



GROTON HILL
MUSIC CENTER

REPORT OF IMPACT
2022



Greetings, Friends of Groton Hill Music,

Well, we are now settling into our wonderful new music education and performance facility! It has been 5½ years since we broke ground and it has truly been an extraordinary journey. For that reason, we are framing our FY22 annual report both as a reflection of this past year of transition and a look ahead to what Groton Hill Music aspires to be.

This year we bid a fond farewell to our Littleton headquarters and music school after 26 years, including beloved Camilla Blackman Hall, the site of countless memorable recitals, concerts, and community events. We also ushered in a new organizational name, a new identity for our orchestra, new donors, new students and concert-goers, new programs, new partnerships, new staff, and new faculty. It certainly has been a time of change but, through it all, we have been committed to the same organizational values of warmth, growth, connection and excellence that have made us a musical home for thousands in our community. We so appreciate that you have been with us, every step of the way!

It's been a year of building – increasing Annual Fund donations by 18% over FY21; and increasing the number of students we serve in high-need school districts by 70%. It's also been a year of rebuilding – enrolling 1,663 students in lessons and in our signature classes and ensembles, and attracting 3,330 concert-goers to 30 professional performances, working to achieve pre-pandemic momentum. We continue to do extensive planning to ensure that our impact on the social, educational, economic, and cultural life of our region reflects the magnitude of the gift we have received.

Throughout construction, we have been vigorously fundraising to support significant operational and programmatic growth and build reserves to achieve our bold vision. This report, in addition to listing our cherished annual supporters, also includes a list of the exceptionally generous donors who stepped up and made significant commitments to our campaign to help us reach this momentous milestone.

Now, as we enter an exciting new chapter, we look to each of you to partner with us so that we may live into the promise of this incredible community resource. With your support, we envision Groton Hill Music becoming an influential leader in the arts, setting the standard for exceptional education and vibrant, diverse music experiences for people of all ages and backgrounds.

We are forever inspired by your generosity and friendship - thank you so very much!

Lisa Fiorentino, *Chief Executive Officer*

Simon Jones, *Board Chair*



LISA FIORENTINO, CEO



SIMON JONES
BOARD CHAIR

Thriving Partnerships

Giving music generously is a core part of our mission, and we are serving more children and teens through community engagement programs than ever before. In 2022, 328 children participated in our school-based programs, an increase of nearly 70% over our previous high reached in 2020. We are delighted to see program enrollment rebound quickly from the Covid interruption and far surpass pre-pandemic numbers.

We form strong partnerships with schools and organizations and tailor our offerings to the needs expressed by the students, parents and school leadership. This approach means instruction varies greatly from district to district, and even school to school. With support from donors, Groton Hill provides free weekly classes in band, violin, bucket drumming, djembe, music production, and ukulele. We currently collaborate with the school districts of Clinton, Lawrence, Lowell, and Fitchburg, and the Boys and Girls Club of Fitchburg and Leominster (including their satellite location in Gardner).



Laura Altenor has recently joined our staff to manage our robust community-based partnerships and foster other strategic relationships. One of our new partner districts, Lowell Public Schools, is launching a new “Afternoons in the Arts” initiative, which aims to reduce inequitable access to arts enrichment programs for their middle school students (grade 5-8). They have asked us to provide professional teachers to offer orchestra and band instruction two days a week throughout the year. We are deeply grateful to Paul Landry and Randy Steere who provided the funding to launch our Lowell partnership. Paul grew up in Lowell and is delighted to give back to his community by helping to make music education accessible to students at a pivotal time in their lives.



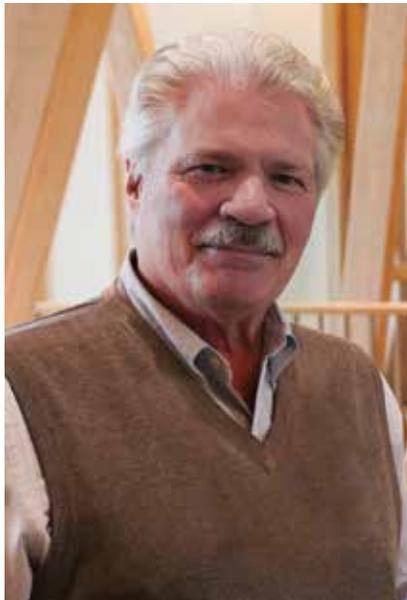
“My first voice lesson was in college and it was due to me not having access other than my local church choir. Lack of access is an issue for many students in the surrounding communities and my mission is to change that narrative.”

— LAURA ALTENOR, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & SUMMER PROGRAMS MANAGER



Looking Back...

What a year it has been! We have been simultaneously “getting back to normal” and looking ahead to a major transformation. All the while, we have focused on maintaining our warm, supportive culture and high-quality music experiences. After 18 months of remote learning, in-person instruction resumed in September 2021. Students and teachers were delighted to reunite



in the same physical space, especially our ensemble students, who had missed the unique camaraderie that only comes from playing music with others.

We returned to in-person performances, reminding everyone that while live-streamed concerts are a fine alternative to no concerts at all, nothing truly compares to being in the same room when listening to

outstanding music. Live-streaming was not an option for the Orchestra, meaning the concert in June 2022 marked the end of their first full season since 2019. It also marked their last concert in Littleton High School, and with the name “Orchestra of Indian Hill.” The next time you see them, the Vista Philharmonic Orchestra will be performing in the beautiful, acoustically superior Concert Hall.

“We all share in the excitement of new musical experiences and new perspectives on what live music can be. Our eyes are on the horizon!” – BRUCE HANGEN, CONDUCTOR AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, VISTA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA





and Moving Forward

As we fully resumed normal operations, we have also been adding essential key staff, changed our name, and undertaken the countless tasks that go into moving into a brand new complex facility. The 300-seat Meadow Hall was “tuned” in April 2022, concert tickets went on sale in May, and the music school opened its doors on September 6th. We are beyond excited to expand school programming, launch the first concerts in Meadow Hall and the 1,000 seat Concert Hall, and welcome old and new friends alike. During our inaugural year, we will be learning the ins and outs of the new spaces and working hard to ensure we make the best use of this incredible community resource. And we will always remain true to our core values of respect, excellence and support that make us who we are.

“Your school provides a vital service to our community . . . Onward and Upward!”

— CONCERT-GOER



Volunteers

Help Make It All Happen

Volunteers are bringing Groton Hill Music Center to life. As we get settled in to our new home, longtime volunteers and fresh new faces will work together to build a community of ushers, ticket takers, and parking attendants to welcome each patron to Groton Hill.

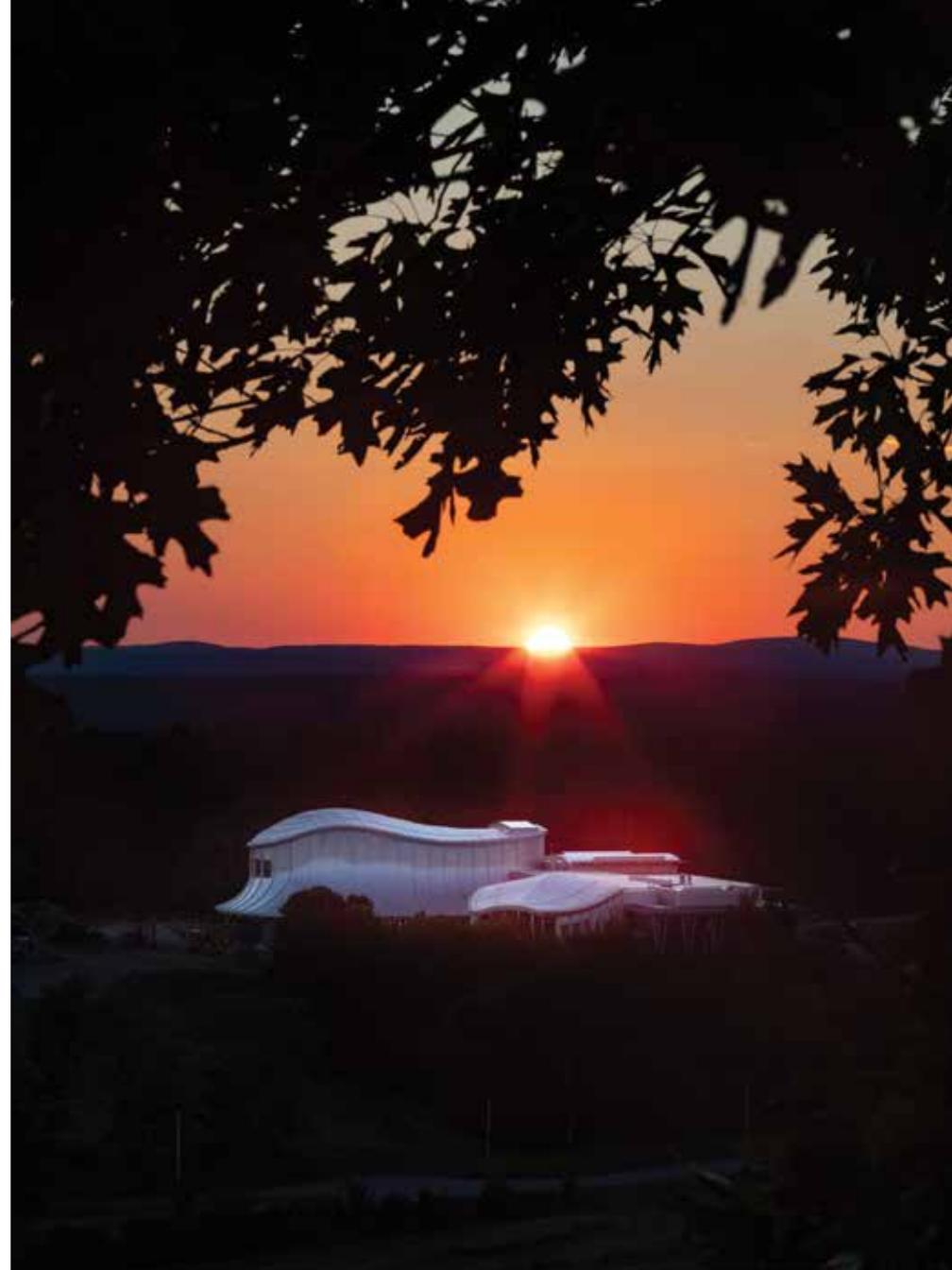


The tuning of Meadow Hall in April served as a dry-run for the new Groton Hill Music Center. Twenty-one new and returning volunteers launched the program

which has now grown to over 60 individuals from all phases of life. From students to retirees, from longtime patrons of our Orchestra to people who had never heard of us before this year, from stay-at-home parents to corporate professionals, and everyone in-between, the enthusiasm and support from our community has warmed our hearts.

Volunteers have many reasons they choose to dedicate their time to our organization but the running thread is to be part of a community of music lovers. They are eager to help ensure that everyone who walks through our doors will have a top-flight experience, from beginning to end. If you are interested in learning more, visit the Volunteer page on our website and submit an application!

“It is always fun to come together with other volunteers to help with concerts and other activities at Groton Hill Music. My family enjoys it very much!” – URSULA MILLARD, VOLUNTEER





Groton Hill Music shares the transformative power of music, through teaching and performing, and giving music generously when there is need.



**GROTON HILL
MUSIC CENTER**

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PHOTOGRAPHY: Karen Riggert (Lisa Fiorentino and Peter Ashton photos, p.2); Kirsta Davey (Sunset over Groton Hill Music, p.6); David Foxe, Epstein Joslin Architects (Meadow Hall, back cover). All other photos courtesy of Groton Hill Music.

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