



# TARMAC

Newspaper of the Chaminade Flyers

Chaminade High School, 340 Jackson Avenue, Mineola, New York 11501-2441

(516) 742-5555

<http://www.chaminade-hs.org>

est. 1934

TARMAC ONLINE

JUNE 2010

## Today's Renaissance Men Bentel Brothers Grace CHS with Art and Music

by Nicholas Rao '13

First exhibited at the Heckscher Museum of Art in Huntington, New York, the steel-and-paint sculpture *Mid-Song of a Violinist* by senior Lukas Bentel expresses a recurring theme in the life and work of its talented creator.

By depicting the motion of a violinist's bow as it moves across the body of the violin, Lukas united the two major artistic fields of music and visual art – both of which have won him recognition and numerous awards throughout his life.

As a violoncello player, Lukas has performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and countless music festivals. Some performances have featured his own compositions.

Lukas has even heard his works performed by others. At the Lucerne Music Center, in 2009, he had one of his compositions performed by the music center's faculty.

"I enjoy just physically writing music," said Lukas about composing his works. "I like to experiment a lot."

In January 2009, Lukas was a finalist for the Island Symphony Orchestra's Annual Young Performer's Competition. Later that year, in June, he won the North Shore Symphony Artist Award Competition with his rendition of Edouard Lalo's *Cello Concerto in D Minor*.

From his sophomore to senior year, Lukas was the principal cellist in the Chaminade String Orchestra.

"Lukas plays with rare maturity for someone his age," said Mrs. Sally Zehnter, director of the Chaminade String Orchestra.

"I've played in an orchestra with Lukas out of school when he he won a concerto competition, and, like all great artists, he is completely modest and unassuming," Mrs. Zehnter added.

"Like anyone who really knows music, he is rarely satisfied with his playing, despite the apparent brilliance for those listening."

As a visual artist, Lukas has an equally wide range of interests, mostly creating sculptural works, but he also loves painting in watercolors and sketching.

His watercolor painting *Casa Piccola*, depicting his Italian grandfather's house in

"For a cellist and sculptor, the hands are the tools of the trade," Lukas wrote in his introduction to *Hand Study*. "The physical contortions of the hand in playing my instrument frustrate and fascinate me."

Lukas considers himself equally adept as a visual artist and a musician, but plans to pursue the former, at least for the time being.

A perennial contender in the annual

Art Contest, Lukas leaves Chaminade as a two-time first-place winner. He plans to continue his artistic endeavors at Brown University and the adjacent Rhode Island School of Design.

"Aside from his innate talent, Lukas has a great imagination and is a hard worker," said fine-arts department faculty member Mr. Frank Marengi, who taught Lukas. "He has a great future ahead of him."

As a new window of opportunity opens to Lukas, his brother, Nikolas '12, continues his studies at Chaminade and has already shown great potential as a violist and sculptor.

Nikolas is currently the second-chair violist in the Chaminade String Orchestra. From 2004 to 2005, he was co-principal violist in the Children's Orchestral Society, founded in 1962 by Dr. Y. C. Ma, the sister of famous cellist Yo Yo Ma.

Nikolas has also performed at music festivals in and out of the United States and also studied music abroad.

As a sculptor, Nikolas created a piece that was showcased at the 2010 *Long Island's Best Young Artists* exhibit, at the Heckscher Museum of Art, the same exhibit that featured Lukas' work.

*Portrait of a Young Artist*, a plaster-and-paint bust, truly captures the youthful vitality of the Bentel artists. ▶



**Showcasing one of his many talents, Lukas Bentel plays the cello as part of the Chaminade String Orchestra in this year's spring concert.**

Lucca, Italy, captures the beauty of the mountainous Italian landscape.

Certain aspects of his sculpture are driven by a fascination with the intricacies of the human body.

*Self Portrait*, a 10" x 14" x 10" plaster-and-faux-patina bust, shows an appreciation for the details of the human face. *Hand Study*, a series of 12 sculptures depicting the human hand in various positions, shows an appreciation for the body's mechanics.