

SKYPE-MASTER CLASS DURING THE CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN DAY 2013



Molly McMurtrey, student from the Gruppman International Music Institute plays violin at Utah Valley University, while Igor and Vesna Gruppman teach her from Miami, FL during the master class via Skype

The Gruppman International Music Institute (GIMI) contributed in a unique way to the Celebration of the International Mountain Day (IMD), declared by the United Nations, at Utah Valley University (UVU) on December 5, 2013. Co-founders of GIMI, Igor and Vesna Gruppman hosted a violin master class by using Skype, an online videoconferencing application, at the UVU Library Auditorium in front of UVU faculty and students, as well as distinguished guests of the IMD event. The audience gathered for the event witnessed how the two masters were able to instruct two young violinists, Emily McMutrey (9) and her sister Molly McMurtrey (12) from Eagle Mountain, Utah, via modern Internet technology. Mr. and Mrs. Gruppman, who were in Miami, FL at the time, communicated with the students as they heard and watched them play with their

mother Karin McMurtrey at the piano, through the microphone and webcam on a laptop. Emily, Molly, and the audience in the auditorium were able to see and hear Mr. and Mrs. Gruppman clearly on the big projector screen and through the speakers set up in the room.

The GIMI joined the Mountain Partnership in 2010 and since then has actively contributed to joint activities of the MP members from North America. Igor and Vesna Gruppman were also involved in the IMD celebrations in 2012 at UVU and in Kyrgyzstan by GIMI proposing a project for founding an international music academy in Osh city, located in Ferghana Valley of Central Asia. At the heart of the project lay the opportunity to teach music to children living in remote areas of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, which share a territory in Ferghana Valley, by using Skype.



Emily McMurtrey (center at the first row), Molly McMurtrey (third from the left), students of the Gruppman International Music Institute (GIMI), Karin McMurtrey (second from the left), pianist at GIMI and Yeagi Kim, liason, GIMI (fourth from the left), with Dr. Jed Shilling (first from the left), member of the board, the Mountain Institute, Karinjo DeVore, Co-Director, Vertex, regional hub for the Mountain Partnership (second from the right), and Dr. Andrew Taber, Executive Director, the Mountain Institute (first from the right), after master class via Skype

The Gruppman International Music Institute is an educational organization, which selects and cultivates gifted young musicians to prepare for a professional performing career. Founded by Igor and Vesna Gruppman in 2002, it follows the traditions of the Great Masters of violin playing. The heart and soul of the Institute is the revolutionary Gruppman Approach, developed by Igor and Vesna Gruppman through their studies with some of the greatest artists of the 20th century—such as Jascha Heifetz, David Oistrakh, Leonid Kogan, and Nathan Milstein— as well as their own years of experience as successful performers and teachers.

The Gruppman International Music Institute provides students around the world, especially in mountainous nations, with a unique distance learning experience by using the latest videoconferencing technology. Regular workshops and master classes allow students opportunities to perform, learn, and network with other students of the institute. Teachers of the Gruppman International Music Institute live in various parts of the world and are fluent in several languages. Igor and Vesna Gruppman were among the first musicians in the world who started teaching long distance music lessons via Internet technologies over 12 years ago, when Skype technology was not yet available. They continue to do teach talented students in various parts of the world while maintaining their professor positions at Rotterdam Conservatory in the Netherlands. Many of their students are winners of prestigious competitions and have soloed with orchestras around the world and have benefitted from taking their lessons via the Internet.

More information regarding the institute and the Gruppman can be found at following websites: www.gruppmaninstitute.com; www.igorgruppman.com; www.vesnagruppman.com;

Yeagi Kim Broadwell, Liaison, Gruppman International Music Institute