

Chelsea Chen is on Her Way!

*A Review by **Bob Riday***

Sunday, June 4, Young Artist's Recital, Banquet and LVAGO Annual Meeting

Hosted by George and Susan Boyer, Christ Lutheran Church, Allentown

Eleanor Focht, Event Coordinator

Our LV Chapter has consistently presented excellent and diverse programs. The recital presented by Chelsea Chen on Sunday, June 4, at Christ Lutheran, Allentown, proved that she has *star quality* that is usually experienced at National Level Conventions. Her opening selection, "Sinfonietta" by Norwegian composer [and fellow Julliard classmate], Ola Gjeilo, proved that Ms. Chen was in complete control of the Austin (IV/79), the audience, and herself. She moved through the toccata-like piece with a wonderful synergy of technical precision, beautiful phrasing and appropriate registrations.

Chelsea's choice of Vierne's "Naiades" (Water Nymphs) could very easily have sounded like a scale fingering exercise at a jury exam at college. Her relaxed, fluid technique combined with her sense of phrasing and direction of musical line created, instead, a result that was beautiful and never boring. A personal favorite was Ms. Chen's performance of her own "Taiwanese Suite," written upon several Taiwanese folk song themes and dedicated to her father. It brings to mind a Ralph Vaughan Williams folk song suite written in Asian pentatonic harmony. I enjoyed it much more than many commissioned organ works I have endured at AGO conventions!

The recital ended with a thunderous and exciting rendition of Duruflé's Toccata from Suite, Op. 5. I believe that I spied the figures in the stained glass windows dancing along with Chelsea's music. Ms. Chen is to be congratulated for an excellent recital. She presented herself in a professional, well-informed and humble manner. Following the recital, she shared a delicious Social Tea Caterers meal with us. After dinner our chapter proceeded with its annual meeting and installation of officers for 2006-2007: **Robert Richelderfer**, Dean; **James Matz**, Sub-Dean; **Janice Butz**, Secretary; **Michael Krentz**, Treasurer; **Jane Errera**, Past Dean, and Executive Board Members: 2007-**Robert Morehead**, **William Nash**; 2008-**Betty Minor**, **Michael Szayko**; 2009-**Andrea Berntsen**, **George Boyer**.
