

Dear Friends,

As many of you know, this has been a very unusual year for me. In the fall, I taught music for two months at the Taktse International school in Sikkim. Sikkim is in northern India, and in March I went back to the area to trek in Nepal. I like to think of it as a kind of sabbatical year with bookends in the Himalayas. Many of you have asked if this was a Winsor project; it was not, but it will have a lasting effect on Winsor Music because of its significance in my life. If you would like to read about my trips or see photos, go to peggypearsonoboe.wordpress.com.



I suffered a personal loss recently when my dear friend and colleague William Thomas died in April. William was a cellist and all-round great musician who embraced life with gusto and was passionate about the power of music to change lives. I first met William in 1969 when we both taught at Merrywood Music School in Lenox MA. Subsequently he invited me along with some of the other Merrywood faculty to teach during the summer at Phillips Academy, Andover, a program which he founded and directed. William was music director of the Cambridge Community Chorus and Artistic Director of Project STEP for several years, a Boston-based non-profit organization that prepares musically gifted African-American and Latino students for careers in classical

music. He was the inspiration for the Winsor Music Summer Scholarship Program. I am very proud to say that once again this Spring we were able to award \$8,000 in scholarships for Black and Latino students attending summer music schools. This one is for you, William!



Scholarship recipients (l-r): Isabel Espinosa, Valandrhah Abraham, Itsva Hernandez, Joel Roches, Njioma Grevious, Nkosi Grevious, Alyssa Daly, Tamara Cambronero

I am delighted that Winsor Music featured two young artists in the chamber series this season. Both were students from Oberlin Conservatory and participants in the Bach Institute. They performed beautifully.

We will have two interns working for Winsor Music this summer: Katie Hoyer will be back (by popular demand!) and she will be joined by another Smith student, Jess Marlor. They will be focusing on getting the Artistic Director current with all things technical, working on development, and writing a Kickstarter grant. We are planning to raise money through Kickstarter, the online fund-raising site, for a residency at the Mather School in Dorchester where Winsor Music has been developing an ongoing presence.



Elliott Hines, baritone and Andrew Lipian, countertenor

The third annual Bach Institute took place in January at Emmanuel Church in Boston and it gets better every year! Ten students came from Oberlin and studied Bach arias with John Harbison, Ryan Turner, Kendra Colton, Frank Kelley and myself. During the second week, we presented four outreach concerts, as well as two concerts for young students at the Mather School and a final concert in the Lindsey Chapel at Emmanuel. All of these events were wonderfully received.



“The Bach Institute offered some of the most exacting and exciting instruction of my musical education. What better a setting, what further impassioned, well-studied and experienced instructors, what more masterful a composer’s music could there possibly be? The Institute expects students to be professionals and allows students to be artists, inviting them to have opinions and challenging them to negotiate the innumerable possibilities in choosing one. In addition to any performing and learning opportunities, the students also

become the teachers and conceive an outreach concert performed for elementary school students – an unexpectedly invigorating aspect of the program. After all, to encourage people to listen, to play, to create and express is the most important work of all. It is in fact the work of musicians everywhere – within a first grade classroom and without. An incredibly well-rounded, educational, and difficult experience, the Bach Institute taught me about striving – striving to learn, striving to teach, striving to make great music, striving to be an artist.”

– Daniel McGrew, tenor



Mary Had a Little Lamb, the opera

We will be premiering three Winsor Music commissions next season: Harold Meltzer and Andy Waggoner will be composing quartets for oboe and strings and John Harbison is writing a piece for soprano, oboe and strings with a text by the Boston poet Louise Glück. This coming year fifteen other chamber music groups are participating in The Winsor Music Consortium which was created to promote the commissioning of new works for oboe. These ensembles will be presenting local premieres as part of their concert seasons as well.

Thanks to you, all of the various branches of Winsor Music are thriving. Being in Nepal has made me feel even more committed to our Outreach Programs: the Young Artist Concerts, the Mather project and especially our summer scholarships. If I’ve learned one thing in the Himalayas, it is that we should not take what we have for granted. We are a very wealthy nation, and we have the wherewithal to change the lives of young people in amazing ways. How fortunate we are! And how fortunate Winsor Music is to have you supporting us!

Sincerely,

Peggy Pearson

2013/2014 CONCERT SEASON

Three Premieres!

Sunday, September 8, 2013 at 7:00 pm
St. Paul’s Church, Brookline

Harold Meltzer Premiere

Saturday, November 30, 2013 at 8:00 pm
Follen Community Church, Lexington

John Harbison Premiere

Tuesday, January 21, 2014 at 7:30 pm
Emmanuel Church, Boston

Bach Institute

Spring 2014 at St. Paul’s Church, Brookline
Andy Waggoner Premiere