

## SMF35 Blog: The Festival at 35- Live

It was only 50 minutes long, but, for me, it was 10 months in the making.

As I sit here typing on the third floor of the Worner Center directly across from Packard Hall, I feel a sense of relief. Yesterday at 4 pm, an audience of festival stalwarts, faculty and fellows attended “The Festival at 35.” It was my presentation as part of the anniversary celebration. Only blogs and reviews are on my docket for the rest of this festival.

I had help. Feeling more like David Frost than David Sckolnik, I led a historically informed discussion. Rather than recount specific events and red letter dates in the festival’s history, my goal was to have my guests share more feeling than fact. Although at times caught off balance, they rose to the challenge.

Starting at the top- that would be music director Sue Grace- couldn’t contain her joy at what has been created on Cache la Poudre Avenue in three and one half decades. Violists Phillip Ying and Toby Appell then joined us on stage. Under pressure, Phillip fessed up to having participated in one of the festival’s legendary water fights. Toby reveled in his second role at the festival: he’s resident chef based out of Sue’s home.

Flutist Elizabeth Mann and violinist Stefan Hersh were next. Liz admitted that coming to Colorado from New York City each summer helps to keep her sane. Stefan recounted the story of how he returned to the festival after having to miss two years by doing the unthinkable: he picked up the phone, called Sue, and asked to be reinstated. He hasn’t missed a summer since.

Lots of laughs, authentic appreciation and heartfelt thanks. I think it was a winner. Honestly, the screening of the “Handel in the Italian Style” episode of festival conductor/violinist Scott Yoo’s upcoming music/travelogue PBS series “Now Here This” which followed, was more enjoyable.

But that’s the way it is at the Colorado College Summer Music Festival. The next thing up is always better.









