Dear Friends,

At this time of year as the days get shorter and winter approaches I find myself reflecting on the past and future of Winsor Music. In spite of all the political turmoil and troubles in the world I remind myself of how much there is to celebrate—in only two months’ time the days will start to get longer! And I think of how the generous spirit of you, our concert-goers and supporters, has enabled us to accomplish so much in the past. Looking to the future of Winsor Music, we have so much to celebrate as well! Read on...

I am very pleased to tell you about an exciting new development which will have a significant impact on the future of Winsor Music. For over a year now, I have been thinking about stepping down as artistic director, but I have been reluctant to do so without finding the right person(s) to take over the reins. I am delighted to announce that we have found the perfect solution in the form of two very special young women—Gabby Diaz and Rane Moore. I cannot imagine two people better suited for the job. Gabby is a wonderful violinist whom many of you have heard perform with Winsor Music. Rane (a Norwegian name, pronounced Ronnie) is an extraordinary clarinetist highly regarded for her thoughtful, provocative interpretations of standard repertoire as well as cutting-edge contemporary music. Rane and Gabby are determined to give back to the community and they are looking forward to developing something that is uniquely theirs. Future outreach programs may look slightly different from what we have done in the past—our current programs will provide a springboard for their own vision. Because I will continue to perform with Winsor Music I am lucky enough to get the best of both worlds—the opportunity to play with superlative players without any of the admin work. I could not be happier. Gabby and Rane will start in January and the three of us will be working together through the end of the current 2016/2017 season. The fact that we are also celebrating the landmark 20th anniversary of Winsor Music this year makes this change feel especially appropriate.

Winsor Music will commemorate the solstice a few weeks early this year with our annual extravaganza—our party will take place at a new venue, the home of Tom and Kate Kush in Back Bay. Please join us and hear the piano which I inherited from my dear friend Craig Smith. In addition to the Whistler Quartet (mentored by Saul Bitran), Gabby Diaz, Lev Mamuya, and his younger brother, Eli, will be the stars of the show.

About that Lev Mamuya...he wrote another piece for us, loosely turing, which we premiered in September. It is a hauntingly beautiful piece, and I am very proud of Lev and all of his accomplishments. I have known him since he was eleven and we are honored...
to have followed his growth for years. He performed at the White House last month! It’s not official yet, but Winsor Music will be commissioning more works from him in the future.

There are other new pieces coming soon. Our concert on December 3rd will feature the world premiere of an oboe quartet by Charlotte Bray, one of John Harbison’s students from Tanglewood. In March, we will premiere another work for oboe and strings, a quintet by Anna Weesner. She is currently on the faculty at the University of Pennsylvania; I will be traveling there in the spring to perform Anna’s quintet and the quartet that Jim Primosch wrote for Winsor last year. He is on the faculty at U Penn as well and is currently working on another oboe quartet for next season.

Our December concert will also feature the Boston premiere of John Harbison’s *For Violin Alone*, written for the amazing violinist, Jennifer Koh and performed by our amazing Gabby Diaz. Our featured young artist will be **Njioma Grevious** who will play the Bach Double with me. (Don’t worry, it’s not a transcription! We are doing the one that actually has an oboe part.) Njioma has also performed at the White House! (Everyone but me...)

In conjunction with our December concert, Winsor Music will be promoting two new recordings that feature Boston’s wonderful soprano, **Kendra Colton**: *Crossroads*, by John Harbison, and a CD of three Bach cantatas, BWV 32, 84 and 202. The Bach recording is part of an ongoing project to record arias for soprano and oboe—followed by arias for oboe and other voices, and finally more arias. There are a lot of them! And we hope that these recordings will become a useful resource for the Bach Institute—we want to show these youngsters how this music goes.

We are in full prep for the Bach Institute these days, and looking forward to another intensive two weeks in January: a week of coaching, three weekends of Bach cantatas with the musicians of Emmanuel Music, four outreach performances, a children’s program at the Mather School in Dorchester and a final concert in Lindsey Chapel at Emmanuel Church on January 23rd.

By the time you get this letter the election will be over and, with any luck, a few good things will emerge out of the turmoil. Here at Winsor Music we continue to dedicate ourselves to making our own corner of the world a better place by providing music that matters and by helping young people do the same. The best antidote to despair is to support the good that’s happening in this world and in that light we hope that you will consider a donation to Winsor Music. Art saves lives!

*Gratefully,*

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**Save the dates**

- **Saturday December 3, 2016 at 7 pm**
  St. Paul’s Church, Brookline  
  **Young Artist Njioma Grevious, Charlotte Bray world premiere and John Harbison premiere**

- **Sunday, December 11, 2016 at 7 pm**
  At the home of Kate and Tom Kush  
  **Annual Fall Benefit and Concert**

- **Sunday, January 23, 2017 at 7:30 pm**
  Emmanuel Church, Boston  
  **Bach Institute Final Concert**

- **Sunday, March 26, 2017 at 7 pm**
  St. Paul’s Church, Brookline  
  **Daedalus Quartet and Anna Weesner premiere**