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## Message from the Chair of the Department of Music

DEAR FRIENDS OF MUSIC,



We hope that this message reaches you in health and safely sheltered. We miss seeing you at our events, but know that the music which brought us together connects us even more strongly in this turbulent time.

We wish to share with you how the Department of Music is facing these challenges. As you can imagine, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the requisite cancellations of gatherings of any size has had a significant and disruptive impact. Moving online with music-making and teaching is difficult. For many kinds of performance, social distancing or online coordination is simply impossible. Nonetheless, as you will see below, we are persevering, continually developing new skills and new paths of learning.

The richness of the creative minds in our department is evident in the diverse selection of classes being offered during the Spring Quarter. *Internet Ensemble Tech Force* is a new course taught by **Chris Chafe**, in which student participants enable chamber groups to perform together online. By using state of the art technology and remote access to CCRMA facilities, musicians achieve the lowest-possible time delays. His course intersects with the *Research Seminar in Computer-Generated Music* taught by **Jonathan Berger**, where students harness and focus their talents to find new ways of creating, performing, and sharing music. In a newly-developed course, *Creative Agency in the Pandemic World*, **Mark Applebaum** questions the role of an artist in the pandemic world and asks students to respond to this question by creating art — in any medium — that speaks to this

moment in history. Stanford Symphony Orchestra/Stanford Philharmonia, led by conductor **Paul Phillips**, will not meet to rehearse or to perform. Instead, the course provides students with listening assignments, relevant readings, and engaging discussions related to orchestral music. Chamber Music, supervised by the **St. Lawrence String Quartet** (our ensemble-in-residence), offers online, no credit lecture courses. Their emphasis is on the exploration of favorite works and their learning methodologies. *Introduction to Indian Classical Music*, taught by **Lindsey Copeland**, introduces participants to two main genres of Indian Classical Music: Carnatic and Hindustani. This quarter, *Jazz History*, taught by **Murray Low**, spans music from the groundbreaking work of bebop players of the '40s up to the present. In *Decoding Anime*, students guided by **François Rose** learn about Japanese aesthetics and unique interplays of story, image, sound, and music. *The Art of Music Video: Practice and Analysis*, taught by **Carol Vernallis**, combines multimedia analysis with students' creative projects.

As you can see from this excerpt of our classes, there's lots happening. I want to draw your attention to the fact that both Chris Chafe and Mark Applebaum returned a quarter early from their sabbaticals to create classes that respond directly to the pandemic and empower our students to create. This, of course, is in the best of Stanford's traditions: looking forward and leveraging our students' interests and skills to open new ways of doing, being, and learning. We are proud of our students, faculty, and staff in responding with such resilience to a crisis. We are also grateful to you, Friends of Music, for sustaining these efforts with equal commitment.

Please stay healthy and engaged. We will continue to update you on our situation and as we prepare to eventually return to campus. We cannot wait to share the music with you in person again.

**Jarek Kapuscinski**

Associate Professor and Chair,  
Department of Music

## Coronavirus Impacts on the Music Department

In the third week of March, the university canceled all concerts on campus, and advised undergrads to leave campus at the end of winter quarter to await online instruction in the spring. Things are in flux and continue to change as more becomes known. All Department of Music performances and tours, including those cosponsored by Friends of Music, are canceled. The St. Lawrence String Quartet is exploring other options to stand in for the 2020 Summer Chamber Music Seminar, considering how they might present a series of digital concerts, keynote presentations, and masterclasses to keep the chamber music community engaged. There will be no in-person events, but Friends of Music members will receive updates as more is known.

But for all this distressing news, our organization remains active right along with the Department of Music. We already had a strong year of performance up until this moment, and continue to provide aid to students as they begin a quarter of remote learning. With your support, we continue to help the Department of Music achieve its mission.

— Friends of Music Board of Directors

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## Kurt Weill's *One Touch of Venus*



Chloe Wintersteen as Venus

In January, the Department of Music presented Kurt Weill's 1941 American musical *One Touch of Venus* (book by S.J. Perelman and Ogden Nash, lyrics by Nash) featuring Friends of Music Scholarship students in many roles. This romantic comedy unfolds in a New York museum, where hairdresser Rodney Hatch (Tim Sherlock, '20) playfully places his intended's engagement ring on the finger of a statue of Venus, causing the goddess herself (Chloe

Wintersteen, '20; M.A. candidate, Communication) to fall in love with him. The show originally opened on Broadway with Mary Martin and Kenny Baker, introducing the standards "Speak Low," "I'm a Stranger Here Myself," and "That's Him."

The Department of Music collaborated with the Drs. Ben and A. Jess Shenson Fund and The Kurt Weill Foundation for Music in this staging, directed by Wendy Hillhouse with musical direction by Marie-Louise Catsalis.

— Rowen Leigh

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## Friends of Music House Concert

Members were invited to a lovely afternoon concert on October 20 at the home of Ila Loeb in Atherton. About 40 members socialized and enjoyed light refreshments before an hour of chamber music in Ms. Loeb's living room. Our performers were pianist Kevin Lee Sun (who organized the program), Tracy Lang and Danna Xue, cellists, and student board member Nnamdi Oditia-Honnah, flute. Tracy and Danna, respectively, performed the romance, *Vocalise*, by Rachmaninoff and the *Méditation* from *Thaïs* by Massenet, each accompanied by Kevin. Kevin also performed Schumann's *Kreisleriana*, Op. 16. Nnamdi performed *To Greet the Sun* by Katherine Hoover and *Fantaisie pour flûte et piano* by Philippe Gaubert. After the concert, the attendees had a chance to chat with the students and continue the reception.

These talented students are generous with their time despite their busy schedules in human biology, mechanical engineering, political science and medicine. All are recipients of FOM scholarships to pursue their musical studies in addition to their other courses.

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## Board Members Perform

The November 2019 concert of the Peninsula Symphony featured FOM Board members Christopher Costanza, cellist and member of the St. Lawrence String Quartet, and Debra Fong, lecturer in violin and chamber music. Debra, concertmaster of the symphony, performed *Meditation for Violin and Orchestra* by Lee Actor. Chris soloed in *Kol Nidrei* by Max Bruch. The program also included Stravinsky's *Symphony of Psalms* and Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*. Conducting responsibilities were shared by the symphony's director, Mitchell Sardou Klein, and Stanford's Stephen Sano, who led the Stanford Symphonic Chorus in the choral selections.



Debra Fong

Christopher Costanza

## Adventures in Music

About 300 lucky school children from Juana Briones, Huff, and Escondido schools were treated to a performance by Dawn Harms and the Rhythm Sisters the morning of 24 February in Dinkelspiel Auditorium. Dawn and her group — Candace Guirao and Harms on violin, Emily Onderdonk on viola, and Vanessa Ruotolo on cello — took the stage in a performance emphasizing teamwork, sharing, listening, and rhythm. They took turns talking about their instruments, demonstrating pizzicato, bowing techniques, and the instruments themselves. They showed how instruments could imitate a galloping horse (Rossini's *William Tell Overture*) or city sounds (Gershwin's *An American in Paris*) and they played "pass the bow," where each quartet member got a turn using a bow to play a melody while the rest accompanied pizzicato.



They encouraged audience participation, pronouncing musical terms, asking questions ("what is a bow made of?" and "how many of you have played a violin?"), and choosing several kids — and a teacher — to come to the stage and use a spare instrument. The music was lively, and they used rhythmic clapping to quiet the enthusiastic audience. Kids "conducted" the quartet in a Sousa march and danced the tango

onstage. Quartet members then answered questions from the audience. Finally, "What is the difference between a violin and a fiddle?" Dawn asked, turning her instrument from back to front. After eliciting the correct answer ("nothing") from the audience, she ended the program playing an energetic fiddle tune. It was a highly entertaining hour that flew by and was a delight to the adults present, as well as the children.

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## Praveen Pallegar

Symbolic Systems senior Praveen Pallegar is both pianist and violinist, and one of the students who demonstrate the unique qualities of our Friends of Music lesson scholarship program. This fall, he will begin to pursue a combined M.D./Ph.D.: "I'm still choosing between a few programs, but I'll know for sure which school I'll be attending by May. I'll be doing my Ph.D. in neuroscience."

"Praveen is yet another example from my Stanford violin studio of a future brilliant M.D./Ph.D. who combines music and medicine training to full advantage," says violin lecturer Robin Sharp. "These rigorous disciplines use the development of sensitivity and knowledge on both a cerebral and visceral level. For me, he is one of those young individuals that gives one hope for a bright future."

A native of Minneapolis, Minnesota, Praveen began studying piano when he was four years old in the studio of Jill Kilzer. After winning a number of performance and theory competitions held by the Minnesota Music Teachers' Association, Praveen joined the MacPhail Center for Music in 2012. There, he studied with Richard Tostenson and was a member of the MacPhail Teen Advisory Council, working to organize musical outreach events in the Twin Cities.



With a passion for both performing and competing, Praveen qualified into the top 50 pianists worldwide in the 2014 International e-Piano Junior Competition. In addition, Praveen won first place in the MacPhail Concerto and Aria Competition and performed Shostakovich's 2nd Piano Concerto as a soloist with the Minneapolis Civic Orchestra at age 14.

An avid fan of chamber music, Praveen was part of a violin-piano duo and a piano trio in high school, winning third place in the 2015 Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra Youth Chamber Music Competition. In 2016, he participated in the Northern Lights Chamber Music Institute with then-professor Young-Nam Kim. Praveen was also part of the highest-level orchestras of both the Minnesota Youth Symphonies and Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies programs, touring Spain with the latter to open the 2014 International Festival of Music and Dance in Granada.

Praveen studies piano at Stanford with Professor George Barth. "I love the Romantic, Impressionist, and Modernist periods," says Praveen. His favorite composers are Prokofiev, Shostakovich, Ravel, and Rachmaninoff. "Music has always been a huge part of my life and matters to me greatly. I enjoy sharing my love of making music with others." He would like to thank the Friends of Music for giving him the opportunity to take lessons for all of his quarters at Stanford. — Rowen Leigh

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## FOM Mission Statement

To encourage and maintain broad and lively interest and support within the University and the community for the activities and objectives of the Department of Music at Stanford University, by:

- Providing a bridge of reciprocal involvement between the community and the Department;
- Contributing financially through memberships and fundraising efforts to support music lesson scholarships, fellowships, performance activities and other projects of the Department and its students; and
- Promoting and participating in projects that better the growth and success of all Department events and programs.

## 2019 Holiday Musicale

Our traditional Holiday Musicale was held the afternoon of December 7 in Memorial Church, drawing a large and appreciative crowd of close to four hundred. This event is a revenue producing event for FOM.

Ethan Chi, whose lessons are supported by Friends of Music, opened the program on the mighty Murray-Harris organ from 1901 by playing the finale of Louis Vierne's Symphony No. 1 in D Major.

The Stanford Chamber Chorale, conducted by Stephen Sano, sang five pieces from their very successful summer concert tour of Great Britain, including the traditional *Gloucester Wassail* in Ralph Vaughan Williams' arrangement. Their tour was also supported by a Friends of Music grant.

The Addison Septet (harp, flute, clarinet, and string quartet) regaled us with a lively *Introduction* and *Allegro* by Maurice Ravel, and then it was the turn of the Stanford Philharmonia conducted by Paul Phillips, playing Handel's Concerto Grosso in B-flat Major, Op. 3, No. 2.

The Philharmonia then joined with the Stanford Chorale, soprano Jin-Hee Lee, and Eric Lebel on the organ, in Hugh MacKinnon's *Sleep Judea Fair*, followed by Gustav Holst's beautiful *Christmas Day*.

— Stina Katchadourian

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## 2020 Department of Music Awards Announced

Sadly, our Department of Music Awards Concert, usually presented each spring in partnership with the Friends of Music, has been canceled due to the COVID-19 campus closure. Nevertheless, we are pleased to announce the winners of the 2020 Department of Music Awards:

LOUIS J. SUDLER PRIZE: **Lorin Phillips**, mezzo-soprano

CAROL AND PETER POLK AWARD: **Dante Dullas**, flute

HUMANITIES AND SCIENCES PRIZE: **Léa Bourgade**, violin; **Nnamdi Odita-Honnah**, flute; **Kevin Su**, composition

BLEW-CULLEY-LAFOLLETTE PRIZE (undergrad major, piano performance): **Adrian Liu**

DANIEL V. ROBINSON PRIZE (undergrad, instrumental performance): **Hannah Lee Choi**, cello

RITA TAYLOR PRIZE (undergrad, vocal performance): **Chloe Wintersteen**, soprano

PATRICK BUTLER PRIZE (undergrad, piano performance): **Victor Lin, Keaton Ollech**

MARIE GIBSON PRIZE (undergrad or grad, vocal performance): **James Mayclin**, bass-baritone; **Cassidy McCleary**, soprano

ROBERT M. GOLDEN MEDAL: **Joss Saltzman**, composition

FOM GRADUATE PRIZES (instrumental/vocal performance): **Andrea Chung**, bassoon; **Joshua Spayd**, saxophone

FOM CHAMBER MUSIC AWARD: **Yannie Tan** and **Derek Chung**, piano duo

Congratulations to all our prize winners!

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## Concerts at Vi

Spearheaded by FOM board member Joan Winden, a resident at the retirement center Vi, a series of concerts have taken place there. The Vi Lifestyle Department has welcomed talented Stanford music students to perform in the University Auditorium and in the Great Room. We are so pleased to offer students an opportunity to perform for a very receptive live audience. Performers have included:

- **June 2018:** Zhengyang Jiang, cellist, with Olivia Zhou (ballerina) and Shiya Wang, Wanning Chen, and Zhengli Wang (pianists)
- **April 2019:** Melanie Goldstein (cellist) and Kevin Lee Sun (pianist)
- **June 2019:** Harp recital with students from the Studio of Alexandra Perdeu
- **June 2019:** Cello students of Christopher Costanza's masterclass, with their respective pianists
- **January 2020:** Kevin Lee Sun, pianist, performing a full recital
- **February 2020:** Nnamdi Odita-Honnah, flutist

Other concerts are being planned, subject to further domestic coronavirus developments.

— Miriam Palm

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## Are You on Board?

FRIENDS OF MUSIC is the provider of hundreds of Stanford student music lesson scholarships each year. Renew your membership now, or come onboard and join our team. We welcome new-comers! For information, contact Rowen Leigh, Administrative Liaison, at [rleigh@stanford.edu](mailto:rleigh@stanford.edu) or 650.723.1780. You may renew your membership online via the secure donation link on the FoM website: [music.stanford.edu/FOM/fom.html](https://music.stanford.edu/FOM/fom.html)

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