



# MONTEUX

SCHOOL & MUSIC FESTIVAL

ORCHESTRAL  
ACADEMY AND  
SCHOOL FOR  
CONDUCTORS

# FALL 2025

**LETTERS FROM THE  
BOARD PRESIDENT,  
MUSIC DIRECTOR, &  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS  
WAYS TO GET INVOLVED  
2025 SEASON IN PHOTOS**

**CAMPUS  
IMPROVEMENTS  
AND MORE!**



# NEWSLETTER



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MSMF NEWSLETTER  
FALL 2025 EDITION

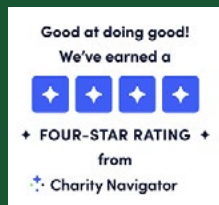
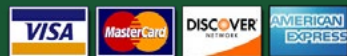
COVER PHOTOS:  
Forest Studio  
2025 Orchestra

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From Board of Trustees President

## PHIL DEVENISH

Dear Monteux Friends,

As we move into the cooler days of autumn here in Hancock, I want to share a bit of recent news, as well as some background to our longstanding efforts to secure housing for our musicians—students and staff.

Most recently, we have acquired the Sullivan-Simpson house on 2090 US Rte. 1 in Sullivan Harbor, just across the street from the 'stone store.' It's a classic sea captain's home built in 1790, with an ell and two-car garage added to the original two-story home that comprises two parlors, dining room, kitchen, four bedrooms, and one and a half baths (soon to be two full baths). It will house our Music Director, guest faculty, and possible overflow students.

On page 12 of this newsletter, you'll find it in photos—worth those thousands of words.

The home—which we tried to acquire several years ago in a foreclosure sale—was just remodeled by Gatcomb-Grant Builders, great friends of the School and sold to us at well below market value. It is completely vinyl sided, so no painting! Beautiful and 'good to go,' with even a deeded right of way to the shore across the road.

Our special thanks go out to Joann Williams and Charlotte, 'interior decorators extraordinaire,' and to those folks who have helped and contributed furniture along the way: Bill McArtor, Billy O'Meara, Ken and Ellen Emerson, John Sheridan and Wendy Barcomb, Doug Kimmel and Ron Schwizer, and Mary Purslow.

The acquisition of 'Simpson' is the latest, culminating stage in an extended process of acquiring housing for over 60 musicians for our six-week season. Twenty years ago, housing rental represented about 60% of our total budget and was a precarious adventure each year, sourcing accommodation here and there and of every imaginable type. And, with the emergence of Airbnb and VRBO and rental prices 'through the roof,' we would be out of business. Now we can house everyone, and with less than 10% cost for maintenance, insurance, and the rest.

Here are our facilities, in order of acquisition, and the stories behind them:

**'The Cottage,'** where Nancie Monteux Barendse lived, now housing four

**'The Barn'** (the background of which not even I know!), housing nine ('the low brass...')

**Six vacation cabins** moved from the property of L. A. Gray (now Viking Lumber) in the 80s (housing ten)

**Tamarack Place,** donated by Doug Kimmel and Ron Schwizer—our office, archives, Michael Jinbo score library, spacious apartment, and student housing (for six)

**Devenish Hall,** formerly the science building at the Liberty School in Blue Hill, moved to our campus on five flatbed trucks and reconfigured for housing for twelve

**'Winterhaven,'** the former Monteux home on Rte. 1, again renovated by Gatcomb-Grant and housing ten

**Maestro Hall,** purpose built by us for twelve and now **'Simpson'** for three to five, depending

So, that is accommodation for sixty-six to sixty-eight musicians, perhaps not the 'final final' chapter in a long, exciting, exhausting, and very gratifying story, but a truly remarkable achievement as we head into year 84 and counting.

You have accompanied us all along the way, we can all be proud together!

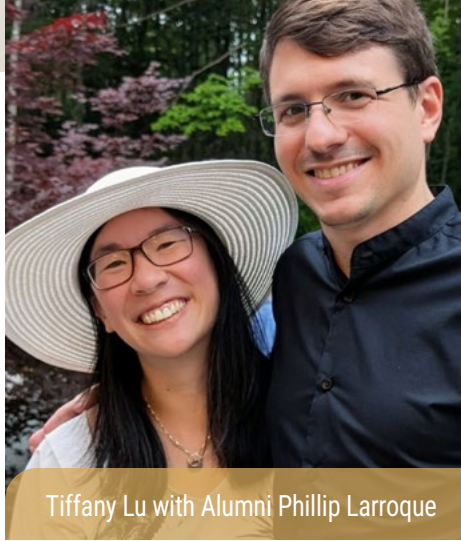
As ever,

Phil Devenish

We still have a short 'wish list' of furnishings

- a pair of bedside tables
- a padded desk chair
- a set of porch or outdoor furniture

Please email Joann if you can help with these:  
[joannkwilliams@yahoo.com](mailto:joannkwilliams@yahoo.com)



Tiffany Lu with Alumni Phillip Larroque

## From the Music Director **DR. TIFFANY LU**

Greetings all,

Happy Autumn! While in Florida it still feels like summer, the Fall concert season is happily and fully

looking for more ways in which to serve an increasingly diverse set of needs in an ever-changing educational and artistic environment. These are complicated times for our field and our society, and I would very much welcome the Monteux community's support and input on how our beloved School can rise to meet the challenge of today's world.

As ever, I must extend deep gratitude to President Phil Devenish and everyone who serves on the Monteux Board, as well as Executive Director Stan Renard and Associate Conductor Kyle Ritenauer. These individuals' tireless optimism and diligent work are the fabric upon which the culture and legacy of the School rests, and I often reflect on how lucky I am to be part of such a mighty and passionate team. In the meantime, please take care of you and yours, watch this space for the announcement of projects to come!

Yours in music and beyond,

Tiffany Lu

underway. Looking back over the summer, though, I am so grateful to everyone who was able to help make the season an unqualified success. In particular, I believe the guests who came brought an unprecedented breadth of educational experience to the School, one that I very much hope to build upon in future seasons. The support of that level of artistry would only possible through the support of YOU, our festival audience and alumni.

With applications just having opened for the 2026 season, I am excited to already be working on a lineup of repertoire, guest artists, and events that will pay homage to the rich Monteux heritage - works and programs that "Le Maitre" Pierre, Charles Bruck, and Michael Jinbo championed and loved, as well as

## IN MEMORIAM



### Frank Graham, Jr. 1925-2025

We are deeply saddened to share the passing of Frank Graham, Jr., a cherished friend and devoted supporter of the Monteux School & Music Festival, who died peacefully at his home in Milbridge on May 25 at the age of 100. He is survived by his beloved wife Ada, his partner in life for more than sixty years.

Frank and Ada moved to Milbridge in the early 1960s, where they quickly became close friends of the Monteux family. Their warmth and generosity led to Frank's appointment to the newly formed Board of Trustees in 1964, following the death of Pierre Monteux. His steady presence and thoughtful guidance helped shape the School's future during a pivotal time.

The Grahams were a constant and beloved part of our summer community—faithful concertgoers, generous supporters, and members of the Legacy Club. They often sat with Kurt and Torj Wray, sharing in the joy of music and the spirit of fellowship that defines our festival.

Frank's life was one of quiet impact and enduring kindness. His legacy lives on in the music, the memories, and the community he helped nurture.

You can read more about his remarkable life in [The New York Times](#) obituary.



## From the Executive Director **DR. STAN RENARD**

Dear Friends of the Monteux School and Music Festival,

As I look back on this past summer in Hancock, I'm filled with gratitude for the unforgettable moments we shared. The season was graced with radiant sunshine and vibrant energy, setting the perfect stage for a truly remarkable chapter in our festival's history.

One of the most exciting developments was the acquisition of the Simpson House on May 1, 2025. This beautiful property quickly became a welcoming space, thanks to the tireless efforts of Charlotte Draper and Joann Williams, who led the charge in furnishing it in record time. We celebrated with an open house in July, where many friends of the school visited and admired the transformation. You can read more about this story and view photos in this newsletter.

A heartfelt congratulation goes to Music Director Tiffany Lu, who hosted our very first Concerto Competition. The winner was clarinetist Kevin Jin, with trombonist Ryan Lu as a close second and both delivered outstanding performances. We were also thrilled to welcome violin virtuoso Blake Pouliot, who stunned the audience with an unforgettable performance of the *Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto*.

Concertos were the theme of the season, and we were treated to remarkable performances by Jasmin Arakawa (*Ravel Piano Concerto*), Remy Teghavi (*Françaix Bassoon Concerto*), and many others. The orchestra was exceptional, and the artistic standard at Monteux continues to rise, thanks in large part to the leadership of

Tiffany Lu and Associate Conductor Kyle Ritenauer, who is making his debut with the New York City Ballet as of this writing.

We also made a meaningful investment in our musical resources by purchasing a bass clarinet, an instrument rarely owned by our musicians but essential for our repertoire.

This Fall 2025 Newsletter features highlights from the summer, achievements of our alumni, campus improvements, and exciting new benefits for our 2026 concert subscribers. We also remember two cherished friends of the school, Frank Graham Jr. and John Canarina, whose legacies continue to inspire us.

As you consider your charitable giving this fall, I encourage you to support the Monteux School and Music Festival. Scholarships remain our top priority, as many of our musicians forgo income and continue to pay rent or mortgages while attending Monteux. Tuition for 2026 is \$3,200 for Conductors and \$1,500 for Instrumentalists, still more affordable than most festivals, but our musicians need your support. We invite you to consider participating in our Scholarship Naming Program.

Thank you to everyone who generously supports Monteux and attends our concerts year after year. Your commitment makes everything we do possible!

Warmest regards,

Stan

Please do not hesitate to contact me anytime at [info@monteuxmusic.org](mailto:info@monteuxmusic.org)

## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2025 SPONSORS

### SEASON SPONSOR



### MUSICIAN SPONSORS



### COMMUNITY SPONSORS



### GRANTS

Clark Charitable Trust

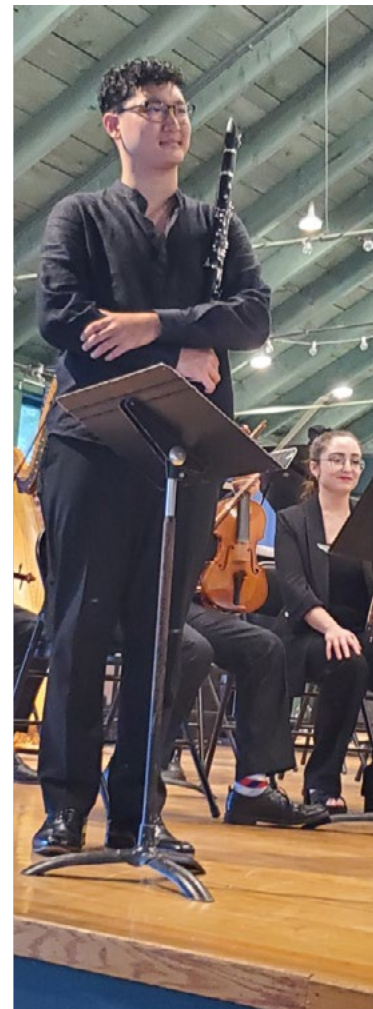
Renaissance Charitable Foundation

Childs Gamble Charitable Fund

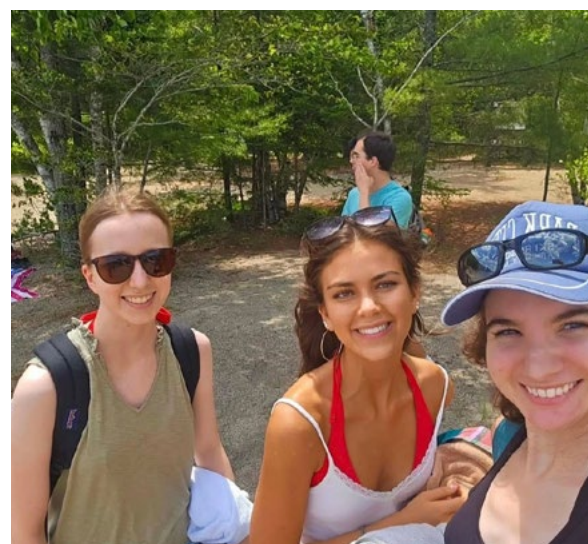


FCF Fisher Charitable Foundation





# MONTEUX MEMORIES



# SUMMER 2025



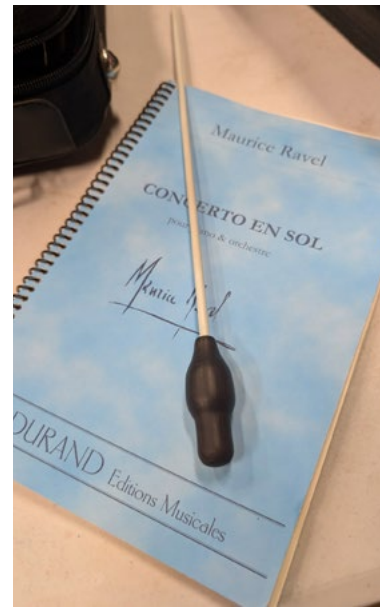
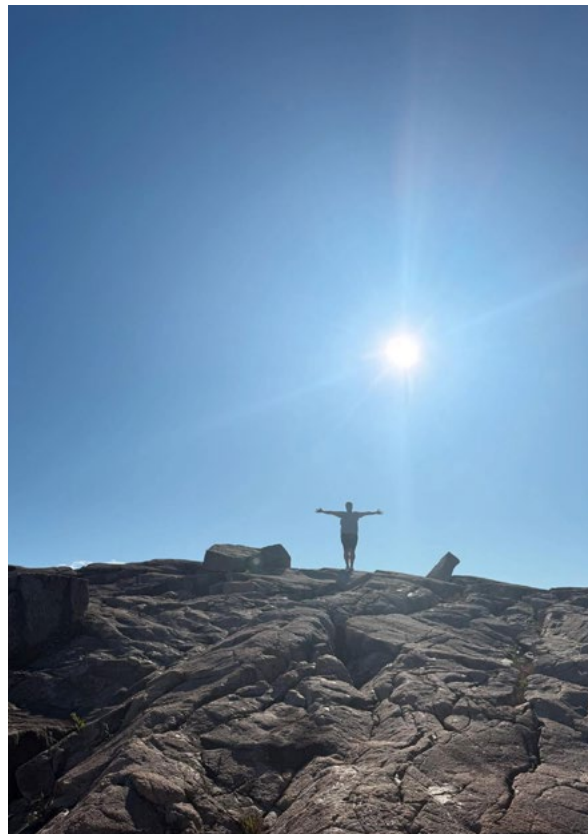


# MONTEUX MEMORIES



# SUMMER 2025

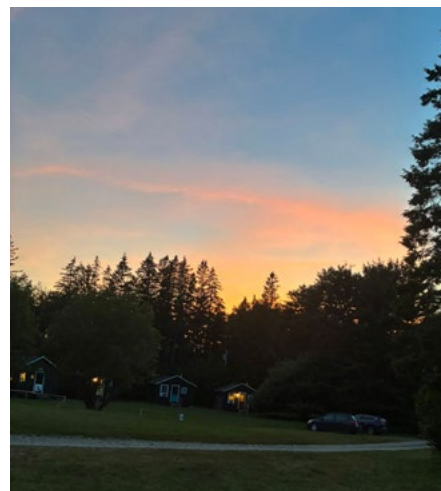




# MONTEUX MEMORIES



# SUMMER 2025



# SIMPSON HOUSE OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATION

We recently hosted a wonderful open house at Simpson House, and it was heartening to see so many friends of the school come out to visit. The house was fully furnished and beautifully staged, thanks to the generous efforts of many, with special recognition going to **Joann Williams** and **Charlotte Draper**, who truly did the heavy lifting to bring the space to life.

A huge thank you also goes to **Phil Devenish**, who repainted the historic sign with care and craftsmanship, restoring its charm. Phil, along with **David Schoppe**, also tackled some major landscaping projects that gave the front of the house a fresh, welcoming look.

Their combined efforts have breathed new life into Simpson House, and we're so grateful to everyone who helped make this transformation possible.



Before



After!



Taking down trees off Route 1



Windows and screens painted, wall stained



Tamarack Field Mowed

# A SUMMER OF RENEWAL

This season, the Monteux campus blossomed with more than music. Thanks to dedicated efforts and generous support of Phil Devenish, David Schoppe, Bill McArtor, Ralph Manchester, Jill and Gary Gatcomb and many others, several long-awaited improvements were completed.

From refreshed rehearsal spaces to upgraded student housing, every enhancement was made with the comfort and creativity of our musicians, guest artists, and audience in mind. The iconic Forest Studio received many improvements inside and out and some dorms were much improved including but not limited to freshly painted cabins and the repaired barn floor.

These changes, captured in the vibrant photos throughout this issue, reflect our commitment to nurturing both tradition and transformation. As we look ahead, we remain grateful to all who helped make this vision a reality.



Barn Floor Repair



Additional Room  
Back Forest Studio



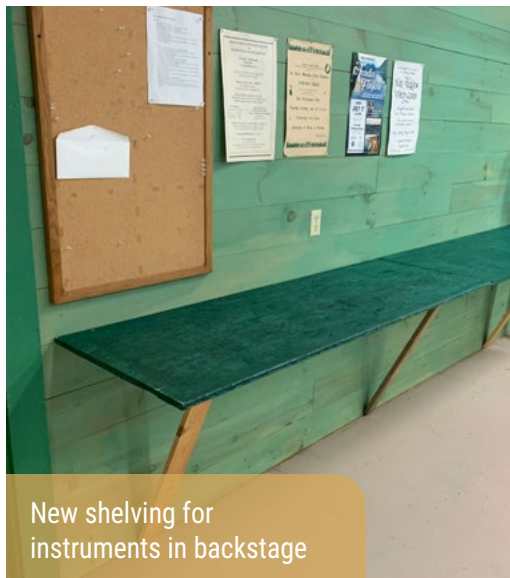
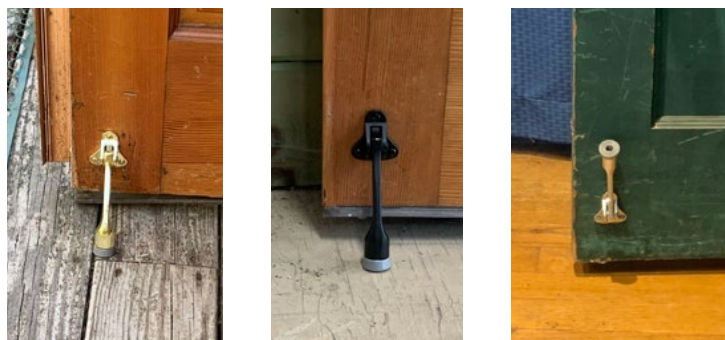
Additional Room  
Back Forest Studio



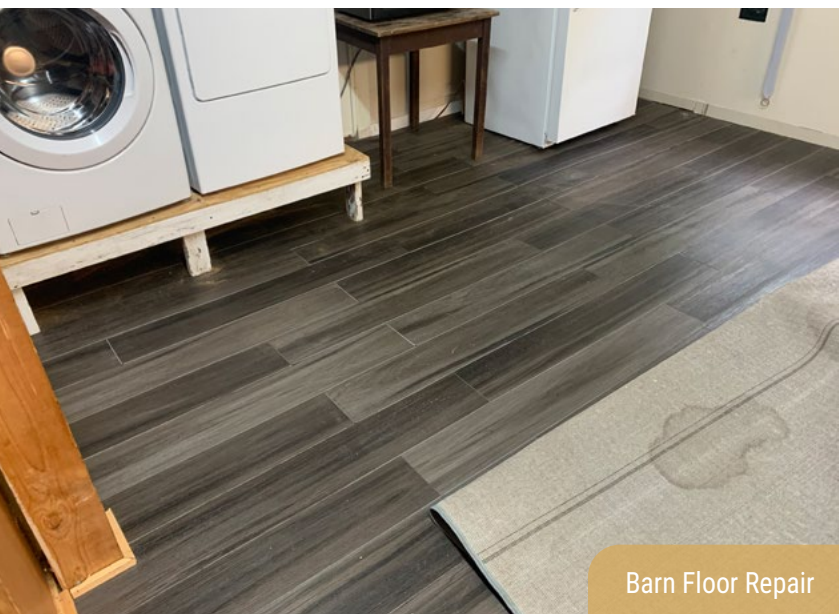
Instrument room



Barn Floor Repair



New shelving for  
instruments in backstage



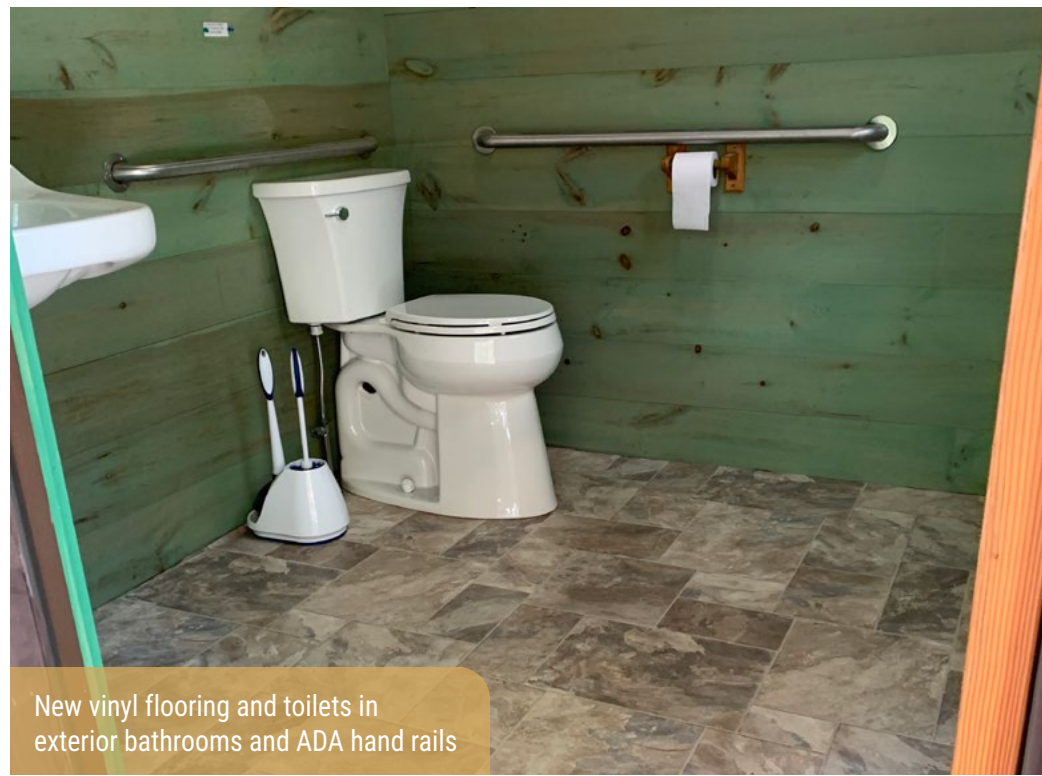
Barn Floor Repair



Vinyl flooring in harp studio



Bill McArtor chainsawing



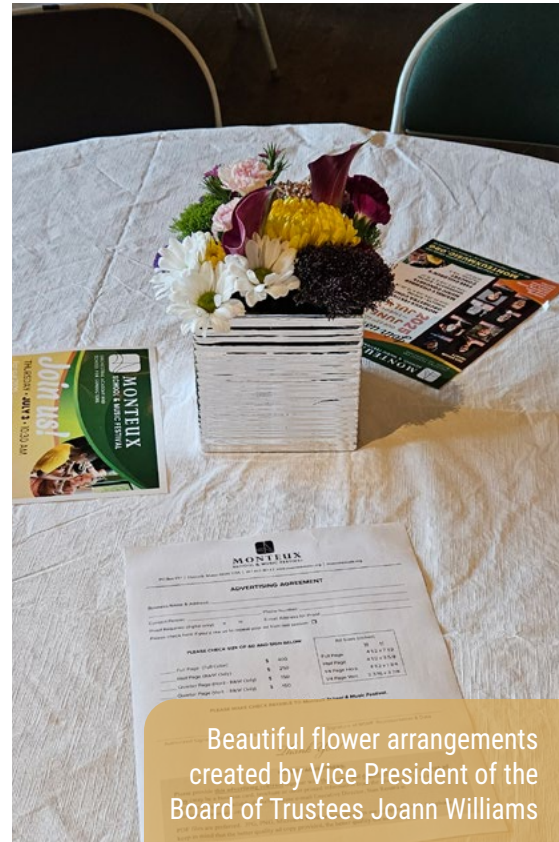
New vinyl flooring and toilets in  
exterior bathrooms and ADA hand rails

## Monteux School & Music Festival Hosts Schoodic Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting

On Tuesday, June 3 at 5:00 PM, the Monteux School & Music Festival was honored to host the Schoodic Chamber of Commerce for their Annual Meeting. The event was well attended, bringing together members of the local business and arts communities in a spirit of collaboration and celebration.

We were thrilled to provide a welcoming space for this important gathering, continuing our commitment to supporting the broader cultural and economic vitality of the region. A special thank you goes to the Crocker House, our season sponsor, for generously providing delicious food for the membership of the Schoodic Chamber!

We look forward to future opportunities to partner with the Chamber and other local organizations in fostering community and connection.

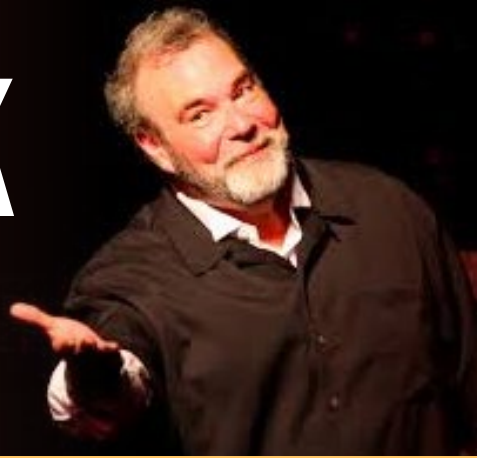


Beautiful flower arrangements created by Vice President of the Board of Trustees Joann Williams



Address by Bob Noddin, newly elected President of the Chamber

# CHARLES BRUCK REVEALED



## The Monteux School's MUSE of FIRE

*"When an old European Maestro will stop at nothing to mold an apprentice in the flames of his passion for music, the young man discovers that great conductors are not born—they must be forged . . . in fire."*

Charles Bruck, master of the Monteux School for twenty-six seasons, numbered among his students such podium luminaries as Ludovic Morlot, Carlos Prieto, Hugh Wolff, Neal Gittleman, Apo Hsu and Michael Jinbo.



of the book and read scenes from the play, while offering personal reminiscences about the man many considered America's greatest teacher of conducting.



Katz is honored to return to the space where the events depicted in the play took place, to share with the next generation of Monteux students and audiences the intense musicality, uncompromising artistic standards, biting wit, sarcasm and fury of Charles Bruck, the man who truly was the Monteux School's MUSE of FIRE.

Monteux alum David Katz, guest conductor of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and Mississippi Symphony, and chief judge of The American Prize competitions, knew him better than most, penning MUSE of FIRE, his acclaimed one-man play about studying with Bruck, in 2005. Hailed by the Chicago Sun-Times for its "unique depth and humor, tremendous verve and palpable passion," Katz performed the play nearly seventy times from Boston to Wisconsin, Baltimore to Halifax, including for the International Conductors Guild, the College Orchestra Directors Association, and in an extended engagement in Chicago.

To commemorate the 30th anniversary of Bruck's death in Hancock in 1995, DelGatto Press is publishing the script of MUSE of FIRE this summer. Katz returns to the Monteux School on June 17th to sign copies

WEDNESDAY • 5 PM

**JUNE 17**

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TICKETS AVAILABLE MAY 1

To learn more about Muse of Fire go to  
**MUSEOFFIRETHEPLAY.ORG**



## MONTEUX ALUMNI TAKE OVER CINCINNATI!

*Cincinnati is buzzing with musical energy and in a remarkable convergence of talent, four alumni of the Monteux School & Music Festival have recently taken up key leadership roles across Cincinnati's vibrant musical institutions, marking a proud moment for the Monteux School and our community.*

### **Alyssa Wang '16** Named Music Director of Cincinnati Ballet

The Monteux School & Music Festival proudly celebrates alumna Alyssa Wang, who has been appointed the permanent Music Director of Cincinnati Ballet, beginning with the 2025–2026 season. This historic appointment makes Wang only the second person to hold the position, following the retirement of Carmon DeLeone after more than five decades of service.

"Alyssa has the vision, excellence, and experience to lead the Company as its new music leader," said Artistic Director Cervilio Miguel Amador, following an extensive international search.

Alyssa's career has been marked by versatility and innovation. Since 2021, she has served as Assistant Conductor for Boston Ballet and Music Director for Boston Ballet School's Next Generation project. She is also the Co-Founder and Artistic Director of the Boston Festival Orchestra, where she leads a dynamic summer festival and music education program.

Her conducting engagements span the Dallas Symphony, Cape Symphony, Rhode Island Philharmonic, and many others. As a violinist, she has soloed with ensembles nationwide and recently joined the Boston Chamber Music Society. Her recording credits include Carlos Simon's Grammy-nominated Requiem for the Enslaved and Nancy Galbraith's Violin Concerto with BMOP. As a composer, her violin concerto Swept Away premiered in 2023, and a new string octet will debut in 2026.

Alyssa earned degrees from Carnegie Mellon University and the New England Conservatory, studying under Andrés Cárdenes and Malcolm Lowe. Her accolades include the 2024 New Music USA Creator Fund, the Solti Foundation Career Assistance Award, and the Andrew Carnegie Scholar designation.

Her appointment is a milestone not only for Cincinnati Ballet but also for the Monteux community, which celebrates her continued rise as a conductor, creator, and advocate for inclusive musical experiences.

Congratulations, Alyssa—your journey continues to inspire!

### **Meanwhile, the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and Pops has welcomed Alex Amsel '17-'18 and Duo Shen '15 &'18 as Assistant Conductors.**

Both are Monteux alumni whose artistry and leadership have been shaped by their time in Hancock. Their dual appointment reflects the Orchestra's commitment to fostering emerging talent and innovative programming.

### **Adding to this wave of Monteux excellence, Antoine T. Clark '15-'18 &'23 has been named Conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra's Concert Orchestra,**

the second ensemble of the Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra. This role places yet another Monteux-trained musician at the heart of Cincinnati's youth music education efforts.

This extraordinary moment is more than coincidence, it's a testament to the enduring impact of the Monteux School's rigorous training, artistic values, and supportive community. From ballet to chamber music to youth orchestras, Monteux alumni are shaping Cincinnati's cultural future with passion and precision.

Stay tuned for more updates as these talented conductors begin their new journeys.



### MONTEUX ALUMNUS HARRIS ANDERSON '23 &'24 RECEIVES SOLTI FOUNDATION CAREER ASSISTANCE AWARD

The Monteux School & Music Festival is proud to announce that alumnus Harris Anderson has been named one of 18 recipients of the 2025 Career Assistance Award from the prestigious Solti Foundation U.S. This honor recognizes outstanding young American conductors under the age of 36 who are making significant strides in the field of classical music.

Chosen from a competitive pool of over 50 applicants, Harris joins a distinguished group of conductors working across the U.S., Europe, and beyond. The award celebrates his artistic excellence, leadership potential, and dedication to the craft of conducting—qualities nurtured during his time at Monteux.

Now in its 25th anniversary year, the Solti Foundation continues to support emerging talent in honor of its namesake, Sir Georg Solti. The Career Assistance Award has become a vital stepping stone for many rising conductors, and Harris's inclusion in this year's cohort is a testament to his growing impact in the musical world.

We extend our warmest congratulations to Harris and look forward to following his continued success on the podium.



### MONTEUX ALUMNA MARGI GRIEBLING-HAIGH '85-'89 (OBOE/ENGLISH HORN) PREMIERES HER FIRST OPERA, THE HIGGLER

The Monteux School & Music Festival is thrilled to share news of a major artistic milestone from alumna Margi Griebeling-Haigh, who recently premiered her first opera, *The Higglers*, in a fully staged and costumed production this past June.

The opera, based on a story by A.E. Coppard, was brought to life with a chamber orchestra, supertitles, and a cast of vibrant characters, all under the musical direction of fellow Monteux alum **STEVEN SMITH '88**. Margi and Steven first met at Eastman and reconnected through their shared Monteux roots, making this collaboration a full-circle moment.

Steven Smith praised Margi's compositional voice, saying: "I think her sense of rhythm is extraordinarily crisp. There's always something rhythmically inventive going on. And she often thinks very polyphonically, so there can be numerous strands moving at a single time, or one that's being supported. And in the case of an opera, I think that happens more often than not. I think she's great at using dissonance to create specific effects and colors. But then at other times, there's just a gorgeous major chord that fits the mood perfectly. I think she's got a great ear for color and timbre, particularly in the orchestra. This is a small chamber orchestra, but virtually every color is represented in every family of instruments. And she's got such a great ear for instrumental sonority and how that can blend and support the characters and the overall drama."

The opera was professionally filmed and edited by Enharmonic Records, with clear visuals and lyrics that make it accessible and engaging for all audiences. You can view the production here: [The Higglers – Act I](#) / [The Higglers – Act II](#)

Margi continues to compose chamber and vocal works, with recent recordings including *Voices from the Other Side* (Navona Label, 2024), featuring music for eight cellos and soprano conducted by Steven Smith and performed by Margi's daughter, soprano Gabrielle Haigh.

After stepping away from her role at Apollo's Fire, Margi hopes to return to Hancock in 2026 and perhaps join a chamber music concert. She writes: "The Monteux School remains one of my most important musical experiences. I truly hope to visit next summer."

We look forward to welcoming Margi back and celebrating her continued creative journey!



## Monteux Alumni Named Finalists for Plano Symphony Music Director Search

The Monteux School & Music Festival is proud to celebrate two distinguished alumni **GONZALO FARIAS '13** and **JACOB JOYCE '17** who have been named finalists in the Plano Symphony Orchestra's international search for its next Music Director. Out of nearly 100 applicants, Gonzalo and Jacob are among five finalists selected to lead PSO concerts during the 2026–2027 season, with the final appointment to be announced in May 2027.

**Gonzalo Farias**, currently Associate Conductor of the Houston Symphony, is known for his lyrical and engaging style, blending musical excellence with community-centered programming. His career includes conducting roles with the Kansas City, Jacksonville, and Virginia symphonies, and a recent world premiere with the Houston Symphony. A former pianist and a deep musical thinker, Gonzalo's work is shaped by his interest in Zen practice and music as a space for shared meaning.

**Jacob Joyce**, Associate Conductor of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and Music Director of the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony, is a rising star on the podium. He has conducted major orchestras across the U.S. and Europe and is a passionate advocate for audience engagement. Jacob is also the creator of the podcast *Attention to Detail*, which helps listeners deepen their understanding of classical music.

Both Gonzalo and Jacob exemplify the Monteux tradition of musical leadership, innovation, and excellence. Their selection as finalists for this prestigious role is a testament to their artistry and the enduring impact of their time at Monteux.

We wish them both the very best as they take the stage in Plano and continue to shape the future of orchestral music.



## KYLE RITENAUER MAKES NEW YORK CITY BALLET DEBUT

The Monteux School & Music Festival is proud to celebrate Monteux Associate Conductor **KYLE RITENAUER** on his debut with the **New York City Ballet**, conducting *Episodes* by Anton Webern as part of the company's **All Balanchine I** program.

Performances took place on **September 17, 20, 21, 27 (two performances)**, and October 3, marking a significant milestone in Kyle's career and a thrilling moment for the Monteux community.

Balanchine's *Episodes*, set to the music of Webern, is a masterwork of modernist choreography and orchestration. Kyle's sensitive and precise leadership from the podium brought the score to life, supporting the dancers with clarity and nuance in one of the most musically demanding pieces in the repertory.

Kyle's artistry and professionalism continue to reflect the Monteux tradition of excellence. We congratulate him on this achievement and look forward to many more milestones ahead.

## ALYSSA WANG '16 NAMED MUSIC DIRECTOR OF CAPE SYMPHONY

The Monteux School & Music Festival proudly congratulates alumna Alyssa Wang on her appointment as Music Director of Cape Symphony, one of Massachusetts' leading cultural institutions. Selected from over 200 applicants in an international search, Alyssa emerged as the clear choice following her standout performance in the 2024–25 Masterpiece concert series.

Alyssa is a dynamic and multifaceted artist—an award-winning conductor, violinist, and composer—whose career continues to ascend. She currently serves as Music Director of the Cincinnati Ballet, Co-Founder and Principal Conductor of the Boston Festival Orchestra, and is a member violinist of the Boston Chamber Music Society. Her recent composition, *Swept Away*, premiered with the Chamber Orchestra of Pittsburgh in 2023, and her upcoming string octet will debut with BCMS in 2026.

In her own words: "I am thrilled to be joining the Cape Symphony community as Music Director! The Cape is a vibrant and inspiring place, and I have been deeply moved by how engaged, passionate, and welcoming its audiences are. I can't wait to collaborate with the extraordinary musicians of the orchestra and to create performances that connect with and reflect this remarkable community."

Cape Symphony leadership echoed the excitement: "Her artistry, creativity, and vision align beautifully with our mission," said Robert Sigel, Chair of the Board of Trustees. "She has a gift for connecting with people," added Executive Director Michael Albaugh. "Her energy and imagination will light up our stage and our community."

Alyssa will make her Cape Symphony debut at *Holiday on the Cape*, December 5–7, 2025, at the Barnstable Performing Arts Center.

We celebrate Alyssa's continued success and the vibrant musical leadership she brings to every stage she graces.

For more information visit: [capesymphony.org](https://capesymphony.org)



## MONTEUX ALUMNA MISAKI HALL '22-'25 JOINS LOUISVILLE YOUTH ORCHESTRA AS ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR

The Monteux School & Music Festival is proud to share that alumna Misaki Hall has been appointed Staff Assistant Conductor of the Louisville Youth Orchestra (LYO). In this new role, Misaki will assist with all LYO ensembles, lead sectionals, and provide instructional coaching to young musicians across the region.

"I'm thrilled to support the mission of the Louisville Youth Orchestra and support Maestro Lefkowitz's artistic vision for LYO," said Misaki.

A conductor and violinist based in Louisville, Kentucky, Misaki brings a wealth of experience and artistry to the position. She currently serves as rehearsal assistant for the Louisville Orchestra and conductor of the Kling Chamber Orchestra. Her guest conducting engagements include the Louisville Civic Orchestra, Dayton Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, and Orchestra Northern Arizona. In January 2025, she won first prize at the International Conductors Workshop and Competition in Atlanta, earning a guest conducting appearance with the Gwinnett Symphony later this year.

Misaki's connection to Monteux runs deep—she attended the Pierre Monteux School and Music Festival from 2022 to 2025 as a conductor, violinist, and orchestra assistant, embodying the spirit of versatility and dedication that defines our community.

Beyond classical music, Misaki is a passionate performer across genres. She has appeared as a solo jazz violinist with the Count Basie Orchestra and the Chicago Jazz Philharmonic, and she plays synthesizer in her psychedelic-rock band, DOOM GONG.

A proud Kentucky native, Misaki holds degrees in violin performance and conducting from the University of Louisville. Her journey with the Louisville Youth Orchestra began as a young student commuting from Radcliff—and now comes full circle as she steps into a leadership role.

Congratulations, Misaki! Your musical journey continues to inspire.





## ERIK OCHSNER '92-'96 BECOMES NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR OF YOUNGSTOWN SYMPHONY

Finnish-American conductor Erik Ochsner is honored and thrilled to be the new Artistic Director and Music Director of the Youngstown Symphony Orchestra. He first appeared with the orchestra to conduct performances of *Ghostbusters Live in Concert* in 2022; subsequently he has been invited back as a guest conductor seven times culminating in his hiring.

Ochsner's versatility as a conductor has stretched across a broad range of repertoire: from conducting as few as five performers in contemporary and modern works, to leading 300 performers across 20+ full length films using the Live in Concert format. Audiences and critics alike praise Ochsner's energy, attention to detail, and precise synchronization.

Highlights of his appearances in Youngstown: Mahler Symphony No. 1, Strauss' Overture to *Die Fledermaus*, Mozart Piano Concerto No. 23, a specially curated concert including seven works called *Unknown and Gorgeous: River and Iron*, which featured the US premieres of Uno Klami's *Kalevala Suite*, and Eugene Kapp's *Kalevipoeg Ballet Suite* (1947), plus Respighi's *Pines of Rome*; Two more film concerts, *Home Alone in Concert*, and *Back to the Future in Concert*; a concert featuring The Vindys and the YSO, a narrated Superheroes concert, a Romeo and Juliet concert with soprano Avery Boettcher, and a concert with Beethoven's Symphony No. 3, and two pieces of Luigi Cherubini.

Most recently, Ochsner conducted three performances of *Lion King (1994) Live in Concert*, and three performances of *Frozen Live in Concert* with the Armenian State Symphony Orchestra in Dammam, Saudi Arabia. Upcoming performances include performances of *Star Wars in Concert: Episode 6: Return of the Jedi* and *Nightmare Before Christmas* with the Filmharmonique orchestra in Edmonton, Canada, and *Lion King (1994) Live in Concert* in Oman.

Working with his friend Dr. Ruth Westheimer, Ochsner commissioned Tom Chapin and John Forster to create a new piece for three actors and chamber orchestra: *Grandfather Camp: An Orchestral Fantasy*. The story is based on Dr. Ruth's writings about grandparenting. A successful development workshop took place, and the piece is currently being orchestrated for future performance!

Ochsner's long relationship with the Krakow International Film Music Festival have been hugely successful leading sold-out performances in a 16,000-seat arena of *Pixar in Concert*, *Frozen*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Lion King (1994)* (all performed in Polish), plus *Disney in Concert: The Magic of Music* with the Krakow Film Festival Youth Orchestra.

As Principal Touring Conductor for *La La Land Live in Concert*, Ochsner conducted 50 performances across the globe of Justin

Hurwitz's Academy Award and Grammy Award winning score, often performing with two of the original recording artists, pianist Randy Kerber, and trumpeter Wayne Bergeron.

Ochsner conducted the world premiere of *Mary Poppins* (1964) with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra at the Sydney Opera House; made his debut with the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra conducting *Love Actually*; on 40 hours' notice, he flew to Taipei to conduct *Beauty and the Beast in Concert* to fill in for an ailing colleague; at the Nanjing Forest Music Festival in China, he conducted a concert of 18 suites of Hollywood film music; Music Director of the 2017 Opera America New Works Showcase in New York City. In collaboration with the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa, Ochsner led the premiere of *The Music of Star Wars* featuring the iconic music of John Williams, as well as award-winning video game composers Gordy Haab and Kyle Newmaster.

Other Film projects he has conducted include: *Back to the Future*, *Beauty and the Beast* (2017), *Batman* (1989), *Bugs Bunny at the Symphony*, *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*, *Frozen*, *Ghostbusters*, *Home Alone*, *La La Land*, *Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring*, *Love Actually*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Pixar in Concert*, *Star Trek* (2009), *Star Trek Into Darkness*, *Star Wars in Concert: Episodes 4, 5, and 6*.

Equally comfortable on the concert stage or leading opera, oratorio, and multi-media performances, he has performed in Adelaide, Athens, Beijing, Budapest, Calgary, Dallas, Dammam, Detroit, Indianapolis, Jakarta, Kitchener-Waterloo, Krakow, Leipzig, Louisiana, Louisville, Melbourne, Mexico City, Montreal, Monterrey, Moscow, Nashville, New York, Ottawa, Portland, Reykjavik, Richmond, Rochester, Round Top, San Antonio, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, Seoul, Shanghai, Sofia, South Bend, St. Louis, St. Petersburg, Stockholm, Sydney, Taipei, Tampere, Tokyo, Vancouver, Wellington, and Youngstown.

He is Founder and Music Director of SONOS Chamber Orchestra which performed Rite of Spring in an arrangement for 4 pianos and 2 percussionists. *The New York Times* said, "All the hallmarks of a great "Rite" were here."

During an 8-year collaboration, Ochsner served as Rehearsal Conductor for Academy Award winning composer Tan Dun (*Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*). Highlights include Assistant Conductor and Chorus Master for *The First Emperor* workshop, a Metropolitan Opera commission, and Cover Conductor with the Boston Symphony Orchestra for the world premiere of *The Map*, a multimedia cello featuring Yo-Yo Ma with performances in Boston, Carnegie Hall, and Tanglewood.

*The Bulgarian Monitor* said, "Sensuality and synchronicity, matched by perfection, accompanied each of the melodies during *La La Land: Live in Concert*." *Radio Canada* wrote, "[Ochsner] was of remarkable precision to the musical direction...the music of the orchestra seemed to emanate for the film. There was no distinction between the screen and the stage." *The Ontario Arts Review* has said "Watch this man, he is brilliant."

Recordings include *Brian Wilbur Grundstrom: An Orchestral Journey* (CD), and *Tea: A Mirror of Soul* (DVD).

Ochsner attended The Pierre Monteux School and is a graduate of Dartmouth College. He speaks French, German, and Italian. His mentors and teachers included Robert Spano, Charles Bruck, Erich Kunzel, Marin Alsop, and Helmuth Rilling. He lives in New York City, loves traveling, wine, and collecting requiem recordings.

## CALLING ALL MONTEUX SCHOOL & MUSIC FESTIVAL ALUMNI!

**Got news? We can't wait to hear it!**

We want to hear from you and celebrate your successes! Whether you've landed a new job, won an award, or achieved something amazing, let us know. Be spotlighted in our newsletter, interviewed for our Oral Archive, and more.

Share your journey and inspire others.

**Please reach out to Executive Director, Stan Renard at [info@monteuxmusic.org](mailto:info@monteuxmusic.org) and share your stories with us!**



# IN MEMORIAM

## John Canarina

1934-2025



Alumni remember him fondly:

"I met John at the Monteux School in 1989. We were colleagues on the Board of Directors for the Conductors Guild. He was a true gentleman and openly shared his knowledge and memories." – Anthony LaGruth '88-'95

"John was a lovely and gracious human being, whose warm comments about MUSE of FIRE were a wonderful boon after the play first premiered in 2005." – David Katz '84-'88

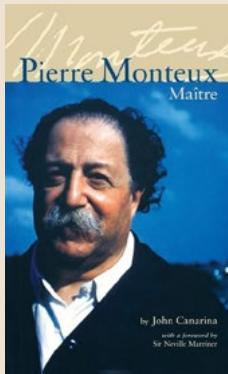
John's contributions to music extended far beyond the podium. His career included conducting roles with the New York Philharmonic under Leonard Bernstein, the Jacksonville Symphony, and orchestras across North America and Europe. He also served as Director of Orchestral Studies at Drake University for 35 years, mentoring countless young musicians.

In a final act of generosity, John's widow, Audrey Ashby, has donated his extensive music library of scores and folios to the Monteux School. This invaluable collection will be incorporated into our campus libraries, continuing to inspire future generations.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Audrey and all who knew and loved John. His memory will live on in our music, our stories, and our shared commitment to excellence.

*Contributions in John's honor may be made to the Pierre Monteux School and Music Festival, PO Box 457, Hancock, ME 04640.*

The Monteux School & Music Festival mourns the passing of John Canarina, a treasured member of our musical family, who died on August 25, 2025, at the age of 91.



John's legacy is deeply rooted in the history of the Monteux School. A student of Pierre Monteux himself, John went on to become a distinguished conductor, educator, and author. His biography *Pierre Monteux, Maître* remains the definitive account of our founder's life and influence. During his visits to Hancock, John generously gifted signed copies of his book to students, leaving a lasting impression on many.



# Join the Monteux Associates!



The Associates are a dedicated group of Monteux volunteers who make a huge impact each summer.

They give rides to students to and from the airport and bus station, prepare the campus to welcome our musicians, organize sectional dinners, social outings, boat rides, hikes, help with laundry, and take our musicians to dinner and grocery shopping.

Get to know our student musicians and create bonds that often last for years!

With a general meeting in May and many fun memories throughout the summer, it's a wonderful way to give back.

**If interested, please contact Monteux Office Manager, Mary Turner at [moniturner43@gmail.com](mailto:moniturner43@gmail.com)**



**We can't wait to welcome you to our team!**

# Consider Funding a Named Scholarship!



Join us in supporting the next generation of musicians at Monteux by funding a full instrumental scholarship (\$1500) or conducting scholarship (\$3200). You can even co-fund scholarships with friends!

Donors of named scholarships are invited to our exclusive Scholarship Dinner and paired with the recipient of their scholarship making it a very special experience. Additionally, we recognize our named scholarship donors in the program inserts at each concert. *(The deadline for inclusion in the 2026 Program is June 1, 2026. Gifts received after June 1 will be included in the 2027 Programs.)*

**For more information about this exciting initiative, please contact Executive Director Stan Renard at [info@monteuxmusic.org](mailto:info@monteuxmusic.org)**



**Your generosity makes a difference!**

# Become a Sponsor or Advertise with us!

## Become a Sponsor!

Support the Monteux School and Music Festival while gaining meaningful visibility for your business or organization. Sponsorship levels range from \$500 to \$5,000+, with benefits including program book ads, website listings, concert tickets, invitations to special events, speaking opportunities, and more.

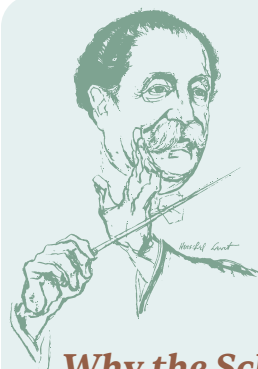
Your support helps bring exceptional performances and artist training to life each summer.

## Advertise in our Program Book!

Promote your business to a vibrant and engaged audience while supporting music and arts education. With six festival orchestra concerts, five chamber performances, and a free children's concert throughout June and July, your ad will reach more than 2,000 concertgoers from across the region.

*Ad rates range from \$150 to \$400 based on size and color. The deadline for inclusion in the 2026 Program Book is June 1, 2026.*

**For more information, please contact Stan Renard, Executive Director, at [info@monteuxmusic.org](mailto:info@monteuxmusic.org)**



# Sustaining the Present, Investing in the Future

## Why the School Needs Your Support

The Monteux School and Festival is a highly respected program and among the most affordable in the country. This is the result of attention to detail by our board and staff and a commitment to excellence.

Additionally, it entails a commitment to make the school available to talented conductors and musicians who wish to attend the festival regardless of their financial status. Maintaining a program like this is expensive and we depend heavily on our donors.

## How You Can Support the Annual Needs of the School

### BECOME A SEASON SUBSCRIBER

Our season ticket holders provide a portion of the necessary funds which contribute to operating expenses. Subscribers receive reserved priority seating and a biography of festival musicians and conductors.

### THE ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

The Annual Campaign supplements other income and is necessary to meet annual recurring expenses. Donors who contribute to the annual campaign help continue the excellent educational components of the school as well as provide high quality concerts during the summer.

### THE GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Many conductors and musicians come to us with substantial student debt and little income. They sacrifice summer jobs and provide their own meals and transportation. This fund supports individuals needing help with tuition each year. Funds allow us to accept many students who would not otherwise be able to attend the School.

## How You Can Contribute to the Future of the School

### THE PERMANENT SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

This invested fund allows the school to access a percentage of the income generated from the donated principal to support scholarship aid for conductors and musicians. The principal cannot be spent and a Board directed percentage of return withdrawal allows for the fund to grow.

### THE MICHAEL JINBO PERMANENT ENDOWMENT

This endowment was established in memory of Music Director, Michael Jinbo who served the school for 27 years until his death in 2022. Proceeds support one conducting scholarship annually and hopefully more as the fund grows.

### PERMANENT GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUND

Like other permanent endowments, the principal is invested and a percentage of the dividends may be used to support the school's future needs. Most major non-profits endeavor to build a general endowment. This is crucial to ensure the future of the school and is an important component of our strategic planning.

### THE BOARD DIRECTED RESERVE FUND

This is an unrestricted invested fund which serves to ensure stability of the school. The board can access these funds but is generally hesitant to use them unless deemed necessary. This is part of our stability planning.

### THE LEGACY CLUB

The Legacy Club is comprised of supporters who want to ensure the future of the school by leaving a bequest and can be directed to any of the above funds.

**OTHER OPTIONS** - A donor may wish to leave the school a bequest or make an immediate donation for some other purpose. This should be discussed with the Executive Director who will bring the details to the board.

For further information, please contact Stan Renard, Executive Director.

PHONE 207-813-4914

EMAIL [info@monteuxmusic.org](mailto:info@monteuxmusic.org)

MAIL Monteux School & Music Festival,  
PO Box 457, Hancock, ME 04640

SCAN HERE TO DONATE ONLINE



*We are grateful for each and every contribution which supports the school. Every donation, large or small, makes a significant difference.*

2026 APPLICATION INFORMATION



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ORCHESTRAL ACADEMY AND  
SCHOOL FOR CONDUCTORS

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**Dr. Tiffany Lu**  
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**Dr. Stan Renard**  
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**Kyle Ritenauer**  
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**Tito Muñoz**  
Guest Conducting  
Faculty



**Ming Luke**  
Guest Conducting  
Faculty



*For more information  
and to apply, please visit:*

**monteuxmusic.org**

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# MONTEUX

## SCHOOL & MUSIC FESTIVAL

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**2026** OUR 83<sup>RD</sup> SEASON  
**JUNE 14**  
—THROUGH—  
**JULY 26**

### MONTEUX FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA CONCERTS

**SUNDAYS - 5:00 PM**

*June 14, 28 and July 5, 12, 19, 26*

### MAINLY CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERTS

**WEDNESDAYS - 5:00 PM**

*June 24 and July 1, 8, 15, 22*

### FREE CHILDREN'S CONCERT

**THURSDAY, JULY 2 - 10:30 AM**

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STARTING MAY 1, 2026

## BECOME A SUBSCRIBER!

Experience the magic of Monteux Concerts with our 2026 subscription! Sales start on March 15, 2026, so keep an eye out for our announcements.

*Exclusive perks for our subscribers include:*

**FAVORITE SEATS!** Secure your favorite seats and enjoy the best views all season long.

**EXCLUSIVE BIO BOOKS** Get to know our talented musicians with these coveted keepsakes.

**OPEN REHEARSAL** Receive an invitation to our subscriber-dedicated open rehearsal and witness the artistry behind the scenes.

**SEASONAL NEWSLETTERS** All ongoing subscribers will receive physical copies of our Fall and Spring newsletters.

**MUSE OF FIRE** Your subscription will also include an additional performance of the MUSE of FIRE Evening with Monteux Alumni David Katz on Wednesday June 17, 2026, at 5pm.

*Don't miss out on these exciting benefits!*

If you wish to gift subscription(s) to your loved ones, please contact Executive Director Stan Renard at [info@monteuxmusic.org](mailto:info@monteuxmusic.org)



For ticket info and subscriptions, please visit:

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