

DAVID ROWE ARTISTS

Mariedi Anders: 1915 - 2009



Mariedi Anders passed away on December 26, one month shy of her 95th birthday. She entered the hospital a few days prior with a stomach ulcer and ultimately died of heart failure. She was active until the end, contacting clients on behalf of her artists, playing bridge every Monday night, and was frequently sighted at concerts and operas.

Obviously this was sad news for me. Although as many of you know my personal relationship with her was complicated, it was on balance one of the most important of my life, and quite simply were it not for her early confidence in me I would never have had the opportunities I have since enjoyed in the field of artist management.

We communicated on average once or twice a year after my departure from her office in 1998, and I am really pleased to have called on her when in San Francisco last spring. This wonderful, warm visit was a chance to share and laugh over many memories from our years together.

Mariedi was a true original – a pioneer when she opened her business at a time (1960) when the field of artist management was dominated by men and centered almost exclusively around New York. Her initiative showed many of us that another way was possible, and her legacy lives on in the increasing number of small agencies which today are such an important component of the arts eco-system.

What a full, rich life she led! I attended the informal memorial service her son Tom organized on January 24 at her home in San Francisco. It was a wholly suitable tribute – a simple gathering to give family, friends, and business associates the chance

to mingle, and share a few lighthearted stories about a woman whose energy, tenacity, and loyalty were truly legendary. No big speeches, no religious overtones; just a lovely afternoon overlooking the Golden Gate with a couple of musical interludes. The only thing missing was Mariedi darting eagerly from group to group with a wide smile and ready anecdote to help ensure everyone was enjoying themselves.

Oswaldo Golijov work for SLSQ is on track

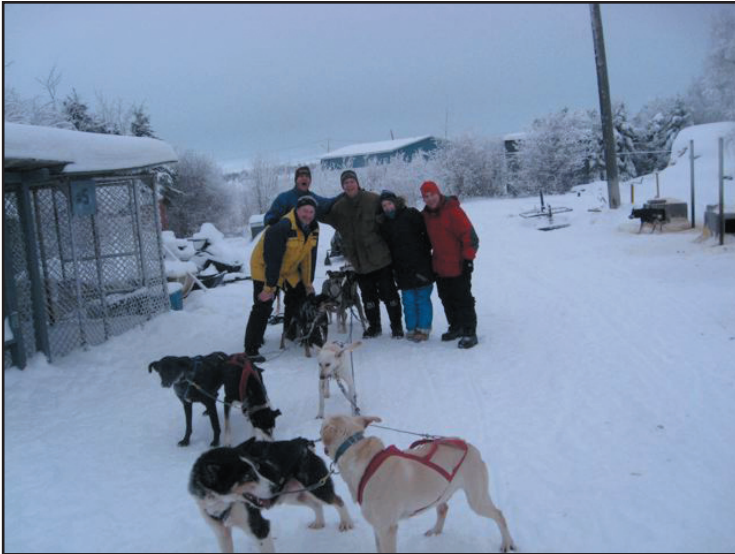
Although not quite on schedule for the earlier announced October 2010 premiere at Stanford University Lively Arts...it will now debut at Carnegie Hall in March, 2011. But Oswaldo is extremely excited about composing for his longtime friends in the SLSQ, as evidenced by his comments to the Toronto *Globe and Mail* in February:

“The St. Lawrence String Quartet made a huge difference in my life...They were the first musicians who understood what I wanted to do, who showed me that I wasn’t crazy, or at least that I wasn’t the only crazy one. My musical friendship with the quartet is among the top three blessings I have in my life as a musician. In an ideal world, if I didn’t have to support three children and all of that, I would just write for them.”

“To me, Geoff [Nuttall, the SLSQ’s first violinist] is like Miles Davis,” Golijov says. “I don’t know if this is too much to say in print or in public, but he’s the most exciting and inspiring musician I know, because he takes risks, always. He will never, ever play the same phrasing twice. That’s why I want to hear the quartet in my music, because it’s always going to be different. Whereas other people, once they find a solution, they just go for that solution.”

“I’m writing a new quartet that they will premiere next spring,” Golijov says, again warming to his recollections of working with his favourite group. “I owe them a big piece, from the soul.”

(really, this all appeared in print!)



St. Lawrence String Quartet goes to the dogs...

...in Yellowknife, Canada, that is, where members of the **St. Lawrence String Quartet** hitched up the sled dogs for a ride!

And the quartet will likely remember winter 2010 especially “coldly”, since in addition to a tour of the Northwest Territories, they also found themselves in Alaska in J-J-J-January. But that turned out to be a trip for the memoirs; in addition to wonderfully appreciative audiences in Valdez and Anchorage, they conducted an outreach service in a women’s prison – the only prison in the US with a string orchestra program. As Scott St. John reported:

“Getting ready for the visit was part of the experience, as we had to send copies of our drivers license for security checks. The night of our visit to the Hiland Mountain Correctional Center, even weather was an adventure-- roads were icy, there were a

half-dozen SUVs overturned in the center median of the highway. A surly guard confiscated our wallets, coats and cell phones. We all filed into the “airlock” chamber and entered a hospital-like hallway. No one had told us what to expect, so I was a bit apprehensive as we found our way to the big multi-purpose gym room.

Seated in front of music stands were about 16 women of varying ages, all looking very colorful in their orange prison outfits. And they went nuts when we arrived, cheering and clapping! The mood was suddenly almost giddy. We got out our instruments, Geoff made introductions, and we launched into some Haydn. Within about 5 seconds we knew that we had a dream audience-- the ladies were reacting immediately to the sound, emotion & joy of the Haydn. They laughed at the unexpected bars of rest, some had tears in their eyes-- very rarely have we had such a strong immediate reaction!

As we continued our program, there was lots of dialogue and insightful commentary from the group. Now it was their turn to play for us! The women became very serious, and you could immediately feel the intensity of their commitment to the orchestra. Knowing that many of them only started their string studies at the prison, it was quite a miraculous performance. And it certainly makes one ponder the whole question of the human spirit while imprisoned...

Thanks so much to the Anchorage Concert Association for helping to arrange our visit, and kudos to Gabrielle Willis, the music teacher who directs the prison orchestra!”

And in March SLSQ gave the local premieres of **John Adams’** “String Quartet” - composed for them in 2008 - in Paris (Cite de la Musique) and London (The Barbican). London’s *The Independent* certainly appreciated the performance: **“The intensity of purpose of SLSQ, the bravura of solo passages, and seamlessness of ensemble playing all served to revitalise the Ravel and illuminate the Adams.”**

David Finckel & Wu Han (...plus one)

Okay, so they don’t (yet!) have a hit reality-TV show, but **David Finckel and Wu Han** got a series of high-profile “Beethoven cycles” at Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center off to a flying start with a performance of the five cello/piano sonatas on January 31. Ticket demand was so high that – for the first time since its renovation – audience members were seated on the Alice Tully Hall stage! The concert lived up to these high expectations, with the *New York Times* hailing a “terrific performance...Mr. Finckel, who played from memory throughout the concert, elegantly spun out the songful cello lines, aptly partnered by Ms. Wu’s incisive piano playing.”

In February and March, David and Wu Han were joined by violinist **Philip Setzer** for performances of the two Schubert trios in Columbus, Ann Arbor, Chicago, Richmond VA, Boston, Morrow GA, Palm Beach, Savannah, Cleveland,

Portland OR, Costa Mesa, and Pasadena. Again, response from presenters, audience, and critics was rapturous: **“Every now and then, a concert comes along that is satisfying in every way....an extraordinary level of musicianship and unity to the music.”** (*The Oregonian*)

In addition, David and Wu Han have launched a new website and even an iPhone app! Please check it all out at www.davidfinckelwandwuhan.com

David Finckel, Wu Han, and Philip Setzer have just announced a new trio project for 2011/12: an all-Mendelssohn program to include the two trios plus other works. Let us know if you are interested to discuss this as dates are very limited.



Prazak follows Brentano to Hollywood

Last issue we reported on the Brentano Quartet's involvement with a movie project (we expect more on this for our next issue). Not to be outdone, it turns out the **Prazak Quartet** is heard during a key scene in the **Martin Scorsese/Leonardo DiCaprio** thriller *Shutter Island*. Specifically, an excerpt from their recording of Mahler's piano quartet is playing on a gramophone in the psychiatrist's office and DiCaprio's character identifies it as Mahler. This triggers a flashback sequence where he kills a Nazi who has the same piece playing in his office while the troops storm in.

Perhaps not the most upbeat context, but kind of fun that their brief "appearance" is actually woven into the story, and not simply background music.

On more traditional fronts, the Prazaks have been busy this spring, primarily throughout Europe where they have toured extensively in Germany, played in Amsterdam (Concertgebouw), Vienna, Paris, Valencia, Lisbon, Prague, and will serve on the jury of the Bordeaux Quartet Competition.

The Prazak Quartet will return for North American tours in November, 2010 and March, 2011. We still have a few dates remaining if you are doing some "last minute shopping" for next season!

Berlin Philharmonic Wind Quintet makes first tour with new member

Until this year the **Berlin Philharmonic Wind Quintet** had enjoyed unprecedented stability, without a single personnel change since their founding in 1988.

Of course this had to end sometime, and as 2009 concluded bassoonist **Hennig Trog** was succeeded by BPO member (and Hennig's star pupil) **Marion Reinhard**. Any possible questions were, uh, "blown away" as Marion demonstrated immediately why she earned this coveted appointment. Blend and coordination were seamless, and in fact numerous observers singled out Marion's playing as being particular worthy of note (sorry, just can't help myself!).

The 12 concert tour in Jan-Feb, 2010 brought them to Austin, Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Boston, Athens, Danville, Troy NY, Wolf Trap, and Waterloo, ON. A memorable highlight was their visit to Kerrville, TX, which found them rehearsing in a room under the watchful gaze of over 70 taxidermy samples!

The Berlin Philharmonic Wind Quintet will return for tours in October, 2010 (fully booked) and October 2011 (just getting started).



Members of the Berlin Philharmonic Wind Quintet share a crab dinner with the entire David Rowe Artists staff following their Boston debut.

Academy St. Martin connects in Decorah, IA

It is easy to take what we do everyday for granted. So it's particularly heartening to be reminded how powerful an impact the art we present can have on groups and individuals. **The Academy of St. Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble** performed at Luther College in Decorah, IA last fall, and recently I received the following email:

"I also just want to follow up because I never fully did, to tell you again how unbelievably in love with Academy of St. Martin we all were. What a stunning, lovely, exceptional performance. What terrific people--I genuinely enjoyed hosting them on campus. I am most grateful to you for simply throwing out that idea last year and making it happen

at Luther. The academic community, the students, the community, were all raving. One particularly quiet patron, came up and asked if there was any likelihood that they return annually. :) Their excellence was fully recognized and appreciated by this crowd at Luther--and I don't think I have ever enjoyed and been so enraptured in a classical performance ever as much. It is absolutely the concert where I am most frequently stopped and told of how wonderful it was in the community. Everyone was proud to welcome them here, and so glad to have heard them. Please do give everyone our very very best.

And, Hannah, the young woman who they sang Happy Birthday to in the van--may

have just been swayed towards the arts for life just by their experience. She has gone from a casual participant to one who is volunteering for many leadership roles, and even joined me in NY this year at APAP. Their visit was an evident turning point. A reminder to all artists that every interaction affects our students as they seek their way in the world, and their impact is grand."

*Peace to you and to all,
Tanya Gertz,
Director, Campus
Programming
Luther College, Decorah, IA*

Thank you Tanya, and Academy musicians for simply doing what you do every day. It really does make a difference!

The Academy of St. Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble will return to North America in February 2011 and February 2012. Please be in touch if you are interested in bringing them to your community.



photo: Helena Rowe

DAVID ROWE
ARTISTS



24 Bessom St.
Marblehead, MA 01945