

ATAR ARAD, 2009 JIC JUDGE



Atar Arad was born in Tel Aviv, where he began his early musical education and violin studies. In 1968, he was chosen to study at the renowned Chapelle Musicale Reine Elisabeth under the patronage of the Queen of Belgium. In 1971, drawn by the deep, warm sound of the viola – and its broad but unfamiliar repertoire – he decided to devote himself to this instrument. In his first appearance as a violist in July 1972, he won the City of London Prize as a laureate of the Carl Flesch Competition for violin and viola. Two months later, he won First Prize at the International

Viola Competition in Geneva.

Numerous concerts followed – as soloist with major orchestras, and in recitals at some of Europe’s most prestigious festivals. Mr. Arad is a recording artist with Telefunken. His “Sonata per la Grand’ Viola e Orchestra” by Paganini was acclaimed as an astonishing demonstration of the technical capabilities of the viola. His album with pianist Evelyne Brancart was praised by High Fidelity Magazine as being “...perhaps the best-played viola recital ever recorded.”

In 1980, Mr. Arad moved from London to the US and performed as a member of the Cleveland Quartet for the next seven years. With the quartet, he toured the US, South America, Western and Eastern Europe, Israel and Japan, and collaborated with many leading musicians. The quartet made recordings with labels RCA, CBS and Telarc, and appeared in numerous music festivals. During that time, he was also Professor of Viola at the Eastman School of Music.

Mr. Arad has served on the faculty of the Aspen School and Festival, the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University, and as an artist/lecturer at Carnegie Mellon University. He has appeared as guest artist with Houston’s Da Camera Society, Seattle Chamber Music Festival, the Upper Galilee Chamber Music Days (Israel), Sitka Festival, Chautauqua Festival and Ravinia Music Festival. He currently teaches at Indiana University, Bloomington, and at the Steans Institute (Ravinia Festival) in Chicago.

A frequent guest with today’s leading musicians, Mr. Arad has performed with the Guarneri, Emerson, Tokyo, Mendelssohn, Vermeer, Corigliano and New Zealand string quartets, as well as with violinists Zuckermann, Fried, Bell and Weilerstein; violists Strongin-Katz, Tree and Biss; cellists Starker, Geringas, Hoffman, Katz and Edy; and pianists Eschenbach, Frank, Pressler and others.

Mr. Arad wrote his first musical composition, “Solo Sonata for Viola,” in 1992. He premiered the work at the 1993 Viola Congress. In 1998, Mr. Arad completed his “String Quartet,” which was premiered by the Corigliano Quartet in 1999. In August of 2003, Arad premiered his new three “Caprices for Viola” as a part of his recital at the Tertis International Competition and Workshop, where he also gave a master class and served as a judge.