A NEW PARADIGM

Musical organizations around the country have been responding to the pandemic with a new paradigm that engages audiences with both live and streaming performances, as well as online instruction. The resiliency of American musical organizations is demonstrated by their willingness to innovate in the face of what many had thought were insurmountable covid-induced constraints. Around the nation, arts organizations have created whole new avenues for reaching their audiences, finding ways both to survive in a challenging environment, while reaching out to both underserved and home-bound populations.

As can be seen in this newsletter, it is starting to become commonplace for music organizations to offer live concerts that can be attended online as well. While there is no substitute for in-person teaching, music schools have also maintained connections with their constituencies by offering online classes and even one-on-one remote learning experiences. The innovations created in response to the pandemic have demonstrated the strength and determination of American arts organizations.

When the pandemic is finally over, these many fine institutions will have developed new ways of reaching a wider audience. Our organization has been inspired by the courage and commitment of American arts organizations to survive even in the most challenging of environments. Music and art are universal languages that bring us all together, and the National Orchestral Association is proud to support the efforts of these wonderful institutions.

Stay safe and well!  
Matthew J. Trachtenberg  
President

LYRIC CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY OF NEW YORK

The Lyric Chamber Music Society of New York has resumed live performances in its intimate setting at the Kosciuszko Foundation. This season Lyric will present both live in-person and live-streamed concerts. The first concert on October 4th by Robert Langevin, Principal Flute, New York Philharmonic, attracted both an in-person and online paid audience. Upcoming concerts feature the Konrad Paszkudzki Trio, the Davin-Levin Duo, the Gloriosa Piano Trio, oboist Hassan Anderson, and the Seraph Brass. Classicoool, Lyric’s classical music in school initiative, sends notable musicians to schools in order to introduce children to classical music. Lyric is working to expand its education program to underserved schools by arranging appreciation classes by artists who perform in the Lyric’s concert series. For more information about the Lyric Chamber Music Society of New York, please visit www.lyricny.org.

AIKEN SYMPHONY GUILD

The Aiken Symphony Guild brings exceptional music to the Aiken, South Carolina community. Founded in 1986, the Guild seeks sponsors and conducts special events to raise funds for its student music program, as well as for the Aiken Symphony Orchestra concert series, which this year will feature concerts entitled “Lomazov Plays Tchaikovsky” and “Claire Plays Haydn.”

The Guild maintains its Concerto Competition for 18 year-olds and younger, and the Youth Concert Series for fifth-grade students in Aiken and Edgefield counties. More than 35,500 fifth-graders have attended these concerts to date. This season, the Guild has partnered with the Weill Institute of Carnegie Hall’s “Link Up” program to provide learning materials for classical music in fifth-grade classrooms, culminating in children’s performances each February, where students can sing and play the recorder or violin along with the orchestra. The Guild is an all-volunteer organization, and primarily relies on generous contributions from individuals, foundations and local businesses. To learn more about the Aiken Symphony Guild, please visit www.aikensymphonyguild.org.

ARAPAHOE PHILHARMONIC

The National Orchestral Association is proud to support The Arapahoe Philharmonic in Littleton, Colorado, an organization founded in 1953 whose mission is “to engage, enrich, and inspire our community through musical performance, education, and outreach.”

Arapahoe has announced it’s 2021-2022 #BacktotheStage Season, which will feature concerts revolving around various themes, such as the influence of Scotland on classical composers, holiday movie scores, and classical educator-composers. For more information, please visit the Arapahoe website at www.arapahoe-phil.org.
SETTLEMENT MUSIC SCHOOL

Settlement Music School has been named by Charity Navigator as “one of the top 10 music programs in the nation working to preserve and expand music education and access to the musical arts.” Founded in 1908, Settlement has six locations serving Philadelphia, Germantown, Willow Grove and Camden, New Jersey, providing “individual lessons, classes and activities in music, dance and visual arts to children and adults” regardless of age, race or financial circumstances. It is one of the oldest and largest community schools of the arts in the U.S., offering financial aid to more than 60% of its student population. Settlement “provides more than 10,000 weekly services to the Greater Philadelphia region” including Settlement Music Online, with individual music lessons given “at all levels in keyboard, string, brass, woodwinds, and percussion instruments, as well as voice, composition, music theory, and music production.” It also offers a wide variety of 10-week classes for children and adults, while also returning to in-person instruction for all instruments, classes and ensembles. In addition, Settlement offers Creative Arts Therapy, “a form of non-verbal psychotherapy using the senses to open new channels of communication between participants and their therapists, families, and communities.” For more information about Settlement Music School, please visit www.settlementmusic.org.

INTERLOCHEN CENTER FOR THE ARTS

On August 10, Michigan’s Interlochen Center for the Arts was formally inducted into the American Classical Music Hall of Fame, “a national organization that celebrates the great artists, ensembles, educators, and institutions that shape the landscape of classical music in America.” In presenting the induction medallion to Interlochen’s President Trey Devey, Gary Ingle, President of the American Classical Music Hall of Fame, said “Interlochen is truly the gold standard for institutions that foster artistic growth and personal transformation through the universal language of music.” Only the 14th organization to receive the honor, Interlochen joins fellow recipients such as the Juilliard School, the Metropolitan Opera and the League of American Orchestras, among others.

In 2020, consistent with Interlochen’s long history of adapting to changing times, Interlochen Online was instituted in response to the pandemic. This initiative created a virtual model for the summer arts camp as well as the Interlochen Arts Academy, featuring “one-of-a-kind seminars and coaching led by world-class artists and arts leaders.” This year, Interlochen has returned to in-person programs, but Interlochen Online continues, bringing “the globally renowned Interlochen experience into your home” to “hone your skills, discover new talents, and meet fellow artists in an immersive online experience.”

For more information about the Interlochen Center for the Arts, please visit www.interlochen.org.

THE STECHER AND HOROWITZ FOUNDATION

The Stecher and Horowitz Foundation’s New York International Piano Competition is scheduled for June 19-24, 2022 for ages 16-22 in New York City. The Competition will award a $20,000 First Prize, a $10,000 Second Prize, a $5,000 Third Prize, a $2,500 Fourth Prize, a $2,000 Best Performance of a Newly Commissioned Work prize, First and Second Prizes totaling $6,000 for One Piano, Four Hands Ensemble, and a $1,000 Finalist Award to each of the remaining contestants. There will be no elimination of any contestant throughout the entire competition, a first in the world of competitions.


PARK CITY INSTITUTE

Park City Institute brings world-class performances and innovative ideas to Park City, Utah. Founded in 1998, “PCI introduces emerging artists, welcomes celebrated musicians, produces award-winning theater, and creates intimate opportunities for Park City to experience and engage with the world’s most creative, inspiring, thoughtful, and provocative minds.” PCI produces five series of programming - Summer’s Big Stars, Bright Nights concert series, the fall/winter Main Stage series, Chamber Music at the Eccles Center, Professor of Rock LIVE, and Locals Live. PCI provides free tickets for Park City’s underserved in order to ensure access to all, and creates “experiential classroom learning opportunities through which Park City School District students directly engage, collaborate, and create with the speakers, musicians, and performers we host.” PCI has also instituted Locals Live, “a weekly live streaming series that provides performance opportunities for local artists” which are streamed on various social media platforms and archived on its YouTube channel. For more information about the Park City Institute, please visit www.parkcityinstitute.org.

THE SPHINX ORGANIZATION

The Sphinx Organization has announced three recipients of the 2022 Sphinx Medals of Excellence, celebrating musicians of color: pianist Michelle Cann, violinist Randall Goosby and soprano Karen Slack. Each recipient will receive a $50,000 career grant. Sphinx is “dedicated to transforming lives through the power of diversity in the arts.” To learn more about the Sphinx Organization, please visit www.sphinxmusic.org.

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF MUSIC

The 63rd annual GRAMMY Awards celebration held on Sunday, March 14, 2021, included three College of Music alums: chorus conductor Adam Luebke, who received the Grammy for Best Choral Performance, opera singer Ryan Speedo Green, who sang the role of Jake in the Grammy winning Metropolitan Opera recording of Porgy and Bess, and composer Ellen Taaffe Zwilich, a member of the Pacifica Quartet, which earned the Grammy for Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance.

The College is one of the largest and most respected music programs in higher education, and its “comprehensive curricula embrace all traditional areas of music and world music study from the baccalaureate to the doctoral level.” The faculty and staff consist of “two Grammy award winners, a Pulitzer-prize-winning composer, two Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship recipients, several Fulbright Scholar recipients, and the world’s preeminent scholar in medical music therapy.” Its innovative tele-music therapy sessions allow “music therapists to provide beneficial services to clients in a safe manner and provides both opportunities and challenges for student training.” The College also has established in-person and virtual camps for students around the country and the globe. To learn more about the Florida State University College of Music, please visit www.music.fsu.edu.

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