



Standing Tall with Music Annual Report 2019-2020



Photo October 2019, Pre-Pandemic
The Courtyard at All Saints Church



Scan Here



*A special concert for you!
Scan the QR code above with a
smart phone, or search for
'Pakachoag Music' on YouTube
and select 'Harmonies From
Home: Summer Highlights'.*

***This Concert is made possible
by ... YOU!***

Photo: This young man is soaking up the music! With the support of mom, he is making music at home, with Pakachoag guiding the way. Our Winter 2020 Session flipped to online the final week of classes in March. Many families have opted out of Music Together Online classes at this time. We look forward to being back together in the future.



Dialogues: For Civility, Change, Mental Health, Beauty

Music as a Pandemic Priority

Dear Friends,

I hope you are well. 2019-2020 threw us all a curve ball. I've certainly paused and thought more deeply about life and priorities. At the onset of the fiscal and academic year in Fall 2019, Pakachoag Music School was sharply focused on increasing organizational diversity and in doing our part to create more equal access, locally and nationally, to high quality arts instruction. Our goals pulled from a freshly approved three year Strategic Plan, tied closely to grant-driven initiatives.

Now, as we close the fiscal year, what has transpired these past six months — sickness, job losses, and national disagreement — has created a greater sense of urgency to our work. Our country is fractured and conflicted as we question priorities around healthcare, jobs and education. Our individuality has been rattled as we experience various degrees of isolation and fatigue of everything 'remote'.

For me, the urgency at hand is to provide students and families the knowledge and tools to use the full potential of the arts to create strong learners, leaders and innovators; at the same time, we aspire to create a fuller understanding of the arts as a path for not only self-fulfillment, but for constructive community change and dialogue. Within the disruptions, coupled with this sense of urgency, we have remained grounded because of your support. Your care and generosity has been with us, if not in-person, certainly in spirit.

We've also been reminded this year, by parents and many in the larger community, that the arts and music can be a powerful ally for maintaining mental health. Music allows us to explore, to process, to express and interpret ideas and emotions around norms, old and new traditions, *and* the unexpected.

So here we are! Four seemingly disparate nouns: Civility, change, mental health, beauty. Except, through the complexities of music (and the arts), interconnections abound. Your giving brings this interconnected power of music into the lives of individual students. Your giving has provided the anchor that has allowed us to stand tall and firmly during our FY20. ***Most importantly, your giving has allowed the beauty of music to play on throughout the past year, at a time when we needed the beauty of music in every way.*** Thank you.

Sincerely,



Executive Director



New Program Spotlight

Music Safari: Beginning Keyboard

GRANTS AND GIFTS PROVIDE THE FLEXIBILITY & RISK-TAKING
NEEDED FOR CHANGE

In spring 2019, Pakachoag Music School was thrilled to receive a Creative Engagement grant underwritten by the Greater Worcester Community Foundation (GWCF) in partnership with the Boston-based Barr Foundation. Our work related to that grant kicked off at the beginning of this past fiscal year, September 2019.

In late fall 2019, we received a new grant from The Klarman Family Foundation through its Music Pathways for Youth portfolio to similarly support the mission and organizational goals of the School as it seeks to build capacity, expand community engagement and increase organizational diversity.

One step toward achieving these goals is testing out new programs that respond to different interests and which offer an easier entry point into the School's more structured Private Lesson program. Our new Music Safari Keyboard class was a test run.

We are really happy to report that the program has proved popular, educationally strong, and fun! Close to 70% of last year's participants are back for a second year (albeit remotely). One student has rotated into private lessons to date.

Sarah Okerlund, who joined our faculty specifically to teach these classes, holds bachelor's and master's degrees in music education from Oberlin College Conservatory.

Music Safari introduces students to the keyboard, develops basic musicianship skills, and uses music exploration as part of learning.

Grantors FY20

Thank you.

This year has been a record year of support from both local and regional foundations. We appreciate your investment in the School, including special assistance provided during the pandemic.

FY20 Grantors

Greater Worcester Community
Foundation *Creative Engagement
Program, in Partnership with the
Barr Foundation*

The Worcester Together Fund, a
*partnership of GWCF and the
United Way of Central MA*

The Klarman Family Foundation
Massachusetts Cultural Council
United Way of Central MA

The Ruth H. & Warren A.
Ellsworth Foundation

The George F. & Sybil H.
Fuller Foundation

DCU for Kids

Hoche-Scofield Foundation,
Bank of America, N.A., Trustee

The Fred Harris Daniels Foundation

Ramsey McCluskey Family Foundation

The Schwartz Charitable Foundation

Student Voices

“

Dear Sarah, Thank you for giving me the opportunity to join music school. I appreciate what you've done for me to get into the program. I never knew that I would have the opportunity you gave me to join music school. Since I started taking the class, I have learned a lot that I never knew I can keep in my head. Thank you once again and may your kind heart help others. God bless you!”

ACE Music Student

While this note is written to me, it is really a note written to you. Your kind heart and donations to Pakachoag help students of all backgrounds to learn to sing, to read music, to play an instrument and much more. Thank you.

Partner Spotlight

African Community Education (ACE)

In 2019, we made friends with the ACE program which provides after-school programs in the basement at All Saints, two floors below us. ACE staff introduced us to students anxious to learn an instrument. We revised our financial aid forms to include partner referrals, recognizing that many of the parents of ACE students are new to the English language, to forms and payment plans.

In December, Pakachoag students played holiday music for the ACE students, and in January, School faculty visited the Saturday ACE program to introduce more students and parents to the School.

ACE Program Director Lauren shared in Fall of 2019: “Dear Sarah and the Pakachoag Music School, thank you from the bottom of our hearts @ ACE. The opportunity that you’ve provided us has been truly gracious and inspiring. The students always seem to leave their lessons on top of the world, and they look forward to Tuesdays for sure. We hope to continue this partnership well into the future. Sincerely Yours, Lauren at ACE.”

We’re on hold (because of COVID-19) but we have many more dreams for how we can do more in the future.

Thank you for helping make the ACE partnership (Year 1) possible.

Photo Right: Ephraim, ACE Guitar Student of Michael Stubblefield

Weekly lessons coordinated with African Community Education in the 2019-2020 school year introduced high school students to the challenge and discipline of private lessons.

Faculty Member Michael Stubblefield teaches guitar to an ACE student as part of a new organizational partnership.



Community Engagement

MLK JR. CITY-WIDE BREAKFAST

Sharing student music, Monday, January 18, 2020



Demographic Trends

Since investing in a part-time Program Director in 2018, the School is better positioned to give time and attention to big-picture planning. By tracking specific data, we can track our progress in meeting our strategic plan goals.

Three Year Trends for Cities/Towns Served: Top Five by Overall Enrollment					
FY20 45 Towns Served		FY19 55 Towns Served		FY18 (Pre-Move) 55 Towns Served	
Worcester	26%	Worcester	20%	Worcester	17%
Auburn	12%	Auburn	12%	Auburn	14%
Shrewsbury	8%	Shrewsbury	7%	Shrewsbury	7%
Holden	5%	Holden	5%	Sterling	5%
Sterling	5%	Sterling	5%	Charlton	} 4%
				Holden	
				Millbury	

FY20 Race / Ethnicity: How Pakachoag Students Identify?			
	All Enrollees	Private Lessons	City of Worcester
African /African American	6%	11%	12%
Asian / Asian American	6%	13%	8%
Hispanic	3%	6%	20%
Two or More Races	12%	12%	4%
Other	0.01%	0.01%	1%
Not reporting	23%	2%	0%
White	50%	56%	56%

The Ebinezer family (photo right center) pose for an exciting photo op with Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito and Congressman Jim McGovern following Worcester’s Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast. For the breakfast, piano student Bennett Ebinezer, age 14 from Shrewsbury, played his own improvisations on *Precious Lord*, Martin Luther King Jr’s favorite hymn. Bennett studies with Kristjon Imperio.

Race/Ethnicity:

Benchmarks & What We Know

We estimated in FY19 that 16% of lesson students likely identified as non-white. We set a two year goal, as part of our strategic planning, to move that number to 24%.

We actually hit 27% of families identifying as non-white in FY20 for all enrollees; and 42% among private lesson students (where our growth goals are focused).

Diversity expanded this past year through partnerships and connections made within the local neighborhood.

We’re committed to continuing to create more equal access to high quality music instruction for persons of all backgrounds, all ages and needs.

Program & Enrollment Trends

*360 Individuals Served FY20 vs.
402 in FY19, A 10% Decline*

GRANDPARENTS “TRENDING”

This past year, we saw more grandparents bringing grandchildren to Music Together (MT) classes. The MT curriculum, driven by decades of research, is designed to nurture a lifelong musical bond between parent – or grandparent – and child.

Everyone gets to sing, dance and become musically successful when we make Music Together. Unfortunately, MT is the program that took the biggest hit due to COVID-19. As of year end, MT enrollment was down by 60% over prior year.

COVID-19 DISRUPTIONS

From September to February, Private Lesson enrollment was following an upward curve, signaling we were back-on-track to meeting our *On The Move* growth goals. In March, we pivoted to online learning for all programs. Ninety percent of lesson students continued remotely; but only 50% of MT families chose to enroll for remote spring classes.

On a brighter note, summer lesson income actually doubled over the prior year due to cancelled vacations among both faculty and continuing students. We cancelled all summer group camps and related programs. New student enrollment slowed for both spring and summer presenting additional challenges as we maneuvered through the pandemic.

FY20 Programming

Music Together®

Birth to 7 years old

Suzuki Violin & Cello

Program, ages 4.5 and up

Private Instruction

6 years through retirement

Ensembles

- ◆ Fiddle Band, ad hoc chamber ensembles
- ◆ Orchestra & choir partnerships

Summer Session

- ◆ Lessons Online
- ◆ Early Childhood Music & Movement Samplers, Online
- ◆ Summer Together: Music Together Online

Provided free to Worcester families as part of Summer Together and City of Worcester's Youth Connect, with funding provided by the United Way of Central Massachusetts



Family Notes

“

Music Together provided my grandson so much enjoyment and offered such a nice opportunity to socialize and develop an awareness of music, rhythm and movement.

Our teacher, Linnea, was a terrific facilitator.”

Bob, Grandad
Music Together with
Connor
from Holden, MA

Special Events

December 2019

Student Outreach

Christmas by Candlelight at
Old Sturbridge Village

January 2019

Dreams of Harmony:

Music & Reflections For Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Monday, January 20, 2020

With Faculty

Christon Carney, Tenor
Kristjon Imperio, Piano

And Friends:

The Worcester Children's
Chorus

The All Saints' Choirs

March 2020 CANCELLED

The Night Dance

A Faculty Special Event
With guests the Worcester
County Poetry Society.

We hope to re-schedule the
Night Dance when COVID-19 is
no longer a public health
threat.



Event Sponsors

SECURITY ENGINEERED MACHINERY, WESTBORO

PATTI & PAUL VERDERESE

PRICE CHOPPER'S GOLUB FOUNDATION

Event sponsors make it possible for Pakachoag to connect with the larger community through music.

The cancellation of all spring events, at Pakachoag and every cultural venue in Worcester, left a gaping hole in the life of the community and Pakachoag.

Looking backwards, the pleasure of welcoming over 150 guests to the Martin Luther King Jr. Day program in January stands out as THE unexpected highlight of the year—both in terms of the nature of the event and in stark contrast to what we missed in the absence of community music-making.

The MLK concert was uplifting and inspiring. Our featured faculty member Christon Carney sang a range of selections representing the music of black composers and the stories of black Americans. Choirs sang similarly uplifting selections. Christon closed the program with a powerful performance of *Make Them Hear You* from *Ragtime*, the Broadway Musical.

A successful special event only happens with sponsor support. Success means not only great musicians and music, but the tuning of pianos, volunteers to manage the building during the event, and advance print materials and marketing to make sure people know when and where to find us.

Faculty Spotlight

Christon Carney, our 2020 Special Event soloist, joined the Pakachoag voice faculty in 2019. Christon holds a master's degree in vocal performance and pedagogy from New England Conservatory. He has appeared with the Nashville Symphony, Nashville Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, and Rhode Island Civic Orchestra and Chorale.





ANDY WEIGL
Photography

Harmony Fund Supporters & Grantors

2019-2020

(September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020)

♪5+ consecutive years ♪♪10+ Year Donor ♪♪♪ 20+ Year

Cavatina Society ☀

The Board and Executive Director extend our sincerest thanks to all of our donors. Your support sustains Pakachoag year-to-year.

Visionaries (\$10,000+)

Greater Worcester Community Foundation, in Partnership with The Barr Foundation
The Worcester Together Fund
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,
Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
Susan & John Howland ♪♪♪☀

Kallin & Linda Johnson ♪♪☀
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+)

Jennifer Dowdle ♪☀
Meg & Steven Gallo ☀
Barbara & Donald Groves ♪♪☀
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 ☀

FY20 Goal: \$42,000

FY20 Donor Gifts:
\$44,700

Total Donors: 103

Thank you for supporting the School with a gift to the annual Harmony Fund. Every gift, every dollar makes a difference.

Several donors made second gifts in late spring and summer, understanding the financial ramifications of the pandemic.

At year end, because of your commitment, we exceeded our FY20 goal.

Thank you for your support, especially during this challenging time, as we work through the disruptions triggered by COVID-19.

Photo: Kiki, flute student of Alice Daugherty, warms up prior to a December 2019 Recital. This was Kiki's first recital.

The Annual Harmony Fund: Thank You for Helping Secure The Future.

♪5+ consecutive years ♪♪10+ Year Donor ♪♪♪20+ Year Cavatina Society ☀ page 2 of 2

(Continued from page 15)

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
Erin Simpson
Karen Way ♪

Section Leader (\$100+)

Alden Anderson ♪
Amazon Smile
Janeen & Rex Baker ♪♪♪
Stanley Berman, In Memory of
Dr. Eileen Berman ♪
Joan & John Butterworth Jr. ♪♪
Emrah Cakir, in Honor of Engin
Cakir
Melanie & Donald Donegan
Jeff Dostal ♪
Ann Marie & William Dowdle
Joyce Fuller ♪♪
Ann Gallup
Roger Greene & Jean Kennedy ♪♪
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
Jayna McLaughlin
Sharon McLaughlin
Anne & Pat Morris ♪
Patricia O'Leary
Mary Ann Preskul-Ricca &
Joseph Ricca ♪
Richard Quimby
Debby & Paul Sedgwick ♪
Simon Family Donuts/
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 Acciardo
Anonymous
Richard Aramony
Eleanor Bergquist ♪♪♪
Susan Burak, in Memory of
Doris P. Burak ♪
Ruby & Derek Burke ♪♪
Marilyn Butler
Cristina & Greg Canning ♪♪
Adam Chau & Amleslie Tew ♪
Jane Costello ♪♪♪
Erma & Eddie Doku
Melanie & Donald Donegan

Louise Downie
Maria & Keith Durant
The Eckberg / Johnson / Lundberg
Family
Christopher Ford/
Ford Hometown Services ♪
Judith Freeland, in Memory of
Barry Freeland
Ann Gallup
Myoung Han
Allison Hargreaves &
Derek Henrickson
Maxim & Isabella Korn ♪♪
Pat Knowlton, in Honor of
Leroy Knowlton ♪♪
Heather & Taylor MacFarlane
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

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



Board of Directors

2019-2020

- Kallin Johnson, President
- Randy Bloom
- Emrah Cakir
- Melanie Donegan
- Bruce Foss
- Sharon McLaughlin
- Kristin Morales-Lemieux
- Sonia Paolino
- Brian Perry
- Erin Simpson
- Karen Way

Advisory Board

2019-2020

- Catherine Z. Collins
- Adrien Finlay
- Daniela Fraga
- Meg Gallo
- Barbara Granger
- Paul Jourcin
- Gail Morgan
- Troy Siebels
- Alison Snyder

Photo: A Music Together class in February 2020. Since moving to remote, we still have fun and encourage lots of movement and singing, while teachers Julie Holston & Linnea Lyerly lead parents on screen.

ANDY WEIGEL
Photography

Financials FY2020

FY19 STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES (Post External Review)		
FY19 Income Post-Review	Income	As Percent of Total
Programs (Tuitions and Fees)	\$ 300,204	73%
Grants and Gifts (unrestricted)	\$ 41,404	10%
In-Kind Gifts, Sponsorships, Misc.	\$ 2,940	0.72%
Net Assets (Grants/Gifts) Released From Restriction	\$ 65,910	16%
Total Income:	\$ 410,458	
FY19 Expenses Post-Review		
Expense	Expense	As Percent of Total
Wages & stipends	\$ 268,054	60%
Rent	\$ 39,976	9%
Financial Aid Awarded	\$ 23,734	5%
Licenses, Insurance, Prof. Fees & Similar	\$ 27,076	6%
Depreciation	\$ 49,892	11%
Technology, Marketing & Similar	\$ 39,110	9%
Total Expense:	\$ 447,842	
Net Assets Beginning of Year	\$ 279,429	
Net Assets End of Year	\$ 273,956	
FY19 Change in Net Assets	\$ (5,473)	

FY20 PRE-REVIEW STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES		
FY20 Income Pre-review	Income	As Percent Of Total
Programs	\$ 319,104	69%
Grants & Gifts (Unrestricted)	\$ 109,185	24%
In-Kind, Sponsorships, Misc.	\$ 2,762	0.60%
Net Assets (Grants & Gifts) Released From Restriction	\$ 31,378	7%
Total Income:	\$ 462,429	
FY20 Expenses Pre-Review		
Expense	Expense	As Percent Of Total
Wages & stipends	\$ 290,634	61%
Rent	\$ 36,572	8%
Financial Aid Awarded	\$ 31,456	7%
Licenses, Insurance, Prof. Fees & Similar	\$ 33,116	7%
Depreciation	\$ 46,815	10%
Technology, Marketing, & Similar	\$ 40,647	8%
Total Expense:	\$ 479,240	
Net Assets Beginning of Year	\$ 273,956	
Net Assets End of Year - Estimated	\$ 257,145	
FY19 Change in Net Assets	\$ (16,811)	

Summary Financial Position

	FY18	FY19	FY20 <i>Pre-Review</i>
Assets			
Current Assets	\$ 290,803	\$ 237,885	\$ 310,577
Fixed Assets	\$ 62,466	\$ 105,104	\$ 65,631
Total Assets	\$ 353,269	\$ 342,989	\$ 376,208
Liabilities and Net Assets			
Current Liabilities	\$ 73,840	\$ 69,033	\$ 62,651
Long-Term Liabilities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 56,210
Net Assets -Unrestricted	\$ 258,522	\$ 221,138	\$ 230,529
Net Assets - Temporarily Restricted	\$ 20,907	\$ 52,818	\$ 26,818
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 353,269	\$ 342,989	\$ 376,208

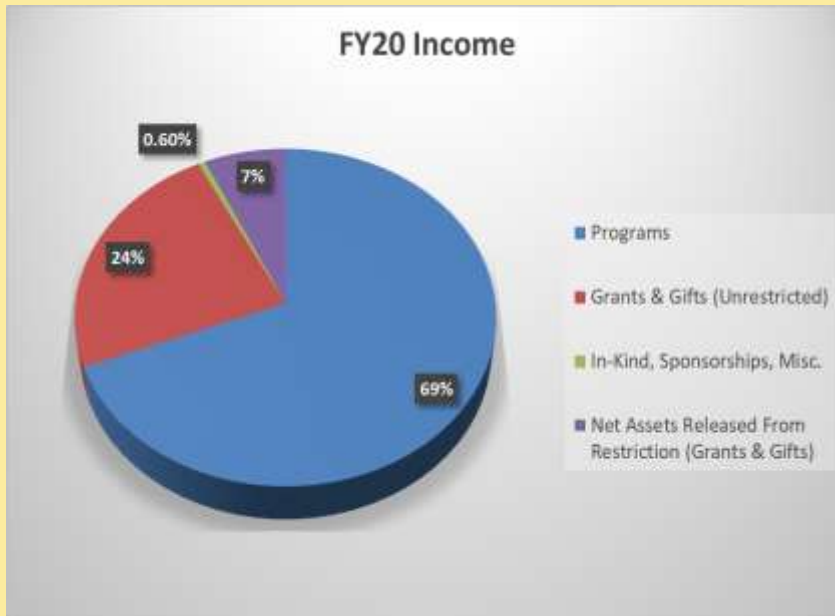
Fiscal Year 20 COVID-19 Impact

The FY20 budget was the second year of a three-year budget plan to grow in order to adjust to the obligations of a new home.

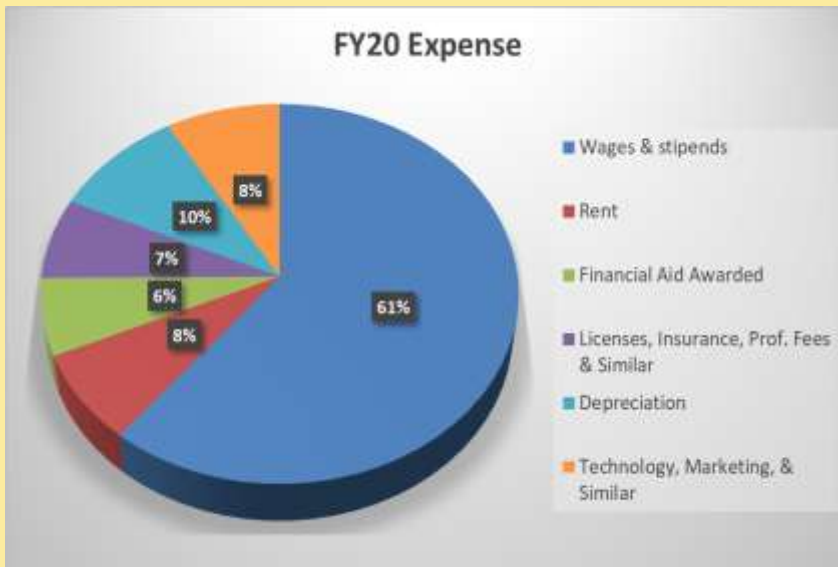
While we had already planned to pull from reserves, COVID-19 threw a wrench into the works. Cultural organizations have faced a myriad of challenges; for Pakachoag, primarily in the form of revenue losses from lost enrollments.

Generous grantors and donors cushioned the impact. Greater Worcester Community Foundation's Worcester Together Fund, managed in partnership with the United Way, played a significant role in minimizing losses. Several individual contributors made 2nd gifts during the summer months to help. A PPP Loan, if successfully converted to grant support in FY21, will further assist our recovery.

Thank you for assisting us in slowing the draw from cash reserves. We remain strong because of your support.



Financial Aid Awarded \$ 31,456 31% increase over prior year





ANDY WEIGL
Photography

The Verderese Volunteer of the Year

Brian Perry, Retired Banker; Board Treasurer

Brian Perry embraced the Pakachoag mission five years ago, overseeing us, financially, through our move and now through COVID-19.

Brian loves to tell the story of how I cornered him his first week of lessons to ask him if he might consider getting involved as a volunteer. That's because when Brian called to inquire about lessons, he mentioned he was retiring after a lifetime career in banking, and he wanted to learn to play the fiddle. On January 4th, 2016 one week post retirement, Brian arrived for his first lesson.

Knowing we could use assistance from someone who can read financial statements, yes, I cornered Brian to volunteer and he gratefully agreed. Beyond serving as Treasurer, Brian spent many hours assisting with our search for a new home, calling realtors, connecting with local business leaders, attending space meetings, and managing financial models and projections.

Volunteers make a HUGE difference in the life of non-profits—whether as board member, committee member sharing skills or knowledge, or hands-on in office or at events. Thank you Brian, and all of the volunteers who are furthering the mission and vision of Pakachoag Music School.

The Paul and Patti Verderese Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes individuals who go well beyond “the call of duty” in furthering the School’s mission.

Student Voices

“

My teacher (Ms. Laurie Knorr) is helping me achieve my goal of becoming the best violinist I can be. She helps because we do lots of work on the song that I'm working on. We do exercises to help me prepare for new techniques in the piece as well. Plus I spend a lot of time on the song too. I don't just finish the last phrase of the piece and move on.

Ms. Laurie and I take time to polish the song and practice so I'm prepared for a recital, or to learn a new piece.

Maya, Age 10

Six Year Suzuki Violin
Student of Laurie Knorr
Prior Music Together
Participant

Photo Right: Brian Perry accepts The 2019 Verderese Volunteer of the Year Award at a December student recital with Executive Director Sarah Smongeski looking on. Brian also played a fiddle selection as part of the recital.

Student Voices

“

I can't imagine going through the current pandemic without music. We're shut off from so many experiences -- no concerts at Mechanics Hall, no recitals at Pakachoag, no choral groups to sing with -- that making some kind of music at home has been more important to me than ever. I can't do that in a vacuum: I need the conversations with an (incredibly patient) teacher to help me listen to, think about, and find meaning in the music I'm trying to play.

Neel Smith from Worcester
Student of Janeen Baker
Age Unknown
Piano, 16 years!

Adult Learners

Adult students are a growing population at Pakachoag.

- In FY18, 13% of private lesson students were over the age of 19.
- In FY19, 18%; and
- In FY20, 20%

Some of our adult students tell us they used to play or sing as a child; others are completely new to music. A few have been playing recently and are looking for the next step-up.

Interesting Notes About Adult Learners

Some of the questions we receive from adults asking about lessons include:

- *Is there any instrument that is not appropriate for an adult learner?* No—unless one has a physical impairment which might impact the specific demands of a particular instrument.
- *Can I progress the same as a school-age learner?* That is a complicated question which depends entirely upon the individual. Teaching adults can be challenging. Adult learners often want to know everything at once and have expectations for progressing quickly; vs. school-aged students are used to taking things one step at a time which is really the way it needs to happen.
- *Can I play a Mozart Sonata after one year? I'm just getting started.* Sorry—but probably not! Music lessons work best when approached as a long-term commitment, and some music is a bit more complicated than it may sound or look.

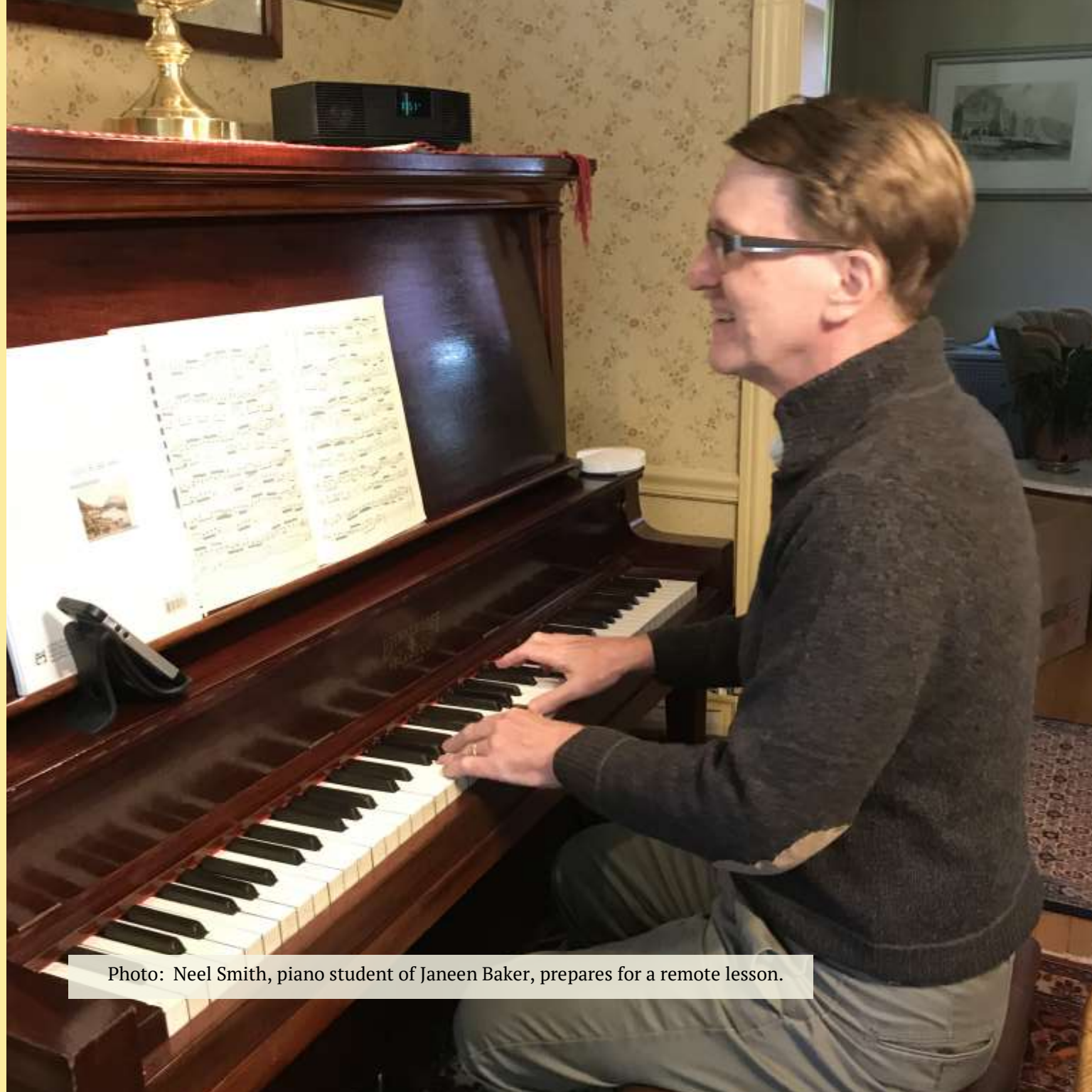


Photo: Neel Smith, piano student of Janeen Baker, prepares for a remote lesson.



PAKACHOAG CONNECT
Online Learning Options

“

I can't stress how important music [lessons / remote learning] has been to our child and family's spirits during this crisis. Thank you to the Pakachoag administration and teachers for their dedication. We love you!"

Jen from Charlton, MA

Connecting In New Ways

Looking Ahead

As we closed the fiscal year in August 2019, we kicked off the new Pakachoag Connect program thanks to seed funding from close friends of the School, including board members.

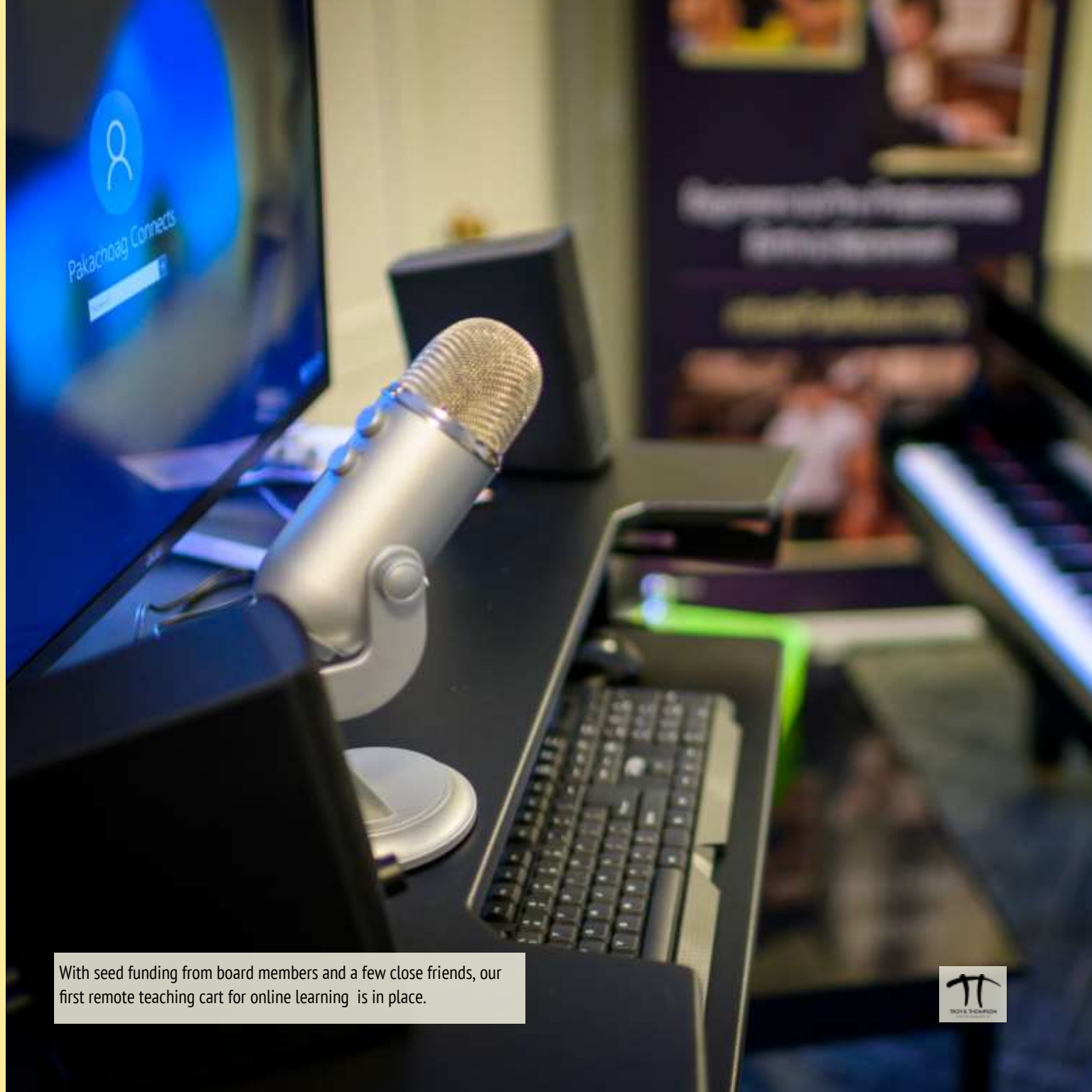
Pakachoag Connect, when fully brought to fruition, will offer online learning options across all program areas, from early childhood to adult—using equipment that provides a strong audio and visual online experience.

Our desire for the long-term is to use Pakachoag Connect to ease access for families and children, especially those who cannot get to the School in-person for a weekly lesson. Families receiving financial aid, who may have limited technology access, would also be supported with technology loans and guidance for home learning. Most will be able to choose a combination of remote and in-person to help balance busy family schedules.

While some programs, like our Fiddle Band ensemble, will revert to fully in-person post-COVID, we will continue to offer remote learning options for lessons and some classes for the long-term.

Our commitment to online learning was actually part of the School's Three Year Strategic Plan, not just a reaction to COVID-19, although COVID prompted us to pull this initiative forward in terms of priority.

Much more remains to be done to bring our vision to full fruition, but we thank individual donors and board members who have provided seed funding to get the program started.



With seed funding from board members and a few close friends, our first remote teaching cart for online learning is in place.





ANDY VICIOLA
Photography

Our Faculty

Janeen Baker, Piano
Marilyn Butler, Violin / Fiddle
Christon Carney, Voice*
Leonardo Ciampa, Piano*
Deb Cole, French Horn*
Colton Ray Cox, Oboe/English Horn
Madalyne Cross, Violin / Viola /
Suzuki Violin
Alice Daugherty, Flute / Fife
Scott Daugherty, Trumpet
Jeff Dostal, Guitar
Emma Gregory, Clarinet / Sax*
Myoung Han, Voice / Piano
Julie Holston, Music Together
Susan Howland, Harp
Kristjon Imperio, Piano
Silvia Irving, Voice
Kamilla Isanbaeva Irving, Piano
Tammy Kaye, Violin/Viola/
Suzuki Program*
Laurie Knorr, Violin / Suzuki Violin

Outreach Programs

Boys and Girls Club of Worcester:
Michael Stubblefield,
Pak@TheClub Guitar Classes
Hanover Theater Conservatory:
Linnea Lyerly, Music Together

Linnea Lyerly, Music Together
Amy Matherly, Suzuki Violin
Inna Muravnik, Piano
William Ness, Organ
Sarah Okerlund, Music Safari *
Ashley Peck, Cello
Sam Politz, Accordion
Sheila Reid, Violin / Viola / Suzuki
Violin
Debby Sedgwick, Piano
David Siegel, Violin
Curtis Smith, Piano*
Sarah Smongeski, Flute / Recorder
Michael Stubblefield,
Guitar / Ukulele*
Luis Torres, Violin*
Usha Verma, Sitar
*New Faculty for 2019-2020

Staff

Sarah Smongeski, *Executive Director*
Kristjon Imperio, *Program Director*
Heather MacFarlane,
Manager of Development
Amy Matherly,
Suzuki Program Coordinator
Chris Wychorski,
Office Manager & Registrar

Student Voices

“

I was very happy to be invited to play in the Worcester Youth Symphony Orchestra. It was totally unexpected but it made me feel so proud and confident. I am the youngest violinist in the orchestra for the 2019-2020 season. I feel good when I play well during a concert/recital. Because I know all my hard work paid off.

Kamden, from Shrewsbury
Eight Year Student of
Amy Matherly
Age 15

This fiscal year, we welcomed a record nine new faculty. While annually one or two faculty typically replace departing faculty, this year new hires were also motivated by efforts to grow while increasing access and diversity.

Photo: December 2019 Student Recital. Recitals are only partly about performance. Much more, they are about community and sharing. Audience is integral to what we do. We're creating new ways to engage using technology, but look forward to returning to recital traditions in the future.



Primary Home:

Worcester

10 IRVING STREET
2ND & 3RD FLOORS
WORCESTER, MA 01609

info@PakMusic.org

Music Together

Worcester, Auburn,
West Boylston (Also lessons),
Sterling, Sturbridge

www.PakMusic.org

Our Mission

*Pakachoag Music School is
dedicated to nurturing musical
journeys that cultivate the
imagination, inspire creativity,
and develop artistry.*

10 Irving Street


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Parking in Rear

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