



A Faculty Recital by

Cameron Stowe piano

Corey Gaudreau baritone

Homage Works inspired by Legendary Singers

Monday, November 24, 2025 7:30 p.m. NEC's Jordan Hall

PROGRAM

All of the piano-vocal works on tonight's program were given their debut performances by the singers for whom they were written.

All four of these singers have achieved legendary status, as muses for many of our most important song composers of the twentieth century and as performers whose extensive work as art song recitalists contributed immeasurably to the development of this art form. Tonight's program contains just four examples of the many celebrated works they had a hand in creating.

Samuel Barber

Three Songs, op. 45

(1910-1981)

Now I Have Fed and Eaten Up the Rose

A Green Lowland of Pianos

O Boundless, Boundless Evening

Premiered April 29, 1974 by baritone Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau and pianist Charles Wadsworth (Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society, New York City)

Benjamin Britten

Winter Words, op. 52

(1913–1976)

At Day-Close in November
Midnight on the Great Western
(The Journeying Boy)
Wagtail and Baby (A Satire)

The Little Old Table

The Choirmaster's Burial (The Tenor Man's Story)

Proud Songsters (Thrushes, Finches, and

Nightingales)

At the Railroad Station, Upway

(The Convict and the Boy with the Violin)

Before Life and After

Premiered October 8, 1953 by tenor Peter Pears with the composer at the piano (Harewood House, Leeds Festival)

Intermission

Maurice Ravel

Histoires naturelles (1906)

(1875–1937)

Le paon Le grillon Le cygne

Le martin-pêcheur

Le pintade

Premiered January 12, 1907 by mezzo-soprano Jane Bathori with the composer at the piano (Salle Érard, Paris)

Francis Poulenc

Hommage à Édith Piaf, FP 176

(1899-1963)

No. 15 from 15 Improvisations for Piano

Le fraîcheur et le feu, FP 147

Rayon des yeux et des soleils Le matin les branches attisent Tour disparut même les toits Dans les ténèbres du jardin Unis la fraîcheur et le feu Homme au sourire tendre La grande rivière qui va

Premiered November 22, 1950 by baritone Pierre Bernac with the composer at the piano

Barber Three Songs

Now I Have Fed and Eaten Up the Rose

Now have I fed and eaten up the rose Which then she laid within my stiffcold hand. That I should ever feed upon a rose I never had believed in liveman's land.

Only I wonder was it white or red The flower that in the darkness my food has been. Give us, and if Thou give, thy daily bread, Deliver us from evil, Lord, Amen.

Original German text by Gottfried Keller; English translation by James Joyce

A Green Lowland of Pianos

in the evening as far as the eye can see herds of black pianos

up to their knees in the mire they listen to the frogs

they gurgle in water with chords of rapture

they are entranced by froggish, moonish spontaneity

after the vacation they cause scandals in a concert hall during the artistic milking suddenly they lie down like cows

looking with indifference at the white flowers of the audience

at the gesticulating of the ushers

Original Polish text by Jerzy Harsymowicz; English translation by Czesław Miłosz

O Boundless, Boundless Evening

O boundless, boundless evening. Soon the glow Of long hills on the skyline will be gone, Like clear dream country now, rich-hued by sun. O boundless evening where the cornfields throw The scattered daylight back in an aureole. Swallows high up are singing, very small. On every meadow glitters their swift flight, In woods of rushes and where tall masts stand In brilliant bays. Yet in ravines beyond Between the hills already nests the night.

Original German text by Georg Heym; English translation by Christopher Middleton

Britten Winter Words

At day-close in November

The ten hours' light is abating, And a late bird wings across, Where the pines, like waltzers waiting, Give their black heads a toss.

Beech leaves, that yellow the noontime, Float past like specks in the eye; I set every tree in my June time, And now they obscure the sky.

And the children who ramble through here Conceive that there never has been A time when no tall trees grew here, That none will in time be seen.

Midnight on the Great Western (The Journeying Boy)

In the third-class seat sat
The journeying boy.
And the roof-lamp's oily flame
Played down on his listless form and face,
Bewrapt past knowing to what he was going,
Or whence he came.

In the band of his hat the journeying boy Had a ticket stuck; and a string Around his neck bore the key of his box, That twinkled gleams of the Lamp's sad beams Like a living thing.

What past can be yours, O journeying boy, Towards a world unknown, Who calmly, as if incurious quite On all at stake, can undertake This plunge alone?

Knows your soul a sphere, O journeying boy, Our rude realms far above, Whence with spacious vision You mark and mete
This region of sin that you find you in,
But are not of?

Wagtail and Baby (A Satire)

A baby watched a ford, whereto A wagtail came for drinking; A blaring bull went wading through, The wagtail showed no shrinking.

A stallion splashed his way across, The birdie nearly sinking; He gave his plumes a twitch and toss, And held his own unblinking.

Next saw the baby round the spot A mongrel slowly slinking; The wagtail gazed, but faltered not In dip and sip and prinking

A perfect gentleman then neared; The wagtail, in a winking, With terror rose and disappeared; The baby fell a-thinking.

The Little Old Table

Creak, little wood thing, creak, When I touch you with elbow or knee; That is the way you speak

Of the one who gave you to me!

You, little table, she brought—brought me with her own hand,
As she looked at me with a thought:
That I did not understand.

—Whoever owns it anon, And hears it, will never know What a history hangs upon This creak from long ago.

The Choirmaster's Burial (The Tenor Man's Story)

He often would ask us That, when he died, After playing so many To their last rest, If out of us any Should here abide. And it would not task us, We would with our lutes Play over him By his grave-brim The psalm he liked best— The one whose sense suits "Mount Ephraim" And perhaps we should seem To him, in death's dream, Like the seraphim.

As soon as I knew
That his spirit was gone
I thought this his due,
And spoke thereupon.
"I think" said the vicar,
"A read service quicker
Than viols out-of-doors
In these frosts and hoars.
That old-fashioned way
Requires a fine day,
And it seems to me
It had better not be."

Hence, that afternoon, Though never knew he That his wish could not be, To get through it faster They buried the master Without any tune.

But t'was said that, when
At the dead of next night
The vicar looked out,
There struck on his ken
Thronged roundabout,
Where the frost was graying
The headstoned grass,
A band all in white
Like the saints in church-glass,
Singing and playing
The ancient stave
By the choirmaster's grave.

Such the tenor man told When he had grown old.

Proud Songsters (Thrushes, Finches, and Nightingales)

The thrushes sing as the sun is going, And the finches whistle in ones and pairs, And as it gets dark loud nightingales In bushes Pipe, as they can when April wears, As if all Time were theirs.

These are brand-new birds of twelve months' growing, Which a year ago, or less than twain, No finches were, nor nightingales, Nor thrushes, But only particles of grain, And earth, and air, and rain.

At the Railroad Station, Upway (The Convict and the Boy with the Violin)

'There is not much that I can do,
For I've no money that's quite my own!'
Spoke up the pitying child—
A little boy with a violin
At the station before the train came in—
'But I can play my fiddle to you,

And a nice one 'tis, and good in tone!'

The man in the handcuffs smiled;
The constable looked, and he smiled, too,
As the fiddle began to twang;
And the man in the handcuffs
Suddenly sang
With grimful glee:
'This life so free
Is the thing for me!'

And the constable smiled, and said no word, As if unconscious of what he heard; And so they went on till the train came in—The convict, and boy with the violin.

Before Life and After

A time there was—as one may guess And as, indeed, earth's testimonies tell before the birth of consciousness, When all went well.

None suffered sickness, love, or loss, None knew regret, starved hope, or heart-burnings; None cared whatever crash or cross Brought wrack to things.

If something ceased, no tongue bewailed, If something winced and waned, no heart was wrung; If brightness dimmed, and dark prevailed. No sense was stung.

But the disease of feeling germed, And primal rightness took the tinct of wrong: Ere nescience shall be reaffirmed How long, how long?

Thomas Hardy

Ravel Histoires naturelles

Le paon

Il va sûrement se marier aujourd'hui. Ce devait être pour hier. En habit de gala, il était prêt. Il n'attendait que sa fiancée. Elle n'est pas venue.

Elle ne peut tarder.

Glorieux, il se promène avec une allure de prince indien et porte sur lui les riches présents d'usages. L'amour avive l'éclat de ses couleurs et son aigrette tremble comme une lyre.

La fiancée n'arrive pas.

Il monte au haut du toit et regarde du côté du soleil. Il jette son cri diabolique: Léon! Léon!

C'est ainsi qu'il appelle sa fiancée. Il ne voit rien venir et personne ne répond. Les volailles habituées ne lèvent même point la tête. Elles sont lasses de l'admirer. Il redescend dans la cour, si sûr d'être beau qu'il est incapable de rancune.

Son mariage sera pour demain. Et, ne sachant que faire du reste de la journée, il se dirige vers le perron. Il gravit les marches, comme des marches de temple, d'un pas officiel.

Il relève sa robe à queue toute lourde des yeux qui n'ont pu se détacher d'elle. Il répète encore une fois la cérémonie.

Le grillon

C'est l'heure où, las d'errer, l'insecte nègre revient de promenade et répare avec soin le désordre de son domaine.

D'abord il ratisse ses étroites allées de sable. Il fait du bran de scie qu'il écarte au seuil de sa retraite.

Il lime la racine de cette grande herbe propre à le harceller.

Il se repose.

Puis il remonte sa minuscule montre.

Stories from nature

The peacock

He must surely be getting married today. It was to have been yesterday. Dressed in his gala clothes, he was ready. He was only waiting for his bride. She did not come. She cannot be long.

Magnificent, he parades at the pace of an Indian prince, wearing the customary rich gifts. Love heightens the splendour of his colours and his crest trembles like a lyre.

The bride does not come.

He climbs to the top of the roof and looks in the direction of the sun. He utters his dreadful cry: Léon! Léon!

This is how he calls his bride. He sees nothing coming and no one replies.

Accustomed to this, the fowl do not even raise their heads. They are tired of admiring him. He climbs back down into the yard, so convinced of being handsome that he is incapable of resentment.

His wedding will be tomorrow.

And, not knowing what to do with the rest of the day, he heads for the porch. He ascends the steps, like steps of a temple, with an official stride.

He lifts his tail-coat, heavy with the eyes which were unable to detach themselves. He rehearses the ceremony once more.

The cricket

This is the time when, tired of wandering, the black insect returns from his walk and carefully repairs the disorder about his domain.

First he rakes his narrow, sandy paths. He makes some sawdust which he spreads on the threshold of his retreat.

He files at the root of this tall grass which is likely to annoy him.

He rests.

Then he rewinds his tiny watch.

A-t-il fini? Est-elle cassée? Il se repose encore un peu. Il rentre chez lui et ferme sa porte. Longtemps il tourne sa clef dans la serrure délicate.

Et il écoute:

Point d'alarme dehors.
Mais il ne se trouve pas en sûreté.
Et comme par une chaînette dont la poulie
grince, il descend jusqu'au fond de la terre.

On n'entend plus rien. Dans la campagne muette, les peupliers se dressent comme des doigts en l'air et désignent la lune.

Le cygne

Il glisse sur le bassin, comme un traîneau blanc, de nuage en nuage. Car il n'a faim que des nuages floconneux qu'il voit naître, bouger, et se perdre dans l'eau. C'est l'un d'eux qu'il désire. Il le vise du bec, et il plonge tout à coup son col vêtu de neige. Puis, tel un bras de femme sort d'une manche, il le retire.

Il n'a rien.

Il regarde: les nuages effarouchés ont disparu.

Il ne reste qu'un instant désabusé, car les nuages tardent peu à revenir, et, là-bas, où meurent les ondulations de l'eau, en voici un qui se reforme.

Doucement, sur son léger coussin de plumes, le cygne rame et s'approche... Il s'épuise à pêcher de vains reflets, et peut-être qu'il mourra, victime de cette illusion, avant d'attraper un seul morceau de nuage.

Mais qu'est-ce que je dis? Chaque fois qu'il plonge, il fouille du bec la vase nourissante et ramène un ver. Il engraisse comme une oie. Has he finished? Is it broken? He rests again for a while longer. He enters his home and shuts the door. He spends a long time turning his key in the delicate lock.

And he listens:

Nothing to fear outside. But he does not feel at ease.

And as though by a little chain whose pulley creaks, he climbs down into the depths of the earth.

Nothing more can be heard. In the silent countryside, the poplars stretch up like fingers in the air and point to the moon.

The swan

He glides over the lake, like a white sleigh, from cloud to cloud. For he is only hungry for the fleecy clouds that he sees born, move, and disappear in the water. It is for one of those that he longs. He takes aim with his beak, and suddenly plunges his snowy neck into the water. Then, like a woman's arm withdrawing from a sleeve, he draws it out again.

He has nothing. He looks: the startled clouds have vanished.

Only for a moment is he disenchanted, for the clouds don't tarry on their return, and over there, where the ripples on the water are dying, here is another re-forming.

Gently, on his light cushion of feathers, the swan paddles and draws near...

He is exhausting himself by fishing for empty reflections and perhaps he will die, a victim of this illusion, before catching a single morsel of cloud.

But what am I saying?

Each time that he dives, he searches the nourishing mud with his beak and brings out a worm. He is fattening like a goose.

Le martin-pêcheur

Ça n'a pas mordu, ce soir, mais je rapporte une rare émotion.

Comme je tenais ma perche de ligne tendue, un martin-pêcheur est venu s'y poser.

Nous n'avons pas d'oiseau plus éclatant.

Il semblait une grosse fleur bleue au bout d'une longue tige. La perche pliait sous le poids. Je ne respirais plus, tout fier d'être pris pour un arbre par un martin-pêcheur.

Et je suis sûr qu'il ne s'est pas envolé de peur, mais qu'il a cru qu'il ne faisait que passer d'une branche à une autre.

La pintade

C'est la bossue de ma cour. Elle ne rêve que plaies à cause de sa bosse. Les poules ne lui disent rien: brusquement, elle se précipite et les harcèle. Puis elle baisse la tête, penche le corps, et, de toute la vitesse de ses pattes maigres, elle court frapper, de son bec dur, juste au centre de la roue d'une dinde. Cette poseuse l'agaçait.

Ainsi, la tête bleuie, ses barbillons à vif, cocardière, elle rage, du matin au soir. Elle se bat sans motif, peut-être parce qu'elle s'imagine toujours qu'on se moque de sa taille, de son crâne chauve et de sa queue basse.

Et elle ne cesse de jetter un cri discordant qui perce l'air comme une pointe. Parfois elle quitte la cour et disparaît. Elle laisse aux volailles pacifiques un moment de répit. Mais elle revient plus turbulente et plus criarde. Et, frénétique, elle se vautre par terre.

Qu'a-t-elle donc?
La sournoise fait une farce.
Elle est allée pondre son œuf à la campagne.
Je peux le chercher si ça m'amuse.
Elle se roule dans la poussière, comme une bossue.

Jules Renard

The kingfisher

Not one bite this evening, but I bring back a rare experience.

As I was holding my rod out-stretched, a kingfisher came and perched on it.

We have no more dazzling bird.

He seemed like a big blue flower at the end of a long stalk. The rod sagged beneath the weight. I held my breath, so proud of being taken for a tree by a kingfisher. And I am sure that he did not fly away through fear but that he thought that he was just going from one branch to another.

The guinea-hen

She's the hunchback of my yard. She dreams of nothing but trouble because of her hump. The hens say nothing to her: suddenly she dives in and harasses them. Then she lowers her head, leans her body, and as fast as her skinny legs will carry her, she runs and strikes, with her hard beak, the very center of a turkey's tail-wheel. This show-off irritated her.

In this way, blue in the face, her beard flapping, bumptious, she rages from dawn till dusk. She fights without reason, perhaps because she still imagines that she is mocked for her size, her bald head and for her low tail.

And she never stops uttering her rasping cry, which pierces the air like a needle.

Sometimes she leaves the yard and disappears. She gives the peaceful fowl a moment of respite. But she returns even more turbulent and more noisy. And, in a frenzy, she sprawls on the ground.

Whatever can be the matter with her?

The sly creature is teasing.

She has gone to lay her egg in the country.

I can look for it should I so wish.

She rolls in the dust, like a hunchback.

© translated by Christopher Goldsack from the Mélodie Treasury

Poulenc Le fraîcheur et le feu

Rayons des yeux et des soleils
Des ramures et des fontaines
Lumière du sol et du ciel
De l'homme et de l'oublie de l'homme
Un nuage couvre le sol
Un nuage couvre le ciel
Soudain la lumière m'oublie
La mort seule demeure entière
Je suis une ombre je ne vois plus
Le soleil jaune le soleil rouge
Le soleil blanc le ciel changeant
Je ne sais plus
La place du bonheur vivant
Au bord de l'ombre sans ciel ni terre.

Le matin les branches attisent Le bouillonnement des oiseaux Le soir les arbres sont tranquilles Le jour frémissant se repose.

Tout disparut même les toits même le ciel

Même l'ombre tombée des branches Sur les cimes des mousses tendres Mêmes les mots et les regards bien accordés

Sœurs mirotières de mes larmes Les étoiles brillaient autour de ma fenêtre Et mes yeux refermant leurs ailes pour la nuit

Vivaient d'un univers sans bornes.

Dans les ténèbres du jardin Viennent des filles invisibles Plus fine qu'à midi l'ondée Mon sommeil les a pour amies Elles m'enivrent en secret De leurs complaisances aveugles.

The coolness and the fire

Rays of the eyes and the suns of the branches and the fountains light of the ground and the sky of man and man's oblivion a cloud covers the ground a cloud covers the sky suddenly the light forgets me death alone remains whole I am a shadow I no longer see the yellow sun the red sun the white sun the changing sky I no longer know the place of living happiness on the edge of the shadow with neither sky nor earth

In the morning the branches kindle the bubbling of the birds in the evening the trees are quiet the shivering day is resting.

Everything disappeared even the roofs even the sky even the shade fallen from the branches onto the crests of the tender mosses even the words and the freely proffered gazes

the mirrored sisters of my tears
the stars shone around my window
and my eyes closing their wings again for the
night
lived in a boundless universe.

Into the darkness of the garden come invisible girls more delicate than the shower at midday my sleep has them for friends they secretly intoxicate me with their blind complaisant ways.

Unis la fraîcheur et le feu Unis tes lèvres et tes yeux De ta folie attends sagesse Fais image de femme et d'homme.

Homme au sourir tendre
Femme aux tendres paupières
Homme aux joues rafraîchies
Femme aux bras doux et frais
Homme aux prunelles calmes
Femme aux lèvres ardentes
Homme aux paroles pleines
Femme aux yeux partagés
Homme aux deux mains utiles
Femme aux mains de raison
Homme aux astres constant
Femme aux seins de durée

Il n'est rien qui vous retient Mes maîtres de m'éprouver.

La grande rivière qui va Grande au soleil et petite à la lune Par tous chemins à l'aventure Ne m'aura pas pour la montrer du doigt

Je sais le sort de la lumière J'en ai assez pour jouer son éclat Pour me parfaire au dos de mes paupières Pour que rien ne vive sans moi.

* Eluard's title to this poem was "Vue donne vie" that is "Sight gives life."

Paul Eluard

Unite the coolness and the fire unite your lips and your eyes expect wisdom of your folly create image of woman and of man.

Man with tender smile woman with kind eyelids man with refreshed cheeks woman with gentle and fresh arms man with calm pupils woman with ardent lips man with rich speech woman with shared eyes man with two useful hands woman with hands of reason man with constant stars woman with breasts of endurance

there is nothing to restrain you my masters from putting me to the test.

The great river which flows great under the sun and small under the moon along all paths at random will not have me to point to it with my finger

I know the destiny of light I have enough of it to play with its brilliance so as to perfect myself behind my eyelids so that nothing may live without me.

© translated by Christopher Goldsack from the Mélodie Treasury Baritone **Corey Gaudreau** is a singer and teacher who is frequently praised for his mastery of language and style, especially in French and German song. He is Chair of Voice of New England Conservatory Expanded Education where he founded the Vocal Theatre Lab, a theatre training program for young singers, and through which he established an ongoing collaboration with Voice at Peabody Preparatory Institute of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

As a performer, Gaudreau has worked with opera companies throughout the United States. He has sung and understudied a variety of roles including Sid in Benjamin Britten's Albert Herring, Des Grieux in Massenet's Le Portrait de Manon, Figaro in Rossini's The Barber of Seville, Aeneas in Henry Purcell's Dido and Aeneas, Billy Bigelow in Rodgers and Hammerstein's Carousel, Yamadori in Puccini's Madama Butterfly, Masetto and Don Giovanni in Mozart's Don Giovanni, Alvaro in Daniel Catàn's Florencia en el Amazonas, and Hannah Before in Laura Kaminsky and Mark Campbell's As One. Gaudreau was a Bonfils-Stanton Studio Artist and Apprentice Artist for two seasons with Central City Opera, and Artist-in-Residence with both Pensacola Opera and Opera on the James. Gaudreau is a staff singer at Trinity Church in the City of Boston. Formerly, he sang at Calvary-St. George's Parish in New York.

As a guest artist, Gaudreau has sung Ligeti's *Aventures* and *Nouvelles Aventures*, and Schumann's *Spanische Liebeslieder* in two installments of the First Monday Concert Series at Jordan Hall and recorded Pavel Haas' *Four Songs on Chinese Poetry* for an NEC Liederabend. In a repeat performance of Ligeti at Boston Symphony Hall, Corey was hailed by *Boston Music Intelligencer* as a baritone with "vitality and precision," offering "a fascinating study of shifting sonorities and sonic possibilities."

A versatile singer with flexibility in various styles, Gaudreau has been heard in concert and oratorio in the United States and Europe. He is a proponent of new music, jazz and musical theatre, and the intersections of these styles. He has sung a program of the *Great American Songbook* at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston and performs prolifically as a song recitalist and concert artist.

Pianist **Cameron Stowe** is a leading specialist in the study and performance of song recital repertoire. Throughout his career his work has been led by his passion for poetry and song, and he has received much critical praise and numerous awards for his commitment to this art form. A pianist "worth his weight in gold," "Strong, precise, supple and sensitive" (*New York Times*) he has been praised for "his subtlety, his knack of supporting the voice and engaging it in dialogue, his powers of mood painting" (*Washington Post*) and his ability to "match the singer subtlety for subtlety, shimmer for shimmer" (*Baltimore Sun*).

Stowe has appeared in concert venues and music festivals throughout the world, playing with some of most prominent concert singers of his generation, including Randall Scarlata, Denyce Graves, Measha Brueggergosman, Danielle DeNiese, Faith Esham, Susan Graham, Vinson Cole, Sari Gruber, and Jesse Blumberg.

For more than a decade Stowe has served as Chair of the Collaborative Piano

department at New England Conservatory, and he has been director of Collaborative Piano at Aspen Music Festival since 2021. Formerly a faculty member at The Juilliard School for fifteen years, his festival activities include residencies at Toronto Summer Music Festival, Placido Domingo Festival, Vancouver International Song Institute, and he has given masterclasses for singers and pianists throughout the United States and abroad.

Stowe holds a doctorate from Juilliard and degrees from The Peabody Conservatory (Johns Hopkins), Oberlin College Conservatory, and the North Carolina School of the Arts.

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Food and drink are not allowed in the concert hall, and photography and audio or video recording are prohibited.

Assistive listening devices are available for all Jordan Hall concerts; contact the head usher or house manager on duty or inquire at the Coat Room.

Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of management.



necmusic.edu/tonight



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I am thrilled to welcome you to New England Conservatory's 2025–26 concert season — a celebration of the power that music has to inspire and connect us to one another.

Whether you are seated in one of our concert halls or watching online, we hope the performances of our students, faculty, and guest artists uplift you.

Above all, we thank you for supporting our students as they cultivate their artistry and contribute to the world through music.



Andrea Kalyn President



We thank our generous donors, who remain committed to elevating the NEC experience and who make it possible for our students to continue their artistic pursuits. Every gift to The NEC Fund supports the pillars of an NEC education — scholarship, community engagement, and a world-renowned faculty.

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Anonymous (2)
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Manisha Patel

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*Indicates membership in the Tourjée Society. Named after NEC's founder, Eben Tourjée, the Tourjée Society recognizes those who have made a planned gift to NEC. Learn more by contacting Aaron McGarry, Planned Giving Officer, at aaron.mcgarry@necmusic.edu or 617-585-1356.

