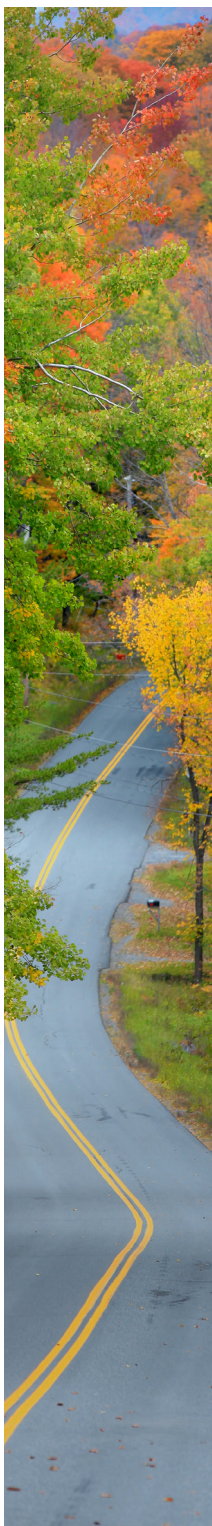


MONTEUX

SCHOOL & MUSIC FESTIVAL

FALL 2020

Newsletter



FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Monteux 2021

by Phil Devenish *President, Board of Trustees*

Time and again in conversation, the question comes up, 'What is the Monteux School planning to do for the 2021 season?' The short answer is that we are planning to go ahead as usual—or at least as much as usual as possible. What might this mean? We are soliciting applications from students for a live, six-week season from the last two weeks in June through July as we have done for many years. Maestro Jinbo will make conductor and orchestra musician decisions as he has done for the past twenty-five years, and we will issue acceptances and be ready for whatever comes.

What WILL come, we don't know. That is where the planning comes in. Two weeks ago, I was on a zoom call with Sen. Angus King along with about forty other representatives of arts organizations in Maine. Many are in dire straits, with little or no ticket revenue and substantial fixed costs such as labor and mortgages. It was a poignant and often disheartening discussion. Sen. King was sympathetic and encouraging, but explained that, until a further stimulus package comes to the Senate floor, he could not advocate for us. Let's hope.

We are not in such dire straits. Our fixed costs are low. We can fully honor our obligations to Maestro Jinbo, Executive Director Marc Thayer, and Conducting Associate Tiffany Lu. We have been frugal, living within our means for many years. We have no debts. Nor are we flush. But due to the generosity of our supporters like you, a 2021 season is not at financial risk. Whew!

So, what are our options for 2021? First, we are a SCHOOL. Our mission is the training of orchestra

conductors and musicians. If we can have a full complement of about 60 students, and if we can have a full concert hall of 225, it will be 'business as usual.' But if we can't, we are also thinking about Plans B and C.... Can we accomplish our mission with a smaller orchestra and suitably different curriculum? Perhaps so. With a smaller audience? Perhaps so. With a full orchestra, physically distanced on the auditorium floor, and a smaller audience, physically distanced on the stage and outdoors? Well, maybe that. We have to think and plan, as they say, 'outside of the box,' and then adjust—or not—depending.

But we do plan do 'go live' in 2021 IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. And we are thinking it will be, somehow. If you have suggestions, a 'Plan D' or any thoughts that you think might help our 'scenario planning,' please do share them, whether with Marc, with Maestro Jinbo, or with me or any other member of the Board.

As ever,

Phil Devenish, President of the Board



Michael Jinbo with Phil and Phoebe Devenish

SUMMER 2020: *Online Festival*

As you all know the Monteux Board of Trustees had to make a difficult decision in April of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. When it became apparent that a live festival would not be possible the choice was to cancel all activities or try to present some version of the festival online.

Many thanks go to Dr. Tiffany Lu for working closely with Marc Thayer and quickly coordinating a unique and complex six-week festival emulating the normal live schedule of planned events as much as possible. Thirteen orchestra and chamber music concerts from previous summers were broadcast on Sundays and Wednesdays. Orchestral Audition Workshops were presented as planned with musicians from the Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, St. Louis and Louisville orchestras. And Conductor Workshops and Seminars were offered twice each week with a long list of guest speakers, presenters and Monteux alumni from every conceivable aspect of the music and conducting field. Speakers included Gabe Lefkowitz, Diane Wittry, Jennifer Gunn, Stephen Lange, Bjorn Ranheim, Chelsea Tipton,

Kensho Watanabe, Michael Sakir, Ming Luke and Michael Jinbo.

All events were offered free of charge for the general public and invited participants included those young musicians that had been invited by audition to participate in the live festival as well as Monteux alumni musicians and conductors. We had over 150 registrants in the conducting digital seminars. Feedback from the participants was extremely positive and they were grateful that we were able to offer many opportunities since most other summer schools and festivals had also cancelled. We hope to be back in person in 2021 but we know we can offer many programs and seminars online in the summer and throughout the year.



Chelsea Tipton
Music Director,
Symphony of Southeast Texas



Diane Wittry
Music Director,
Allentown Symphony



Jennifer Gunn
Chicago Symphony Orchestra



Stephen Lange
Boston Symphony



Bjorn Ranheim,
St. Louis Symphony Orchestra



LIVE Music at Monteux Even in the Covid Era - Summer of 2020

Judging that others of our Monteux audience were as hungry for live classical music as we were, Phoebe and Phil Devenish – with the gracious help of Marc Thayer – sponsored three live recital concerts at the Forest Studio this past late July and early August. With a hall that seats 220, we were able to offer 50 tickets with masks and safe distancing, and voila! . . . the sound of great music filled the room! Wonderful!

NEW MONTEUX TRUSTEES

We are thrilled to welcome six new Trustees to the Monteux Board which will greatly expand our national and international reach. These six ambassadors will be terrific advisors, ambassadors and recruiters for the school and since we've had our meetings online for many years their geography won't be a problem.

Mr. Shen Yiwen, Monteux Alumnus, Associate Dean of Performance Studies, Professor of Music Theory, and Director of the New Music Ensemble, Juilliard School of Music, Tianjin, Beijing, China



Shen Yiwen

Mr. Henry Fogel, former President and CEO of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and President of the League of American Orchestras, most recently Dean Emeritus of the Chicago College of Performing Arts, Roosevelt University



Henry Fogel with Monteux Alumnus and violinist Isaac Suárez

Mr. Dan Pellegi, Attorney, Ellsworth, Maine

Ms. Kristen Strong, Philanthropist, Bangor, Maine

Dr. Guillermo Villarreal Rodriguez, Monteux Alumnus, Professor of Music and Orchestra Conductor, Facultad de Música, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, Monterrey, Mexico



Guillermo Villarreal Rodriguez with Marc Thayer

Mr. Steven Vittum, Monteux Patron and resident of Rockland, Maine

PIERRE MONTEUX ARCHIVES

Ron Schwizer has been gathering materials related to Pierre Monteux for many years, including the collection of Nancie Monteux Barendse formerly housed at Winterhaven. With the guidance of Marti Harmon, an experienced archivist, a variety of appropriate archival storage supplies and equipment were purchased and a widely-used archival software system, Past Perfect, was adopted. This system uses a standardized system of notation and cataloging, so that the archives will be compatible with other collections. We have subscribed to an online feature so that the entire collection can be searched and viewed anywhere online at <https://monteuxfoundation.pastperfectonline.com/>.

Working with Doug Kimmel as curator, Ron has archived 463 items in the "archive" file of recordings, 278 photo images, and 145 items in the collection of "objects." These items can be viewed online in those files or items in all files can be searched by "keyword." The most interesting way to scan the entire collection is by clicking on "random images" and then clicking on the image of interest for the full record.

One particular item of interest is the two-volume scrapbook that Doris Monteux kept during their early years in San Francisco (items numbered 2000.2.1 and 2000.2.2); after finding the item, clicking on the image will lead to a series of scanned images of all the pages in the scrapbook. The photo collections of Doris and Nancie have also been scanned and are available to view online. Another interesting collection is the telegrams received following Pierre's death in 1964 (2000.5.1).

There is a large collection of records (with images of their covers), including the 80th Anniversary collection of recordings presented by RCA Victor "...in recognition of his distinguished career as a Red Seal Recording Artist" (item 1955.1.1). The recordings will be available to view or play at the Archive at Tamarack Place, but they are not available to listen to online; however, once the identification of the recording is obtained, details of it may be found by searching on the internet.



THE MONTEUX SCHOOL AND MUSIC FESTIVAL IS GOING GREEN!

Monteux has signed a contract with ReVision Energy to install a ground-mounted solar array in the open field to the east of Tamarack Place in order to cover the electricity costs of all our buildings. The solar panels will put enough electricity into the power grid to produce credits that will defray both our current costs and those from adding much-needed window air conditioning to student housing in the cabins and the barn on campus. The total cost of the project is expected to be \$55,000, of which \$22,000 has already been pledged. Construction should begin before the snow flies and then be completed in the spring of 2021, in time for what we hope and expect to be a normal, LIVE season next summer. Please feel free to contact Phil Devenish for details, and please consider a donation to help us 'go green' here in Hancock.

And special thanks to Frederick and Constance Glore for their generous matching gift towards the Solar Project at Monteux. We appreciate our generous donors so much and can't do what we do without them.



Board President Phil Devenish with the repaired sign at Tamarack Place

CLASSICAL GABFEST

Hungry for intelligent conversation about the goings-on in the classical music world? Search "Classical Gabfest" on any podcast app or YouTube to hear Monteux alumni Tiffany Lu, Kensho Watanabe, and William White discuss cultural, societal, historical, and performative aspects of the field, with plenty of fun and games in between!

MONTEUX SCHOOL ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The Monteux Oral History Project is intended to record via video the history of the school and the people involved over the years. Thanks to Joe Klapatch and Allison Kiger we currently have recordings of Michael Charry, Neal Gittleman, Frank and Ada Graham, Gabe Lefkowitz, Tiffany Lu, John Norine, David Rahbee, Kyle Ritenauer, Ron Schwizer, and Will White. Some of these interviews may be used for recruiting purposes, some to record the history of the school for our archives and others may provide information to musicians in residence at the school. We are currently creating a list of other persons to be interviewed. If you would like to suggest that someone be added to our list, please email the school with their name and contact information if you have it.

CONDUCTOR SARAH HICKS:

'I can't wave to silence, or to an empty room' – *MinnPost*



Hicks hosted the first of six livestreamed concerts by the Minnesota Orchestra on October 2.

Sarah Hicks has stood confidently before orchestras across the nation and around the world. Closer to home, she has been principal conductor of Live at Orchestra Hall since October 2009. Holding a tiny stick, standing tall on her trademark high heels, she has led the Minnesota Orchestra in Pops concerts, holiday shows, the "Inside the Classics" series, concerts with Dessa, and projects of her own devising, including one involving chefs on stage. Hicks is an in-demand expert in the booming live-to-picture genre, where a symphony orchestra performs a film score live while the film screens. She equates this highly technical and demanding role to playing "a demented video game."

Since mid-March, Hicks has been mostly unemployed. If she doesn't work, she doesn't get paid. She and her husband, Paul LaFollette, and their Papillon, Pinkerton, live in San Francisco, one of the most expensive cities on the planet. They recently left an apartment they loved for one they could better afford.

In May, Pinkerton, who is also Hicks' beloved traveling companion (she traveled a lot in pre-COVID times), suffered an accident that required major surgery. In August, Columbia Artists Management, Hicks' management company and one of the leading agencies for classical music performers, shut down. In September, San Francisco's sky turned orange.

Like many artists during the pandemic, Hicks has stepped up her presence on social media, where she has two Instagram accounts and a YouTube channel. She was already writing a blog, but when COVID came, she started another, "Coronavirus Diary: Mental Health in a strange new world," where she writes frequently and frankly about topics including her own mental health challenges.

Hicks said by phone earlier this week from San Francisco, "I'm bipolar, I've had general anxiety disorder, panic disorder, major depression. I'm a survivor of suicide." (Her father died by suicide in 2001.) "The blog has been the main way I've been reaching people, and hopefully not just demystifying but normalizing mental health issues that a lot of us struggle with. I find it increasingly important to have those be in the fore and to be honest and transparent."

If you were at Orchestra Hall on Friday, Feb. 7, for her "Music and the Mind" concert with co-host Sam Bergman and the orchestra, you heard Hicks talk about mental health and neurodiversity. She calls that "the night I came out as bipolar to both my colleagues and an audience of 1,800 at a concert that I curated."

Hicks will host Orchestra Hall's Fall 2020 season, a series of six livestreamed concerts from Orchestra Hall that starts tonight, with a smaller version of the orchestra and no live audience. She'll conduct the holiday concert on Dec. 18.

For the full interview, see "I Can't Wave to Silence" at www.minnpost.com.

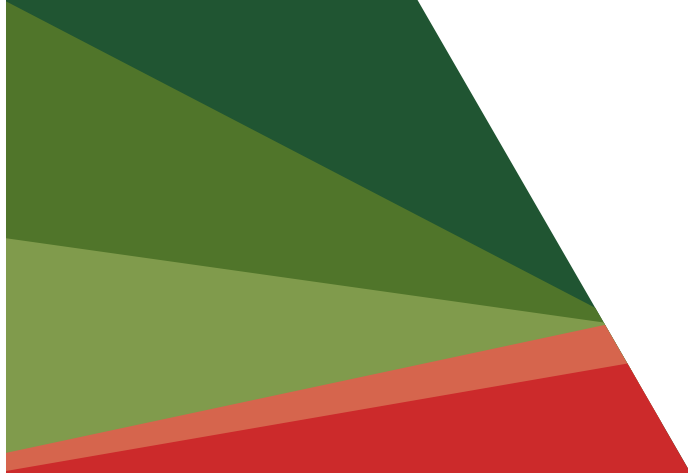
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CELEBRATING CHARLES BURRELL:

*First African American
member of a major
US orchestra*

Sent to us by Will White, Monteux School Alumnus

Here's a terrific video from the era of Pierre Monteux's
tenure as Music Director of the San Francisco Symphony –
<https://youtu.be/MwK21THppyQ>

