Thank You

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On my tour, what I heard most frequently and fervently was that NEC is a community—a family. It's absolutely clear to me that community is in fact at the heart of what makes NEC such an extraordinary institution—it’s the people.

I’ve learned that NEC is a place that embraces the deeply humanistic element of music, and that through music, seeks to advance the human spirit.

We are honoured to have the privilege of stewarding this brilliant institution through your generous investments in NEC. You have empowered NEC to do something for the world through music.

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Life Trustee Harold I. Pratt ’17 D.M. and his wife, Frances established the Pratt Early Music Residency and Performance Series, an annual residency program that will provide valuable experience, exposure and partnership for NEC students and faculty in repertoire and performance practice of music of the pre-Baroque, Baroque, and Classical eras.

The establishment of an endowed residency ensures that NEC can plan well in advance to bring the most qualified and renowned artists to Boston. NEC is excited by the prospect of a strong role of Early Music in the life of the Conservatory, and of a prominent position of NEC in the fabric of Early Music in Boston and beyond.

“The Pratt Early Music Residency and Performance Series creates a new opportunity for NEC students to connect their musical learning across period, genres, and disciplines, while at the same time providing students with vital connections to the professional world” said President Andrea Kalyn. “We are deeply grateful to Harry and Frances for enhancing student learning with this residency, and for their generosity and commitment to NEC.”
The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awarded $2.5 million to New England Conservatory of Music (NEC), in consortium with the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra, the Community Music Center of Boston, Project STEP, and the Boston Symphony Orchestra, to launch the Boston Bridge to Equity and Achievement in Music (BEAM) initiative.

Through the BEAM initiative, approximately 60 students each year will receive private instrumental lessons, orchestral experience, chamber music coaching, music theory classes, support for summer program participation, and long-term, individual advising and mentorship. The first cohort of 57 students began in the fall of 2019. The program will be student-focused, robust, year-round, and adaptable, created and guided in equitable partnership with community representatives and with the families it serves. “The BEAM partners have come together to support students of diverse backgrounds in achieving the highest levels of musicianship. With a strong commitment to diversity, equity, excellence and inclusion, each partner brings unique capabilities and experience to the collaboration. It’s been inspiring to work with all the Boston partners and with the Mellon Foundation for more than a year to develop the BEAM program, and I look forward to the continued work ahead with the students who will change the landscape of young classical musicians in Boston and beyond,” says Rebecca Bogers, Dean and Director of the NEC Preparatory School.
An artist, scholar, teacher, and a remarkably generous man, John T. Hsu is recognized as one of the leading pioneers in the period instrument movement and a performer who thrilled audiences for decades with his artistry, expressiveness, and eloquence. As a grateful recipient of a 1771 Tecchler cello, Hsu understood the enormous impact such a beautiful instrument could have on a promising young musician. He donated the Tecchler cello to NEC in 1999 “so that future deserving cello students would have the opportunity to develop their art and expand their musical imagination.”

In this spirit, his wife, Martha R. Hsu, established a bequest by naming NEC as a beneficiary of her IRA. These funds will endow the John T. Hsu Scholarship Fund, continuing Mr. Hsu’s legacy and ensuring that NEC’s tradition of musical excellence endures.

“His gratitude was from the heart,” Martha Hsu explains. Recognized as an Outstanding Alumni, Hsu earned his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees at NEC, and in 1971 Gunther Schuller awarded him an Honorary Doctorate alongside Arthur Fiedler and Coretta Scott King. This scholarship in his name is truly meaningful, as Hsu recalled his time in Boston as “full of marvels.”
Peter Flint '01 M.M. lives and works in New York City where he plays the accordion as a soloist and in a number of ensembles, performing a variety of genres ranging from early music, to folk, contemporary and Latin music. An active composer, these influences appear in his own compositions, along with his background in electronic music. Flint continues to draw from his formative experiences at NEC where he studied with Michael Gandolfi, Scott Wheeler and the late Lee Hyla. "The performance majors were always enthusiastic about playing new music and were fantastic musicians," Flint recalls, adding, "I was so lucky to have access to that." His wide-ranging interests were not just supported at NEC, but encouraged. "NEC gave me an opportunity to develop my compositional skills and interests," he says. "There was always such a collaborative feeling." Passionate about the importance of supporting the arts and music education, Flint is proud to help NEC’s talented students fulfill their artistic and intellectual potential, knowing that his gift to The NEC Fund has a direct impact on the future of music. "I’m well aware of the way music can transform someone’s life," he says, "and that inspires me to give back."