

MONTEUX

SCHOOL & MUSIC FESTIVAL

Newsletter

FALL/WINTER 2022

From Board of Trustees President **PHIL DEVENISH**

Φίλοι του Σχολείου Monteux
(Friends of the Monteux School),

Χαιρετισματα απο την Κρητη! (Greetings from Crete)...

...where, having finally sold up in New Zealand, we have bought a small and old (Venetian and Ottoman era) stone house in a mountain village. Folks here are as friendly as our neighbors in Hancock!

Our Executive Director, Stan Renard, and Interim Music Director, Tiffany Lu, are already at work recruiting musicians for the summer of 2023—and an especially exciting summer of ‘transition’ it will be. Following the death of our beloved Michael Jinbo last spring and a remarkable summer of alumni guest conducting faculty, this season we enter into the final stage of our search for a Music Director to succeed him. I will let Stan give you the details of our roster of six candidates, each of whom will teach for a week and conduct one piece at a regular Sunday orchestra concert.

Recent highlights include the construction of ‘Maestro Hall’ in time for twelve students in 2022 and the accession of Doug Kimmel’s wing in Tamarack Place to provide three practice rooms. We are also drawing up plans for a new facility with eight more such practice spaces for the coming summer. This has been a desperate need for many years, and we are finally in a position to address it—with your continuing help

Your generosity in the past has enabled us to provide world-class experience that has been a hallmark of the Monteux School and Music Festival for decades—and now into our 79th year! This is a remarkable achievement by any standards, and one that we ask you to sustain into the foreseeable future.

Στο καλο! It’s all good!

Phil Devenish, President

From Executive Director STAN RENARD



Dear Monteux
Friends and Alumni,

You find me writing to you nearly 6 months on the job - and what 6 months it has been! From experiencing the tremendous loss of Maestro Michael Jinbo, to transitioning from the brilliant Marc Thayer, and assisting our search committee finding our next Musical Director, it has been a whirlwind! But I am so grateful to be surrounded by so many brilliant and dedicated people, such as Interim Music Director, Tiffany Lu, who displayed superpowers stepping into the job a month and half prior this past season. Tiffany not only instructed all six weeks but also included with grace the expert teaching, coaching, and mentoring of our guest conducting faculty and Monteux alumni, Ludovic Morlot, Kensho Watanabe, William C. White, David Rahbee, and Neal Gittleman. Our Memorial Concert dedicated to the memory of our departed

Maestro that followed his interment ceremony on the school grounds featured some of the favorite works of Maestro Jinbo and featured Soprano Amanda Silliker. It was a beautiful dedication that meant so much to so many. Another impactful moment of this past season was the last-minute program change on one of our Sunday Concert programs. Having been informed early on Sunday morning that our planned concert soloist had contracted Covid, violinist and conductor, Joseph Morag stepped in and performed a brilliant rendition of the Beethoven Violin Concerto with only 6 hours of notice and one brief emergency rehearsal – what a feat!

Looking to the future of the school here is what to expect from our upcoming and unusual season. As aforementioned, we are in the process of a search for our next Music Director. We have identified 6 finalist who are Tiffany Lu, Arthur Fagen, Julius Williams, Hugh Wolff, Kenneth Kiesler, and Markand Thakar. Spotlights about each candidate are featured in this newsletter. Each of those amazing candidates will instruct for a week in our 2023 season and conduct one piece, which will be certainly a deviation from what has been done in past seasons. To keep the process as consistent as possible for our candidates, we will not feature a concerto soloist, and our pops concert will be replaced by pops selections that will be featured at our weekly Sunday concerts. It is bound to be an incredible summer and I hope that you will consider attending and encourage your students to do so as well. As the Monteux School and Music Festival looks toward its next era by training musicians to perform in and lead orchestras of the future, we are intent on maintaining and treasuring the legacy of the school, and its many amazing alumni.

Many of you may have questions! I would like to invite you and your students to join us at our upcoming Online Info Session on Wednesday December 14 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm EST. You will be able to access the session by clicking on this link: [JOIN MONTEUX INFO SESSION](#)

I hope to see many of you then!

Stan Renard, Executive Director

From Former Executive Director MARC THAYER



To all my Monteux Friends, greetings from Elgin, IL. The Elgin Symphony presented our Opening Week concerts on October 8 and 9 with Monteux alumnus Andres Lopera as guest conductor, one of eight Finalists to be our next Music Director. A final decision will be made in May, 2023. Andres, a native of Colombia, is currently the Associate Conductor of the Columbus Symphony and Music Director of the Columbus Youth Symphony Orchestra.

Three other Monteux alumni are also on the roster of Music Director Finalists chosen by a committee of

ESO Musicians, Board members and staff: John Devlin, Music Director of the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra, New York City based Kyle Ritenauer, Artistic Director of the Uptown Philharmonic and conducting faculty at the Manhattan School of Music, and Alex Amsel, Resident Conductor of the Houston Grand Opera, formerly with the Ft. Worth Symphony Orchestra.

We are also excited to have hosted Dr. Tiffany Lu in Elgin on October 28, 2022 when she conducted the first of a new series of concerts in Elgin called 'Friday Favorites, Music You Know.' This was a Halloween program featuring shorter much-loved works that you don't often hear on subscription concerts such as Night on Bald Mountain and Flight of the Valkyries plus music from Psycho and Harry Potter.

Founding Artistic and Music Director of the Worthington Chamber Orchestra, Antoine Clark will be in Elgin on two occasions as guest conductor for a Holiday Brass and Percussion concert in December and a program of Music for Woodwind Ensembles in March. Antoine is also Assistant Conductor of the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra.

Finally, violinist Rylan Virnig joined the Elgin Symphony staff as Community Partnerships and Marketing Coordinator. Rylan played violin in the Monteux Festival Orchestra in 2021 and finished his Masters of Music degree in conducting at the University of Washington where he studied with another Monteux regular, Dr. David Rahbee. Lots of Monteux School folks coming through Elgin this year - I'm enjoying the continued connections and conversations.

Marc Thayer, Former Executive Director



Andres Lopera



Kyle Ritenauer



Alex Amsel



Tiffany Lu



Antoine Clark



*Congratulations to
Monteux Alumni
Shizuo Z. Kuwahara
on winning the
American Prize in
Conducting in the
Professional Division!*

The First Prize winner of the prestigious Georg Solti International Conductors' Competition in Frankfurt, Germany, Shizuo Z. Kuwahara is the principal guest conductor of The Mariinsky Theatre, Russia. Kuwahara was with the Philadelphia Orchestra as a League of American Orchestras conducting fellow, covering and leading numerous concerts as an apprentice to Christoph Eschenbach. Other past positions include assistant conductor to Seiji Ozawa at the Saito Kinen Festival in summer of 2008, conducting the Ozawa Jyuku Orchestra. He spent his summer of 2006 in Sapporo, Japan serving as an assistant conductor to Valery Gergiev at the Pacific Music Festival. Kuwahara has led performances throughout North & South America, Europe, and Asia, including performances with Frankfurt Museum Orchestra, Nice Philharmonic, Baltimore Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic, Seattle Symphony, Orquesta Sinfonica de Salta, Japan Philharmonic, Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, Nagoya Philharmonic, Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa, Polish Chamber Philharmonic, Denmark National Symphony Orchestra, Sinfonieorchester den Nationalen Philharmonischen Gesellschaft der Ukraine Kiev and Wrocław Philharmonic. Born in Tokyo, Kuwahara received Master's Degree studied conducting at Yale University, where he was awarded the Charles Ives Full Scholarship and the Eleazar de Carvalho Prize. At the Eastman School of Music, he received Bachelor's Degree and also received Arts Leadership Program Certificate, Performer's Certificate and the George Eastman Scholarship. In addition to studying with David Effron and Lawrence Leighton Smith at these conservatories, Mr. Kuwahara has also studied with Leonard Slatkin, David Zinman, Timothy Muffitt and Michael Jinbo at various conducting institutions, including Aspen Music Festival and the Monteux School.

The American Prize National Nonprofit Competitions in the Performing Arts is the nation's most comprehensive series of contests in the performing arts. The American Prize is unique in scope and structure, designed to recognize and reward the best performing artists, directors, ensembles and composers in the United States at professional, college/university, community and high school levels, based on submitted recordings. Now in its twelfth year, The American Prize has awarded more than \$100,000 since its founding and is offered annually in many areas of the performing arts. Thousands of artists from all fifty states have derived benefit from their participation in the contests of The American Prize, representing literally hundreds of communities and arts organizations across the nation.

ENDOWMENT IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL JINBO

The Monteux School is pleased to announce an ongoing campaign to raise funds for a permanent endowment in memory of Michael Jinbo, the school's music director of 27 years. The endowment will provide a conducting scholarship each year to a deserving musician. Michael understood the importance of scholarship aid to allow participants to attend the festival. The board felt this was an appropriate way to honor his dedication to the school and commitment to excellence over many years. Contributions to the campaign have come in from donors and alumni alike and we are optimistic that we will meet our goal.

[Pledges can be made now by clicking HERE](#) and those contributions can be fulfilled through 2023. [If you prefer to contribute directly now please click this link.](#)

Michael gave so much of himself to the school and to the musicians and conductors that he taught. I can't think of a better way to honor his legacy and to say thank you for the wonderful concerts so many of us have enjoyed.

Won't you be a part of this endeavor and help put us over the top?



MEET THE MUSIC DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

The Monteux School and Music Festival in Hancock, Maine, is pleased to announce its candidates for the position of Music Director, following the death of Michael Jinbo, its Maestro of twenty-seven years, in April of 2022. Each candidate will teach its class of fifteen conductors, all of whom also play in its sixty-piece orchestra, for one week of its eightieth anniversary season, which runs from June 19-July 30, 2023. Each will also conduct a piece in one of its full symphony concerts on Sunday afternoon at 5 pm.

The candidates were chosen by a search committee of the Board, from a pool of fifty-one applicants from the United States and Europe. The committee interviewed eleven of those candidates before winnowing the list to these finalists. Philip Devenish, President of the Board, said in a statement: "We were extremely gratified at the high quality of the applicants for this position. It reaffirmed for us the high regard in which the Monteux School and Music Festival is held in the music world."

The candidates are:

Arthur Fagen

Professor of Orchestral Conducting, and Department Chair since 2016 at Indiana University, and Music Director of the Atlanta Opera since 2010. Former Music Director, Dortmund Philharmonic Orchestra and Opera, Germany (2002-2007).



Markand Thakar

Former Co-Director of Graduate Conducting at Peabody Conservatory of Music (1998-2017); Music Director, Baltimore Chamber Orchestra; Former Music Director, Duluth-Superior Symphony Orchestra.



Kenneth Kiesler

Professor of Conducting, University of Michigan, since 1995. Former Music Director and Conductor Laureate, Illinois Symphony Orchestra. Director, International Academy of Conducting, Ensemble Orchestre de Paris (2006-2010).



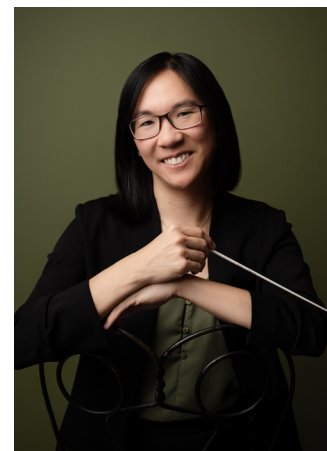
Julius Williams

Professor, Berklee College of Music in Boston; Artistic Director, Berklee Contemporary Symphony Orchestra; President, International Conductors Guild; Artistic Director, Berklee International Composers Institute.



Tiffany Lu

Music Director, University of Florida Symphony Orchestra, Gainesville. Interim Music Director, Monteux School and Music Festival. Former Music Director Sewanee Symphony Orchestra. Assistant Conductor, Prince George's Philharmonic, Maryland (2019-2022).



Hugh Wolff

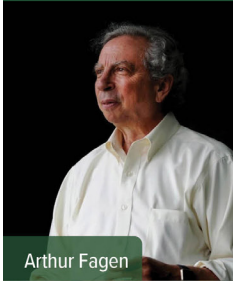
Director of Orchestras and Chair of Orchestral Conducting Department, New England Conservatory of Music; has led master classes at Yale University and Juilliard School of Music; Chief Conductor, Belgian National Orchestra (2017-2022); Chief Conductor, Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra (1996-2006).



MONTEUX

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· ORCHESTRAL ACADEMY & SCHOOL FOR CONDUCTORS ·



Arthur Fagen



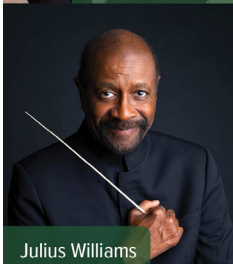
Kenneth Kiesler



Tiffany Lu



Markand Thakar



Julius Williams



Hugh Wolff

JUNE 18 - JULY 30

2023

*Our
80th
Season*



■ **THE PREMIER TRAINING GROUND**
for Orchestra Musicians and Conductors
LED BY WORLD-CLASS FACULTY

■ **APPLICATION DEADLINE**
for Early Consideration is
JANUARY 1, 2023

■ *Full and Partial*
SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

For More Information & To Apply:



monteuxmusic.org