

# The Tenuto

Noteworthy News at Pakachoag Music School of Greater Worcester

## Donors & Families Keep Music a Priority Even While COVID-19 Disrupts

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### Donors Stand Strong to Make Sure The Learning Continues

We're here and making music. While COVID-19 has jolted us, like so many, we've much to be happy about. Heather MacFarlane, our

Director of Development, says it best: "We turned in a week and got things going online; that's something to celebrate! Everyone was super flexible. We were in large part able to make such a rapid change because donor support never wavered, and everyone involved was super

flexible. Getting 90% of our lesson students onboard and online was a heck of an accomplishment!"

Some days I, Sarah, admit I have questioned if the extra effort of using technology for teaching is worthwhile in terms of time invested and results. Are we providing the right kind of experience for our students? We do know, from neuroscience research, that when we make music, music is the **ONLY** activity which lights up the full brain.

*(Continued on page 3)*



*Tina Reid (left), of Worcester, is learning to play the harp! Faculty member Susan Howland (right, on-screen) has Tina using two screens. Multiple view angles assists with teaching/learning the technical aspects of playing.*

## Worcester Together Fund Assists with Recovery

### COVID-19 Challenges & Opportunities

Many thanks to the Greater Worcester Community Foundation (GWCF) and all who are supporting the Worcester Together Fund. As a recipient of Phase 2 Recovery

Funding, awarded in early July, Pakachoag is now in a stronger position to deal with PPE and technology needs as we move toward the new school year.

In May, we (the School's board and Sarah as ED) took a breath as we

pulled budget numbers following a host of program disruptions tied to COVID. We will incur losses this year and those losses are exacerbated by dependency upon growth to meet all of our obligations since our move to

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Phase 2 Worcester Together

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kallin Johnson,  
*President*  
Randy Bloom  
Emrah Cakir  
Melanie Donegan  
Bruce Foss  
Sharon McLaughlin  
Kristin Morales-Lemieux  
Sonia Paulino  
Brian Perry  
Erin Simpson  
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### ADVISORY BOARD

Daniella Alvarez  
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Barbara Granger  
Paul Jourcin  
Gail Morgan  
Troy Siebels  
Alison Snyder

*(Continued from page 1)*

Worcester. Before COVID, we were making headway to meet our growth goals; and other strategic priorities tied to engagement and outreach.

With COVID, like most businesses, we've taken a financial hit.

The good news is that you, our donors and grantors, have not backed off. You've continued to

give, with a number of contributors choosing to make a second generous gift this summer.

Grantors have similarly stepped up to provide flexibility in different ways.

We appreciate this organizational, unrestricted support as we maneuver through the budgetary impact of lost income from spring and summer classes.

Greater Worcester Community Foundation and the United Way of Central Massachusetts, together with generous donors and in collaboration with the City of Worcester, launched **Worcester Together** in March. Phase I Emergency Relief focused primarily on food, healthcare and housing needs. Phase 2 Recovery is assisting a broader pool of non-profits impacted by COVID-19.

## Meet Erin Simpson, New Board Member & Pakachoag Alumna



New board member Erin Simpson will lend guidance around strategic efforts to create greater diversity and community engagement.

### Erin Simpson *Director, People & Culture, Fallon Health*

Erin Simpson first experienced Pakachoag Music School as an elementary student in the after-school creative arts program during the School's early years in Auburn. Erin returns to Pakachoag at the perfect time for us—as we call upon her professional expertise around issues of inclusion and diversity.

Currently, as Fallon Health's Director of People & Culture, the Erin is responsible for leading Fallon's Talent Management

programs. In this role, Erin has led strategic workforce planning initiatives, and supports corporate strategy success measures for cultural competency. She also leads the development of company programming related to diversity, equity and inclusion.

Before joining Fallon, Simpson served in several leadership roles at Reliant Medical Group where her work helped to transform the organization's culture. Through those efforts, Reliant was recognized three years in a row as a "Best Place to Work" by *Modern Healthcare*, the *Worcester Business Journal* and the *Boston Business*

*Journal*.

Erin is part of the distinguished Leadership Worcester class of 2020 and is a past recipient of *Worcester Business Journal's* "40 Under 40". Other community commitments include involvement with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Project Worcester County, prior board member for Dress for Success, and volunteer with Girl Scouts of America and the United Way.

Erin holds a Master's of Business Administration from Johnson & Wales University. She lives in Auburn with her family.

## Music as a Pandemic Priority (Cover Story Cont'd)

*(Continued from page 1)*

Making music is a complicated intellectual, physical and emotional activity. So back to my occasional worry of 'Should we be doing things this way?' It only takes me a minute or less to swivel back to 'yes', the music needs to continue. And not because this is our business.

While we can learn online, albeit a little differently, we are also beginning to hear more frequently that families need music: for comfort, for calm, for respite, sometimes distraction. Music provides skills for success; music also supports our mental health – even if we don't realize that up front.

For all of these reasons, 90% of private lesson students continued this spring during COVID-19.

Our Music Together and other group offerings have not fared as well. With parent surveys now completed, we understand that online learning is new for many, technology can be challenging, and some still need time to weigh the benefits vs drawbacks.

Despite the challenges, COVID has given us the opportunity to reflect on what we do and consider alternative ways to teach and learn.

As a School, we are not without concern, for teachers and families, for younger children where the window for establishing

foundational [music] skills is short, and for all in our community who are dealing with loss of friends or family due to this pandemic.

While our plans for the fall are still fluid, some form of online learning will continue to be part of our offerings for the long-term as a pre-COVID pin-pointed in our most recent Strategic Plan.

In the meantime, music with Pakachoag is being played and sung, loud and clear, for both continuing and new students.

Thank you for your steady support, making music a pandemic priority.



Celloist Elizabeth Vysin joins the Pakachoag Faculty starting September. Elizabeth holds a performance diploma from Longy and a Masters in performance from The Hartt School of Music. Visit [www.pakmusic.org](http://www.pakmusic.org) > About > Faculty to learn more about Elizabeth.

## Harmonies Presented From Home

### Recognitions On Hold

Each spring, we host April and May recitals, and acknowledge five and ten year students, and graduates.

This year, we were also planning additional teacher recognitions. All of those special extras are on hold as we continue to manage COVID-19 disruptions.

We'll plan to do some catch up in the coming year. *In the meantime...*

### As Harmonies Take Hold

Harmonies from Home (1,2,3 and 4!) were our first virtual student recitals streamed via Facebook and YouTube during the absence of our traditional recitals held each May. Performance classes and recitals have been a staple of the Pakachoag experience for over 30 years.

### Fall 2020 Planning

We're still considering (as of mid-July) what our lessons, classes and performance program will look like this fall.

We hope to resume some in-person activity.

In the meantime, if you missed Harmonies From Home, and would like a link to listen and watch, please email [Sarah@pakmusic.org](mailto:Sarah@pakmusic.org).



## United Way Supports Summer Learning

### United Way of Central Mass. Underwrites Summer Music Classes with Take Home Song Books & Egg Shakers

Summer 2020 could have been a COVID driven drought for area children and youth. Instead, with the leadership of city youth leaders and with funding support from the United Way, Worcester families have access to an array of fun summer activities throughout July and August.

The program is led by the City of

Worcester Division of Youth Opportunities in collaboration with twenty different non-profit partner organizations. Weekly activities include Fitness, Music/Performing Art, Playgroups, Reading/Writing, Science, Visual Art and more.

With United Way of Central Mass.'s support, Pakachoag is providing weekly online early childhood music classes, along with Music Together Worldwide take home song books and egg-shakers. A Music and Your Child Parent Guide, also published by Music Together Worldwide, is part of the learning package.

The classes offered draw from decades of research around early childhood music learning using folk-based, multi-cultural song selections.

The Music and Your Child parent guide is also available for download in Spanish via the School's website.



*June 2020:  
In Search of Harmony*

## A Commitment to Learn, to Evolve

Like many other organizations, we issued a statement in early June responding to the crises arising around the murder of George Floyd.

The demonstrations, and sometimes riots, that transpired remind us that there is much pain in this country and much work that needs to be done to find a better way forward.

We of course realize there are no quick fixes.

As we continue our work to grow and expand community

engagement—locally and regionally – It is our desire that Pakachoag will always be a place that is welcoming to all and where every voice can be valued and heard. We are working to listen and learn, as an organization and individually, from those who live with injustices.

Until we spend more time listening, reflecting and learning, I personally, and we organizationally, cannot assume to offer effective solutions.

I do believe the traditions of

classical music are here for all humanity to experience, to explore, to love, to share. I believe that all music has the ability to speak to our shared humanity.

As we noted in our e-mail statement earlier, “May the music we make together bring us hope, inspire us to think deeply about how we can help create change, and be used as a tool for peace, understanding and kindness.”

Our full statement, ‘In Search of Harmony’ is available at [www.pakmusic.org](http://www.pakmusic.org) > Blog

## FY20 Harmony Fund (as of 7/17/20) - September 2019 to August 2020

THANK YOU for Standing With Us During COVID-19    FY20 Goal: \$42,000. We're almost there!

♪ 5+ consecutive years    ♪♪ 10+ Year Donor    ♪♪♪ 20+ Year    *Cavatina Society* ☀

### Visionaries (\$10,000+)

Greater Worcester Community Foundation, in Partnership with The Barr Foundation  
The Klarman Family Foundation  
Jane & Dennis Neslusan ♪♪☀

### Maestros (\$5,000+)

Massachusetts Cultural Council  
Alison Snyder & Donald Allison ♪♪♪☀  
Patti & Paul Verderese ♪♪♪☀  
United Way of Central Mass.

### Composer (\$1,000+)

The Arthur M. & Martha R. Pappas Foundation ♪☀  
Catherine Z. & J. Christopher Collins ♪♪☀  
DCU For Kids  
The Ruth H. & Warren A. Ellsworth Foundation  
Hoche-Scofield Foundation  
Susan & John Howland ♪♪♪☀  
Susan Kraft & Donald Michaels ♪♪☀  
Kristin Morales-Lemieux & Harry Lemieux ☀  
Roderick & Kathleen O'Connor ♪♪☀  
Brian & Maria Perry ♪☀  
Robinson Mountain Trust  
The Schwartz Foundation  
In Memory of Georgette C. & Joseph L. Smongeski ♪♪♪☀

### Conductor (\$500+)

Bruce Foss ☀  
Meg & Steven Gallo ☀  
Barbara & Donald Groves ♪♪☀  
Kallin & Linda Johnson ♪♪☀  
Julie & Andrew Kelleher ♪♪☀  
Rev. Donna Kingman, ♪☀  
in Memory of Rev. Perry Kingman

Gail Morgan & Bernie Lempicki ♪♪☀  
Diane Paradis & David Degon ♪♪☀  
Dr. John Paul & Beth Verderese ♪♪☀  
White Companies Charitable Trust, In Memory of Leonard & Ann White ☀

### Soloist (\$250+)

Diane Aramony  
Randy & Edla Bloom  
Adrien Finlay ♪  
Barbara & Dick Granger ♪♪  
Crystal Jiang & Yong Wang, In Honor of Amy Matherly ♪  
Tom & Pam Johnson ♪♪  
Paul Jourcin ♪♪  
Jessica Laino  
Frederick & Kathleen Monbouquette ♪  
Sonia Paulino  
Karen Way ♪

### Section Leader (\$100+)

Alden Anderson ♪  
Amazon Smile  
Anonymous  
Janeen & Rex Baker ♪♪♪  
Stanley Berman, In Memory of Dr. Eileen Berman ♪  
Joan & John Butterworth Jr. ♪♪  
Emrah Cakir, in Honor of Engin Cakir  
Jeff Dostal ♪  
Ann Marie & William Dowdle  
Joyce Fuller ♪♪  
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Tom & Barbara Ingrassia ♪♪  
Silvia & Donald Irving  
Catherine & Daniel Ivascyn  
Ryan Kittredge ♪

Dennis Knight ♪♪  
Gail & John Lefferts ♪♪  
Joe & Michele Lyons  
Dottie Manning, in Honor of Patti Verderese  
Gary MacConnell ♪♪  
Amy Matherly  
Anne & Pat Morris ♪  
Patricia O'Leary  
Mary Ann Preskul-Ricca & Joseph Ricca ♪  
Richard Quimby  
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Dunkin' Donuts (CGT, Inc.) ♪  
Mary Anne & Bryan Slack ♪♪♪  
Candace & D. Neel Smith ♪♪  
Betsy & Jack Wertheimer  
Susan Wobst ♪  
Leah Zelnick & Ryan Lauria ♪  
Vicki & Charles Zelnick

### Friends (Up to \$100)

Linda Acciaro  
Anonymous  
Richard Aramony  
Eleanor Bergquist ♪♪♪  
Susan Burak, in Memory of Doris P. Burak ♪  
Ruby & Derek Burke ♪♪  
Marilyn Butler  
Cristina & Greg Canning ♪♪  
Adam Chau & Ameslie Tew ♪  
Jane Costello ♪♪♪  
Erma & Eddie Doku  
Melanie & Donald Donegan  
Louise Downie  
Maria & Keith Durant  
Christopher Ford/  
Ford Hometown Services ♪  
Judith Frelander, in Memory of Barry Frelander  
Ann Gallup  
Myoung Han  
Allison Hargreaves & Derek Henrickson

Maxim & Isabella Korn ♪♪  
Pat Knowlton, in Honor of Leroy Knowlton ♪♪  
Heather & Taylor MacFarlane  
Sharon McLaughlin  
Christa Mansur ♪  
Barrett Morgan  
Ketaki & Apurva Patel  
Ronald & Mary Plutnicki ♪♪  
Christina Pollock & Robert Pollock, Jr., in Memory of Kent Bailey  
Kate Rafey  
Sheila & Don Reid ♪♪  
Ruth Russo in Memory of Al Russo  
Sharon Shepard  
Violetta & Andrzej Sobiech  
Christine Wychorski

Gifts for the  
**Annual Harmony Fund**  
are welcome at any time.  
You can make a gift online at  
[www.pakmusic.org](http://www.pakmusic.org) >  
[support-pakachoag](http://support-pakachoag)  
OR, on the home page look for  
the Donate Now button.

**Donate Now!**

In our Donate section, you may also be interested in the  
**Sponsor A Student Program**

*We've made our best effort to include all of our donors. If we missed you, please let us know.*

☀ *The Cavatina Society recognizes donors who give leading gifts of \$500 and above.  
For more information on giving and membership, please speak with Sarah Smongeski,  
Executive Director, e-mail [Sarah@pakmusic.org](mailto:Sarah@pakmusic.org).  
Or, Heather MacFarlane, Manager of Development, [Heather@pakmusic.org](mailto:Heather@pakmusic.org)*



## The Tenuto



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*Pakachoag Music School is an independent, not-for-profit community school for the arts.*

*The Tenuto, traditionally published twice a year, provides news and information on school programs and activities for donors, students & families, friends, educators, and the larger community.*



*For latest news and happenings:*

*Follow us on Facebook for updates on events and programs;*

*or watch our Blog Pages accessed via the Home page of the web site.*

### The Virtual World of Music: A Pandemic Priority How Your Support Helps us Connect in New Ways

#### We Invite You To Hear the Future!!

**YOUR** concerts. For everyone who gives to Pakachoag, you own the music!

Although we cancelled a host of spring events due to COVID-19, many students refused to let up on the practicing!

In June and now July, we released Harmonies from Home, a set of four virtual recitals featuring over 50 Pakachoag Students performing recital selections.

*If you missed our release dates, recitals are still available for viewing. Send us a quick email and we'll provide a private link or DVD.*



Ellie, of Dudley, was one of over 50 students who performed virtually in June and July. We enjoyed cute, inspirational, occasionally funny, and a few 'wow' ('you took a leap this year!') moments.