

Fall 2022 – Winter 2023

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.

The Tenuto

Noteworthy News at Pakachoag Music School of Greater Worcester

Our Mission: Pakachoag Music School is dedicated to nurturing musical journeys that cultivate the imagination, inspire creativity and develop artistry, for persons of every age and cultural background.

40 Year Anniversary

Adapting, Changing: How Donors Have Paved The Way

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You've Been There, All the Way!

Whether you are new to Pakachoag, a friend of 40 years, or somewhere in between, your support has made 40 possible.

Community schools for the arts only survive for the long-haul with the financial support of friends and the 'moral' support of the larger community. There is no magic wand or silver bullet that makes it otherwise. We've had challenges and a few conflicts in 40 years, but we've also flexed, learned and celebrated successes—always with your

support behind us.

This year, change is again upon us as I announce my retirement from Pakachoag as of summer of 2023. As Executive Director, it has taken me 30 years to feel like I really know what I'm doing! Perhaps that is one reason it feels like time for change.

Please know that the growth, not just in numbers, that you have helped create for Pakachoag, students and community over these forty years is lasting regardless of who occupies the chair of ED.

(Continued on page 7)



Eric from Worcester plays Bach at a December 2022 Recital. This year, recitals are back to regular schedules following two years of disruptions.

Executive Transition Begins

From Barbara Groves, Chair, Executive Search Committee

The search process for a new Director is just beginning. I have been asked to chair the process and am working closely with Tom Ingrassia, board member. Both

Tom and I have served as board Presidents for Pakachoag and have a long time affiliation and dedication to the school. As you would expect, there are many decisions to make at this time such as: members of the search committee, to hire a consulting

firm or not, review the job description, and create a list of qualities desired for the next Director. Our goal is to continue to support and serve the mission of Pakachoag Music School.

(Continued on page 2)



*Returning board member leading the search for a new Executive Director:
Barbara Groves*

ED Search Process Begins (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

I am open to suggestions and comments so please don't hesitate to contact me by email: bgroves2@charter.net. My goal is to keep the community updated and informed about the process. The School has been fortunate to have Sarah's leadership and dedication for

many years so this will not be an easy transition. However, the board is confident that the School will appeal to many seeking leadership of a community music school. Thank you for your continued support and commitment.

Barbara B. Groves
Chair, Search Committee

[Would You Like To Receive E-Mail Newsletters as the Search Process Proceeds?](#)

If you are not on our e-mail list, please feel free to email us at admin@pakmusic.org and we'll sign you up.

40 Years Plays Out, at The Piano

Embracing a Shared Dream, School Friends Are Making 40 Years A Lasting Milestone

In September 2022, we celebrated at Tuckerman Hall and announced our 40th Anniversary GRAND Campaign. The campaign is centered on the purchase of a high-quality Steinway performance piano.

Bowen, piano student of Curtis Smith, plays the Vinton Hall piano currently on loan at our December recital. Bowen says "I'm excited" about the new piano planned.



Thanks to the generosity of many, we are excited to be acquiring later this year a Steinway B. At 6' 11", the piano is an appropriate size for Vinton Hall here at All Saints which accommodates an audience of 75 to 100 guests.

A top-notch piano is the hub of music-making for every musician, student to professional; for singer, instrumentalist and pianist. As we grow musically, students learn subtleties connected to tone, precision in touch, expression, and dynamic control—all made more effective with an excellent instrument. For instrumentalists and vocalists, these same components of good music become a sharing between

the 'collaborative' pianist and soloist. We raise the bar of learning for musician and audience when we aim for the best.

The campaign budget includes additional funds for:

- ◆ Draperies for acoustical improvement & visual enhancement
- ◆ Climate controlled storage case to offset the chills of winter and humidity in summer.
- ◆ Investment funds to generate revenue, making sure we can keep all of the School's pianos healthy and maintain the space in which they are housed.

The 40th Anniversary GRAND Campaign

2022 Through 2023, with Pledges Payable Through 2024

\$50,000 – \$75,000

The Martha R. and Arthur M. Pappas Foundation
Patti and Paul Verderese

\$25,000 – \$49,999

Catherine Z. and J. Christopher Collins
Jane and Dennis Neslusan

\$10,000 - \$24,999

The George F. and
Sybil H. Fuller Foundation
The Stoddard Charitable Trust

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Sarah A. Collins
Barbara Groves,
In Memory of Olliemay W. Burnett
Susan and John Howland
Kallin and Linda Johnson
Brian and Maria Perry

\$5,000 - \$9,999

The Fletcher Foundation
Julie and Andrew Kelleher,
In Honor of Debby Sedgwick & Sarah Smongeski
Alison Snyder and Dr. Donald Allison
Gail Morgan and Bernie Lempicki

\$500 – \$999

Randy and Edla Bloom
Daniel Collins
Marion Nierintz, In Memory of William Nierintz
Marion Nierintz, In Honor of Kristjon Imperio
Anonymous,
In Honor of Sarah Smongeski
In Memory of Georgette C. and Joseph L. Smongeski



Still Time to Participate!

Thank you to all who have participated. If you would like to participate in the Campaign (\$500 and up) or the “Rally for the

Piano” (\$100 to \$500), please email Admin@pakmusic.org for giving links or a gift envelope;

or visit our giving page: Get Involved > Donate Now > Celebrating 40

Additional Campaign Support

Marsha Ballantyne
Jon and Pamela Clark
Penelope Jane Dillon
Murielle Gelin
Joshua Gunaratnam and
Santhini Dheenathayalan

Mary Ann Preskul-Ricca
and Joseph Ricca
Maryanne Hammond
Julianne Hirsh
Patti and Harvey Gould
Paulette and George LaBarre

Rod and Claire Perry
Sarah Smongeski, In Honor
of Flute Teachers Jayna
and Virginia Sindelar
Eleni and John Sgouritsas
Phyllis and Richard Whitten
Susan Wobst/ SWSolutions

**40th
Anniversary
Gala Sponsors
(September 2022)**

The Hanover Insurance Group FOUNDATION™

SEM
Global Leader in High Security Data Destruction

websterfive

Lee JOSEPH
RESULTS THAT MOVE YOU

ROCKLAND TRUST BANK
Where Each Relationship Matters®

Thank you Sponsors for making the 40th Anniversary Gala an event to remember.

Your Gifts Nurturing Young Musicians

London Lojko, Holden, Age 3
Rory Lojko, age 1.8
Music Together, Session # 5
 Teacher: Julie Holston (25 Years)



How have Music Together classes with Pakachoag impacted your music time at home?

“Music Together has introduced my children to so many different types of music that they never would have been exposed to otherwise*,” says mom Kayla. “They are learning the basics of music in a fun and friendly environment and have become very interested in the musical instruments we have around the house.”

**Music Together is a research driven, multi-cultural program that draws on folk music from around the World.*

Do you see your children growing in different ways with music?

“Both of my children are shy, and Music Together has allowed them to come out of their shells. Once Julie brings out the tambourines and drums, they both jump up and are excited to participate.”

Eddy Besse, Leicester, Age 9
Music Safari Keyboard, Year 2
 Teacher: Sarah Okerlund (4 Years)



Has keyboard class influenced how you make music at home?

“I would play keyboard more times at home because of keyboard class.”

What do you like best about your teacher?

“Mrs. Sarah is very nice because she teaches me how to position my hands on the keyboard.”

Allie Sobiech, Shrewsbury, Age 12
 Music Together
Suzuki Violin, Year 8
 Teacher: Amy Matherly (14 years)



Do you have advice for students who might get discouraged?

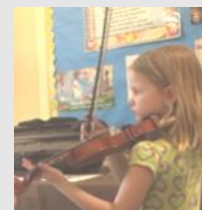
“Keep going! When I started it was always squeaky and even after a couple years I would get frustrated when I messed up. I just recommend to keep practicing and have hope that you’ll do better. If you practice you will get better. I’ve been playing for almost 8 years now and I am playing very advanced songs even though I only started with the twinkles. Have hope that you can do it.”

How do you like being a Pakachoag student, Allie?

Pakachoag has.. “great, devoted teachers and they have programs for young kids so younger kids could start early and really start enjoying and feeling the music early. Everyone at Pakachoag is very kind and the groups are very fun. ...

Pakachoag teachers have made it possible for me to reach my goal and continue my love of playing the violin with the Worcester Youth Orchestras. I am very glad I am part of Pakachoag Music School.”

We are very glad too, Allie!



Allie plays her violin as a beginner

Special Support Prompts New Approaches

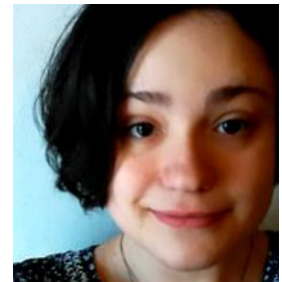
Gifts & Grants Accelerate

New Quinsigamond Youth Theatrical Company

This year's newly framed 'theater with music' class has been facilitated by special arts funding from the Greater Worcester Community Foundation. That support has allowed us to foster new partnerships and build participation in a 'fast-track' financial aid process for students

of the local Quinsigamond Elementary School. Class space is being provided courtesy of Emanuel Lutheran in Quinsigamond Village, with church member Sarahbeth Persianni taking the lead in marketing and facility coordination.

In the fall, we began with 10 students. This January we have a full class of 20, with 50% of students receiving financial aid. Bellalorraine Carey-Hicks is our theater director. Bella has experience in theater education, diversity initiatives, costuming and set design. We now have a teaching assistant in place (see page 13) and some new stage lighting (nothing super sophisticated but needed due to absence of facility lighting). Thank you to all whose investments in Pakachoag have helped us ramp up this class rapidly and successfully.



Bellalorraine Carey-Hicks leads the Quinsigamond Youth Theatrical Company.

Students Lead The Creative 'Process'

Our debut class for Quinsigamond Youth Theatrical Company made their own scenery in November as part of a 'devised' theatrical program in which the teacher works with students to develop a

basic story line, costumes and scenery. As part of the classes, students also learn different approaches for self-expression that include vocal projection, movement and sometimes music.

Team work also comes into play as this photo so nicely depicts. Classes meet at Emanuel Lutheran on Greenwood Street, Worcester on Fridays at 5:00 pm.

Tell Us About Your Child :
"My son loves animals & dreams of becoming a seal trainer when he grows up. He [is] THRILLED to be a part of this incredible [theater] class."

From a mom pursuing Fast-Track Financial Aid for the Quinsigamond Youth Theatrical Company

Summer Session Posted Starting Mid-February

We'll be updating the website soon with our summer session options including:

- ◆ Music & Movement, Birth to Five Yrs
- ◆ Private Lessons, Grades 1+ including Adults
- ◆ Suzuki Violin First Steps
- ◆ Fiddle: Levels I and II
- ◆ Theater Workshops
- ◆ Courtyard Flute Academy: Levels I and II



Stretching with Technology

Technology Transformation Completed

Every week, a teacher or two jumps online during studio time to teach a lesson for an "under-the-weather" student or family having an unexpected transport issue.

A few teachers continue to teach students remotely on a regular basis. All of us shift to remote in bad weather.

Thanks to donors and grantors who supported the technology transformation project begun in 2020, five of six teaching studios now have remote teaching carts.

We're working with two monitors at each desk in office which allows us to manage multiple apps rapidly; and we've been able to purchase some simple but effective theater lighting to illuminate the stage for the Theater class at Emanuel Lutheran.

The recent investments in technology will serve the School for years to come.

Below: Clara, plays a Handel Gavotte during a recital. Clara takes her lessons remotely with Inna Muravnik. **You can hear the piece Clara is playing in the photo on our Facebook page.** While remote cannot replace the in-person experience, you might be surprised how effectively a student can learn with the right student/teacher match.



Above: One of now five remote teaching carts available in studios for teachers to jump on line when needed.



Adapting, Changing: 40 Years (Cover Story Cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

The most visible shifts for the School tie to changes in venue (once while in Auburn) and then in 2018 with the move into Worcester. More impactful for me, however, are the quiet moments along the way hearing students grow in music, all part of the road of learning you have made possible for every person and family touched by Pakachoag.

While we've said sad goodbyes to those who move on, and experienced the loss of friends who are no longer with us, memories, anchored by the mission and vision of the School, endure (and more to be made) thanks to our core donors who comprise the Annual Harmony Fund.

External life, outside the School, has also changed considerably since 1982. Most noticeable for us as teachers is the predominance of two working parents and single parent households, a shift which impacts how we teach and learn. Fewer parents have "free" time to volunteer impacting how our board and committees operate in support of the big picture.

The culture of community has similarly evolved with a local population that is much more diverse. Classical music, recognized as a foundation for learning as well as enjoyment, is no longer forefront in the

US as it was early and mid-20th century. Students now come to music through many different cultural traditions, with popular music permeating daily life.

As a community focused non-profit, we must observe, learn, adapt, and evolve; while holding on to the integrity and traditions of excellence in music, teaching and learning. That task is neither straightforward nor black and white. It is also our job to make sure that your financial gifts have lasting, authentic, and meaningful impact for community, families and students.

I've chosen 2023 as my final year as Executive Director in part because the School is strong and

ready for a next step forward. I'm excited—not for 'retirement', but for the future of Pakachoag. New energy, new ideas, younger perspectives that tie more closely to the life experiences

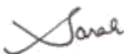
of the community we serve.

I am particularly happy that we are reaching more students of every background through broader offerings and, this year, the new Music Matters program.

40 Years has seen many dreams come to fruition. More is possible, with your support.

Special thanks to our faculty who give much in supporting students and school. AND, Thank you donors. You made 40 "happen".

Sincerely,



Sarah Smongeski
Executive Director

No matter any child's background or needs, music teaches us what can be possible. Music trains our mind how to dig into the details, how to think broadly, creatively and analytically.



Loving music, the flute, students and Pakachoag. Why I Chose This Path

I was the child who sat in the middle school band rarely saying a word; I was the teen who had lots of ups and downs (big swings) academically and socially before college. I had no sense of ability or potential; no sense of success—except when playing the flute.

I am particularly thankful for a few of my early music teachers. One helped pay for flute lessons. We'd been in the country for 3 years so funds were short. Another drove to our home to give me lessons (one car family and a mom who did not drive); and my college teachers supported me in finding "self" through music.

Music lessons foster cognitive - , social- and self-development. (I'm a living example 😊) Music is For Life.+

* I have learned not to hold onto 'failures', but instead consider the blips always as a lesson learned.

+ Thank you Andy Weigl (of Southborough, MBA) former board member, who encouraged us to embrace the 'motif' Music for Life!

Pakachoag Families Rally for the GRAND Piano's Finishing Touches - Thank You!

The Grand Legs (\$150 gift)

Ethan Vo
Evelyn Vo
Evan Vo

The Grand Pedals (\$100)

Debby Sedgwick
Betsy and Jack Wertheimer

The Humidifier System

Janeen Baker

The Black Keys (\$50)

Dahlia Loiselle
In Memory of Lynn Stern
Tina Reid, In Memory of
Service Dog Trixie
Ely Sturgeon
Skye Sturgeon
Nicholas Unkovic
The Pascoal Family
Veronica Woodland
Diego Woodland

The White Keys (\$25)

Cayleigh Burke
Dylan Burke
Andrew Doku
Aiden Doku
In Memory of Service Dog Franklin
Clara Froes
Kristjon Imperio
Deborah Zhang

We're excited about the piano—
thank you for participating!

Seeking Volunteers for BIG Impact



Tom Ingrassia, Chairing Board Governance

As chair of Pakachoag's Governance Committee, I am responsible for ensuring that the School's Board of Directors and working committees are fully staffed. Currently, we are seeking individuals for 2 areas:

The Board of Directors

Do you or someone you know have a passion for the arts? Perhaps experience with nonprofit organizations; and/or expertise in fund development, management, marketing, finance, or law.

Typically, the Board meets on the third Monday every other month, from 6:30 to 8 pm. Board members also are asked to serve on a committee.

If you or someone you know through your personal or professional networks is seeking to make a difference in the life of children and youth while strengthening community, please contact me at ThomasIngrassia@Hotmail.com

Development/Marketing Committee

The Development/Marketing Committee is a lesser commitment but still a place to make a difference. This committee assists the Executive Director in the school's fundraising and marketing efforts. Committee members do not have to be Board members. We generally meet every other month. If you or someone you know in your personal or professional

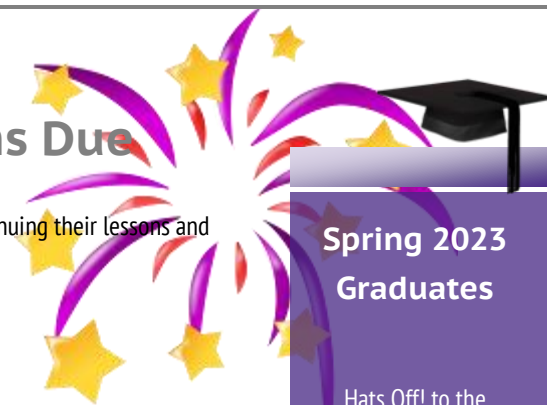
networks with expertise in either development or marketing, please email me at ThomasIngrassia@Hotmail.com

Having served on Pakachoag's Board of Directors from 2009-2015 (including 2 terms as president), and rejoining the Board in 2022, I know how rewarding it is to serve. We truly have the ability to change lives through music. Please consider these two asks, spread the word, and contact me for additional information.

Sincerely,
Tom Ingrassia
Chair, Governance Committee
ThomasIngrassia@Hotmail.com

Extra-Ordinary Congratulations Due

As we emerge from pandemic disruptions, we are thrilled to see and hear students continuing their lessons and moving back into in-person performance classes.



Spring 2023 Graduates

Hats Off! to the following students who have continued to keep music a priority as they push toward high school graduation.

Shea Kobel, Auburn,
Piano [Debby Sedgwick]

Willa Cottrell, Sterling,
Violin [Marilyn Butler]

Colin Rzeznik,
Shrewsbury, Piano
[Debby Sedgwick]



Five & Ten Year Milestones: Congratulations!

[] = Teacher

The following students will receive Five and Ten Year Milestone certificates this spring. These awards recognize the commitment required in becoming a musician. Congratulations students! Thank you teachers for your commitment to inspiring and supporting.

Ten Year Milestone Certificates

Mia Carl, Violin, Shrewsbury [Amy Matherly]

Eva Knorr, Boylston, was acknowledged in 2022 for 10 years (we missed including Eva in our news listing here).

High School Central Districts

Congratulations to.....

Sophia Jordan (Princeton), Voice, [Silvia Irving], has been accepted into Central District and All State Festival Chorus.

Askhaya Pugazendhi (Northboro) and **Varsha Swaminathan, Violin** (Shrewsbury) [Amy Matherly], were accepted into Central District Festival Orchestra.

Five Year Milestone Certificates

Aaron Abilhomme, Piano, Worcester [Kamila Irving]

Brynn Cranson, Sterling, Violin [Amy Matherly]

Messiah Jones, Webster, Piano [Curtis Smith]

Kaitlyn Kawai, Worcester, Piano [Debby Sedgwick]

Akhaya Pugazendhi, Northborough, Violin [Amy Matherly]

Jozef Sobiech, Shrewsbury, Violin [Laurie Knorr]

Jayla St. Clair, Auburn, Violin [David Siegel]

Skye Sturgeon, Brimfield, Violin [Amy Matherly]

Patrick Sturrock, Holden, Violin [Marilyn Butler]

William Sturrock, Holden, Guitar [Michael Stubblefield]

Kiki Swaminathan, Flute, Shrewsbury [Alice Daugherty]

Vibhashini Vidyaprakash, Violin, Shrewsbury [Amy Matherly]

Betsy Wertheimer, Worcester, Flute [Sarah Smongeski]

2022 Graduates Update

Seth Boudreau is attending Worcester State University for computer science.

Claire Kelleher is attending the Colorado School of Mines majoring in Mechanical Engineering.

Declan O'Connor is attending Middlebury College.

Misael Patrocino is taking a gap year and pursuing interests in videography.

Ethan Kowal is attending Drexel U., Philadelphia, majoring in Music Industry with a concentration in recording arts and music production.

Sophia Maloney is attending college in Florida, continuing involvement in theater arts.

Ksheeraja Ramanujam is attending B.U. for Molecular Biology.

Joshua Silva is attending Pensacola Christian College in Florida.

Making Music in Community

Violet Cantrell (Worcester) [Silvia Irving] has been accepted into the **Worcester Children's Chorus**.

Ely Sturgeon (Brimfield), French Horn [Deb Cole] will play with the District 61 Regional Band in April, under the direction of local music educator /WYO coach Lucy Colwell.

Nicholas Unkovic (Westborough) Organ [William Ness], played three pieces in Prelude at Wesley UMC Worcester for a Christmas eve service.

Marilyn Butler, Violin faculty, will lead a SAC Park Scandinavian Folk Musicians group at the New England Folk Festival in April. This year's festival takes place in Marlborough, MA.

New Board Members



Darryl Caffee of Shrewsbury serves as Senior Vice President of Retail Lending at Webster Five. Darryl brings finance and legal skills to his role as Treasurer, beginning September 2022, and chair of the Finance Committee.

lesson parent spanning 2005 to 2018, and previously served on the School's board from 2013 to 2015.

Barbara Groves (photo page 2) has been involved with the School since 1991. Barbara served on the hiring committee in 1992 when Sarah Smongeski was appointed ED. Barbara is a long-time educator. Most recently she served as President for the

Worcester Institute for Senior Education (WISE).

Thomas Ingrassia, (photo page 14) of Holden, is an author, radio personality and motivational speaker

Tom served from 2009-2015 as a board member, including in the role of President. More recently, Tom has been a Music Together "Grandpa" since 2016.



Michele Lyons of Auburn is a clinical psychologist. Michele is a former Music Together and

Board of Directors 2022-2023

Kallin Johnson,
President

Randy Bloom
Darryl Caffee, Esq.
Barbara Groves
Tom Ingrassia
Michele Lyons
Sharon McLaughlin
Sonia Paulino
Tom Porter, CPA
Erin Simpson
Rachel Stringer-Grimsley

Calling All Homeschoolers

Thanks to a special donor initiative, we have funds available specifically to support homeschooled families. This includes lessons and classroom learning options, with homework space available for families / siblings.

Please contact us at Admin@PakMusic.org for more information.



Meet Thuy Tran, Office Manager/Registrar

Thuy Tran joined Pakachoag in July 2022. Thuy is usually available in office between 1:30 and 6:30 pm (sometimes earlier; sometimes later).

When asked what she likes about Pakachoag, Thuy tells me: "Well, it is crazy busy at times, but I

have a strong support system from you and Kristjon. I appreciate the team work a lot. Listening to music coming from the classrooms makes me smile."

We're glad Thuy enjoys the busy-ness and the music!

Thanks for joining the cause, Thuy.



Music Matters Program: New & Growing

Welcoming Every Student; Expanding Access

Thanks to funding from grants and donations, we've doubled the number of students we're reaching through free or reduced cost after-school music instruction.

As the full program takes shape for year two, we have pulled together all access efforts under one umbrella: The *Music Matters* after-school program. In addition to students receiving financial aid for on-site classes and lessons, we're working with partners to reach

students and families who might not otherwise consider out-of-school music learning.

Music Matters is a leap forward for the School, moving from 40 students of low income served in 2019 to 80 to 100 served for the current school year. We're close to securing the full \$60,000 program budget, with two additional requests for support pending as of this newsletter.

Your Harmony Gifts Part of the Equation for Access



Keyboard Geography & Songwriting Class After-School

Our commitment to the *Music Matters* program has only come to fruition thanks to the support of the full Pakachoag community.

The Annual Harmony Fund, combined with unrestricted grant support from the Klarman Family Foundation and Greater Worcester Community Foundation, have brought the program to fruition.

The Elm Park After-School Program is our biggest access investment to date, next to traditional financial aid. This year, students can choose:

- ♥ Hand Drumming
- ♥ Visual Arts
- ♥ Ukulele or
- ♥ Song Writing

Classes are designed with grade levels in mind, spanning grades 1 to 6.

Supporting *Music Matters* (FY23)

To Date:

- ♦ The Albert W. Rice Charitable Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Co-Trustee
- ♦ The George F. and Sybil H. Fuller Foundation
 - ♦ The Greater Worcester Community Foundation
- ♦ The Hoche-Scofield Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Co-Trustee
- ♦ The Robinson Mountain Trust
- ♦ The Ruth H. and Warren A. Ellsworth Foundation
- ♦ United Way of Central Mass.
- ♦ Worcester Arts Council* AND
- ♦ School families via gifts at Registration; and student sponsorships.
- ♦ Donors for The Annual Harmony Fund

*WAC is a local agency, supported by the Mass. Cultural Council, a state agency.

So Many Ways Your Investments Reap Benefits

This year, five of 40 students at Elm Park Community School in Worcester are learning keyboard geography as part of a songwriting class with Pakachoag faculty member Brenda Lau. The class is running for 20 weeks, once-a-

week, after-school. Students are guided in creating lyrics/verses for their song and learn a few basic chord progressions to help put their words to music. This type of learning is both creative and spatial (recognizing and generating

rhythm and pitch patterns). Skills learned strengthen memory and language, and provide a constructive outlet for self-expression .

Our after-school classes at Elm are available for all grades, 1 to 6.

Faculty Honored for 25+ Years of Service



Janeen Baker, piano, was recognized for 34 years of teaching at the 40th Gala.



Silvia Irving, voice, was recognized for 35 years of teaching.

Julie Holston, Music Together, is observing this school year her 25th year of teaching with Pakachoag. Finding Pakachoag first as a parent, then as teacher, Julie has touched thousands of lives sharing the love of music in early childhood. Most of these 25 years, Julie drives each week from Sturbridge to Sterling and in between with guitar and her suitcase of drums, scarves and egg shakers, bringing music close to home.

At the 40th anniversary gala we presented Julie with a music box that plays “I’d Like to Teach the

World To Sing.”

Thank you, Julie, for introducing so many to the joy of music.

Inna Muravnik, piano, was also recognized at the 40th Gala, 3 years late! Inna completed her 25th year of teaching in 2019. Inna, who was trained at Russia’s esteemed St. Petersburg Conservatory, has shared some of the best in Russian pedagogy and technique with a hundred plus students over the years. Inna is demanding of her students. The pay off can be

seen in former students who have gone on to excel. That includes a pediatrician, a lawyer and Rhodes Scholar, a professional pianist, an airplane pilot, a theater professional and teacher, a popular music composer/ performer in LA, a data scientist, currently in Edinburgh, Scotland, to name a few.

Inna was presented with a music box at the Anniversary Gala which plays a Chopin nocturne. Thank you, Inna, for inspiring students to work hard and stretch.



Top, Moving Clockwise: 1) Julie at the 40th Gala reminisces with a former student, and donor Bryan Slack. 2) Inna receives a music box gift from former students, Andrew and Ben Lefferts. 3) Julie teaching in 2005. 4) Inna prepares student Leah for a 2016 recital (Grieg for Four Hands Piano)

Fiscal Year 2023 Harmony Fund THANK YOU for Keeping the Music Playing

♪ 5+ consecutive years ♪♪ 10+ Years ♪♪♪ 15+ Years ♪♪♪♪ 20+ Years ♪♪♪♪♪ 30+ Years as of 1/20/2023

Visionaries (\$10,000+)

Jane and Dennis Neslusan ♪♪♪♪♪
The Greater Worcester
Community Foundation
The Klarman Family Foundation
Mass. Cultural Council
The Rice Charitable Foundation
(Music Matters/MM)
United Way of Central MA (MM)

Maestros (\$5,000+)

Alison Snyder and Donald Allison
♪♪♪♪♪
Patricia and Paul Verderese ♪♪♪♪♪

Composers (\$1,000+)

Linda and Norm Corbin
Diane and David Degon ♪♪♪♪
The George F. & Sybil H. Fuller
Foundation (MM)
The Hoche-Scofield Foundation,
Bank of America, N.A. Co-
trustee (MM)
John Lake, In Memory of
Kathleen Lake
Kristin Morales-Lemieux and
Harry Lemieux
Deb Mudge and Mark Aho
Marion Nierintz
Roderick O'Connor ♪♪♪
The Robinson Family Trust
Vickie and Bob Thebeau ♪♪♪
Worcester Arts Council, a local
agency supported by the Mass.
Cultural Council, a state agency.

Conductors (\$500+)

James and Josephine Castano ♪♪♪
Tom and Barbara Ingrassia ♪♪♪
Crystal Jiang and Yong Wang ♪♪
Gail Morgan and Bernard Lempicki
♪♪♪
Sarah and Joseph G. Smongeski
♪♪♪♪
Dr. John Paul and Beth Verderese
♪♪

Concert Masters (\$250+)

Adrien Finlay and
Christopher Ranjitkar ♪
Roger Greene and Jean Kennedy
♪♪♪
Silvia and Donald Irving ♪♪♪
Gail and John Lefferts ♪♪
Heather and Taylor MacFarlane ♪
Frederick and Kathleen
Monbouquette ♪
Jason Perry
Neel and Candace Smith ♪♪♪
Andy and Bonnie Weigl
Vicki and Charles Zelnick ♪

Section Leader (\$100+)

Alden Anderson ♪
In Memory of Antoinette Giannini ♪
Janeen and Rex Baker ♪♪♪
C. Brittany Boisvert and
Patrick Sturrock
Ruby and Derek Burke
Joan and John Butterworth ♪♪♪
Emrah Cakir, in Honor
of Engin Cakir
Cristina and Greg Canning ♪♪
Melanie and Don Donegan, In
Honor of Sarah Smongeski
Ann Gallup ♪
Ryan Kittredge ♪
Michele and Joseph Lyons
Dorothy Manning
Amy Matherly ♪
Kristin Morales-Lemieux
and Harry Lemieux
Rosemary Metcalf
Sharon McLaughlin ♪
Joy [O'Connor] Miller
Anne and Pat Morris ♪
Patricia O'Leary ♪
Sonia Paulino
Ronald and Mary Plutnicki ♪
Mary Ann Preskul-Ricca
and Joseph Ricca ♪
Richard Quimby ♪
Marion Rabinowitz ♪
Debby and Paul Sedgwick ♪

Mary Anne and Brian Slack ♪♪♪
Erin and Abigayle Simpson
John Verderese and
Susan Kendall
Betsy and Jack Wertheimer ♪
Harry Woodell

Musicians (\$50+)

Cheryl Arenella,
In Honor of Brenda Lau
Donald Combes,
In Honor of Thomas Ingrassia
Kim Ciborowski
Jane Costello ♪♪♪
Maria and Keith Durant ♪
Patricia Leduc Fishwick
Judith Freelander ♪
Phuong Hang and Desmond Lee
Sheila and Donald Reid ♪
Leslie McGann-Sturgeon and
Christopher Sturgeon
Barbara and John Ramian,
In Memory of Frank and Betty
Kalonas ♪♪
Sharon Shepard ♪
Anna Spencer and Ted Armstrong
Louise and Salvatore Ventriglia ♪
Susan Wobst ♪
Christine Wychorski

Friends (Up to \$49)

Bronwyn Williams Alfred
Amazon Smile Foundation
Sara Arsenault
Jennifer and Dedrick Baublitz
Chelsea Beaupre
Erin Bednarek
William and Laura Brekka
Caitlyn Brimberry
Kendra Cantrell
YiFang and Glen Carl
Kara Coffin
Rachel and Robert Dillon
Erma and Eddie Doku
Jennifer and Shawn Downes
Louise Downie

Caitlin Dubois
Dorothy and Donald Favreau
Patricia Leduc Fishwick
Danielle Gregoire
Lindsay and Patrick Grumbach
Phuong Hang and Desmond Lee
Penelope Havard
Julie Holston ♪
Elisha Hurtt
Wendy Johnson
Althea Keeling
Noelle Kellicker
Mary Ann and Craig Manning
Alesia Walker-May and
Sheldon May
Jessica McGowan-Smith
Chrissy Miles
Phoebe Moore and Mark Kraus
Karen Oleksyk
Brian and Maria Perry ♪
Cristiana Racenet
DeAngela Ragosta
Alison and Martin Reznec
Paulin Salomon
Kiruthika Shunmugam and
Vidyaprakash Ramaraju
Sara Skonieczny
Betsy and Carl Soderberg
Kristie Unkovic
Ganga Venkateswaran and
Aditya Natarajan
Linda Woodland
Samantha and Thomas Zappia

Annual Harmony Fund
GOAL: \$52,000
To Date: \$40,927

A gift this spring can help us achieve our goals and reach more students this summer.

Visit:
www.pakmusic.org >
support-pakachoag

OR, on the home page look for the button.

Donate Now!

Challenges Ahead... The Pressure Points

You, our School friends, have made community music with Pakachoag a lasting gift for 40 years. I would be remiss, however, not to pause for a moment and share regarding current challenges related to *people resources*.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE

SUPPORT

Non-profits are legally required to be governed by a board. We are fortunate to have a cluster of committed members, but board terms rotate and expire after 3 and 6 years. We are lacking sufficient representation, especially parent representation, on our current

board. We surely have missed asking some who might consider serving. Please email admin@pakmusic.org if you can help.

Board oversight and committee work is a critical need for all non-profits. If you have a passion for music in community and / or a professional skill to share, please reach out for more information.

ATTRACTING / RETAINING THE BEST

Being able to compensate teachers (and staff) competitively is another stress point for community schools for the arts across the country. We

create huge impact, especially through one-on-one lessons (where else in life do students spend years with a single teacher at their side guiding the way?). But the cost of managing one-on-one lessons and paying for space to run lessons and classes (also licensing fees for Music Together) eats up a significant portion of tuition.

Please consider a gift to the annual fund this year and every year into the future. Your gift keeps tuition accessible for families. EVERY gift—whether \$25 or \$2500—makes a difference.

Please help us bring The Gift of Music with Pakachoag to more students!

Name: _____

Please print your name as you wish to be recognized.

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

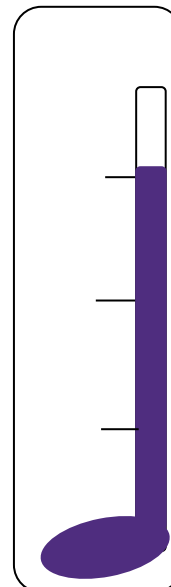
- Check enclosed, payable to PakMusic.
- I pledge a total of \$_____. Please send me a reminder.
- I wish to remain anonymous, and do not wish to be listed as a donor.
- Please list my gift "In Honor/Memory of _____". (Circle one.)
- My gift will be matched by (company name): _____.
- I would like to learn more about including Pakachoag Music School in my will.

OR Give online today at www.pakmusic.org and click on "Donate." Questions? Call 508 791-8159.

Thank you.

This form can be mailed to: Pak Music, 10 Irving Street, Worcester, MA 01609

OR, donate with a credit card on-line.



THE Goal:
\$52,000

TO DATE:
\$40,927, 78%
of goal.

Every gift makes a difference.

Can you help us get to goal?

The Harmony Fund helps cover the many "extras" of being a school from providing financial aid, to tuning pianos and paying the rent. Our \$52,000 goal is what we need to raise from individual friends this year to keep the music playing!

Verderese Volunteer of the Year 2023

Melanie Donegan, 40th Anniversary Gala Chair

We extend thanks and congratulations to volunteer Melanie Donegan who worked over many months to keep everyone hands on as we prepared for the

40th gala. From Ironing and laundering tablecloths, overseeing centerpieces, liaison for catering, and enthusiasm in welcoming guests, Melanie contributed to making the anniversary gala an evening to remember.

Patti Verderese (L) of Auburn presents the 2023 Verderese Volunteer of the Year award to Melanie Donegan (R), of Worcester.



New Faculty, Teaching Assistants

New appointments since our last newsletter, include:

Deb Cole, French Horn, holds an M.M. degree from New England Conservatory. Deb also coaches with the Worcester Youth Orchestras and is a former WPS music teacher.

Jared Field, Clarinet/Sax, holds an MA from Teachers College at Columbia University and teaches music at Worcester Academy.

Bailey Forfa, Percussion, holds an MM in Percussion from UMass

Amherst. Bailey has worked with School percussionists in Central and Western Mass. and with drummers of all ages.

Becky Noone, Piano, holds an M.M. degree in Piano Performance from the Hartt School of Music. Becky taught for several decades in the music department at Anna Maria College.

Bellalorraine Carey-Hicks, Theater, holds degrees in Theatre and English from Worcester State University. Bella has won costuming awards as part of her

prior work. She also teaches with Worcester Youth Build.

For full bio's please visit [About > Faculty](#) via the website home page.

Music Matters Teaching Assistants

We're happy to welcome **Caleb Kluchman and Natalie Beck** leading after-school art classes at Elm Park; and **Eva Sanchez-Navitsky** assisting with the new Quinsigamond Youth Theater.

All are students at Clark University.



Imagination, Creativity, Artistry

10 Irving Street, 2nd Fl.
Worcester, MA 01609
pakmusic.org
info@pakmusic.org
(508) 791-8159

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

*Sarah Smongeski,
Executive Director*

*Kristjon Imperio,
Director of Programs &
Community Engagement*

Thuy Tran, Registrar / Office Manager

Summer Session Posted Soon PakMusic.org/Programs/Summer



Courtyard Flute Academy (Above) & First Steps Violin (Right) will be back for Summer 2023
Also, theater workshops, class and lesson options planned.