



WINSOR MUSIC

Peggy Pearson, Artistic Director

Newsletter, Spring 2015

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Dear Friends,

Happy Spring! As I look out upon a fifteen foot snowdrift black with street grime, it is hard for me to imagine that I could (will!) be sailing on the Charles River in two weeks! When we were not shoveling, pushing snow off the roof, getting hit by a snow plow or experiencing new forms of Boston road rage, we actually got a lot done this winter!



Winsor Music has been featuring young musicians for many years; in January, we officially started a program that will place talented high school students in long-term chamber groups with professional, working musicians who will serve as musical colleagues and mentors. Our first group is called *Violobos* (many thanks to you for an excellent name!), a quartet with oboe and string trio. I have been working once a week with three talented sophomores: Mitsuru Yonezaki (violin), Njioma Grevious (viola), and Alma Bitran (cello).

Violobos will give its debut performance on the March 23rd concert at the Visiting Nurse Assisted Living Community in Somerville and will also perform on our June 7th benefit concert. Winsor Music will be working on a Hatchfund.org campaign over the summer in order to raise funds for another quartet led by **Gabriela Diaz**. Gabby is a longtime member of our core roster of musicians, a faculty member at Wellesley College, and a highly respected member of the Boston freelance community.



Our March concert on the Chamber Series is hosted by the Visiting Nurse Assisted Living Community on Lowell Street in Somerville, MA, where Winsor Music has been providing monthly outreach concerts for residents for many years. The VNA's Community Room, where Winsor Music regularly performs, is an ideal venue for an intimate chamber music concert; spacious, with good acoustics, and plenty of seating (and parking!). This concert combines three central branches of the Winsor Music mission: outreach, mentoring, and high quality chamber music performances.

The Bach Institute in January was a great success. Eleven students came from Oberlin and spent two intense weeks studying and performing the arias and duets of Johann Sebastian Bach. The students performed in three Sunday cantatas at Emmanuel Church, went to four local retirement communities and presented two children's concerts for the students of the Mather School. (In case you are wondering, this year's production at Mather was called "Twinkle, Twinkle, the Opera"). The Bach Institute culminated in a wonderful concert at Emmanuel Church. We moved it up a day to beat the storm, and we actually managed to get most of our students back to Oberlin safely before winter slammed Boston on January 26th.

In November, Winsor Music released a CD and mp3 of Lorraine Hunt Lieberson singing Bach Cantata BWV 170, "Vergnügte Ruh, beliebte Seelenlust." We are thrilled to say that it was included in both *The Boston Globe's* "Top 10 Classical Recordings of 2014" and Lloyd Schwartz's "High Notes of Classical Music in 2014" on WBUR's "The Artery." This is a recording from a 1996 concert with a group that I directed when I lived in New York City, the Greenleaf Chamber Players. With permission from the Lieberson estate, we decided to release this private archival recording; the estate and the Greenleaf musicians are graciously allowing us to donate all proceeds from sales of this recording to the Winsor Music education program. You should own one! This is a cantata made for Lorraine's voice and temperament. You can buy a CD or download the album as an mp3 at our website, winsormusic.org.

I am excited about our final concert of the season with the Apple Hill String Quartet and Larry Wolfe on bass. I taught at Apple Hill for years, and I am very happy to be going back — especially for mud season! We will be giving the premiere of a new oboe quartet by Jim Primosch. It is an excellent work, and we're so glad that Jim is able to join us and speak to you about the work in person. In case you cannot make the April 26th concert, there are several other performances. It is always extremely rewarding to give multiple performances of a brand new piece.



- ▶ Sunday, April 13 at 4 pm First Religious Society
Newburyport, MA
- ▶ Saturday, April 25 at 7:30 pm, Bass Hall
Peterborough, NH
- ▶ Thursday, June 18, at 5:30 pm, Academy Art Museum
Easton, MD

I hope you will join us for the last two events of our season. The concert with Apple Hill promises to be spectacular and the Spring benefit is always a festive event. I cannot think of a better cure for a long winter than Charlie and Marilyn's beautiful gardens! The proceeds from this party will go directly into Winsor Music's educational program — summer scholarships for young string players, a residence at the Mather School in Dorchester and the new mentoring program.

Thank you, as always, for your remarkable devotion to Winsor Music. We were astounded by your response to the recording of Lorraine, amazed by your flexibility and enthusiastic attendance at the rescheduled Bach Institute concert, and so grateful for your generosity over the past year and throughout the holiday season. As we approach our 20th season (can you believe it?), I am feeling energized by our new mentoring program. I am eager to see where our future leads us, and I am excited to share it with you. I am constantly reminded that Winsor Music is still going strong because of you, our loyal and dedicated supporters. We could not do it without you!

I look forward to seeing you in the Spring.

All the best,

Save the dates

- ▶ **Sunday, April 26, 2015 at 7:00 pm**
St. Paul's Church, Brookline
Apple Hill Quartet
- ▶ **Sunday, June 7, 2015 at 6:00 pm**
100 Goddard Avenue, Brookline
Spring Benefit Concert and Party