

Ensuring the Legacy:

The Campaign for the Future of the Pierre Monteux School

Nestled in the woods near the shore of Taunton Bay, the Pierre Monteux School has been bringing conductors and orchestra musicians together for intensive study and preparation for professional careers for 60 years. Founded by the legendary symphony conductor and Hancock resident Pierre Monteux, respectfully referred to as “Maître” (French for “maestro”), the School immerses students in a uniquely intimate and intense experience and also offers top quality concerts to the community at large.

After many years of use, the School’s facilities are showing their age, and the need to secure the long-term future of the School itself is also apparent. The school is entirely self-supported; the only legacy from Monteux was the property, the buildings, and the tradition. Accordingly, the trustees and “Friends of the Monteux School” have embarked on a Campaign for the Future of the Pierre Monteux School to preserve, renovate, repair, enhance, and provide the School with the physical facilities and other resources, including endowment, to assure that it can continue to serve future generations of conducting students and orchestra musicians from around the world. We invite you to join us in ensuring the legacy of our beloved “Maître.”



The Challenge

For many years, the School was a private venture of the Monteux family and accumulated no assets other than the land and buildings in Hancock. In fact, concerts were often used as fundraisers for local organizations such as the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor and the Maine Coast Memorial Hospital in Ellsworth.

Currently, the School’s income is derived solely from student fees, concert ticket sales, and donations by a relatively small number of friends and alumni. These cover operating costs and some scholarships, but there is little cushion for major repairs, program growth or inflation. There is no endowment and the School receives no royalties. Our funding has been adequate to cover expenses for our students and curriculum.

By the late 1990s, the Forest Studio was not able to meet the requirements of accessibility and comfort, the seating space could no longer accommodate the size of audiences at the School’s concert series, and its foundation had deteriorated beyond repair. The 2002 Studio renovation project turned out to be just in the nick of time. This spurred the trustees to look at the School’s other facilities and longer-term needs.

We can no longer defer paying attention to our facilities. The six cabins, cottage, and barn on the School campus are 30 (and more) years old and all are in need of repair and renovation. Our grand piano has suffered irreparable damage from inadequate protection from Maine climate changes and needs to be replaced. Additionally, as costs rise, we need greater capacity to offer scholarships to students from around the world who otherwise would be unable to attend the School.



Ensuring the Legacy : Addressing the Needs

The Pierre Monteux Memorial Foundation trustees have developed a plan for ensuring Pierre Monteux's legacy—the long-term viability of the school that he founded in 1943. Phase I addresses the completion of renovations and expansion of the Forest Studio, plus funding for scholarships, guests artists, and a new piano. Phase II includes repair and renovation of existing student housing, paying off the mortgage to purchase the Monteux home, and building an endowment.

The Forest Studio is the heart of the Monteux School, whose properties also include cabins for housing ten students, a barn that can house twelve students and also serves as a commons area with laundry, kitchen, and showers, a cottage that serves as a residence for three students, 20+ acres of rolling land in Hancock, and the Monteux house, known as Winterhaven. The Studio is used for rehearsals six days a week during the School's six week summer program; it is also used for concerts twice a week. Hence, it is essential that the Studio facilities meet the needs of students and concert audiences.

- The Studio renovation is the first capital project we have undertaken. We have been able to retain most of the original building and the camp-style of the 56-year-old hall. So far, we have completed the new foundation, installed a new septic system and bathrooms, incorporated a new porch into the hall itself—augmenting the audience seating by almost 100, added fire exits and ramps to provide handicap access, and revamped the backstage area and music library. Remaining to be done are replacement of the roof and completion of the cedar shingling on the exterior of the building.
- Scholarship endowment - In 2003, the Monteux School provided \$17,000 in scholarships to students. Given rising costs and students' needs, we need to ensure that we can increase this support in the future.
- Artist-in-residence endowment - Guest artists have become a key element of each summer's program, providing opportunities for conducting students to work with soloists and for master classes.
- A new grand piano - To have a quality instrument available for our students, we need to purchase a new piano and set aside funds to provide appropriate winter storage.
- Student housing - The majority of students are housed in rented summer homes in the area. The other students are housed in rustic accommodations at the School. Appropriate and affordable rental housing has become increasingly difficult to secure. The medium-term need is to repair and renovate the existing facilities on the school grounds.
- Paying off the mortgage to purchase the Monteux house - As part of securing the Monteux legacy, the Foundation's trustees arranged to purchase the Monteux home known as Winterhaven from Nancie Monteux-Barendse. The purchase agreement includes the Monteux memorabilia and library of scores, recordings, and photographs.



How You Can Help

Our goal is to raise \$855,000. With your help, we will ensure that the Pierre Monteux School's extraordinary resources for conductors, instrumentalists and concert-goers in our community will exist for generations to come.

Pledges are welcome and may be paid over three years on a quarterly, semiannual or annual schedule. We hope you'll consider making the Pierre Monteux School a major part of your charitable giving for the next three years.

Donors choosing to give a gift of securities, real estate, annuities, a bequest or a trust may realize significant tax benefits. These and other planned gift arrangements can be made by contacting Dr. Ronald Schwizer, Treasurer, at the address below.

Gifts should be made to the Pierre Monteux Memorial Foundation, recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) charitable organization. All gifts to the Pierre Monteux Memorial Foundation are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

If you would like a campaign committee member to contact you, or if you have any questions about the school or the campaign, please phone one of the co-chairs.

Please return the enclosed pledge form and/or contribution to: Dr. Ronald W. Schwizer, Treasurer, The Pierre Monteux School, PO Box 457, Hancock, ME 04640; fax: (207) 422-8267.

Pierre Monteux School Campaign Committee

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