

Winter 2021

The Tenuto

Noteworthy News at Pakachoag Music School of Greater Worcester

Music Learning Safely & Flexibly

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How Your Support is Playing a Major Scale Role During COVID Disruptions

From Kristjon Imperio,
Director of Programs & Outreach

Thanks to our diligent faculty, evolving technology and financial support of grantors and donors, Pakachoag families remain connected to our School. The immediate utilization of remote instruction in March 2020 allowed the School a year to optimize techniques and platforms.

Programs fielding larger groups such as Music Together, Music Safari: Beginning Keyboard, and the Performance Program are running entirely remote. Private instruction and Suzuki groups range from full in-person, to mixed/hybrid, to fully remote.

(Continued on page 3)

Photo: A Suzuki violin class meets with instructor Laurie Knorr. Additional students tune in, remotely, to participate.

Remote options will improve in coming months as we continue investments in



Pakachoag Connect is Here to Stay



Donors and Grantors Transforming School's Technology to Support Access & Quality Learning

Goal: \$50,000

Raised to Date: \$20,000

Pakachoag Connect offers online learning options across an array of program areas. The end-goal for the program moving forward is to increase access by providing flexibility around transportation and geography for those programs where remote instruction does not interfere with quality teaching and learning.

(Continued on page 6)

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Fun Reflections from Remote Students

We asked a few students how remote lessons were going.

Aiden Doku, Auburn, Piano. Age 8.

Student of Kamilla Isanbaeva Irving.



"When all seems so far apart it is nice to know we have technology to keep our music going, and us more

connected that way.

"Online classes started out feeling as if practicing on my own. While my teacher kept giving me more and more feedback with each bar I was playing, even correcting my posture or fingering, it started feeling like I had someone there next to me listen-

ing and watching me play.

It was good to feel the presence of my teacher more at home with each class."

Avi Pal, Shrewsbury, Piano.

Age 16. Student of Inna Muravnik.

"I was surprised to know that I will still be able to continue my piano lessons online without any interruption. It was a huge benefit for me because besides continuing my lessons, it saved my travel time as well. It gave more flexibility in scheduling the sessions. I am able

to progress well and also prepare for my recitals. I did not have any major problem doing remote lessons."



Kiley Kruger, Sterling, Flute.

Age 10. Student of Sarah Smongeski

"I was so surprised that even over Zoom, I am able to do duets with my instructor. That is one of my favorite parts of lessons. I also

couldn't believe that my teacher can tell if I am playing the correct note, even over the computer, which really impressed me!



"My favorite remote lesson was Lesson 11: Eighth Notes on January 6th. We played Yankee Doodle at many different speeds. First we played it with eighth notes, then with quarter notes, and then *really* fast! I loved how different the song sounded at each speed and it was really fun to play so fast."



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kallin Johnson,

Randy Bloom Emrah Cakir

Bruce Foss

Sonia Paulino

Erin Simpson

Dr. Karen Way

ADVISORY BOARD

Daniella Alvarez

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Brian Perry Vidya Sambasivan

Melanie Donegan

Sharon McLaughlin

Kristin Morales-Lemieux

President

New board member Vidya Sambasivan is helping develop the School's marketing efforts while bringing the important "parent perspective" to our decision-making.

Meet Vidya Sambasivan, New Board Member

Pakachoag Parent, Engineering Manager

We are happy to welcome Vidya Sambasivan as our most recent board member. Vidya has been associated with Pakachoag since 2015 when her eldest daughter enrolled for violin lessons. A second daughter is also now

studying flute.

Vidya holds an ALM in
Administration & Management
from Harvard University's
Extension Division, an MS in
Computer Software Engineering
and Bachelor's degree in Computer
Engineering from the University of
Madras.

Vidya first became involved as a Pakachoag volunteer as member of our Marketing Committee.

Varying perspectives, including parent perspectives, are an important part of board membership. We appreciate Vidya's desire to further the Pakachoag mission.

Learning Safely (Cover Story Cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

One of the marks of successful learning is consistency of application. Remote learning has facilitated this beyond the scope of our envisioning. Onsite teachers and students are able to hold lessons with near perfect weekly attendance as virtual platforms serve as a stand-in for the occasional restrictions, such as travel, weather or sickness, that might otherwise require absence. Our fully remote studios are continuing to progress as this online learning option serves as a

seamless bridge for when inperson activities resume in full.

Most unique to this year is the fielding of inquiries and the enrollment of new students who are interested in remote-only instruction. We have introduced virtual meet-and-greets with faculty which are allowing student and families to connect with our faculty before a first lesson. We've also created a collection of user guides for virtual learning as well as offering technical support for families in need.

The flexibility of remote instruction has proven to support connection between our teachers and students of every age—from our toddlers enrolled in Music Together classes to adults taking lessons. While we hope for the return of onsite instruction very soon, virtual learning will remain an important part of our curricula in the years to come.

Thank you for your keeping the music playing, especially during this challenging time.



Partner Corner: Worcester Children's Chorus

WCC Students Part of Composer Commission Project

This spring, the singers from Worcester Children's Chorus will be collaborating with singers from Assumption University, under the direction of Brad Dumont, to commission a new piece from composer Grace Brigham. Singers will have the opportunity to talk with Grace over zoom and be a part of the compositional process.

We are very excited about this project. The premiere of Ms. Brigham's choral work is anticipated later this spring.

On a Saturday morning in October, WCC singers joined forces with Handel and Haydn and the H&H Youth Chorus, under the direction of Jennifer Kane. Together we worked on Handel's beloved aria, Where'er You Walk, from the opera Semele. H&H professionals provided coaching and we learned

about the history of the piece from a resident musicologist. WCC singers submitted individual recordings of the piece, to be synced together for a final project.

Did you know? DISCOUNTS Available

WCC and Pakachoag students can qualify for discounts when enrolling in both organizations. Contact Chris@pakmusic.org for more information.

Continuing This Winter/Spring

Opportunities for student performance continue with remote performance classes streamed for families and friends on Monday evenings running January to May.

Most videos are posted as private. If you would like to tune in, please email info@pakmusic.org

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When Grantors Invest....

...We Can Hear (and See) Good Things Happening

Since moving to Worcester, the School has received additional funding for efforts to reach more students in need and to pursue new ways to ease access to high quality music education for families in and around Worcester.

These investments have significantly extended our capacity around planning and building relationships. The outcomes of our work are only just beginning to be seen. COVID-19 did throw a wrench in the works, and financial challenges will continue for several years to come, but we're on our feet and moving forward.

What we chose NOT to do during COVID-19 was to cut staff. We know we cannot meet our strategic planning goals if we make cuts. That decision was made easier due to the generosity of

RECENT GRANTORS

Capacity Building, Community Engagement and Related Unrestricted Support

Greater Worcester Community
Foundation, in partnership with
The Barr Foundation
The Klarman Family Foundation
Massachusetts Cultural Council

funders this past year.

Linked to our capacity building work, four new funders have joined in supporting financial aid and outreach which also means no cuts to that program and outreach.

The strides that we are making are only the beginning. We have many more dreams for how we can make music a bigger part of the Greater Worcester community, for every person of every age and any background.

Financial Aid & Outreach

Hoche-Scofield Foundation,
Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
DCU for Kids
The Ruth H. and Warren A.
Ellsworth Foundation
Ramsey McCluskey Family
Foundation
The George F. &
Sybil H. Fuller Foundation
The Fred Harris Daniels
Foundation
The Schwartz Charitable Trust
United Way of Central MA
Webster Five Foundation

COVID Relief

The Worcester Together Fund, a Partnership of GWCF and UnitedWay of Central MA

Technology Transformation (to date)

The Arthur M. and Martha R.
Pappas Foundation
The Stoddard Charitable
Foundation



Paul Jourcin

In Memory: Board Members & Long-Supporting Friends

With sadness, we observed the passing of two board members this past fall. Paul Jourcin died on a morning walk in October. Paul loved to attend recitals and to see students improving and growing.

Prior to retirement, Paul taught French at St. John's High School and served as Director of Admissions at Venerini Academy. Thank you, Paul, for supporting our mission. The music plays on, in part, because of your support.

Gary MacConnell, Board Member 1995-2000

In November,, Gary MacConnell died at home, aged 85. Gary worked for 40 years at Paul Revere Life Insurance, retiring as Vice President and CIO.

Can Beginners Take Lessons During COVID?

Enrolling as a beginner is tricky during the pandemic. Success for in-person or remote, depends on instrument, age, and background.

String instruments are particularly difficult to teach remotely or at a distance due to the set-up of correct positioning. If someone else

in the family plays already, getting started during the pandemic might be possible.

For other instruments or for voice, the decision to enroll beginners is determined student by student. We have started a few beginning pianists this year, mostly in person, with distancing and safety protocols in place. Remote lessons with a beginning flute student are going well. Two distanced in-person

lessons at the beginning of the year were helpful in addressing blowing and finger positioning before going remote.

New student enrollment is much slower than in prior years. We encourage anyone who has been holding to contact us to talk

through options.

Photo left: Odin works with teacher Leonardo Ciampa for piano lessons. Two HEPA-13 filters run during lesson time and a window is ajar. Keyboards are sanitized after each lesson.





A Thank You to Heather MacFarlane, former Manager of Development

Heather MacFarlane moved on from Pakachoag in September. Heather assisted us with the very important task of keeping donors informed and involved as we planned for, executed and adapted to our move to Worcester. Heather said it best in her departure note: "Pakachoag is truly a special institution and it has been an honor to be a part of the school ... It's hard to believe how far we've come, from our time in Auburn, through the shifting pieces of the move, working

through the build out of Irving
Street (where the whole staff
shared an office!) to the wonderful
space we know today. More than
the space, it's the people-from
students to families but
especially our dedicated volunteers
that are truly the heart of
Pakachoag. I'm so honored to have
shared this time with each of you
and will continue to hold
Pakachoag close to my heart."

Getting to Know Jacob

"My favorite composer is Andrew Lloyd Webber! I only started singing senior year of high school because my school was doing a production of Godspell and needed male singers. It was modest but magic to me.

Since then, the music bug hasn't left me. Working at Pakachoag and hearing lessons through the walls is the perfect marriage of my nonprofit and music interests. I can't wait to meet the students and families that make this possible!"

Welcome Jacob Walz, Admin & Development Assistant

Jacob is assisting with an array of tasks in-office. He is a 2020 graduate of Assumption College where he served as a Chorale member and music librarian.

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Shifting Demographics; Expanding Access

Demographic Shifts Since our Move

Since the School's move to
Worcester in 2018, demographics
for those served with and without
aid are gradually shifting. In 2018,
30% of students receiving tuition
support lived in Worcester. Today,
73% of students receiving support
live in Worcester. In 2018, 54% of
students receiving aid identified as
non-white. Today, 85% of students receiving aid identify as non-

white.

While overall enrollment this year is down 30%, Financial Aid program participation is on-par with last year.

More About Financial Aid

This year, to date, 26 students are receiving financial support for lessons or classes. That includes 6 new students and 20 returning students.

As part of our three year focus on

building community engagement, funded by Greater Worcester Community Foundation in partnership with the Barr Foundation; also with support from The Klarman Family Foundation, we expanded support offered to families this year to include instrument loans, music, and technology, if/when needed.

Technology Transformation Project

Thank you to the following grantors and donors who have helped kick-start investments in technology for teaching, learning and administrative support.

The Stoddard
Charitable Trust
Alison Snyder & Don Allison
Jane & Dennis Neslusan
Board Members:

Randy Bloom
Emrah Cakir
Melanie Donegan
Bruce Foss
Kallin Johnson
Sharon McLaughlin
Kristin Morales-Lemieux
Sonia Paulino
Erin Simpson
Karen Way

If you would like more information about the Technology Transformation project, including sponsorship and funding options, please email Sarah@pakmusic.org.

Transforming Technology & Learning (cont'd from Cover)



The technology transformation project includes investments in on -site video, audio and software, and will provide off-site equipment loans for teachers and families with limited income when remote or hybrid teaching/learning is needed.

For the future, technology means families with transportation or health challenges can potentially sign up for lessons remotely, with on-site activity planned less frequently.

Online learning can be fatiguing; except music lessons and classes

are interactive, one-on-one, which makes the experience different than traditional classroom instruction.

Although we announced
Pakachoag Connect in Summer
2020, using technology for
education was actually already on
our roster of strategic initiatives
before we had any idea we'd be
faced with the pandemic. In March
2020, we flipped priorities, and got
to work on specific plans. Many
thanks to everyone who has
provided support in getting the
technology transformation project

up and running. That has included board member volunteers lending technical expertise and seed funding to help guide the plan and budget; and advice offered by The MacPhail Center for Music in Minneapolis with 9 years of experience in providing remote instruction.

The donors and grantors providing funding to move this technology transformation forward are a critical part of bringing our vision to fruition. Thank you.

Senior Student Accepted for All Eastern

All Eastern, All State, Districts

Congratulations to two students who auditioned this year for non-traditional District and All State festivals.

Mai Caslowitz (Gr. 12; Sturbridge) [Silvia Irving] was accepted into the All Eastern Honors Choir this year. Mai was also accepted by audition into Central Districts and All State.

All Eastern is a special privilege, drawing students from seven states across the Northeast US.

Ksheeraja Ramanujam (Gr. 11, Shrewsbury) [Amy Matherly] was accepted into the Central District Orchestra.

[] = Teacher

Spring Graduates

Congratulations to our high school graduates. We are going to miss you, especially in the absence of being together this year.

Mai Caslowitz, Voice. Student of Silvia Irving. Sturbridge

Lauren Engquist, Pipe Organ (previously piano too). Student of William Ness. Worcester

Lily Engquist, Piano. Student of Inna Muravnik, Worcester

Serena Veilleux, Cello. Student of Elizabeth Vysin. Charlton

Five/Ten Year Milestones: Congratulations!

As we approach our spring season, we traditionally recognize our five and ten year students with certificates presented at recitals. Last year, we missed doing that! We are listing here last year's recipients and this year's recipients.

SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS to all of these students who have

of these students who have worked very hard to keep their learning going during this year of disruptions.

Spring 2020

[] = Teacher

Eowyn Bach, Piano. [Inna Muravnik] Paxton Cayleigh Burke, Violin. [Madalyne Cross] Auburn Arden Crowley, Violin. [Madalyne Cross] Sterling

Bennett Ebinezer, Piano. [Kristjon Imperio] Shrewsbury

Kenneth Ebinezer, Piano. [Kristjon Imperio] Shrewsbury

John Gavin, Piano. [Inna Muravnik] Worcester (adult)

Brian Perry, Fiddle. [Amy Matherly] Webster (adult)

Kemuel Silva, Piano [Debby Sedgwick] Worcester

Sadie Smith, Violin [Amy Matherly] Ashburnham

Allison Sobiech, Violin [Amy Matherly] Shrewsbury Varsha Swaminathan, Violin

[Madalyne Cross] Shrewsbury

Spring 2021

Graciella Baublitz, Violin [Amy Matherly] Thompson, CT

Gwen Crowley, Violin [Madalyne Cross] Sterling

Sohani Curtis, Violin [Amy

Matherly] Shrewsbury **Clara Dowdle,** Violin [Laurie Knorr]

Charlton

Patrick Finan Violin [David Signal]

Patrick Finan, Violin [David Siegel]

Abraham Kawai, Voice/Piano. [Silvia Irving/Debby Sedgwick] Worcester

Madison Lee, Piano [Debby Sedgwick] Worcester

Ainsley MacDonald, Flute [Alice Daugherty] Worcester

Eric Malkowski, Guitar [Jeff Dostal] Worcester

Justin Nazaire, Piano [Leonardo Ciampa] Southbridge

Joshua Silva, Piano [Debby Sedgwick] Worcester

10 Year Milestones!

Spring 2020

Claire Kelleher, Piano [Debby Sedgwick] Auburn

Spring 2021

Eva Knorr, Violin

[Amy Matherly] Boylston

Sophia Maloney, Voice/

Guitar

[Silvia Irving/Jeff Dostal]

Sutton

Colin Rzeznik, Piano

[Debby Sedgwick]

Shrewsbury

Henry Wang, Violin

[Amy Matherly] Auburn.

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Black Excellence Academy Makes Music with Pakachoag

New After-School Program Linking Excellence with Music

We're excited to be able to offer music classes starting this winter and spring, remotely, for the Black Excellence Academy (BEA). BEA is a new after-school program. Through music, the program will encourage students to explore musical expression as a deeply rooted element of Black excellence.

The Academy is a pilot-project for out-of-school educational and cultural enrichment designed by Black educators for students in Grades 1 to 6. Thirty-seven students are currently enrolled.

Chris Carney, Pakachoag voice faculty, will visit by zoom on Friday afternoons. He'll be working, in part, to inspire students through the music of Black jazz musicians, creators of the first "original" American music. The program is

free to families. The music classes are being funded by BEA and Pakachoag as part of our outreach/ financial aid budget.



Gifts to the Annual Harmony Fund are welcome at any time.

You can make a gift online at www.pakmusic.org > support-pakachoaq

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 can now also set up for automatic monthly ACH donations.

Introducing 21 Ways to Harmony in 2021

Upcoming

February, 27th 6:30 pm From Music Lessons to Life in the Sciences: Parallels Beyond the Studio

- ~ Special Guest: Music school alumna Julia Nguyen, Ph.D., Chemistry, visiting from Seattle, Washington.
- ~ Filipino inspired music with Alice Daugherty, Flute; Kristjon Imperio, Piano

March 17, 6:30 Chasing Dreams to American Shores

- ~ Special guest: Worcester poet Curt G. Curtin
- ~ Featuring Irish Fiddle Music with Pakachoag faculty and students.

Join Pakachoag Music School via YouTube for 21 Ways to Harmony, a set of seven conversations accompanied by music, airing throughout 2021.

During a difficult 2020, where conflict surfaced all around us – locally and nationally – the School began to receive a different kind of feedback from parents and adult students about the importance of music-making in life and, in particular, for mental health.

The repeated thanks and appreciation coming from School families around the importance of music stood in deep contrast to the divisiveness that was going on externally.

Conversations host and Pakachoag Program Director Kristjon Imperio writes: "In conversations amongst our staff and board members surrounding the challenges in our community and nation, we realize that these common 'music messages' stand as lasting principles, extending beyond popular and passing narratives."

Each conversation will include a special guest and theme. Kristjon Imperio, host, plan to peel away layers of stereotypes, differences, and structures, using the framework of music to inform our understanding of cultural commonality.

Check our News & Events page on the website for updates of upcoming conversations running every 6 to 8 weeks through December 2021.



FY21 Harmony Fund - September 2020 to August 2021 (as of 2/10/2021)

THANK YOU for Standing With Us During COVID-19 FY21 Goal: \$44,000.

\$ 5+ consecutive years

\$\$10+ Years

SSS 20+ Years

SSSS 30+ Years

Cavatina Society 🜣

Visionaries (\$10,000+)

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

Maestros (\$5,000+)

Massachusetts Cultural Council Alison Snyder & Donald Allison ☼ The Arthur M. & Martha R. Pappas Foundation

Martha R. Pappas Foundation The Stoddard Charitable Trust

Composer (\$2,500+)

Catherine & J Christopher Collins \(\mathfrak{N} \) \(\Delta \)
DCU for Kids
Hoche-Sofield Foundation,
Bank of America N.A., Trustee
The Ruth H. and Warren A.
Ellsworth Foundation

Conductor (\$1,000+)

Soloist (\$500+)

Randolph & Edla Ann Bloom ☼ James & Josephine Castano ♪ ☆ Tom and Barb Ingrassia \(\mathbb{I} \) \(\parple \)
Julie & Andrew Kelleher \(\mathbb{I} \) \(\parple \)
Gail Morgan &
Bernard Lempicki\(\mathbb{I} \) \(\parple \)
Dr. & Mrs. John Paul &
Beth Verderese \(\mathbb{I} \) \(\parple \)
Crystal Jiang & Yong Wang \(\mathbb{I} \) \(\parple \)

Concert Master (\$250+)

Emrah Cakir
Roger Greene II
Barbara & Donald Groves II
Catherine & Daniel Ivascyn
Patricia O'Leary I
John & Gail Lefferts III
In Memory of
Leonard McLaughlin
Rosemary Metcalf
Edward Smongeski &
Mary Rocheleau
Dr. Karen Way I

Section Leader (\$100+)

Diane Aramony Janeen & Rex Baker JJJJ 🌣 Joyce Fuller 🖍 In Memory of Antoinette Giannini Carol Stewart-Grinkis. In Honor of Betty Stewart Silvia & Donald Irving IIII John Verderese & Susan Kendall Ryan Kittredge ↓ Michele & Joe Lyons ♪ Heather & Taylor MacFarlane ♪ Jennifer & Ryan Maloney Amy Matherly Debby & Paul Sedgwick ♪ Brvan & Mary Anne Slack ▮▮▮ 🌣 Lincoln & Robin Spaulding Rick Quimby

Harmony Fund Gifts & Pledges

To Date: \$36,149

Goal: \$44,000

82% raised. 18% to go. Can you help?

Every gift counts! Thank you!

Betsy & Jack Wertheimer Susan Wobst ♪ Vicki & Charles Zelnick

Friends (Up to \$100)

Linda L. Acciardo Christian & Melissa Adamiak Amazon Smile Foundation Alden Anderson JJ Nancy Avila \$\$ Durant's Appliance Service Eleanor Bergquist JJJJ 🌣 Susan Burak, In Memory of Doris P. Burak J Cristina and Greg Canning Kim Ciborowski Jane Costello ▮▮▮\$ Melanie Donegan Maria & Keith Durant Nikki Erskine Marjorie & John Farr Dorothy & Donald Favreau 🎵 Marcos & Devin Gouvea Melodie Hanks 🎜 Julie Holston N Pat Knowlton, In Memory of Leeroy Knowlton ♪♪ Judith A. Freelander, In Memory of Barry Freelander J Janice A. Gallo SS Ann Gallup

Mary Ann Preskul-Ricca & Joseph Ricca ♪ Tom & Pam Johnson ♪♪ Dr. Leah Zelnick & Ryan Lauria J Sarah Libby Anne & Pat Morris ♪♪ Ron & Mary Plutnicki, In Honor of Janet Carvelli ♪♪ Marion Rabinowitz Barbara & John Ramian, In Memory of Frank and Betty Kalones 🎵 Ruth Russo, In memory of Al Russo **Ryan Saunders** Sharon Shepard Candace and D. Neel Smith JJ LeighAnn Soucy Louise & Salvatore Ventriglia 🎵 Harry Woodell

Chris Wychorski

We've made our best effort to include all of our donors as of 2/10/2020. If we missed you or have made an error with your listing, please let us know.

The Cavatina Society recognizes donors who give leading gifts of \$500 and above or 25 years (or more) of giving. For more information on giving and membership, please call or e-mail Sarah S., Executive Director, e-mail Sarah@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.





Imagination, Creativity, Artistry

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.

21 Ways to Harmony in 2021

Your Gifts Help Create the Harmony

Join Us As We Challenge You to Think about the Role of Music in Creating Change,

for Life

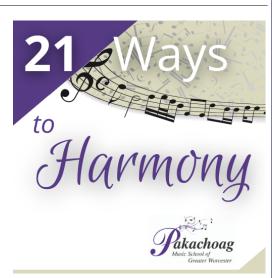
You don't have to be a musician to participate.

Details on Page 6.

Visit us on Facebook or our Website Blog Page and Enjoy Our 2021 Student Spotlights and Faculty Features.

For everyone who gives to Pakachoag,

YOU own our music!



Summer? Watch the website for updates starting in March for summer program plans We plan to offer both in-person and remote options.