MUSICLINK® GOAL FOR 2020—7500 STUDENTS

The MusicLink® Foundation is continually seeking new goals to reach more students and to serve our MusicLink® “family” of teachers, coordinators, students and businesses with growing opportunities and recognition. We are confident we will reach an overall total of 7500 students in 2020—only 137 students to go! Remember, each student represents a significant link with a teacher that can last for many years, developing potential into talent with each lesson.

What is the impact of MusicLink® ongoing lessons for disadvantaged students as they grow through music? The article, MusicLink® and its 25 Year Legacy in the November e-issue of American Music Teacher tells the story of young adults who are alumni of MusicLink®. The interviews of teachers, students, and parents in this research study paint a clear picture of the significance MusicLink® made in the lives of these promising young adults. A link to the article is on our website—About Us—Research.

We are seeking to reach $100,000 in donations in our annual 2019 fund-raising campaign. Funds raised help secure instruments, camp scholarships, music and event fees for our MusicLink® students. Simply log into www.musiclinkfoundation.org and click on DONATE or send a check to MusicLink® Foundation, 1043 N. McKinley Rd., Arlington VA 22205. Many thanks!

Enjoy this issue of our Annual Report, with stories of outstanding students, caring teachers, and lots of events which bring music to the community.

MUSICLINK® CANADA CONNECTIONS

After several months of looking into the possible complications of expanding MusicLink® into Canada, the MusicLink® Foundation Board decided that we should discontinue the Canada expansion. There were many legal and insurance issues as well as difficulties in duty of instruments for Canadian students that would impact our program. All of the Canadian teachers have been informed of the change and we encourage them to develop a similar program within their country, establishing their own non-profit charitable organization. We thank them all for their interest in reaching disadvantaged children through music.

MUSICLINK® FOUNDATION STATUS REPORT

As of November 1, 2019, the MusicLink® Foundation has reached 7363 students; over 546,000 hours of instruction, equivalent to over $15 million of in-kind scholarship donation.
The maps show the total of students served by MusicLink® over the past 27 years. Stars (★) indicate states adding new students during the 2018–2019 fiscal year.
MusicLink® Accomplishments 2018–2019

MUSICLINK® HALL OF FAME

Each year we recognize the dedication and generosity of MusicLink® teachers who reach out to deserving students over many years of instruction. This year there were 22 teachers who reached our Hall of Fame category (5–9 years). Three teachers, Mika Inouye (CO), Chris Sharp (VA), and Tanya Brooks (FL) reached our Teacher of Distinction category (10–14 years). The two teachers who reached the Teacher of Distinction with Honors category (15–19 years) were Leonetta Chavez-Bibby (KS) and Denise Williams (UT).

We were pleased to welcome Sherry Frush to the highest level of recognition, Teacher Laureate, celebrating 20 years of teaching through MusicLink®. Sherry has taught over 50 years and has a thriving studio with over 100 students. Sherry’s students have won competitions from local to national levels and many were MusicLink® students. She received a crystal plaque from MusicLink® to celebrate this teaching achievement.

SENIOR AWARDS

The MusicLink® Foundation Senior Award of Excellence recognizes a graduating senior who has shown ongoing commitment to lessons and has made significant progress in musical studies, performing at an outstanding level. The $1000 award is made possible through the Arline and Russell Bridge Endowment Fund. This year the foundation also presented a MusicLink® Achievement Honors Award of $500 for outstanding achievement in lessons, also made possible through the Arline and Russell Bridge Endowment Fund.

Ashley Ondoua—MusicLink® Senior Award of Excellence

Ashley Ondoua (VA), a student of Nancy Breth (VA-DC), found many opportunities in the US upon emigrating from her native Cameroon where she showed early promise on the piano. She also studied voice with Peggy McNulty (VA). She was active in many competitions in the DC area and attended music camps thanks to MusicLink® camp scholarships. In 2017, she had the privilege of premiering a work by Alexander Peskanov in the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. She currently attends Lawrence University in Appleton, WI.

“My adolescence and my future have been enriched by my two homes. My music achievement stands as a witness of my engagement, willingness and ability to work hard and consistently. I am looking forward to using my Cameroonian roots, American growth, African story and perception to contribute in creating wonderful music with other students and faculty at Lawrence University.”

Eaaron Pye—MusicLink® Achievement Honors

Eaaron Pye (TX) began lessons at the age of four with Sherry Frush. Born with perfect pitch, Eaaron relays the story of losing his hearing from an ear infection at three years old. After surgery, hearing returned, but it reminds him of the importance of music in his life—making him what he is today. His remarkable ear helped him in composing throughout his musical years in school. He began trumpet in junior high and enjoys performing with friends in the school band. He enjoyed several summers at music camps thanks to the MusicLink® Camp Scholarship program.

“Music has given me friends and rich experiences both in school and in private study. I’ve been able to compete, perform in concerts, play in advanced groups, attend state conventions, and perform at local to state events. After I graduate, I would like to write musical scores for movies and other media.”

Elliot Fobbe—Ruth Stenson MusicLink® Award

Elliot Fobbe received the 2019 Ruth Stenson MusicLink® Award as a graduating senior from Minnesota who shows outstanding achievement in musical training. Elliot is a piano student of Helen Marie Plourde, who describes him as an enthusiastic learner who arrived prepared and eager to study all aspects of music. Elliot accompanied many elementary and high school programs and was a member of his chorus and participated in school musicals. He performed four times in the MusicLink® Playathon at the Mall of America and he attended a 6-week summer program at NYU through the MusicLink® camp scholarship program.

Elliot is attending UW-Madison majoring in Chemical Engineering while continuing his interest in music through elective coursework. “I do not play the piano for the glory or to outshine others. I play because classical music is deeply rooted within me.”

Ketura Bremseth—Ruth Stenson MusicLink® Achievement Award

Ketura Bremseth, a piano student of Kathleen Van Doeren, has been a MusicLink® student for 4 years during which time she has passed levels 1–4 theory exams and 1–5 piano exams through the Minnesota Music Teachers Association Syllabus program. Ketura is one of six siblings, all of who began playing the piano around the age of four. She is attending college with a major in music. “Not only has learning piano brought much joy into my life, but it has taught me many valuable life skills. It is much more than an activity to me. It is part of who I am.”

SENIOR GRADUATE RECOGNITION

Each year, the June issue of the eLINK features our MusicLink® graduating seniors. It is always a joy to see these young musicians continue to grow and seek music as they enter young adulthood. This year there was a total of 13 student graduates from IL, MN, NC, TX, WA, and WI. Their writeups are available through our website, under the News Archives.

MUSICLINK® AT CONVENTIONS

The MusicLink® Foundation had booths at the Spokane MTNA convention in March and the CFMTA convention in Winnipeg in July. It is always a pleasure to share ideas with colleagues who seek ways to reach disadvantaged students through music. National Director of Coordinators, Sue Wege, Executive Director Joanne Haroutounian, and Washington State MusicLink® Coordinator Karen Monroe manned the Spokane booth. Joanne Haroutounian shared the MusicLink® booth with William Haroutounian in Winnipeg.

EVENTS RAISE OVER $31,000 FOR MUSICLINK®

IL: The Illinois Clavinova Festival was held on December 8th at Lacefield Music in South County, St. Louis. The event featured performances by 49 students from the studios of LeAnn Halvorson, Gillian Cerbin,
Deborah Meier, John Nuckols, Gayle Kramer, Greg Bueltmann, Lori Scott, and Connor Joyce. A total of $1,150 was collected from pledges to benefit MusicLink’s students in Illinois. They plan to continue the event next year, collaborating with the Gateway Arch East Music Teachers Association. Our thanks to Illinois MusicLink Coordinator, Deborah Meier for organizing the event.

MD: The Epiphany Lutheran Church in Ellicott City held a benefit Christmas concert on November 4, 2018 featuring soprano Agne G (Giedraityte). The successful concert raised $1,804 in ticket sales and contributions for the Agne G. Music Scholarship Fund to assist MusicLink students in the area.

MN: Pedaling for Pianos brought 30 bikers together at the St. Paul Cathedral on the morning of September 14, 2019 to bike a 10-mile route around St. Paul to raise money for the MusicLink Foundation. The bikers enjoyed musical performances along the way by various local musicians, including the Dolce Cello Quartet. Eric Bell, Kathryn Karg and Rachel Luchinger organized the event, which raised $625 to purchase practice keyboards for Minnesota students.

NY: This year’s annual MusicLink fundraiser was held at the Walt Whitman Shop Mall. A rainy May weekend brought a great turn out, raising $2045 for the MusicLink Foundation. The Faust Harrison Piano store delivered a grand piano and sound system. Performers included pianists, singers, a classical guitarist, sax player and a mandolin player, adding a variety of music all weekend. The Northport High School sent several string ensembles to perform original compositions they wrote in composition class. Thanks to Pat Cestaro for organizing the event, working with Don and Debbie Sherman, Nichole Heid, and high school students from three different school districts.

VA: Members of the Manassas Symphony Orchestra participated in a recital performance on November 17, 2018 at the historic Trinity Episcopal Church in Old Town Manassas. Performances included works by Telemann, Chopin, Debussy, and more. Donations to support the MusicLink Foundation were accepted both at the door and online, raising $830.

VA: The teachers and students of the Fairfax-Loudoun Music Fellowship enjoyed another successful MusicLink event at Holiday Music in Dulles Town Center in Sterling. The Piano Company of Leesburg provided a beautiful piano for their use. The festive event raised $2000 in contributions to the MusicLink Foundation.

CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS AND CAMP SPONSOR PROGRAM
The MusicLink Foundation Headed to Music Camp provides the opportunity for students to enjoy camp experiences that foster sharing music with others and often inspire them to continue their studies. During the summer of 2019, the foundation provided scholarships to 50 students totaling $6,220. Students enjoyed summer experiences located in CO, GA, NC, OR, SC, TX, VA AND WI.

This year Jesse and Lieh Nieman of Portland OR, students of Pauline Eidemiller, received the $1000 Dorothy B. and Mel Kurzen Camp Scholarship. They attended the PDX Orchestra Academy in both piano and violin.

TEACHER REIMBURSEMENTS AND GRASS ROOTS GRANTS
The MusicLink Foundation provides reimbursement for teachers for student music and event fees. Reimbursements are distributed in January and in June. This year, teacher reimbursements totaled $1,913.70 sent to 20 teachers representing AR, CA, FL, IA, IL, MN, NC, ND, NE, NY, OK, OR, and VT.

Our Grass Roots Grant program assists new MusicLink programs or projects. This year the foundation awarded grants totaling $2,400 to Minnesota Music Teachers Association, Hopewell Music Cooperative North, Big Dreams Residency, Saving Grace Music School, Ezekial Ministry, and Rachel Lonetti.

INSTRUMENTS/IN-KIND DONATIONS
This year, the MusicLink Foundation has received $13,352 of in-kind donations of instruments and music, not including over $25,000 in discounted and free music distributed directly to our MusicLink teachers through our business partners. In-kind donations are italicized in our donor list in this report. Instrument donations can be made on the MusicLink Foundation website or on www.fundmusiclink.com.
NEW MUSICLINK® BUSINESS PARTNERS AND ALLIANCE PARTNERS

We invite you to visit the Business Partner and Alliance Partner pages on our website to view the full roster of businesses and organizations supporting us across the country. We recognize the following added to the roster this past year: Blessings Academy of Arts and Music (MN), Brigham Larson Pianos (UT), Greater Austin Music Academy (TX), Lacefield Music (MO), The Oakland Symphony (CA), Piano Safari (National).

MEMORIAL FUNDS

We are honored to be chosen as a worthwhile charitable organization for donations in honor of loved ones who have passed away. The foundation can work with anyone interested in establishing a MusicLink® Legacy Estate Bequest. We also honor those MusicLink® teachers who have passed away this year. Over the past year, we have honored the following individuals:

Larry Baldwin: Larry’s passion in life was teaching his love of music through voice and piano to many students that came not only to love music, but the man who was teaching them as well. Larry was active in the Lawton OK Music Teachers Association as well as music organizations at the state and national levels. He became a MusicLink® teacher in 2001, realizing the importance of providing voice lessons to disadvantaged students. He was recognized as Teacher of the Month on the MusicLink® Foundation website in December 2014. We shall miss him and his devotion to helping others.

John Keating: John was a musician for his entire adult life. He sang and played his guitar with a natural talent that made every other musician in the family quietly jealous. While his main career was in the banking sector and later retrained in the field of medical massage therapy, he sang and played guitar almost every day since teenage years. A memorial fund in honor of John Keating totals $1000 in contributions to the MusicLink® Foundation.

Lawrence Chalifoux: Lawrence was the beloved husband of Melissa Wreath and loving son of the late George “Bud” and Mary Kay Chalifoux. Larry was an accomplished musician and avid Cubs fan. He will be missed by his family and many loving friends. A memorial fund in honor of Lawrence Chalifoux has contributed $425 to the MusicLink® Foundation.

MUSICLINK® ENDOWMENT FUNDS

The MusicLink® Foundation received several significant donations to establish endowment funds for the organization. We were overwhelmed to receive $100,000 from the estate of Dorothy Bornstein Kurzen, with recognition of her late husband, Mel Kurzen included in the gift. Funds from this endowment established the annual Dorothy B. and Mel Kurzen Camp Scholarship of $1000 for a student seeking a summer experience at a prestigious music camp. The MusicLink® Foundation has also established an endowment in the name of Gerald Christoff, composer and pianist, to benefit music students in New York state with camp scholarships. The endowment is made possible by the contribution of $10,000 by Rosemary Christoff Dolan, sister of Mr. Christoff.

These new endowment funds are added to the existing Arline and Russell Bridge Endowment Fund that sponsors the annual MusicLink® Senior Achievement Award. This endowment was established by Joanne Haroutounian, daughter of the Bridges and founder of the MusicLink® Foundation.

LEGACY PARTNERS

The MusicLink® Foundation is fortunate to have a group of donors who are part of our Legacy Partners, donating from $5000 (Bravo) to $10,000 or more (Encore) annually to guarantee ongoing funding to link teachers with students and provide lessons, instruments, camp scholarships, and other opportunities for students and teachers.

We thank Bill and Brigid Brakefield (Encore Level) who were the first donors to the MusicLink® Foundation when it was originally established as a 501(c)(3) charity. Bill and Brigid have hosted several playathons in their home where they performed along with MusicLink® students and many of their friends.

William and Joanne Haroutounian (Encore Level) established and developed the MusicLink® Foundation in 1992. They enjoy the Legacy Partner status and also established an endowment fund in honor of Joanne’s parents to support the MusicLink® Senior Achievement Award each year.

PLANNED GIVING IDEAS

We have received questions from donors regarding how to establish an estate plan that includes the MusicLink® Foundation. Planned giving (or legacy giving) gifts are payable to a charity upon the donor’s death, like a bequest or a beneficiary designation in a life insurance policy or retirement account. These gifts do not generate a lifetime income tax deduction for the donor, but they are exempt from estate tax. Your bequest is a gift that you make through a will or trust and lets us know that you believe we will be doing good work, far into the future.

You can tell us to use your bequest for a particular state or program (like summer camp scholarships), or allow us to use it for the needs and opportunities that are most relevant to us when your gift is received. The IRA Charitable Rollover allows individuals over age 70½ to directly transfer up to $100,000 per year from an IRA account to one or more charities. This transfer counts toward the minimum required distribution rule for IRA accounts, and such distributions are free of both income and estate taxes.

Legacy gifts can make a huge difference in the long-term health of a nonprofit. Legacy gifts are not just for the wealthy, they’re for anyone who believes in our mission, and who wants to see us continue into the future. Consider leaving a legacy…so your cherished values live on.

MUSICLINK® EXPENSES

MUSICLINK® INCOME SOURCES
MusicLink® Foundation Donor Support: 2018-2019

We thank all of our donors—foundations, corporate sponsors, and individuals—who share our passion to bring music to children in need. We have included donations from September 2018 through August 2019. Italicized individuals and business partners provided in-kind donations of instruments and/or music.

Benefactor: $10,000 or more
Russell & Alice Bridge Endowment Fund
Dorothy Barrows and Mel Kurzen Endowment Fund
Gerald Christoff Endowment Fund
Bill & Bridget Baskinfield — Legacy Encore
Williams and Joanne Hanoutounian — Legacy Encore

Gold: $5,000—$9,999
Kantor Kollman Foundation
Minnesota MusicLink Playathon

Silver: $1,000—$4,999
Amos Alipuoka
Andrea Anderson
Paul Banker/Bushke Fund of Federal Lodge No. 1
Ben Barlow
Michael Epstein/Epstein Co. Dedicated to Peggy Epstein
Faust-Louison Music Fellowship Benefit
Jack Beaven / Agnes G. Scholarship Fund
NARALSA
Illinois Clavinova Festival
Richard Martin / Mathson Foundation
Jordan Kitts Music
Ohrard Shira
Amy Shebley/Sounds of Hope Benefit Concert for NLM
Louise P. Zavar Fund

Bronze: $250—$999
Heather Berry
Dan R. Bunschweig
Janine Bryant
Charles H. Buchman
Jeff Campbell
Day Whelan
Roberto Deane
William Dunn
Virginia Geoffrey
Grady Gordon in honor of Bill and Cindy Talbert
Peter & Marilyn Haug in memory of BB Stack
Andrew Hammons
K & S Conservatory of Music
Charles Kinney
Jennifer Lindes/N. Occasional Associates
Jan and Elizabeth Lodal In honor of Martha Smith
Beverly Maloney
Cole McClan
Pat Manahan
Carmine Pittman/Massanos Orch benefit concert
Olivia Riddell
Sonja Rodenhiser
Martha Smith
Andrew St. Martin In honor of Mel Lippman
Giselle & Tony Wolf
Julie Toohey
Christina Walsh
Sue Wege

Sustainer: $100—$249
Mabuk Al Kauf
Donna Bergh
Adrienne Berk
Hannah Bond
Beth Ann Brown
Monique Bryn
Jarette Carpenter
Shirley Chang
Linn Chen
Ignacio Cruz
Mary Catherine & Dennis Davis
Sara Diokich
Pauline Eckenflior
Chumme Eekening
Jack and Nancy Ervin
Rachel Felts
Rosemary Gore in memory of John Keating
Rusanna Goldston
Julie Grove
Linden Harkin
Thomas Harrison in memory of John Keating
Jana Hollis Julie Haymes Memorial Fund
Lawrence Hughes & Christine A. Frank
Abraham Huang
Walter Jacobs in memory of Lawrence Chadlow
Richard & Elizabeth Johnke
Ann Kurzis
Amy Lerman
Sara Malloy
Justine & Julie Marchant
J. Kenneth Marshall
Irene McBride
Cathy McEachard
Deborah Meier
Northern College of Rochester Music Therapy Students
Kimberley Nichols
M. Huang Nguyen
Diane Perrin
Kevin & Allison Peterson
Sandra Phaup
Krisie Ramey
Gold Sender
Monica Sanders
Jerry Serrin
Roderick Sheperd in memory of John Ehrlich
Andrew Shore
Margaret Smith in memory of John Keating
Nicholas & Julie Smith
John Toohey
John & Ethnae Tovey
Julie Treznevštová
Rachel Ulfers
Catherine Vaughan in memory of Larry Chadlow
Katherine & James Wilkens
Lyndell Vogel
Les Waltham
Mary Yapp

Friend: $30—$99
Mark Anglin
Susan Badthenhagen
Lisa Barrett
Kristie Anderson
J & B Bokker
Kimberly Berg
Mackenzie Blaues
Ben & Marie Bitter
Mary Bohlen
Jenny & Erik Bolling
Tami Boshke
Natalie & Michael Brady
Amy Brum
Betty Jo Braun
Anthony & Rebecca Brown
Samuel & Kara Buchanan
Tanya bulkman
J Clark
Joanne Cottler
Nancy Dennis
Michael J Dick
Jocelyn & Christine Dunn
Kimberly Emmons
Laura Fennley In memory of Larry Chadlow
Dana Fink in memory of John Keating
Balauni Furst
Karen Giocondi In memory of Larry Chadlow
John Gosse in memory of John Keating
Suzanne Greer
Arna Gruenberg
Judith Hackethal
Becky Hamilton
Natalie Hamilton
Kari Heiskel
Rick & Kim Holmes Dedicated to Kaden & Lainey Heume
Andrew Hovitz
Christine Jakobs
Mary Jakub
Alan Johnson
Jean Johnson
William Johnston
Deborah & Robert Jorgens
Christine Jorgensen
Margaret Kope
Margaret Knight
Nathan & Jessica Korths
Anna Epstein Kravis
Melanie Kurz
Wendy L. Lee
Shirley LeFange dedicated to Fran Smith
Ying Lin
Kristine Luftinger
Sara Muckle
Bryan Martin In memory of John Keating
Jennifer McLoughlin

:: 6 ::

MusicLink® Foundation Staff and Coordinators

Joanne Hanoutounian, PhD, Executive Director
Andrew Shore, Assistant Director
Sue Wege, National Director of Coordinators

Regional Coordinators
Northwest: Chris Anderson
Northwest/Mid-Atlantic: Alana Colon
Midwest/South Central: Sue Wege
Southeast: Nora Martin
Southwest: Laura Blanchard

State Coordinators