

# The Gift of Music

The Campaign for New England Conservatory Newsletter • VOLUME 1, NUMBER 2, SUMMER 2004

## NEC CAMPAIGN HITS \$55 MILLION



Roger Farrington

NEC opera singers entertain at Feast of Music gala.

Boosted by a magnificent endowment gift from the Jordan family, two major foundation grants, a record-breaking Annual Fund drive, and 20 new endowed scholarship funds, NEC's "Gift of Music" Capital Campaign hit the \$55 million mark at the close of the fiscal

year on June 30. This is a gain of \$14 million since last October's public campaign kick-off, and puts NEC more than halfway toward its \$100 million goal.

"The outpouring of support has been terrific," says Campaign Chair David Scudder, "not just from our long-time friends, but from so many new donors

who realize that only a handful of institutions make the kind of difference that NEC does."

The Jordan endowment is a particularly significant gift to the Campaign, and makes a remarkable statement about the family's enduring loyalty to NEC. One hundred years ago Eben Jordan, Jr., was the Conservatory's main benefactor, whose vision created the hall that bears his name. Thirty-four of his descendants, from around the country, joined together to provide funds that guarantee Jordan Hall, the heart of NEC's teaching and performing life, will be securely maintained in perpetuity.

Just as vital to this year's success has been the record support of the Annual Fund. For the first time, the annual campaign topped \$2 million—in gifts large and small from 3,170 donors, nearly

20% more than last year. NEC alumni increased their giving by 15%. Board members responded with a 24% increase in dollars. Also noteworthy was the substantial participation of Prep parents, 20% of whom now support the Annual Fund. NEC's gala "Feast of Music" dinner in February, honoring the late Charlotte "Dolly" Rabb, also reached a new peak: \$388,000 raised for student scholarships, up 23% from last year's event.

Beyond the numbers, Annual Fund gifts are the lifeblood of the school, reaching every aspect of daily activity: scholarships, faculty support, master-classes, free concerts, library resources, heating, and maintenance. Trustees Harry Pratt and Jack Hornor '53, '55 M.M., '57 A.D. provided their customary exceptional leadership of this effort.

Reflecting on the transformation taking place at NEC, President Daniel Steiner said "We are more than halfway to our \$100 million goal and I have no doubt we will continue to have strong support. As Coretta Scott King, one of NEC's most distinguished graduates, noted in her Commencement address last May, 'NEC has a proud heritage of musical excellence and an awesome responsibility to uphold' as we go forward in the months ahead."

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# FIRST ENDOWED CHAIR FUNDED BY MAJOR GRANTS

For years the most important source of support for violin studies and performance has been the Houston-based Dorothy Richard Starling Foundation, which has provided major funding to music programs throughout the United States. Now NEC joins the list of beneficiaries, thanks to a \$1 million grant to establish the school's first endowed faculty chair. The Foundation specifies that the chair "be occupied by an outstanding and eminent teacher of classical violin," and in naming NEC faculty Donald Weilerstein as the first holder of the chair, President Steiner has chosen one of the foremost violin teachers in the world. The full funding of the position was made possible by an additional matching grant of \$500,000 from Pete and Ginny Nicholas, whose unprecedented \$10 million gift to the NEC Campaign has been offered as an incentive to other major donors.

Donald Weilerstein is one of the preeminent teachers of violin in the world, and the founding first violinist of the fabled Cleveland Quartet. From 1969 to 1989 he toured and made extensive recordings with the quartet, which included cellist Paul Katz and violist Martha Strongin Katz, who have also joined the NEC faculty.



*Donald Weilerstein coaching student Wei Wei Le '04 G.D.*

Weilerstein has taught and performed at music festivals in Salzburg, Israel, Berlin, Ravinia and "Mostly Mozart" in New York. Many of his students now hold positions in major orchestras, including the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Mr. Weilerstein became a member of the NEC String Department in 2002, along with his wife, pianist Vivian Hornik Weilerstein. With their daughter, cellist Alisa Weilerstein (winner of an Avery Fisher Young Career Grant), they form NEC's Weilerstein Trio.

The Starling Foundation was established by Frank M. Starling in honor of his wife, an accomplished violinist who studied with the Belgian virtuoso Eugene Ysaye.

The Nicholas Family Challenge is an unprecedented opportunity, created by the generosity of Pete and Ginny Nicholas, for friends of NEC to support the school as never before. The Nicholas initiative is transforming NEC's ability to attract the world's best musical talent by helping to establish eight permanently funded faculty chairs. A new donor's \$1 million gift will be matched by \$500,000 from the Nicholas grant, to reach the faculty chair minimum endowment level of \$1.5 million. In addition, the Nicholas Family Challenge is also being put to use as an incentive to increase the endowments of newly-established named scholarship funds. To date, nine new funds have been created with Nicholas matching support.

## CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP TEAM

### Campaign Executive Committee

President Daniel Steiner

Campaign Chair David Scudder

Campaign Vice Chair Harold I. Pratt

Board Chair Jack Vernon

Trustee Carol Henderson

### Leadership Giving Committee

Pete and Ginny Nicholas, Co-chairs

Peter and Carolyn Lynch, Co-chairs

Alex d'Arbeloff, Former NEC Trustee

## THE GIFT OF MUSIC

### The Campaign for New England

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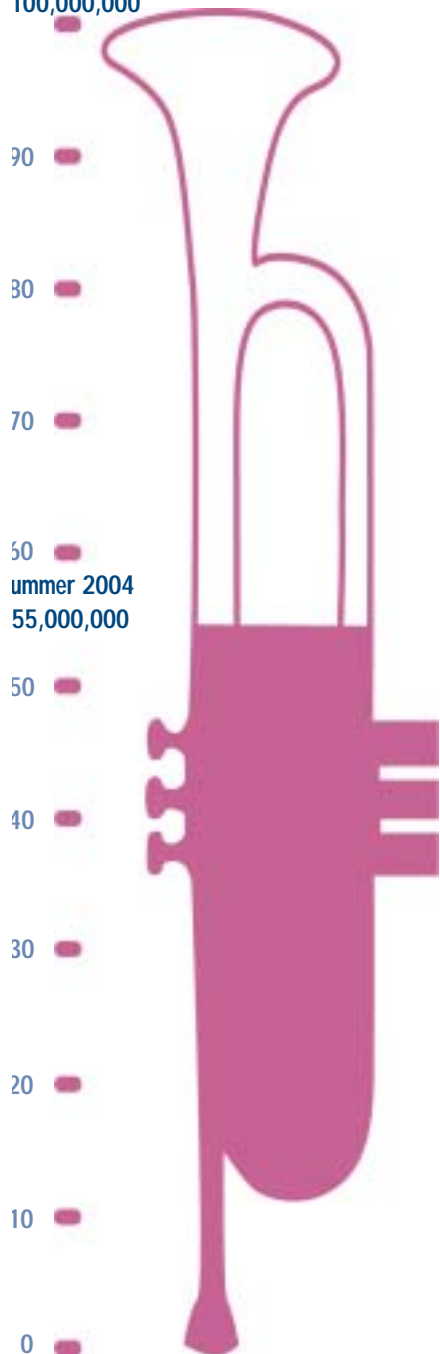
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# SOUND THE TRUMPET...

Since our last newsletter, NEC has received generous support from the following friends and alumni:

**TOTAL**  
**100,000,000**



## \$1,000,000 to \$9,999,999

Dorothy Richard Starling  
Foundation  
Anonymous (2)

## \$500,000 to \$999,999

Albert V. Ferguson '55 '57  
and Effie G. Ferguson '54  
Joy McIntyre '63  
Anonymous (2)

## \$250,000 to \$499,999

Barbara and Kennett Burnes  
Cile and Bill Hicks  
Popplestone Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Norton O. Sloan

## \$100,000 to \$249,999

Estate of Mark Anderson  
John and Molly Beard  
Kate E. Blanchard Trust  
John F. Cartwright '40 '41  
Mrs. William H. Congleton  
Deborah Bennett Elfers '82  
and William R. Elfers  
Saj-nicole A. Joni, Ph.D.  
Catherine Nadon-Carignan '62, '66  
Donald and Alice Noble  
Foundation  
Susan and Dennis Shapiro\*

## \$50,000 to \$99,999

Estate of Mary T. DiFazio  
Dorothea and Bradford Endicott  
Marilyn Evans '56  
John and Elin Harris\*  
William Kaiser and Rowan O'Riley  
Mary S. Kiplinger '47, '50, '52  
Trudi Mishara '53  
and Elliott Mishara  
National Endowment for the Arts  
Virginia Raad '48  
Ruth and Kenneth Scheer  
Stephanie Sonnabend  
Helen F. Whitaker Fund  
Malcolm and Marie Wright  
Anonymous (3)

## \$25,000 to \$49,999

Estate of G. Carl Anderson, Jr. '42  
Estate of Theodore F. Feder  
and Lillian K. Feder '39  
L.A. Unified School District  
Teresa F. Mazulli  
J. Francesca C. Rullman '53  
Rev. and Mrs. Cornelius A. Wood  
Anonymous (1)

## \$10,000 to \$24,999

Mr. and Mrs. H. Peter Aitken  
Jimmy Earl '81  
Margaret Luttrell Goodman '62  
Lillian and Helen Hagopian

Christian Halby  
Edward R. Kupperstein '57  
Iolanda E. Low, M.D.  
Wanda and Ronald Mourant  
Florence C. Pearson '41  
Johanna Hill Simpson '81  
and Richard C. Simpson\*  
Mr. and Mrs. Neil L. Thompson  
Estate of Helen West  
Craigie Zildjian  
and Stephen Wiener  
Anonymous (2)

## \$5,000 to \$9,999

Dorothy Churchill Goodenough †  
'39, '42 and Forrest Goodenough  
Margaret A. Mills '59  
Estate of Susan Moller Okin  
Mr. and Mrs. Guido R. Perera, Jr.  
John B. Porter  
Peter W. Segal  
The Wayland Group, Inc.  
Mary Stare Wilkinson  
Anonymous (1)

\*We regret these donors were not credited correctly in the previous newsletter.

† In memoriam.

## YOUR GIFT AT WORK...



*Ben Levy '02 has joined the Boston Symphony Orchestra bass section.*

I came to the Conservatory in 1998, enticed by what NEC and Boston had to offer, eager to learn, but not entirely sure of what my experience at NEC would be. What I found was the most amazing combination of faculty and students. There is an incredibly high level of expectation and performance from all of the musicians, one that is artistically demanding, but one that is supportive and positive at the same time. I was inspired by my classmates as much as I was by the NEC faculty.

NEC has everything to do with who I am today—musically, professionally, personally. And one of the reasons I was able to study at NEC was because of the financial support I received.

# THE FAMILY THAT GIVES TOGETHER...

Nancy Noble Holland '95 M.M. studied Choral Conducting at NEC with Tamara Brooks. She recently made a pledge of \$100,000 to the Campaign through the Donald and Alice Noble Foundation, which she administers with her brother David Noble. The Foundation was created by their father, the late Donald Noble, who served from 1959 to 1980 as CEO of Rubbermaid and built the home products company into one of Fortune 500's Top 10 most admired firms. Nancy currently conducts the Nova Choir at the First Church in Belmont, Mass., and next year becomes Assistant Conductor of the Arlington-Belmont Chorale, a 75-voice community choir.

**Q:** Tell us a little about yourself and your family.

**A:** My background is a bit unusual for the Conservatory. I was 43 years old when I came here, with a 4-year old and a 6-year old. My husband, Jim, whom I met in our freshman year together at Swarthmore, and I had both been English teachers and administrators for 17 years. I loved teaching and the class discussions, but just felt something was missing. My passion in life was always music—I played flute since the 4th grade and piano since I was 7—and when the leader of the chorus where I was teaching in California decided to leave, I went to the headmaster and said, "I think I could try conducting." I loved it and the kids sang their hearts out and that's how I got started. But it took 12 years for me to get to NEC—actually Jim and I both got accepted to go back to school the same spring, I at the Conservatory and Jim at a Harvard doctoral program, and so we moved our family to Boston in 1993.

**Q:** Your father had a successful career and set up and ran the foundation which you and your brother now manage. He must have been a big influence.

**A:** My Dad really believed in inspiring other people to give by the gifts he gave. He was one of those old-fashioned ethical businessmen who managed to "do good" in the business



*Nancy Holland '95 M.M. with her parents, Donald and Alice Noble, at her NEC graduation.*

world. His mother wanted him to be a minister, but he didn't think he could get the education he needed. He started out as a 15-year-old during the Depression working as a bank messenger in Cleveland, and ended up on the Federal Reserve Board! So it was really one of those pull-yourself-up-by-the-bootstraps stories, building up a small company. He knew everyone by name in the Rubbermaid factory and when he used to walk through, people would show him pictures of their children and grandchildren.

**Q:** Was he at all musically inclined?

**A:** My father sang in a men's quartet. He and I used to sing together, and he sang lullabies to us growing up. In the last 6 months of his life, when he was diagnosed with cancer, we sang together as much as possible. So my love of music is very caught up with my love of my father, and grows out of the sense of being part of something together, of music that comes out of community. I love choral conducting not only for the music but also the words, and the psychology of the people, of encouraging and nurturing them, and the sense of well-being people feel when they sing together.

**Q:** How did your experience at NEC contribute to your getting involved with the Campaign?

**A:** The quality of the music is just so inspiring—you're inspired by the other students, by the professors, by the concerts here. The school does a fine

job of preparing musicians and bringing everyone to a higher level of music making. I especially enjoyed Dan Pinkham's choral literature courses, Hankus Netsky's Yiddish Music, and Kathleen Kaun's voice lessons. They challenged me in kind, supportive ways. I'm happy to be able to help other students gain access to similar wonderful opportunities.

**Q:** You're a member of NEC's Alumni Council and your gift is actually a challenge grant to other alumni that will create an Alumni Council endowed scholarship. How did this come about?

**A:** When I spoke with Don Jones [NEC's VP for Institutional Advancement] we decided to set up a challenge that has the potential to bring in an additional \$150,000, beyond the Foundation's commitment, for the fund. My brother and I are so pleased to be involved in this way, and we feel our father would have enthusiastically supported this. One of the things he believed in most strongly was education—he supported all of us in whatever educational directions we went—and he really believed in the importance of scholarships for kids who would not otherwise be able to attend. There are many wonderful young musicians out there eager to develop their talent. We are delighted to support NEC, and encourage other alumni and friends to join in, so these students can go to one of the best music schools in the country.

## There are many hands on a gift...

... and many ways you can bring the Gift of Music to future generations.

If you would like to join in supporting NEC, or learn more, please call (617) 585-1155.

You can also contribute online at [www.newenglandconservatory.edu](http://www.newenglandconservatory.edu).

# COMMUNITY PROGRAM RECEIVES \$2 MILLION GIFT

The Community Performances and Partnerships Program is a new venture that continues a long NEC tradition: bringing music to people who ordinarily don't get to hear it in live performance—in this case, performed by current NEC students.

Though only in its second year, the program's ability to improve the quality of life for hundreds of Boston area residents, ranging from children in the public schools to seniors in retirement facilities, has inspired a local private foundation to make an anonymous gift of \$2 million that will help foster creative partnerships with numerous community organizations.

To date these partnerships number

more than 50, including Boston Children's Hospital, Greater Boston Aid to the Blind, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, United South End Settlement House, Boston Public Library, Brookline Public Library, Hebrew Rehabilitation Center, Pine Street Inn, YMCA after-school programs, and school districts in Boston, Cambridge, Rockport, Weston, and Cape Cod.

The program is ambitious, not just in its broad reach into the community, but also in its aims for NEC student performers. The challenges of playing in places far from the concert hall, learning to speak informally about music with diverse audiences, and developing the sense of what is

appropriate for individual listeners, particularly those who may be in difficult personal situations—all contribute to making our students more articulate advocates for music in the wider community.

## Gifts to New England Conservatory

are welcome in the form of cash, stock, marketable securities, real estate, gifts in-kind, and planned gift options that enable donors to support NEC while they receive income, tax benefits, and estate planning advantages.

For information, please call (617) 585-1155.



Paul A. Cortese

Tanya Maggi, NEC's Director of Performance Outreach, is responsible for designing and implementing the Community Performances and Partnerships Program. She came to the Conservatory in 2003 from St. Louis, where she oversaw education initiatives of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra as well as a consortium of 15 arts organizations and 90 area schools. A graduate of Oberlin College, Ms. Maggi has a master's degree from the University of Akron in viola performance and an Artist Diploma from Brandeis University.



Paul A. Cortese



Paul A. Cortese

Tanya Maggi oversees NEC's performance outreach.

# NEWS IN THE NEWS...



New Provost Robert Kemble Dodson '62.

• **ROBERT KEMBLE DODSON '62** joined New England Conservatory as Provost on July 1, succeeding Peter Row, who is returning to full-time teaching at the Conservatory. Dodson comes to NEC after 30 years as a teacher and administrator—most recently as Dean of the Conservatory at Oberlin College. A cellist, he studied with Janos Starker and performed for many years with the Vaghy String Quartet. His wife, Alberta Fox Dodson, is a 1964 NEC graduate in Voice.

• **NEC AND HARVARD AGREE TO DEGREES:** Highly gifted students, trying to choose between a professional education in music or a traditional liberal arts program, can have the best of both worlds, starting next fall. Thanks to an agreement reached in May by NEC and Harvard University, the two schools will offer a five-year joint degree, leading to a Bachelor of Arts from Harvard and a Master of Music degree from the Conservatory.

• **NEC'S YOUTH PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA**, led by Benjamin Zander in its season-ending concert in May, drew raves from *Boston Globe* critic Richard Dyer, who wrote: "With young players of this caliber and dedication coming along, one could feel assured about the future of American orchestras."

If you would like to see—and hear—what's happening at NEC today, check out the video showing on our Web site. Just click [www.newenglandconservatory.edu](http://www.newenglandconservatory.edu), and click again at "Giving to NEC."

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