Dear Friends,

It’s April, and I am looking out the window at a winter wonderland. These are strange and alarming times, and I find myself grateful to be immersed in the gratifying projects that make up Winsor Music. We have three more concerts to present before the end of our season, and I am very excited about all of them.

Our next concert is with the Apple Hill Quartet, and it may have already happened by the time you receive this newsletter. This is Winsor Music’s third collaboration with Apple Hill, and I have to say that I enjoy it more and more each time. It is a wonderful group of people: smart, talented, hardworking and fun. We always set aside plenty of rehearsal time (a luxury these days!), and this makes our preparation time even more enjoyable. In addition, I love going back to Apple Hill where I taught for many summers. Many thanks to Lenny Matczynski for making this collaboration possible!

Please join us for our Spring benefit party on Saturday evening, May 14th. This annual event supports Winsor Music’s education programs—children’s concerts, our mentoring program for high school students, and our largest educational endeavor, scholarships to summer music camps for talented young musicians of color. The concert will feature a young quartet from Project STEP with Christian Casiano, violin; Sterling Hoyte, violin; Nicole Urban, viola; and Michael Roberson, cello. In addition, two of our mentored groups will be performing, along with Gabby Diaz, Jamie Buswell, and our old friend, Lev Mamuya. It’s a festive event with good food, wine and some extraordinary gardens at a private home in Brookline.

For more information, please be in touch with Stephen Kruse by calling (781) 863-2861 or email him at managing@winsormusic.org.

We are extremely fortunate to be presenting the amazing young pianist, George Li, who recently won the XV International Tchaikovsky Competition Silver Medal and a prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant. George will be performing the Brahms Piano Quintet with us on Tuesday evening, May 24th. Our concert will also include three exquisitely beautiful Brahms chorale preludes and the world premiere of Andreia Pinto-Correia’s quartet for oboe and strings, Dalla Legenda aurea.
In addition to the two Winsor commissions being premiered this Spring, we are awaiting three more commissions for next season. In celebration of our twentieth anniversary, Lev Mamuya will compose his fourth piece for Winsor Music. Lev started playing for Winsor Music at age 11 as a member of the string quartet “The Peanuts,” with Yuki Beppu, as well as Meredith and Randy Hiller. The kids wanted to name their group the “Rotten Peanuts,” but Randy and I decided it might not be good for publicity.

The other two works we are expecting will be composed by Charlotte Bray and Anna Weesner, both former students of John Harbison. I am very grateful to John for providing us with the names of so many talented young composers and I am very proud of our commissioning program. By the end of our twentieth year, we will have contributed over 30 new works to the oboe repertoire, by 27 different composers. Their names appear as a border to this page.

And there is one more Winsor creation in the works! Here is a piece of the crazy quilt being made by loyal friends, to be raffled off at the end of our twentieth season. Stay tuned for progress reports—our quilt will be on display as a work-in-progress at all of our future events. Thank you, Betty Hauck, Kendra Colton, Shannon Snapp and Vanessa Holroyd.

Winsor Music’s 20th year will be an exciting one. We will be bringing back some old friends, making new ones, and celebrating our mentorship, educational and outreach programs. We plan to pay special attention to our scholarship program by establishing a foundation that will ensure its future long after we have disappeared from the face of the earth! Sending young musicians of color to summer music camps is our largest educational endeavor. Playing chamber music with other kids who love classical music can provide the spark that makes a lifelong difference to a young person. In some ways, I think that this is the most important thing that Winsor Music does.

Thank you for your incredible support. Your donations make a tangible impact in every aspect of classical music. You sustain valuable talent when allow us to employ world-class performers. You grow the repertoire when you help us commission significant and emerging composers. You nurture the next generation and change the course of a student’s life by sending them to a camp that connects them to their peers and helps them realize their potential. We can’t do anything without you, so please don’t stop.

Gratefully,

Peggy Pearson

Save the dates

► Sunday, April 24, 2016 at 7:00 pm
St. Paul’s Church, Brookline
Apple Hill Quartet and Yi Ying Chen world premiere

► Saturday, May 14, 2016 at 6:30 pm
At the home of Marilyn Ray Smith and Charles Freifeld
Annual Spring Benefit and Concert

► Tuesday, May 24, 2016 at 7:00 pm
St. Paul’s Church, Brookline
George Li, piano and Andreia Pinto-Correia world premiere