Romagna Festival with her Old City Quartet. Her quartet will be the Quartet in Residence this fall at Rice University, where they will begin the Masters program in Quartet Studies.

Sphinx Competition alumna Jesse Montgomery has been selected through the Van Lier Fellowship to be the new Composer Fellow of the American Symphony Orchestra for their upcoming season.

Sphinx Competition 2007 Laureate Elena Urioste received a rave review from Allan Kozinn in The New York Times following a recital at Merkin Concert Hall in April. Kozinn described her as “an eloquent recitalist” praising her “thoughtful approach to dynamics” and “clearly defined articulation.” Elena has also been named the winner of the Sony Career Grant from Salon di Virtuosi.

We want to hear from you! Send your news and career updates to QuarterNote@SphinxMusic.org.
At the invitation of the U.S. Embassy in Brussels, Belgium, 2004 Sphinx Competition alumna Marie-Elise McNeeley visited the country from May 16-20, 2011.

Throughout her residency, Marie-Elise and the Embassy partnered with Diversité sur Scènes (Diversity on Scenes), a Belgian organization that shares the Sphinx Organization’s mission of diversity in the arts.

Throughout the week, Marie-Elise worked with a diverse group of beginning string players, teaching them the basics of the violin. She also presented a number of recitals of Baroque music, accompanied by a local harpist.

Marie-Elise graduated from the University of Michigan on a Sphinx scholarship, earned a Master of Music in Early Music at Indiana University.

For more information about international Sphinx programs, please contact Caitlin Ilich at Caitlin@SphinxMusic.org.

Something to Ponder:

“Let each man exercise the art he knows.”
-Aristophanes

Q & A

Q. Can you name this African-American composer, pianist and professor who won the first BMI Student Composer Award in 1952?

A. Hale Smith began to study piano at age 7. He received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in composition from the Cleveland Institute of Music. He is regarded as one of America’s finest composers and had a distinguished career as an arranger, editor, and educator. The BMI Student Composer Awards competition has become one of the most coveted and prestigious awards for young composers.