Happy long-awaited spring! In this season of growth and renewal I’m delighted to report on how much we have to celebrate at Winsor Music. Yesterday we gave our last concert of the year at the Mather School in Dorchester, MA. Our annual Spring Benefit Concert is just around the corner (see box for details) and our featured student performers sound better than ever! In a few days, I will be heading to Rome to perform last year’s Winsor Music commission, an oboe quartet by Eric Nathan, and to top that off, just today and to my great delight, John Harbison has agreed to participate in another Winsor Music Consortium.

As I grow older (and more mature!) my goal is to steer Winsor Music more and more toward education. We presented four children’s concerts at the Mather School this season, a project made possible by a very successful Kickstarter campaign. These concerts are made up of participatory songs, games and musical stories that teach the children basic scales and rhythmic patterns, with an emphasis on interaction between the children and the musicians. In January we presented Frère Jacques, the Opera, which was written and performed by the students of the Bach Institute. We love that Winsor’s educational programs overlap and support each other in this way: we are able to include the musical education of youngsters in the professional development of the Bach Institute students. I am pleased to report that next year we are expanding this program and will repeat each performance at an additional school. We will launch the campaign to raise the necessary funds this summer.

I am also very pleased to announce that Winsor Music will be collaborating for the first time with one of Boston’s favorite piano trios, Triple Helix (Bayla Keyes, violin; Rhonda Rider, cello; Lois Shapiro, piano). Triple Helix has established a scholarship fund dedicated to the memory of Judith Sandler. Judith was a long-time friend of the trio, a violinist, a passionate music teacher for children and a tireless advocate for the underserved. This fund will be incorporated into Winsor Music’s long-standing Scholarship Program for students to attend summer music programs. (Most of our recipients are from Project STEP.) Winsor Music’s annual spring party on June 1st will help raise funds for the Scholarship Program. In addition, Triple Helix will present its first annual concert and party to benefit the Sandler Fund next fall (see box for more details).

In the new music department, I am happy to report that John Harbison’s wonderful piece Crossroads, the product of a Winsor Music Consortium, is having a long and happy life. At the end of April Kendra Colton and I gave the eighth performance of Crossroads with the Apple Hill String Quartet and Susan Hagen, bass, in Peterborough NH. We will be performing it again with the Chesapeake Chamber Music Festival on June 8th in Centreville, MD and yet again next season at Oberlin College, Ohio. I am a great believer in consortiums because everyone benefits. Consortiums make it possible for small chamber ensembles to commission works by well-established composers. Composers benefit because each piece is given multiple performances nationwide; this is rare for a newly composed work.

“For the composer of a consortium piece, additional performances can translate into better understanding of the music, even when the various groups do not communicate with each other. Each time a new piece is played it becomes clearer, just as an instrument develops new qualities the more it is played. So a consortium can protect a piece from the typical deep freeze that can affect the many pieces that are heard only once.” — John Harbison

Kendra Colton, John Harbison, Peggy Pearson
Congratulations to Lev Mamuya, who has been accepted into the prestigious dual degree program at Harvard University and New England Conservatory! Lev is a Project STEP student, a prize-winning cellist and one of our favorite young composers. He performed in the premiere of his latest work, *Ingrain*, at our April Concert. This is the third piece he has written for Winsor Music, and it’s hard to believe, but this is his eighth year performing with us! We’re so proud of Lev and will be excited to watch his progress at Harvard and NEC.

“Lev Mamuya’s *Ingrain* ... moves in wonderfully unpredictable harmonic directions ... and demonstrates uncommon confidence from so young a composer.” — ArtsFuse

You may have noticed that almost all of the works I have commissioned are for oboe and strings. I hope you like this combination as much as I do! My love for this type of ensemble has probably grown out of playing so much Bach – it is a favorite of his, too! I find it ideal because the oboe can disappear into the timbre of the strings, but can also be separate and have its own voice. Winsor Music is currently awaiting five oboe quartets, written by Harold Meltzer, Jim Primosch, Charlotte Bray, Andreia Pinto-Correia and John Harbison.

Winsor Music continues to grow, and I am very happy to announce that on June 1st Katie Hoyer will join our staff as manager of Communications and Development. Katie started working for Winsor Music two summers ago as an intern from Smith College. After graduating from Smith last spring, she spent the summer helping to build our new website, and then took a brief hiatus from Winsor to work at Smith as the interim Publicity and Production Assistant for the Performing Arts. She was also the administrative intern for the Bach Institute in January 2012. Katie is a mezzo-soprano and has performed on some of our outreach concerts as well as the Mather School concerts. You’ll be able to meet her and hear her sing at our benefit on June 1st!

I hope you can join us on June 1st for our annual Spring extravaganza to benefit our Scholarship Program. (Please let us know in advance, so that we’ll be able to feed you!) This event is a special celebration; the gardens at the Smith/Freifeld home are extraordinary, the student performances are inspiring, the food is great, and you, our steadfast supporters, make the best audience and company ever! I am very touched by your unfailing loyalty to Winsor Music and cannot think of a better way for us to start the summer than to honor these students. Help us give them the opportunity to have their lives transformed forever by being totally immersed in music this summer!

With gratitude,

Peggy Pearson

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**Save the dates**

- **Sunday, June 1st, 2014 at 6:30pm**  
  100 Goddard Avenue, Brookline  
  Spring Benefit Concert and Party

- **Sunday, Sept. 14th, 2014 at 7pm**  
  St. Paul’s Church, Brookline  
  Fall Concert

- **Saturday, Oct.18th, 2014 at 6:30pm**  
  First Unitarian Society of Newton  
  1326 Washington Street, Newton  
  Sandler Fund Benefit Concert and Party

- **Sunday, November 30th, 2014 at 7pm**  
  Follen Church, Lexington  
  Thanksgiving Concert

*projectSTEP students*