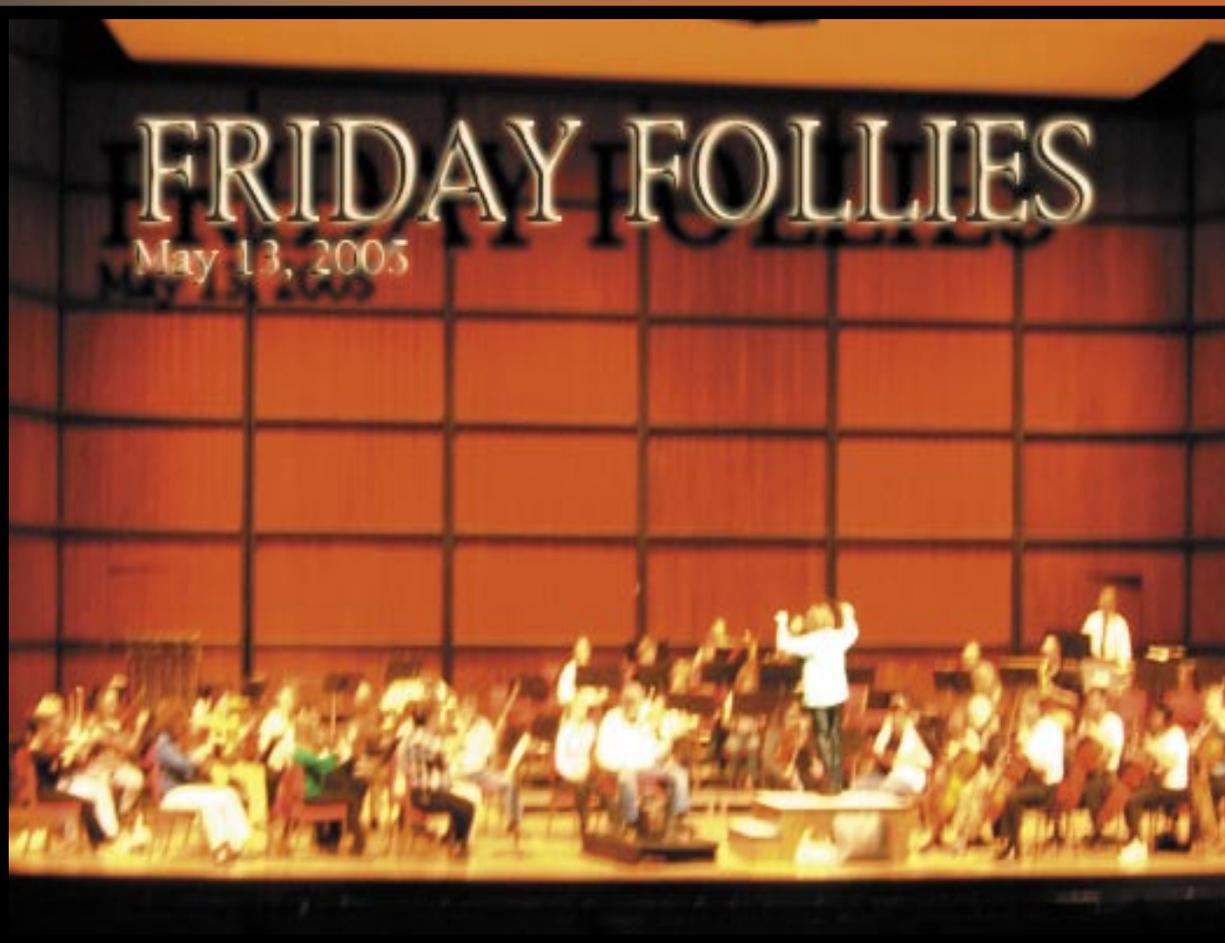


FRIDAY FOLLIES

May 13, 2005





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Hey!

Happy Friday!

I was not disappointed! Itzhak Perlman was magnificent! I cannot believe I was fortunate enough to be so close to him and was there to hear him play and see him be "himself" in an open rehearsal. I am not kidding when I say it was WAAAY cooler than going to a concert. He was very casual and instead of the usual tux, he was dressed in blue jeans and a white shirt – very relaxed. They only had an hour to rehearse, so he (and they) were pretty much all business. They played most of what he was going to be featured playing (Beethoven's Violin Concerto), but when they would get to a part that was mostly the orchestra's part, he would wave his bow or simply nod to the conductor, Faletta, and she would stop the orchestra. The orchestra had already practiced together. This was his opportunity to rehearse with them on his parts.

I have to tell you, I wore a head-set so I could hear his parts in particular and they worked beautifully! The best I have ever had. But half way through the rehearsal, they quite! Nothing but STATIC! Without

them, I might as well have been in the parking garage! The staff could not fix them, so the ushers allowed me to sit very close to the

stage. It was unreal! I could actually hear him play perfectly! Without a head set! In an open rehearsal like that, they often will block off the first twenty or so rows so there will be no distractions. With only an hour to rehearse, they do not want any disruptions. Understandable. But they allowed me to sit so close to him that I could hear his strings squeak. (I was not allowed to take photos that close, though...)

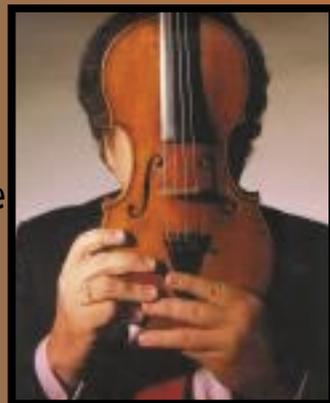
It was truly memorable! Almost like a private concert... He joked with the members of the orchestra constantly, and made faces at them while





he played. Truly the character I had always heard that he was. I know I am handicapped, but when I see someone like Itzhak, I realize how very fortunate I am. It was painful to watch this incredible man take the stage and get situated on his platform. I hurt for him. His assistant carried his Stradivarius for him until he got into place, a multi-million dollar instrument... Amazing, yes?

After an hour of rehearsal time, the audience was dismissed. I managed to "linger" behind for a few minutes, but it was obvious with the media around him that he was not going to have time for photos or meeting folks. I never really expected to meet him, but would have loved to have gotten a photo with the two of us holding violins in front of our faces like his signature photo. Wouldn't that have been a HOOT and a great shot for my "Forrest Gump" collection! Maybe someday!



Here is a photo of my violin teacher, Charlotte. Isn't she lovely! We have gotten to be good friends! Two of my very good friends are Canadian now, eh?

After the open rehearsal, I was to go to the Seton House's Kentucky Derby party out in Pungo. That didn't transpire. Did watch the Derby, though. Did you? Awesome! Giacomo was MY horse. Can you imagine if I had bet him with those odds!!!! I am pretty good at "Picking the Ponies!"



Mother's Day was another special event this past weekend! Jessica

picked me up early and we went to Rudee's for brunch. Rudee's is a popular restaurant on the water at the Oceanfront here at "The Beach." It was a beautiful, breezy day and it was also HYSTERICAL! You know, Virginia Beach may be a city of half a million people, but it really does boil down to about 20,000 when you have lived here for a while. Jess said we needed to "kinda eat and leave" - she said because there were going to be so many people waiting on tables. Then during the course of the conversation, I realized that her dad and his new fiance were going to be there at 11:30. She simply did not want to make her new step mom uncomfortable. I had to laugh. So sweet...



The valet was her new step brother, and as we were leaving (after bumping into many that we knew) her former boyfriend popped over to give me a Mother's Day hug. He had his mom and dad there (over from Norfolk) for Mother's Day, so we stopped by to say, "Hello" to them. It was really comical. We laughed all the way to the beach to lie in the sun.

This little fellow along with every child and grand child there was mesmerized with "Rudee" who for some reason loved sitting beside our table. We just had a blast!

Once at the beach, Jess decided she was COLD - (I gave her grief) and so we headed back to the house to sit in the back yard. I complained that it was ridiculous to live one block from the beach and to be sitting in the sun in our back yard. I teased her about that all afternoon.

Later in the afternoon, a friend of mine came to mow the grass. He said he wanted to trim the hedges, too, so I said, "OK." As I was walking Jess to her car, I looked down and almost CRIED! He had trimmed not only the hedges in the front yard, but my ASPARAGUS FERN in a planter by the back door!!! I could not believe it! It had taken all winter to get that growth!! I never said a word, but as Jess was driving out of the driveway, I just held the chopped branches in my hands and pretended to weep. She laughed so hard I thought she would not make it out of the driveway! HAHahaha!

Jeremy called. He is doing great, and I am so anxious to see him! He will be home for his dad's wedding in a few weeks. Being back in Oregon after spending the winter in California at Squah Valley seems to agree with him. He called me before the resort where he works, Sun River - a fly fishing and golf resort on the eastern slopes of Oregon - was inundated with Mother's Day customers...one of their busiest days of the year.



I have done a little house hunting and continue to look

again this week. There are some VERY interesting prospects. I will let you know if I decide on anything, but I still think it is too early to make any decisions. One I really want with all of my heart and soul is only two blocks away. It is not for sale - just for rent - but I am working on the owners in North Carolina. Wish me LUCK! It could be HOME until I die! Then I could pass it on!

Just a quick report - Finches five. Canaries seven. I KNOW the Finch eggs are fertilized. The Canaries remain to be seen. Keep your fingers crossed. The pet store has already said they will purchase the Finches from me...WHEW!



Now look at this! Here is my first crop from the garden. What a feast I had tonight! JUST for ME! I celebrated with fresh lettuce and onions from my garden - the first of the season - and I had a lamb chop cooked on the grill and garnished and seasoned with fresh chives, basil, and rosemary, also from my

garden!!! Awesome! It just doesn't get any better than that! Not even in a restaurant. It was decadent! I could hardly eat for smiling! I cannot wait to have tomatoes and green peppers to add to the repertoire. (Notice how all of my terminology is starting to be music oriented? smile!) Also notice the ASPARAGUS FERN mixed in with the fresh flowers!!!!!! HAHAHAHA!



OK, I need to go to bed. It is 12:07 and I have a FULL Day tomorrow. I will be sorry for sitting up so late!

Please stay in touch and know that I love hearing from all of you. There will be much to tell you in the coming weeks and months...so stay tuned! Love to all!

To all of you on my Friday Follies List, whether you are in Manila, Singapore, Kuwait, Bermuda, Virginia Beach, Mississippi, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Minnesota, Indiana, Colorado, Philadelphia, Key West, New Jersey, North Carolina, Indonesia, Washington D.C., Iraq, Costa Rica, Maryland, West (By-God) Virginia, Nashville, Florida, Chattanooga, New York, Oregon, Maine, Australia, Europe, or Yuma, have a wonderful, wonderful week!

God bless.
Remember, life is short...we need to make it a good one.
Grow in peace and wisdom.

Your Friday Friend,

Judi Godsey



P.S. NOTE OF CAUTION... 20 employees were fired from The New York Times here in Norfolk for sending lewd and indecent emails. (To my knowledge, none of the 20 were on our joke list - even though some of the attorneys who represent the company were!) I have asked each and every one of you on this list to tell me if the jokes that accompany these "Follies" place you in jeopardy, or even if they offend you. Please understand that they are intended to be light-hearted and are not mean-spirited in any way. If you are ever offended, do not hesitate to ask to be taken off the Friday Follies Joke List. PSS. If you send a joke and I don't use it, it is because it has been used before, and I try not to repeat. Remember, I have been sending these since August of 1997. One tends to go through huge numbers of jokes that way. Disclaimer: When anyone asks if I type all of these jokes, the answer is, "No!" I cut and paste one evening during the week (30 minutes, TOPS). Obviously I don't have time to sit, read, and retype jokes all day!