Announcing The Music for Life! Campaign
Donors & Grant Makers Bring Campaign to Life

With lead donors and grant makers at our side, Pakachoag announces the Music for Life campaign, a multi-year $200,000 initiative designed to amplify community impact and move Pakachoag toward a sustainable future.

The campaign, through an array of investments on all levels, will:
• Improve access to the school and enhance diversity of the student body;
• Expand the school’s outreach activities to multiply impact;
• Offer financial aid to additional families;
• Develop and strengthen fruitful alliances with other arts institutions; and
• Strengthen the capabilities of faculty, staff and board members.

Music for Life: Pakachoag Alumna and S&P Bond Analyst Reflects on Music in Her Life, Past & Present

When You Make a Gift to Pakachoag, You Make Dreams, as Tall as Skyscrapers, Come True.

Pakachoag graduate Elizabeth Bachelder (2009) is contributing to the national economy in ways few of us (musicians) can imagine. As a Bond Analyst at Standard & Poors in Chicago, Liz has not forgotten the lessons of Pakachoag. We recently e-mailed to catch up.

Sarah Smongeski (Executive Director and Liz’s flute teacher) asks: Tell me about your job?

Liz: My work at Standard & Poor’s is two-fold. I am a municipal bond analyst specializing in Midwestern municipalities, and I also work on transformation projects within the U.S. Public Finance group.

Recently, I also began work on the Public Finance Transformation team at S&P, helping to lead projects that improve the company’s core analytical and operational processes.

Are you engaged in any outside activities?

(Continued on page 8)
Longtime Donors Lead Music for Life

We extend our sincere thanks to four lead donors who have chosen to expand their giving to Pakachoag during the coming 3 years in support of the Music for Life campaign.

Your trust in the School is laying the groundwork for current and future students who will benefit from the Pakachoag experience.

Thank you to our ‘foundation’ donors:
• Paul and Patti Verderese of Auburn (photo, left);
• Alison Snyder and Don Allison of Sutton;
• Susan and Dr. John Howland of Charlton;
• Katherine Z. and J. Christopher Collins of Sterling.

We’ll be reaching out in the coming months to let you, our readers, know more about the campaign, our goals, our progress, and ways you can participate.

Our Promise

At Pakachoag, we make Music for Life!

We challenge students to
• Stretch for high standards
• Take risks
• Recover from mistakes
• Gain confidence to succeed

...In music and in life.

Weigl Photography

Strengthening Partnerships through Music for Life

Your gifts to Pakachoag are an investment that expands to include partner-based programs like The Afternoon Tunes Program in Worcester.

These types of partnerships provide the opportunity to expand impact, often with increased efficiency through shared resources.

With several partnerships already in place, we’ll be investing, as part of the Music for Life Campaign, to deliver on a greater range of possibilities.

Children and youth, especially those from families in need of support, will be the key beneficiaries of Pakachoag’s push to strengthen partnerships.

Left: A student receives free drum lessons courtesy of his student teacher as part of the Afternoon Tunes Program at All Saints Church in Worcester.

Pakachoag serves as a lead partner for the Afternoon Tunes Program which draws student teachers from area high schools, as well as Pakachoag.

Above: Pakachoag faculty member Nike Beaudry (right), serves as Afternoon Tunes’ Music Education Coach and Consultant providing support to student Leadership Team members.

Patti and Paul Verderese, Music for Life lead donors, became associated with the School in 1993, when the first of their 3 children, John Paul, enrolled for an early childhood music class.

Patti shares: “We are grateful for what studying music did for our children. It wasn’t easy to pay for lessons for three children and we realize how challenging it is today for many young families to afford lessons. We want to help make it possible for other young families to afford the gift of music instruction for their children and to reap the benefits that studying music brings.”
Local Foundations Investing & Leading

Local Foundations Embrace Music for Life

This past summer, Executive Director met with a few local funders to talk about the School’s past, present and future, to share stories of students impacted by music at Pakachoag, and learn more about how local funders view the arts in general and Pakachoag in particular with regard to impact on community and local families.

We extend our thanks to the various grant makers—old and new—who are embracing our work to make quality music instruction accessible to more families throughout Greater Worcester.

Over $25,000 in new funding secured through the support of several foundations will help us achieve our campaign goals. In addition to developing several partnerships already in place, we’ll be test running a few new opportunities as we work to enhance access and diversity.

Thanks to a special Foundation gift, a pilot “Learn to Play the Guitar” session at The Boys & Girls Club of Worcester is planned for spring 2016 with Pakachoag faculty member Josh Goldman.

Grantors Enhance Access Through Music for Life

Many thanks to the following grant makers who have committed this fall to support specific projects linked to increased access and diversity, as part of the Music for Life Campaign.

The George F. & Sybil H. Fuller Foundation: Technology support
Anonymous: General Campaign Support, including Main South partnership development.

Greater Worcester Community Foundation: Technology upgrade support
The Schwartz Charitable Foundation: Technology upgrade support
The George A. Ramlose Foundation: Technology upgrade support.

We also thank the following grantors who have renewed their support for the coming year for on-going programs:

The Mass. Cultural Council: General operations
Greater Worcester Community Foundation: Financial Aid
The Pakachoag Church Foundation: In-kind facilities support / reduced rental rates for on-going operations.

I am learning to play an arranged hymn. ...It has lots of double stops which are challenging. Thank you so much for donating to the Music School.
Sarah, Violinist From Connecticut.
Harmony Fund Remains the Back-Bone of Sustainability

As important as the Music for Life Campaign is, it is only with the sum impact of all Harmony Fund donors that the school can remain strong for the future.

- A gift of $90 covers the cost of one piano tuning. (Total annual cost to tune our 7 pianos, 2-3 times annually: $1500.)
- A gift of $175 underwrites tuition for a Music Together student to attend class for 10 weeks.
- A gift of $920 (the average financial aid award for FY16) sponsors a student in need for a full year of lessons.

Please consider giving the gift of music. Your gift helps all our students reach their full music potential.

Families & Donors Support Community Music-Making

Above: Suzuki Program violinists performed for an overflowing crowd with the Worcester Children’s Chorus in December at Assumption College. Pakachoag students Caitlyn Myer (Voice) and Logan Sherwin (Piano) also participated as members of the chorus.

To our students: If you would like to participate in future outreach opportunities, please email Leah Zelnick, Student Performance Coordinator at DrLeah@pakmusic.org.

Music for Life! at Work as Pakachoag Students Brighten Holiday Festivities with Music

Fall season performance venues included:
- Tatnuck Park Worcester Assisted Living
- Town of Auburn Tree Lighting
- Worcester Children’s Chorus Holiday concert
- Hanover Theater’s A Christmas Carol Pre-Show Caroling
- Wachusett Chamber Holiday Dinner Party
- First Night Worcester Concert with Chorus

Thank you! To students who volunteered during December for community outreach:
Sophia Afful, Auburn
Caleigh Burke, Auburn
Dylan Burke, Auburn
Leah Cammuso, Worcester
Lila Caslowitz, Sturbridge
Mai Caslowitz, Sturbridge
Annika Cranson, Sterling
Claire Crossman, Oxford
Bennett Ebinezer, Shrewsbury
Dakota Fournier, Southbridge
Emily Greenslit, Worcester
Ani Hovhannisyan, Shrewsbury
Isadora Johnson, Auburn
Cassie Keaney, Auburn
Eva Knorr, W. Boylston
Madeleine Labrec, N. Oxford
Leah Lefferts, Oxford
Sydney Lyons, Auburn
Rhiannon Mansur, Charlton
PJ Mara, Auburn
Caitlyn Myers, Berlin
Desire Serr, Worcester
Logan Sherwin, N. Grafton
Mannie Sotto, Barre
Julianna Willard, Auburn

If we omitted anyone by mistake, please let us know!

Additional thanks to faculty members leading/coordinating Fall outreach performances:
Jannatha Coffin
Laurie Knorr
Sheila Reid
Amy Matherly
Janeen Baker (accompanist)
2015-2016 Harmony Fund: Thank you for Helping Secure the Future (As of 12/31/15)

♪ 5+ consecutive years  ♪♫ 10+ Year Donor  ♪♫♫ 20+ Year  ☼ Cavatina Society

Leading Music For Life
($5,000; $10,000+)
Greater Worcester Community Foundation
Susan & John Howland ♪♫♫
Pakachoag Church Foundation
Alison Snyder & Don Allison ♪♫ 歌唱
Patricia & Paul Verderese ♪♫ 歌唱

Maestros ($2,500+)
Catherine Z. & J Christopher Collins ♪♫ 歌唱
Massachusetts Cultural Council
Schwartz Charitable Foundation
Bonnie & Andy Weigl ♪♫ 歌唱

Director’s Circle ($1,000+)
Robert & Beverly Bachelder ♪♫ 歌唱
Susan Kraft & Donald Michaels ♪♫ 歌唱
Rod & Kathleen O’Connor ♪♫ 歌唱
Drs. Martha & Arthur Pappas ♪♫ 歌唱
George A. Ramlose Foundation
In Memory of Joseph L. & Georgette C. Smongeski ♪♫ 歌唱

Composers ($500+)
Tom & Barbara Ingrassia ♪♫ 歌唱
Julie & Andrew Keller ♪♫ 歌唱
Guy & Rebecca LeDuc ♪♫ 歌唱
Jill & Michael Lorion ♪♫ 歌唱
Jane & Dennis Nesluson ♪♫ 歌唱
Dr. & Mrs. John Paul Verderese ♪♫ 歌唱
Susan Wobst ♪♫ 歌唱
Donelle B. Wright ♪♫ 歌唱

Conductors ($250+)
Donald & Barbara Groves ♪♫ 歌唱
Jean & John Jesensky ♪♫ 歌唱

Soloists ($100+)
Alden Anderson ♪♫ 歌唱
Anonymous ♪♫ 歌唱
Peter & Tina Balesano ♪♫ 歌唱
Kathleen & David Bartolini ♪♫ 歌唱
Ursula Bergman ♪♫ 歌唱
Dorothy & Donald Favreau ♪♫ 歌唱
Carolyn & Bruce Field ♪♫ 歌唱
Heather & John Mistretta ♪♫ 歌唱
Silvia & Donald Irving ♪♫ 歌唱
Ryan Kittredge ♪♫ 歌唱
Dennis Knight ♪♫ 歌唱
Lea Lucia & Leonard Lipner ♪♫ 歌唱
Diane & Gary MacConnell ♪♫ 歌唱
Anne & Pat Morris ♪♫ 歌唱
Kristina, Mathew, & Ethan Most ♪♫ 歌唱
Ronald Newton ♪♫ 歌唱
Ron & Mary Platsnick ♪♫ 歌唱
In Memory Of Marcia Reich ♪♫ 歌唱
Mary Ann Preskul-Ricca ♪♫ 歌唱
& Joseph Ricca ♪♫ 歌唱
Debby & Paul Sedgwick ♪♫ 歌唱
The Wang Family ♪♫ 歌唱
Karen Way ♪♫ 歌唱
Steve & Debbie Yerdon ♪♫ 歌唱

Section Leaders ($50+)
Derek & Ruby Burke ♪♫ 歌唱
Joan &

☼ The Cavatina Society recognizes donors who give leading gifts of $500 and above. For more information on giving and membership, please speak with Sarah, Executive Director or e-mail Sarah@pakmusic.org.

We’ll be acknowledging all of our Music for Life Campaign donors as the campaign proceeds. Thank you, again, to our “leading the way” donors, and watch for more information coming.

Thank you so much for your support of Pakachoag Music School. At Pakachoag, I really like the hard working staff and the friendly, nurturing atmosphere. Cello student from Auburn.
Welcome Madalyne Cross, Violin & Viola / Suzuki Program

Madalyne Cross, Violin/Viola faculty, joined Pakachoag’s string department in September. Madalyne holds a BM degree from New York University and a MM with an emphasis in Suzuki Pedagogy from the Hartt School where she studied viola with Rita Porfiras and Suzuki Pedagogy with Teri Einfeldt.

Madalyne has held teaching positions with the Brooklyn Philharmonic Outreach program, the Suzuki Magnet program at Parker Elementary in Houston, Texas, the Simsbury Arts Academy in Simsbury, CT, and most recently at the Upper Valley Music Center in Lebanon, NH.

In addition to teaching, Madalyne enjoys playing chamber music, exploring the outdoors and cooking.

Welcome Madalyne!

Student Milestone Recipients

Congratulations !!

Becoming a musician doesn’t happen overnight. In May, we acknowledged the following students for completing 5 and 10 years of lessons.

The Five-Year Milestone:
Grace Donelly, of Sutton, piano student of Inna Muravnik
Kyle Durant, Oxford, and
Rachel Toth, Auburn, piano students of Janeen Baker
Bridget O’Leary, Rochdale, and
Mia Bohanen, Dudley, flute students of Sarah Smongeski.

Renae Renihan, Auburn, cello student of Betsy Bronstein.
Jessica Stutman, Oxford, piano student of Vladimir Odinokikh (Voice studies with Silvia Irving).
Samantha Torres, Worcester, violin student of Sheila Reid.

Claire Kelleher, Auburn, piano student of Debby Sedgwick.

The Ten-Year Milestone:
Brendan Kelleher, Auburn, piano student of Debby Sedgwick
Ben Lefferts and Andrew Lefferts, Oxford, piano students of Inna Muravnik

Did you Know?

Many of the students you are reading about, seeing in photos, or hearing in performance are graduates of the School’s early childhood Music Together program.

No. 1: Viola needed for family with limited resources. Thanks to everyone who shared our post. The student did find a viola and we also were able to donate music books via an anonymous contribution.

No. 2: New research shows that Music Trumps Reading in childhood development.

No. 3: Goodnight Moon:
How do we define quality? Something we experience over and over and over again - and never get tired or weary of the experience. With regard to the children’s story book, Goodnight Moon
Donors Making Free Faculty Concerts Possible

Audience Soaks Up Faculty Music

A huge thank you to Scott and Alice Daugherty who enthusiastically volunteered to share superb music for our Fall Faculty Special Event with guest Ilya Kazanstsev (pianist and international competition winner).

They did it! Big Ear and Practice Challenges!

Congratulations!
The following students took the Big Ear Challenge in September, listening to selected music every day of September:

Okko Kleino, Violin
Eva Knorr, Violin
Madeleine Labrec, Voice
Alan Liu, Violin
Ethan Most, Violin
Alaia Phillips, Violin
Henry Wang, Violin

The following students took the Practice Challenge, practicing every day during October:

Rebecca Fitton, Trumpet
Eva Knorr, Violin
Angelica Kopec, Piano
Madeleine Labrec, Voice
Laura Li, Piano
Lysette Parmentier, Piano
Alaia Phillips, Violin
Diana Pickett, Voice/Piano
Logan Sherwin, Piano
Varsha Swaminathan, Violin
Kaylyn Violette, Piano
Grace Williams, Piano

If you, as a private lesson student, missed the opportunity this year, we will repeat the Big Ear and Practice Challenges again next September and October.

Watch for More News About Music for Life

Watch for more news and information coming via Newsletters, e-News & Facebook

The MFL Campaign includes an array of strategies designed to move the school toward sustainability. Goals include expanded financial aid, increasing diversity, evaluating space needs, technology enhancements, and strengthening partnerships all to increase community impact and institutional sustainability.
Cover Story: Alumna Reflects

Or is it all work right now?
It’s all work right now!

Do you see any connections between your current lifestyle, job and music?
Yes, I definitely think music lessons contributed to my success on the job, in three ways in particular. Pakachoag taught me to:

1) Perform under pressure. ... I recently had to give a presentation at a conference for the Government Finance Officers Association of Minnesota. Everything I learned at Pakachoag stood me in good stead during this presentation. ... One must learn to present the material effectively and in a compelling way, ensuring that the audience feels at ease. After years of performing, I have learned how to manage nerves, and I don’t let nervousness or anxiety prevent me from performing well at work.

2) Expect to get out of something overwhelming into a series of manageable steps:
The way my teachers helped me break down a difficult piece into segments - so as to learn one segment at a time in preparation for a performance class – is a good way to approach work tasks, too. Sometimes something that seems overwhelming at first becomes doable if it is broken down into a series of manageable steps.

3) Break down something overwhelming into a series of manageable steps:

Was there a reason that you chose economics over music?
... Although I ultimately decided to major in Economics, my Music minor was very important to me, and played a key role in helping me truly enjoy the college experience.

Do you have a particular memory that stands out for you with regard to your time at Pakachoag?
I remember learning "Für Elise" on the piano when I was nine years old, and how proud I was of that. ... Most of all, I remember my entire family, including my grandparents, coming to my recitals. ... I’m very grateful to have had the opportunity to study music at Pakachoag, as it played such an influential role in my life.

Is music a part of your life now?
Yes – I enjoy going to concerts of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at Symphony Center at least monthly in downtown Chicago, just down the street from my office building at Millennium Park.

Do you have any advice to young Pakachoag musicians?
I hope students will realize that the “habits of mind” they learn in mastering a difficult piece will be so helpful to them in the future. Developing perseverance, hard work, and commitment in pursuit of success are all hallmarks of a Pakachoag education.

I want to say a special “Thank You” to you, Mrs. Smongeski, and to Mrs. Baker. You were both wonderful teachers, and I’m very grateful to have had the opportunity to study with you.

I wish all of the students at Pakachoag the very best, and I hope they will seize the opportunity to learn, grow, and make wonderful memories with music, as I had the great privilege to do!
Music for Life Campaign Announced

An Invitation to our Readers:
You, too, can make Music for Life!

Only Because of You...
We extend our appreciation to all of our Harmony Fund donors who are helping sustain the school for the future.

As we embark on the multi-year Music for Life Campaign, we welcome you to become part of this exciting initiative.

Donors making a 3-year pledge of $500 and up will automatically become part of our Music for Life campaign. During the next three years, we need to grow our Harmony Fund annual giving from $32,000 annually to an ongoing $50,000 annually. We need this increased support to create a sustainable institution, where we assure that we can attract and keep expert teachers, provide sufficient space for expanding operations, and support a growing financial aid program accompanied by additional outreach for those in need.

***

Seth, a 2nd year flute student from Worcester, plays duets during a Fall performance class with teacher (and ED) Sarah Smongeski.

Your Support Not Only Making, but CREATING Music

Cool Things Happening on Thursday Afternoons.

On Thursday afternoons, every other week, a cluster of students meet to further their musical learning and interests as part of our Musicianship/Theory Classes.

Classes include a selection of activities, including what the students particularly enjoy, music composition.

Nike Beaudry, theory class instructors, shares, “One recent composition project involved creating an arrangement of a known simple tune into a melody, counter melody, and a bass line. The results were some very creative and beautiful arrangements of Jingle Bells and other well known songs”.

Music dictation, another aspect of theory class, involves listening to a melody, usually played on the piano, and using one's ear, sight unseen, to accurately write down the notes, rhythm, and meter. Nike writes, “We have progressed from simple melodies, to students being able to accurately transcribe Mozart melodies.

“Classes also includes reviewing key signatures, meter, and tempi, and how to accurately write these down on music staff paper. We also have fun with rhythm improvisation!”

Nike adds: “We have a wonderful time in class, approaching many parts of theory study with fun but a focused learning atmosphere.”

The Campaign will give us all a chance to join with kindred minds and hearts and deepen our collective commitment to helping young people make music for life.
Bob Bachelder, Board member.

The Tenuto
Ben Lefferts Recipient of
The 2015 Peggy Kelley
Reinburg Award
for Effort Commitment &
Attitude

Ten-year piano student Ben
Lefferts was voted recipient of
the PKR Award by faculty this
past spring. Ben, a student of
Inna Muravnik, can be heard
playing on the School’s
YouTube page. As one of our
longer term students, Ben also
happened to be the cover story
of our spring ‘15 newsletter.
Ben is taking a gap year at this
time as he explores
opportunities in the visual arts.

Ben Lefferts, piano
student of Inna
Muravnik, at a spring recital;
recipient of the 2015 Reinburg Award

Winter/Spring Special Events

Bi-Annual
Honors Student Recital
Saturday, March 12th, 2016
4:00 pm to 5:00 p.m.
The Great Hall at
Pakachoag Church

Come be inspired! This recital
features some of Pakachoag’s
advancing students. Open by
audition, the selection of
students and instruments varies
from year to year.

Three Plus One: A Family of Pianists

Saturday, April 2nd, 2016
3:00 pm to 4:30 pm
The Great Hall at
Pakachoag Church

Dan Sedgwick, Piano
Eric Sedgwick, Piano
Debby Sedgwick, Piano
Marji Gere, Violin

Sponsored by Security Engineered
Machinery and Verderese Financial.

The Sedgwicks treat us to an
afternoon of family music-making.
Works by Bach, Beethoven,
Brahms, Chopin and
Granados.

Dan Sedgwick is a composer,
pianist, and teacher holding
advanced music degrees from Harvard and Rice. Eric
Sedgwick is a pianist,
accompanist and vocal coach
whose clients have appeared
on Broadway and in opera
houses around the world.
Pakachoag faculty member
Debby Sedgwick is an active
musician, studying piano and
playing collaboratively with
other musicians.
Marji Gere, Violin, is a
member of the Boston-based
Red Hedgehog Trio, with
husband Dan.

Excellence & Effort

Pakachoag Cellist Solos
with Partner in Music
Worcester Youth
Orchestras

Congratulations to Renae
Renihan, student of Betsy
Bronstein, who performed
Faure’s Elegy for solo cello and
Orchestra at WYO’s
December 19th Holiday
Concert.

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Marji Gere, Violin, is a
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husband Dan.

Sponsors Keep the
Music Playing

Thank you to area businesses
who are helping cover some of
the costs incurred when
presenting events. All of the
School’s events this year are
free and open to the public.
Your sponsorship support
helps make free concerts and
recitals possible.

Dodge Park Rest Home
Karbowski Remodeling
Reliant Medical Group
Security Engineered
Machinery (SEM)
Verderese Financial
Why Music Together® at Pakachoag?

Pakachoag’s experience in music education means that our Music Together instructors are carefully selected to ensure that they will bring your child the most the Music Together program has to offer. We believe in Music for Life, your entire life, so it’s never too early to start.

Grandparents, moms, dads or caregivers all welcome.

We’re playing with the DRUM Song Collection, for our Winter session starting January.

Call or e-mail today for more information.

Yes, I would like to give students the Gift of Music!

Name: __________________________________________________________________________________

Please print your name as you wish to be recognized.

Address: ______________________________________ City/State/Zip:_____________________________

Telephone:_______________________ Email: __________________________________________________

☐ Check enclosed, payable to PakMusic.

☐ I pledge a total of $_________. Please send me a reminder.

☐ I wish to remain anonymous, and do not wish to be listed as a donor.

☐ Please list my gift “In Honor/Memory of ___________________________.” (Circle one.)

☐ My gift will be matched by (company name): ________________________________.

☐ I would like to learn more about including PakMusic in my will.

☐ I would like to learn more about the Music for Life Campaign.

OR Give online today at www.pakmusic.org and click on “Donate.”

Questions? Call 508 791-8159.

Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.

Thank you.
Address Update:
- Please change my address as noted on the right.
- I am receiving duplicates; please delete my name as shown on right.
- Please remove me from your mailing list.

Or... e-mail requests if you prefer to info@pakmusic.org

This Issue: Announcing Music for Life!

Donors and Grantors are Embracing Music for Life!
A multi-year campaign amplifying impact, access & sustainability.