



Jackson Sellers, Lake Forest, California, Christmas Eve 2005



Mr. K & the Cellist

The season's greetings arrived about the same time, one by airmail from Tokyo, the other by email from Brussels. One from Yutaka Katayama, "Mr. K," a Nissan Motors legend in Datsun/Z-car circles. The other from Mischa Maisky, a renown cellist in Europe and Asia. There would seem to be no connection, other than a mutual friendship with Jackson and Yoshi Sellers of Lake Forest, California. But there was one, and so I immediately forwarded to Mr. K a photo of Mischa's little son, Maximilian, along with a note: "The baby you saw just a year ago is growing up fast. Today we received emailed

holiday greetings from Mischa in Belgium. Featured was Maxi Maisky at a piano. But I suspect there is a cello in Maxi's future. His sister Lily is a pianist and his brother Sascha is a violinist, and someday they will need a cellist." Mr. K responded: "Maestro Mischa's visit last fall was a great occasion. You introduced us to him and even gave us a chance to meet him personally after the concert. Masako and I will never forget the occasion." You see, I had discovered that one old friend was a big fan of another, so I brought them together at an after-concert dinner in Tokyo. Baby Maxi and his mother Evelyn came too.