

MONTEUX

SCHOOL & MUSIC FESTIVAL

SPRING 2022

Newsletter



In Memoriam **MICHAEL JINBO, 1957-2022**

'Do not mourn for me for long.' These words are for Michael.

Who among us—few, I suppose—can say that we have had the sort of influence Michael has

had—and will continue to have—on so many? I certainly cannot, and I was a teacher, like him.

Imagine yourself in rehearsal in the Hall. He calls out the student conductor's name. The student walks to the podium. The lesson begins. But in truth, it has probably begun before. Except for the first student of the summer, the rest have witnessed the trial. 'Stop!' he says. And so the lesson begins. They (you) all know what is coming. 'Why did you do that?'

They (you) either know, or they (you) don't. And they (you) are either honest, or they (you) are not. In any case, it is the 'Joe Louis theory of education.' As was said of the opponent who stepped into the ring with the great boxer, 'Nowhere to run, nowhere to hide.' This is the open secret that Michael learned from Charles Bruck, that I suppose Bruck learned from Monteux, and that he passed on to his students (to you). No way to hide, no need to hide, and don't try.

The podium is an existential space. There is the question from the Maestro, and there are three possible answers: 'I know'—and then the explanation. Or 'I don't know'—which made Socrates the wisest man in Athens. Or fake it and BS. But the last happens only once.

In a society awash in merely personal preference, Michael stood for that objective hermeneutic, that faithful interpretation of the musical text, which he learned from Charles Bruck, and which Bruck learned from Monteux. This is and will remain the historic legacy of the Monteux School and Music Festival.

And so, Michael had—and has—an impact of a very rare and precious, deeply personal and 'existential' sort that very few of us will be blessed to have in this life of ours. What more can you ask than this?

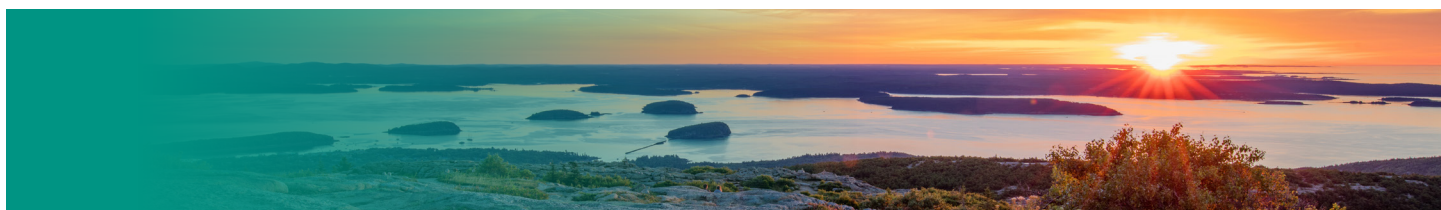
And yet for me, at least, and for the very same forty years of devotion to the School that I shared with Michael, this is neither the whole story, nor even its most important part. Let's be honest. You and I mourn Michael now, but soon we will think of him only seldom. And then we will all die, as Michael did on Monday, April 18. And then, what is left? So far as concerns us and our weak memories, nothing.

But there is something more. There is the inscription onto the ongoing character of things of what that standing on the podium and of what took place there means. This is somehow not lost. How this is the case we do not know; but that it is, we do. There is a permanence amid the flux, and what is honest and good remains.

Mourn for Michael, but not for long.

As ever, on behalf of the School,

Phil Devenish
President, Pierre Monteux Memorial Foundation



From Executive Director **MARC THAYER**



Dear Monteux
Friends and Alumni,

As I write my final addition to the Monteux Newsletter I am full of such a mix of feelings, sadness at our sudden loss, optimism for new leadership under Stan Renard and Tiffany Lu, curiosity about what the new Search Committee will discover for the future, and my own grief

knowing that I will miss spending summers in Hancock. But I'll stay involved if possible and visit when I can. My new position as CEO of the Elgin Symphony has made it impossible to continue my work with Monteux and have enough time to dedicate to the needs of the school. I've thoroughly enjoyed my almost-five years with all of you and look forward to hearing great things about the school for many more years.

It seems so recent that I was shadowing Ron Schwizer in 2018 learning the many facets of the job, where you all like to sit in Forest Studio, and the many traditions of the school that have carried on for almost 80 years. I'm so proud to have been a small part of this institution for a short period of time. And I'm pleased with what we've accomplished in those years with the great assistance of Tiffany Lu, the Trustees and the invaluable Associates who do so much for the school behind the scenes, we really must celebrate you and your many contributions to the musicians and conductors. We survived the surprising pandemic summers, wore masks to concerts, fought the mosquitos, and cried through many of the inspirational concerts while hearing the birds outside, the wind blowing through the concert hall, and the rain on the roof making parking in the mud all part of the fun.

Now Monteux looks toward its next era, all part of the evolution of a modern institution while nurturing and treasuring the legacy of the school, its Music Directors, its many fabulous alumni and the very music that brings us all together. My very best wishes for all of you and we'll see you down the lane. Thanks for all you have done to help me and to support the school for so many years.

Executive Director Designate **STAN RENARD**



Outgoing Monteux Executive Director, Marc Thayer will be in Hancock through June supporting our incoming Executive Director Stan Renard. Our two fearless leaders are already good friends and have been working together since January to make for a smooth transition.

Meanwhile, Stan has taken on the task to create the first Economic and Cultural Impact Study that will document how much MSMF benefits the local economy in the greater Hancock County. Expect to see many infographics, a detailed timeline, maps, and much more. It will be a highly visual document that will assist our team with development and fundraising efforts moving forward. The study will be released mid-May and our Board is thrilled about it!





From Tiffany Lu

Dear Monteux family,

I write to you all full of both sorrow and gratitude. We have lost a beloved guiding light. My heart is broken. And yet, it helps to know that the work I can and must do in the meantime is of such vital importance, and contributes to the goal of remembering and honoring Michael in such a tangible and meaningful way.

I am so grateful for everyone who has written to me over these painful days with condolences and offers of help. It is a vast and complicated landscape to think about how everyone can bring their individual gifts to the table to make this season, Michael's legacy, and the School a success. Please know that I am doing my best to wade through the lovely notes, comments, emails, and especially all the ideas about how this summer's program can be made as strong as possible, both in its goal of honoring Michael expressly, and in continuing to provide the experience which is his legacy.

If you know college or graduate conductors or orchestral musicians who are still looking for summer activities to attend, please continue to encourage them to apply, even now. My first priority is staffing the orchestra, and this is proving a rather complicated task. We still have room, and I'd love to consider late-breaking applications from talented musicians.

More to come. And of course, please continue to send your love to Joe Klapatch and his family as we move forward together.

—Tiffany Lu

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Tiffany Lu has been invited to take over as Director of Orchestras at the University of Florida in Gainesville starting this fall. We all send our congratulations to Tiffany and wish her all the best in this new and exciting opportunity. They are so lucky to have her.

NEW HARP INSTITUTE COMING TO HANCOCK

This summer, we will welcome the inaugural session of The Maine Coast Harp Institute with Yolanda Kondonassis on our beautiful grounds from August 3-13. The program is inspired by the legendary summer Harp Colony retreat in Camden, Maine, which Yolanda attended for many summers. While in Camden as a youth, Yolanda also played in the Monteux Orchestra on several occasions and has wonderful memories of those experiences, so life again comes full circle, as it does so often in the Monteux family.

MCHI is incorporated as a 501C3 organization and acceptance letters to harp students will go out this week. We look forward to hearing beautiful strains of harp music as a fitting coda to another glorious and especially meaningful season of orchestral music. If you would like to support MCHI through a gift, please let us know. The program is sure to be a wonderful addition to Monteux's musical family.





GUEST CONDUCTORS, ARTISTS AND TEACHING FACULTY

We're excited to announce that the Guest Artist in the July 3 Festival Orchestra Concert will be cellist **Bjorn Ranheim**, a member of the St. Louis Symphony. Bjorn presented a Masterclass/Audition Workshop at Monteux in 2021 and was invited to perform the Dvorak Cello Concerto this year by Michael Jinbo. Bjorn will also participate in the 'Mainely' Chamber Music Concert on June 29 at 5:00 PM and will present a Masterclass/Workshop on Thursday, June 30 at 3:00 in Forest Studio.

We are fortunate to have the following conducting faculty and guest conducting faculty confirmed for this coming summer, all Monteux alumni:

Dr. Tiffany Lu, *Interim Music Director*

Ludovic Morlot

David Rahbee

Kensho Watanabe

Neal Gittleman

Our Guest Clinicians and Speakers include:

Will White, *Conductor, Composer and Monteux Alumnus*

Henry Fogel, *Former CEO-Chicago Symphony and Dean of Fine Arts at Roosevelt University*

Julia Li, *violinist in the Philadelphia Orchestra*

Tony Prisk, *second trumpet with the Philadelphia Orchestra*

Jeff Thayer, *Concertmaster of the San Diego Symphony*

Felicia Foland, *bassoonist with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra*

Nathan Cole, *First Associate Concertmaster of the Los Angeles Philharmonic*

Stephen Lange, *trombonist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra*

SCHOLARSHIP NEEDS

As we begin the spring and look forward to the Summer Festival with many changes and challenges, we are in need of additional scholarship aid to offer to our invited conductors and instrumentalists to have a full orchestra on stage in June.

Your gift will make it possible for a student to come to Monteux, some from other countries, and 100% of your gift will go towards a scholarship. Expenses continue to increase, travel and instrument care are expensive, and food and housing are a major expense.

Please make a gift to the School earmarked for Musician Scholarships by sending a check to the Monteux School, Box 457, Hancock, ME 04640 or go to our website, monteuxmusic.org and scroll down to the tab on the right that says 'DONATE' - You can make a real difference. Thank You.

CONCERT TICKETS ON SALE SOON!

Tickets for 2022 Summer Concerts will go on sale May 10 excluding the Memorial Concert on July 24 which will go on sale June 1. Watch for a notice by email and on our [website](#) or [Facebook](#) page.

MONTEUX FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA CONCERTS

\$25 each
Sundays, 5:00 PM
June 26, July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

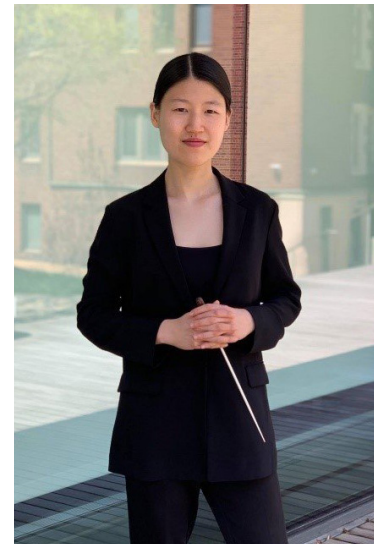
'MAINELY' CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERTS

\$20 each
Wednesdays, 5:00 PM
June 29, July 6, 13, 20, 27



SUNNY XIA TO START AS ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR OF THE SEATTLE SYMPHONY

Starting in September, 2022, Sunny Xia will be the Seattle Symphony’s newest Assistant Conductor where she will present education concerts and . Sunny has been a conductor, violinist and Orchestra Assistant at the Monteux School for the past four years. Currently Sunny is Assistant Conductor of the Phoenix Youth Symphony Orchestra and Arizona State University Symphony Orchestra where she is simultaneously pursuing a doctorate in Orchestral and Opera Conducting.



MEI-ANN CHEN AT THE NEW WORLD SYMPHONY

Monteux Alumna Mei-Ann Chen had her conducting premiere in the recent Side-by-Side Concert at The New World Symphony in Miami Beach. This concert included high school students from around Dade County sitting next to New World Symphony musicians on stage at the New World Center, a new performing arts center designed by Frank Gehry. The Side-by-Side Concert is an annual event started by Monteux Executive Director Marc Thayer when he was a member of the NWS in 1997. Ms. Chen has been Music Director of the MacArthur Award-winning Chicago Sinfonietta since 2011. In 2021 she was named Chief Conductor of Austria’s Grosses Orchester Graz at Styriarte.

To watch this year’s concert click on this link: <https://www.nws.edu/events-tickets/streaming-side-by-side-virtual-concert/>

For more click on this link: <https://seattlesymphonypress.squarespace.com/pressreleases/announces-sunny-xia-as-assistant-conductor>

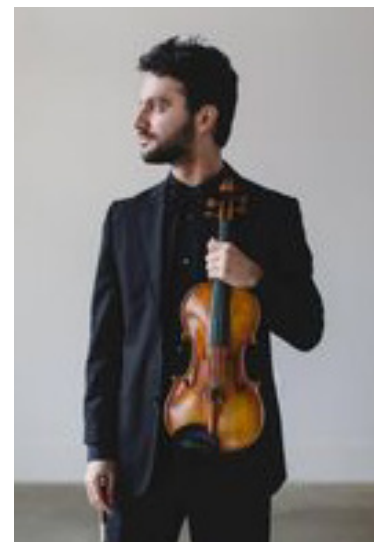


ALEX AMSEL NAMED RESIDENT CONDUCTOR OF THE HOUSTON GRAND OPERA

Argentinian-born conductor, bassoonist and Monteux alumnus Alex Amsel has been named Resident Conductor of the Houston Grand Opera Orchestra starting this coming fall. Currently he is the Assistant Conductor of the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra where he leads the orchestra in a variety of concerts including Symphonic, Pops, Chamber and Education programs. Amsel was also selected for the prestigious Aspen Conducting Academy for the 2020 and 2021 summers.

REBIN ALI TO SERVE AT THE KENNEDY CENTER IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Rebin Ali, violinist at Monteux in 2019, has been appointed to start in June as the Assistant Manager-Corporate Relations at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. Previously he served as the Associate Director of Development at the Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra.



THE NEW DORMITORY

Many thanks to all of you that contributed financially to make possible our 'New Building' for student housing. The new building, as of April 24, 2022 is nearing completion and still awaiting a proper name! We are in the final stages of construction that began last fall and that continued through a cold and snowy winter into what we still await as

spring. All will be ready for the arrival of our musicians in mid-June.

With six twin-bedrooms, three baths (one ADA accessible), a common room and kitchen, and a spacious screen porch, located behind the School office in Tamarack Place, we are moving towards our goal of self-sufficiency in housing

for all our students. A huge thank-you to donors who have contributed to this facility, and an invitation to those of you who would still like to help us retire the very favorable 3.15% fixed mortgage on the remaining balance.

We are extremely grateful for everyone's support.

