

I attended the 2016 Monteux School and Festival with scholarship assistance, and I wanted to say a few words about the importance of scholarship funding to the vitality of the program. I do not think it is any secret that music is a tough career to "make it" in. And for all the joy classical music brings to many, it is certainly not a lucrative business for most of those who practice it. As music students, we work very hard and are not often rewarded monetarily.

I have been fortunate enough to attend the Monteux School and Festival twice now, and I want to express how great an experience it is for everyone involved. Of course it is very inspiring musically, but there is more to it than that. I have attended several music festivals over the past few summers, and in my opinion Monteux is set apart by its feeling of community. I think there is just a wonderful rapport that exists between everyone involved in the school, from students to directors to volunteers.

I know my own recollections of Monteux, from performing Brahms I to picking blueberries with friends to climbing Mt. Katahdin, are among my fondest memories and I will value them for the remainder of my life. For me, those Monteux summers would not have been feasible without the financial assistance which I was grateful to receive. It is my hope that future funding will open the door to the Monteux experience for *all* of those who deserve the opportunity to take part in it.

Sincerely,
Turi Scilipoti

Upon arriving in Maine in June 2016 for first time in my life, I had no idea what to expect as a flutist for the Pierre Monteux Summer Music Festival. I did not know any of the musicians, conductors, or Maestro Jinbo, but I was feeling optimistic it would be a great summer. Throughout the six weeks of orchestral training, it was one of the most intense and thrilling experiences of my musical career thus far. We rehearsed everyday, gave concerts and chamber recitals every week, and managed to have great fun around the breathtaking coast of Maine. My

unexpected and magical summer came to fruition due to the aid of the Monteux Memorial Scholarship. This was a gift that allowed me to test myself as I flew across country from Colorado to live with 60 strangers and play and perform music all hours of the day! When I came back to Colorado, I told everyone that it was truly the best summer of my life. I will be eternally grateful for my time in Hancock, for the Monteux Memorial Foundation, and for my colleagues that worked and laughed and bonded with me all summer long. Thank you forever, Monteux School!

Sincerely,
Elisa Muzzillo

My experience at the Monteux School would not have happened if it wasn't for my scholarship. As a young graduate student, it is very difficult to find affordable workshops and schools that are also held at a high standard. Not only do the scholarships provide us with the opportunity to meet and connect with new friends and colleagues, but they also provide a special bond between the Monteux students and supporters themselves - one of the unique aspects of Monteux.

Best,
Abbie Naze

There has never been a summer festival like the Pierre Monteux School, where students get to interact with a live orchestra every single week and work one on one with superb teachers, such as Michael Jinbo. My time at the Monteux School entirely changed my life. It gave me the confidence to pursue my long-time passion for conducting. It challenged me to be prepared under any circumstance. It encouraged me to be a leader, a friend, and an inspiration to my colleagues. The truth is that none of this would have been possible without scholarship. Due to the high costs of studying music, such as affording an instrument, maintaining that instrument, and traveling to unpaid festivals every year, it is extremely difficult for so many students to afford the experiences

necessary for them to achieve their goals. Scholarship is the primary way to help students to have these experiences. As a graduate student, I can't begin to explain the relief and gratefulness I feel when I realize that I will be receiving scholarship for a music festival. I know that I will be able to concentrate on my studies without the worry of financial burden. Scholarships often come directly from individual patrons. It is a special privilege that, at the Monteux School, many of us get to meet and interact with the very people who have allowed us to be there. Last summer I was provided scholarship from Sam and Joann Williams, and being able to meet them was the beginning of a wonderful relationship that extended through the rest of the summer to the present. They are a constant reminder to me of the power of generosity, and of the relationships that can form with music at the heart of everything.

Best,
Alyssa Wang

Having a scholarship at the Monteux School meant so much to me. I could enjoy my summer in beautiful Hancock, ME attending a rigorous summer festival without having to worry about how I would pay for it. Taking the money factor out of going to the festival allowed me to enjoy it more and made me feel more relaxed. I loved my off-campus house, the hiking, the scenery, and the orchestra and it was pretty amazing that I could enter my senior year of college without having spent all my money over the summer. It is difficult these days to find a festival that is rewarding, educational *and* affordable, but the Monteux School is all of these!

Best,
Amanda Dame

It is so rare for conducting workshops to offer any sort of meaningful scholarship, and with something as expensive to fund as an orchestra, this prices virtually all younger and aspiring conductors out of the best workshops. The Monteux School is the most meaningful, well-regarded,

thorough, and generous exception. It was also where I first found consistency, nurturing, and support several years ago as an aspiring conductor, and internalized basic training that informs and motivates my conducting even now after receiving education from many other sources. Support for the school is something I have always felt comes in the best faith possible, and I will always feel that I came to as a conductor and a person at the Monteux School and am indebted in many ways to the donors who made that possible.

With much love,
Tiffany Lu

I participated in Monteux School as conductor in 2015 and 2016. It would have not been possible for me to spend two summers in Maine without scholarships.

The financial burden is probably the biggest obstacle for students to participate in Monteux School. In some cases, it is even harder for professionals like me rather than students to come to Monteux because professionals have to give up six-week-worth of their income plus cover the tuition and related expenses.

George Draper expressed his wish to make Monteux School a tuition-free program for everybody and I think it is a fabulous idea. I want you to know that I know many young professional musicians who ended up having to take summer jobs although they wanted to study at Monteux. I am sure larger endowments will attract much greater number of young professional musicians and create even more exciting musical experiences.

Monteux School has already been a special place for its excellence, legacy, uniqueness, and its wonderful community, though, nowadays, it is also true that there are many other choices of summer conducting programs for students. If the tuition becomes free for everybody, Monteux School will enjoy a special position as a program that every

young musician in the country must consider participating.

Best wishes,

Mune [Muneyoshi Takahashi]