

MONTEUX

SCHOOL & MUSIC FESTIVAL

Newsletter

INAUGURAL MONTEUX NYC WINTER WORKSHOP & CONCERTS A HUGE SUCCESS!

Report by Trustee and Alumna, NYC-based Flutist, Allison Kiger.

After 75 years of success in Hancock, Maine, the Monteux School and Music Festival remains a mystery to many in the musical community who have never attended the School. To help the School fulfill its mission of preparing conductors and musicians for an orchestral career and to continue to attract the best applicants, audiences and donors, Allison developed the first Winter Workshop and Concerts which took place in Lincoln Center, New York City, from January 2-5, 2019.

WORKSHOP GOALS:

- Showcase Music Director Michael Jinbo as a performing conductor with a fully professional orchestra and also as a conducting teacher in a major city
- Fulfill the mission of the School to train conductors and orchestra musicians
- Increase awareness of the Monteux School

among the orchestral music community and network with musicians and teachers who can help with recruiting

- Provide a professional performance opportunity and exposure for workshop conductors
- Provide workshop conductors with a fully professional concert video for future applications
- Provide a convenient opportunity for alumni to gather and network in a major city



Michael Jinbo with student conductors at the Monteux Winter Workshop, NYC, January, 2019

RESULTS:

Michael Jinbo's teaching and coaching was very effective with the conductor students and his knowledge, clarity, authenticity and humor were well-appreciated. All of the conductors made noticeable improvement and seemed truly humbled, appreciative and musically challenged by the experience. Michael was also

Continued on Page 7



FROM MARC THAYER

Executive Director

I'm very excited to get back to Hancock and see our Monteux Friends and Family soon again. We have lots of exciting things planned for you and the students. Here's just a taste of what to expect.

Please see our advertisement in the **Downeast Magazine** in May, called EXPLORE THE DOWNEAST PASSAGE, the new name for our region.

Special Congratulations to our **Conducting Associate, Tiffany Lu**, who has just completed her DMA at the University of Maryland. We are excited to have Tiffany back again this summer and we'll have to get used to saying Dr. Lu!

Christopher Guzman, piano, Penn State University, will perform the Gershwin Piano Concerto with the Monteux Festival Orchestra on Sunday, July 7, at 5 PM.



During the week of June 24 we will welcome **Henry Fogel**, former Executive Director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, General Manager of the New York Philharmonic, President of the League of American Orchestras, and Dean of the School of Fine Arts at Roosevelt University. Henry will be meeting with the conducting students and talking about the audition process for orchestras, how to interview for Music Director positions and the Do's and Don'ts of guest conducting.



Diane Wittry will be with us during the week of July 8. Diane is currently the Music Director of the Allentown Symphony, PA, and the Garden State Philharmonic, NJ. She's also the author of 'Beyond the Baton', a look at the life of an orchestral conductor both on and off the podium. She'll be talking with our conducting students about how the position of Music Director has evolved in the 21st Century, what is expected of a Music Director outside of rehearsals and concerts, and challenges faced by women conductors in the US.

We're also looking forward to welcoming the following musicians and coaches throughout the summer who will present Masterclasses for the orchestral musicians:

June 21-23, **Nathan Cole, violin**, Los Angeles Philharmonic

July 9-11, **Felicia Foland, bassoon**, St. Louis Symphony



July 16-18, **Brant Taylor, cello**, Chicago Symphony Orchestra



July 19-21, **Tony Prisk, trumpet**, Philadelphia Orchestra

Now is the perfect time to make a gift to the Monteux Student Scholarship Fund for 2019. Right now we are making important decisions about which of our students will receive scholarship help to come this summer and your gifts make it possible for the best musicians to come from all over the US and other countries. This year we will welcome students from Mexico, Canada, China and the Kurdish Region of northern Iraq.

Please send your gift via PayPal or Credit Card from our website, monteuxschool.org, by clicking on the yellow tab in the lower right corner of the homepage. Or you can send a check to: The Monteux School, Box 457, Hancock, ME 04640

Your help is greatly appreciated and makes a real difference. 100% of your gift goes to the students and helps to cover tuition and housing. Please call if you have any questions, 207-812-6260.

ALUMNI UPDATE



From Monteux Alumnus, David A. Rahbee, 1994-2001, conducting associate 2014-2016, Senior Artist in Residence, University of Washington School of Music in Seattle, Director of Orchestral Activities

I recently conducted the Seattle Symphony along side their outgoing music director and fellow Monteux Alum Ludovic Morlot, leading contemporary works by Seth Krinsky and Páll Ragnar Pálsson with my UW colleague cello soloist Saeunn Thorsteinsdottir. Earlier this year we also shared the podium at Benaroya Hall for the Seattle Symphony/UW Symphony Side-by-Side concert with music by Haydn and Bernstein.

Upcoming concerts include UW Symphony with Van Cliburn Gold-Medal winner Yekwon Sunwoo in Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No.1, two concerts at the Arutiunian Wind Festival in Armenia, and a concert of Haydn & Philip Glass with the Chattanooga Symphony.

Alongside my duties as Director of Orchestral Activities at the University of Washington and various guest conducting appearances, I am also co-editor of Daniels' Orchestra Music, 6th edition (slated for release in 2022), and Daniels' Orchestral Music Online (www.daniels-orchestral.com).

"The Daniels", as many call it, is a unique orchestral music finder tool and an invaluable resource for orchestral librarians, libraries, planners, musicologists, conductors, and artistic directors. What makes our work unique is that all works that we list have been examined page by page. Publisher catalogs and score prefaces are quite often inaccurate, and these inaccuracies are often perpetuated through other lists or online services. This is why we (David Daniels, David Oertel and myself) still stick to the original recipe: look at every page of the score from a conductor's point of view, and present the necessary information for the user: title, exact instrumentation, movements and their durations, date of composition and revision, publisher, etc. This is of course a time consuming process. Works for string orchestra take less time than larger works. The goal? To have the most accurate and useful listings of the broadest range of orchestral music performed and recorded. If you use Daniels and think we should include a piece, let

me know! There's a good chance it is already on our "to examine" list, which is huge...but we'd still be glad to know.

I have recently been named a semi-finalist in three different categories of The American Prize. For the 4th consecutive year, Orchestral Programming (2016-17 UW Symphony season); for the 2nd consecutive year in Orchestral Performance (University of Washington Symphony Orchestra), for the first time, orchestral conducting. Also I recently had an article published in the fall 2018 (Volume 39, No.1) music journal Sonus: Karl Goldmark and Gustav Mahler: Connections and Influences.

Please visit my newly revamped website at www.davidrahbee.com

And please check out the trailer for my creation inspired by Sir Simon Rattle: The Haydn experience <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ZAlYtjw0SM&t=1326s>



A NOTE FROM CONDUCTOR & PERCUSSIONIST, KYLE RITENAUER

Kyle is currently a Graduate Student at the Juilliard School and plays frequently with the Malaysia Philharmonic in Kuala-Lampur.

I will be attending the Pierre Monteux School for the 8th time this Summer. I am currently studying orchestral conducting with Maestro David Robertson at the Juilliard School. The Monteux School has been one of the most influential places in my musical development. What I've learned with Maestro Jinbo over my eight summers in Maine is a clear and reliable technique that allows me to communicate clearly with the musicians of any orchestra I have the opportunity to lead. He has also instilled an approach to the music that is meticulous and honest to the composer and always pushes us to embody the true meaning of the music. My foundation as a conductor was built at the Monteux School and it has truly become a home away from home.

FROM RON SCHWIZER *Archivist*

Last fall, following our offer to catalog the Pierre Monteux archives, most of which material came to the Foundation from a year 2000 gift from Nancie Monteux Barendse, the Board appointed me as Archivist, and Doug as Curator of the nascent collection. We are still working on entering data and photos from the Foundation's collection of recordings. These include recordings gifted by:

- Nancie: We have called this collection "Nancie Monteux Barendse Vinyl Records."
- Arthur Helmbrecht (the avid vinyl collector who visited us and sent many shipments, not all of which contained Monteux recordings). I pulled out all the Monteux discs and we have cataloged them. We need to decide about the many others, some of which were by Mariner, but I've included those because he is an alumnus.
- Estate of Elwin H King: a former clarinetist who played with Monteux in San Francisco.

All entries of recorded media will have linked to them the scanned photos of both sides of each album. At this point we have cataloged roughly 100+ discs which contain many more recorded pieces, at least some of which are duplicates. They include two sets of commemorative recordings that RCA gave Pierre on his 80th and 85th birthdays. We have barely scratched the surface since there are also a number of CDs that I bought and donated. We began on the CDs this week.

There are the 20+ years (1995 to date) of the School's concert recordings and videos. Phil Standel (a former Trustee and Treasurer) made a huge start on these in a spreadsheet around 2012, and I want to work on a format for putting a complete listing of pieces and conductors into the database as well. I do believe that uploading sound and video media will also be possible, but perhaps to a more limited extent.

The museum software has online components, which will make it searchable from anywhere. Just this past week Doug and I donated the PastPerfect Online addition for the first year, so we will be in a position to work with the designer to make it look somewhat like the School's web page. We decided to use "Pierre Monteux Memorial Foundation" for the name of the archival site since it best fits with the intention of archiving materials relevant to Monteux's career, which will, of course include materials on the School he started in Hancock.

There are also a number of other objects such as photographs, letters, telegrams, payment letters for Monteux's services, honorary medals, statues, and an occasional CD recording of recordings made by an alumnus or two.

If you have items that you'd like to donate to the Monteux School please contact us at pierremonteuxschool@gmail.com, Box 457, Hancock, ME 04640



FROM PHIL DEVENISH *President, Board of Trustees*

Dear Monteux Friends,

I write from Pigeon Bay, New Zealand—an hour's drive from and only four days since the terrible shootings in the Christchurch mosques. Paradise has been Lost and cannot be regained. After nineteen winter escapes here from Maine, we have a sense for how Aotearoa/New Zealand's oceanic protection both has and has not prepared this small, island nation for its struggles ahead in our 'globalized' world. We have long felt the many similarities between our adoptive rural New Zealand and our own rural Maine.

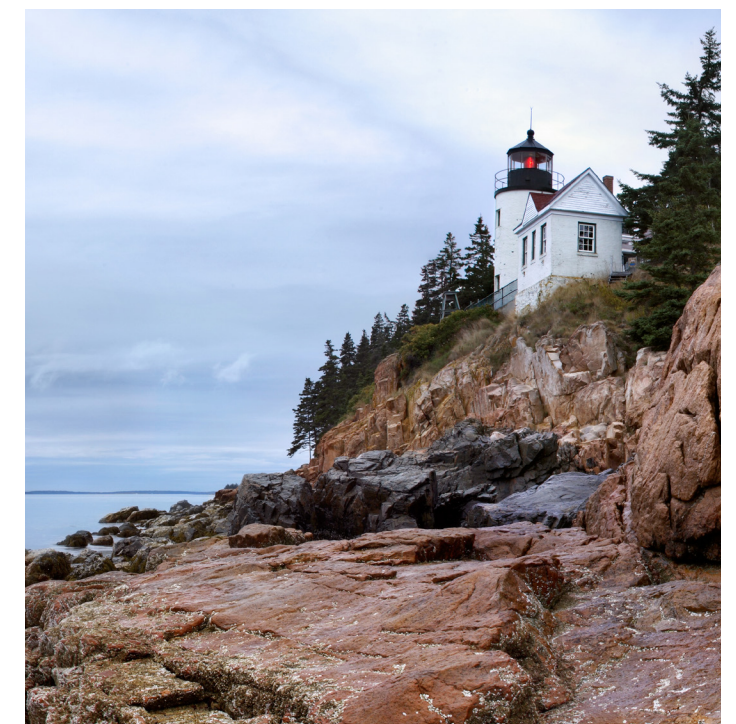
We head home in early May, and how fortunate we all are to have yet another—a 76th—season of the Monteux School and Music Festival to await us—'the annual miracle,' as it has come to seem to me!

I love having a 'project' to look forward to, and this spring it is adding another bathroom to one of our residential buildings, 'the barn.' We have an orchestra of 62 to provide housing for each summer, and this will be one small way to help cope with two more of that total.

Five years ago, we were able to accommodate only nineteen musicians ourselves, and housing the remaining 43 made up by far the largest item in our annual budget. Now, with the addition of Winterhaven, the Pierre Monteux home, Devenish Hall, Tamarack Place, and other, smaller renovations, we have turned the tables in our favor, housing 48 on our own and leaving only fourteen to the increasingly expensive rental market. This has resulted not only in greater financial security for the School, but also more funds for our primary, musical mission, and especially for increased scholarships for our musicians.

Many of you have played your part in helping to insure our long-term future. We have come such a long way, much of it in recent years. Won't you continue to build on this momentum, as we enjoy the music and send our musicians out into this wonderful, wider, globalized world in which we live?

Thanks!



VOLUNTEER REPORT

From two of our wonderful Monteux Associates, Ed Allen & Loraine Gawronski

As we all know, there are several ways to support the Monteux School and Music Festival. Our involvement with the PM School started out, as it probably did with most of you, as patrons attending the Wednesday and Sunday evening performances. We did, and still do, appreciate experiencing the fruits of the students' intensive practice during the week.

Approximately six years ago we were asked by George and Charlotte Draper if we would be interested in participating as volunteers in "The Associates." We initially thought we were being offered a casting opportunity for a remake of the TV sitcom of the same name and would be rubbing elbows with the likes of Martin Short and Alley Mills. We jumped at the opportunity and immediately began dusting off our thespian skills. Of course, we soon found out that it was not a chance to act but rather something potentially more rewarding – unique volunteer support activities focused on providing the students a more welcoming and enjoyable experience during their stay at the school. These activities range from readying the campus facilities for the season, a welcome dinner on the

first Monday night of the season, organizing free time recreational and social activities for the students, providing transportation to and from the airport, etc.

We have found that participating in these activities allows us the opportunity to get to know the students on a more personal level vs just as performers. The interaction with the other associates has also provided us with the opportunity to make new acquaintances and renew or maintain old friendships that often continue into the off season.

One of our favorite activities is an annual pizza luncheon buffet where in approximately 30 minutes, 25 pizzas of various kinds and styles, 10 pounds of tossed salad, 10 dozen cookies and 10 gallons of drinks are consumed back stage in a food frenzy akin to the devastation caused by swarms of the famous Rocky Mountain locusts in a field of corn. Aside from the carnage, the luncheon provides the students with a brief and casual mid-day respite – and doggie bags.

We are looking forward to June and the start of another successful season at Monteux.

To join The Associates volunteers please send an email to pierremonteuxschool@gmail.com

FROM JOANN WILLIAMS

*Vice President,
Board of Trustees*

We are pleased to announce that Diane Wittry, Music Director and Conductor of the Allentown Symphony Orchestra for the last 23 years as well as the Garden State Philharmonic in New Jersey, will be in residence at the school during the week of July 8th. She has written two books on conducting "Beyond the Baton—What Every Conductor Needs to Know" and "Baton Basics—Communicating Music Through Gestures." She will be meeting with orchestral musicians and conductors to discuss the role of the Music Director in the 21st Century on and off the podium and how to connect an orchestra with its community in a variety of ways.

Diane Wittry is recognized nationally and internationally and has been honored as an "Outstanding Alumnus of the Thornton School of Music at USC." She is well respected as a composer as well as a conductor and teacher. Diane Wittry has been a guest speaker at numerous well respected schools including the Curtis Institute of Music, PA, the Juilliard School of Music, NY, the Manhattan School of Music, NY, the Mannes School of Music, NY, New York University, and Brandeis University, MA among others, and is a frequent guest speaker at national conferences.

Monteux continues to implement its Inclusive Excellence program which encourages women who wish to conduct and gain admission to the school on their own merits. Three of the conductors attending the school this year are women. Hannah Reitz and Xuecong "Sunny" Xia are returning conductors and Emma Strub, who attended as an instrumentalist violist in 2016, is a new conductor. In addition, we are pleased to welcome back Tiffany Lu as Conducting Associate.

WINTER WORKSHOP *Continued from Page 1*

able to coach the orchestra, bringing them to a high level of performance in a very short time. Michael's performance of Copland's *Appalachian Spring* was lauded by the players and the audience. The level of pride and fulfillment in the orchestra was palpable. Many experienced professional players, veterans from the Orchestra of St. Luke's, Broadway shows, New York City Opera Orchestra, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and other regional orchestras took the time to thank Maestro Jinbo and Allison personally, remarking that they benefited from the experience.

- Thanks to the recruiting campaign and publicity efforts, the name of the Monteux School and Music Festival has resonated beyond the pool of musicians looking for a summer festival. Producing a workshop and two concerts with full orchestra and soloists in the Lincoln Center area, right next to Juilliard and the halls of the New York Philharmonic and the Met Opera, gives the Monteux School increased visibility, relevance, and prestige, which help the School to be competitive with other Festivals, while maintaining

Pierre Monteux's traditions of authenticity and modesty.

- The goal of the Monteux School and Summer Festival is a six-week trajectory of development for conductors and the orchestra. The transformation and lessons learned are more important than the end product of each week's orchestra concert. This workshop emphasized short-term goals and concert preparation, so a paid professional orchestra was required. The musicians had prepared their music in advance, so Maestro Jinbo was able to start from an advanced level of coaching the orchestra for the concert, allowing him to focus more on the conductors.
- The four-day Winter Workshop was also an excellent networking opportunity for alumni, New York area residents from our Hancock audience, and other music professionals who attended rehearsals or concerts.



Heather MacLean, Allison Kiger and Michael Jinbo at the Monteux Winter Workshop, January, 2019



Allison Kiger and David Rahbee talking with audience members, Monteux Winter Workshop, NYC, January, 2019

Overall the Winter Workshop was an unqualified success. We were able to take the Monteux experience and Michael Jinbo's teaching to a new audience in a new venue over a few days, fulfilling the School's mission.

