THE PIERRE MONTEUX SCHOOL (VS) for Conductors and Orchestra Musicians

NEWSLETTER • FALL 2015

Music is On the Move in Maine

nce the summer is over, we normally move into a quiet time here in Downeast Maine, and at the Monteux School in particular. This year, nothing could be farther from the truth!

The very big story—big enough to have employed a 100' tall crane (see below)—is the moving of a 42'x72' former school classroom building from Blue Hill to Hancock to be renovated into residential accommodation for twelve of our musicians in time for the 2016 season.

Housing for our sixty or so students is one of our biggest expenses and a growing concern, as online rental sites are driving up its cost each year. When the Bagaduce Music Lending Library in Blue Hill, with whom we have had close and active relations for decades, announced that it was offering—for the taking—a large building that had been gifted to it, and on the foundation of which it was going to construct its own new facility, we pounced.

Of course, it would have to be moved (hence the enormous crane), and we would have to put in a foundation, septic, and well for it on our own property, electrify, plumb, and reconfigure its interior—not to mention roof, clad, and paint it. But, despite appearances, 'free' is not a 'four-letter word!'

So, our Board took this big leap, and we are now hard at it—and thrilled to be doing so. We have had much more than a little help from our friends in the construction industry locally. Our thanks go especially to Hewes & Co. in Blue Hill for general contracting; Irving Wilbur & Sons for groundwork; Atwater Concrete; Gatcomb Grant Building; David Green Electric; and EBS Building Supply. We can heartily recommend all these fine folks and expert tradespeople, with their shared 'can do' attitude and approach.

As the accompanying photos indicate, the 'move' itself was quite an amazing experience. Built in four modular units and three trussed roof sections, the building came to us on six flatbed trailers and was reassembled IN ONE DAY here in Hancock. The huge pieces were lifted into place and fitted together perfectly after the fashion of one giant, three-dimensional puzzle. Please go continued on outside back





Top: First building section is removed at the Blue Hill site . . .

Bottom:

... and is ready for placement on its new foundation on campus.

See more photos on page 3

Pierre Monteux School for Conductors & Orchestra Musicians

Contributions for the Fiscal Year September 1, 2014 - August 31, 2015

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Please bring errors or corrections to our attention by contacting pierremonteuxschool @gmail.com.





Two 5-ton steel counterweights are used for ballast on the crane.

Second of four sections is maneuvered into place.

A total of three roof sections are added.

The final section is lifted for placement . . . (continued on outside back)







And the 'little (and not so little) stuff'

While the new residential building is the biggest story of what's new at Monteux, it is not the only big one....

As all of us know who have attended Sunday concerts in the Forest Studio, there are days when it is uncomfortably hot. As all of our musicians are even more keenly aware, rehearsals can get stifling as the sun heats it up. We have been working on this issue for some time, and we have now installed two 12' in diameter ceiling fans. Yes, that is not a misprint—twelve feet is correct! As the photo shows, they are quite stunning—and they do create a lovely breeze.

Then, too. Maestro Jinbo wanted a new, slightly larger podium for our conductors (and one that does not squeak!)... presto! (so to speak).

Finally, we now have two new sets of stairs connecting the stage with the auditorium floor—good for quick ups and downs during rehearsals. They are a donation from a couple whose wedding





reception was held here in September.

So, the little and the not so little, in addition to the very big.

Pierre Who?

No English word rhymes with 'Monteux,'
So we have a problem—
mon Dieu!
Just don't say 'Mon-toe,'
For Pierre, that's no-go!
To get close, you can call it 'Mon-tour'.
...and drop the 'r'.

Pierre Monteux School

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... and renovations are now well underway!

to our NEW (!) website at www. monteuxschool.org to view a video of this process as it took place. It was quite a day!

The building is located on the East side of Melody Lane, directly across from Ironbound Restaurant, and overlooks a large meadow, sloping down to the Forest Studio. While we had a bulldozer and excavator on hand, we have also taken the opportunity to increase parking for concerts and to improve drainage and traffic flow. You will enjoy the new look on campus!

We trust the new building will provide comfortable accommodation for our musicians here at Monteux for many years to come.