

# National Viola Academy

## End of Year Report

A few words from the Academy's Principal, Doctor Violetta del Viole

It's been both a rewarding and, in some respects, slightly frustrating year for the Academy. We were all delighted when we won the legal case against the US Republican Party who falsely alleged that we were responsible, through excessive instrumental practice hours, for significantly contributing to global cooling. However, once it was conclusively proven that over the course of the last semester the sum total of practice hours by our 832 students didn't even reach double figures, and therefore could only have caused mere fractions of a degree of cooling. So the prosecutor's case was dismissed and the magistrate ordered them to pay costs. The students then had an impromptu celebration during which time they set fire to the courthouse resulting in 55 arrests. We were then criticised in the local press for not dismissing any of the offending students on the grounds of wilful damage to public property. Rather, we prefer leniency, and to attribute it to understandable high spirits. Anyway, the Republicans should be thanking us for helping them with their global warming agender.

We are proud to report the Academy's flagship viola orchestra achieved the highest standards of performance by both starting and finishing a piece of music together, under the skilful directorship of our esteemed chief conductor, Herbert von Sherbet, for a second time in the space of one year. The last time we were this successful was in 1973. Indeed, I was there myself as it was during my 1<sup>st</sup> year as a proud scholarship student at the Academy, although that was when the academy was housed in the old building by the river, before it burned down. (*It was the Academy that burned down, not the river. Rivers don't burn, seemingly.*)

The winner of this year's "Best Student Gold(ish) Medal" went to Ivor Woodbox for his accomplished and emotional performance of C major scale in C Major (1 octave) in under 15 minutes – not a record, but still highly commendable. Keep up the inspiring work, Ivor, and next time you could even use your other three fingers if you're feeling adventurous.

I should take this opportunity to remind all students that compulsory fire practice is intended to swiftly and calmly evacuate the premises in the event of a fire. And NOT to set fire to the library again. We realise the library is just the bottom draw of the Registrar's desk, and that he also keeps his collection of broken strings, re-usable gum, and fire-lighters in there, but they represent his life's work and we should all respect that.

There has been some speculation regarding re-opening the student kitchen. But I regret to report that at this time we have no plans to do so. 27 fires in one term we still believe to be excessive. I thank you for your understanding. I should also say for the record, yet again, that violas do indeed take longer to burn than violins, so there is no need to keep repeating the same experiment. Can we please all agree to acknowledge it as being a fact and move on.

Plans for the future:

Some encouraging news. We will continue our crowd-funding ambitions to rebuild the Recital Hall following the unfortunate fire three years ago. The shed we use in the meantime is clearly inadequate as it only has space for a viola trio plus an audience of two, and for some unaccountable reason the roof leaks water when it is raining, and gasoline when it's not. So far, we have raised 4 dollars and 22 cents, which means we have less than half a million dollars yet to achieve. Good work all round.

Finally, let us hope the forthcoming year is every bit as successful in upholding the high standards and extraordinary reputation of this great academy.