

MONTEUX

SCHOOL & MUSIC FESTIVAL

SPRING 2020

Newsletter

WORKING TOGETHER: *A New Home for the Hancock Historical Society*

by Phil Devenish *President, Board of Trustees*

We are thrilled to report that the Hancock Historical Society has a beautiful new building on an acre of land gifted to it by the Monteux School. Planning for this project has been in the works for several years, and close cooperation between our two organizations has resulted in a huge 'win-win' not only for us both, but for the town of Hancock as a whole.

After being hidden away for many years up a steep flight of stairs on the second floor of the Hancock Town Office, the HHS now has its new home at ground level behind the Hancock Woman's Club and to the East of the Monteux School's office at Tamarack Place, on Captain Bill Rd. just off U.S. Rte 1. Constructed by Gatcomb Grant Building and with the help of HHS and Monteux volunteers, the 30'X80" building has been carefully designed and sited to fit in with the

area, with convenient on-site parking. It is handicap accessible and will house a museum, archives, office space, storage, kitchen and bathroom facilities, and a 20'X30' conference room with cathedral ceiling in which Monteux musicians will be able to rehearse and perform.

The HHS is planning the grand opening of its new home for the afternoon of July 11, 2020 with the participation of the Hancock Grammar School and a reception with music provided by Monteux musicians. Soon, it will be time to begin to transfer materials to their new home.

The Monteux School and the Historical Society are currently engaged in preliminary explorations for a joint installation of solar panels to produce

electricity and cover future utility costs. Are you interested in helping us become 'greener' and more sustainable? For expressions of interest and for more information, please contact Marc Thayer at the Monteux School (pierremonteuxschool@gmail.com) or Don Parker at the HHS (plc465@aol.com).



New Hancock Historical Society Building



Interior of the new Hancock Historical Society Building

Alumnus Kyle Ritenour in New Zealand

Conductor **Kyle Ritenauer**, Monteux Alumnus 2009-2019, toured to New Zealand with a Juilliard School Ensemble. Monteux Board President Phil Devenish and his wife Phoebe attended their concert in Christchurch where Kyle conducted a piece called Time Steps Out of Line by New Zealand composer Gillian Whitehead, commissioned for Juilliard by Chamber Music New Zealand.



Monteux Conductor Alum Kyle Ritenauer with Board President Phil Devenish during a concert in Christchurch, New Zealand, with the Juilliard Ensemble.

Kensho Watanabe to return to Monteux in July, 2020



Not only will conductor and Monteux alumnus **Kensho Watanabe** be making his debut at the Metropolitan Opera in 2021 with 'Dead Man Walking,' he also will participate in the 25th Anniversary Concert Celebration in Forest Studio on Saturday, July 11, to commemorate Michael Jinbo's accomplishment at the Monteux School. Kensho is fast becoming one of the most exciting

and versatile young conductors to come out of the United States. Most recently, Kensho was recognized as a recipient of a Career Assistance Award by the Solti Foundation U.S. He held the position of Assistant Conductor of The Philadelphia Orchestra from 2016 to 2019. During this time, made his critically acclaimed subscription debut with the Orchestra and pianist Daniil Trifonov, taking over from his mentor Yannick Nézet-Séguin. He would continue on to conduct four subscription concerts with the Philadelphia Orchestra in 2019, in addition to debuts at the Bravo! Vail Festival and numerous concerts at the Mann and Saratoga Performing Arts Centres.

Recent highlights have included his debuts with the Houston Symphony, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Detroit Symphony, Brussels Philharmonic and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, as well as his Japanese debut at the Matsumoto Festival. Recent returns include the Orchestre Metropolitain in Montreal. Highlights of the 2019-20 season include his debuts with the London Philharmonic and Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestras, Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse, San Antonio Symphony Orchestra as well as his Finnish debut with the Jyväskylä Sinfonia.

Gabriel Lefkowitz to Perform in June as Concerto Soloist

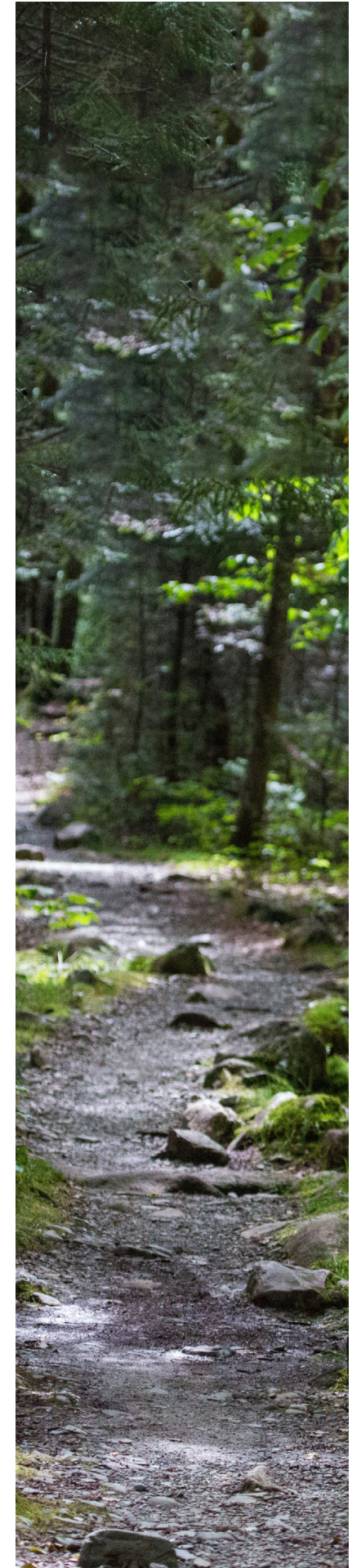


Conductor and violinist **Gabe Lefkowitz** is an alumnus of the Monteux School and Concertmaster of the Louisville Symphony. Gabe will be returning to Hancock to perform the Stravinsky Violin Concerto with the Monteux Festival Orchestra on June 28. He also will present a Masterclass for Monteux violinists and violists on taking orchestra auditions and how to prepare audition excerpts.

A native of Boston, Lefkowitz made his concerto debut with the Louisville Orchestra in early 2018 performing the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto at the Kentucky Center for the Arts. Following his performance, he was hailed as a "master craftsman... able to cull magnificent sounds and spine-tingling notes out of his instrument." (arts-louisville.com) During the 2019-2020 LO season, Lefkowitz will perform as soloist for the Stravinsky Violin Concerto (Neighborhood Series, October) and the Three Pieces from Schindler's List (Classics Series, October), and will return to the podium as conductor for a program of Mendelssohn, Haydn, and Brahms (Neighborhood Series, October/November.)

In May of 2017, Lefkowitz concluded his tenure as Concertmaster of the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra, a position he had held since 2011 beginning at the age of 23. Highlights of his final KSO season included performances of the Brahms Violin Concerto and three recitals at the Knoxville Museum of Art as part of the highly successful concert series he founded, Gabriel Lefkowitz & Friends. Recent guest engagements include performances of Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 4 with the Cape Cod Chamber Orchestra, Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 5 with the Oak Ridge Symphony, Philip Glass' Violin Concerto No. 1 with the Ocala Symphony, and as guest concertmaster with the Britt Festival Orchestra and the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra.

In July of 2004, at age 16, Mr. Lefkowitz was asked to give a solo performance at the Democratic National Convention's opening night at the Fleet Center in Boston. His original rendition of "Amazing Grace" was seen live by millions around the world and led to an appearance on the CNN Morning Show, and a special performance for former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney at the State House in Boston.



2ND ANNUAL WINTER WORKSHOP

A BIG SUCCESS

New York City, January, 2020

The 2020 Monteux Winter Workshop took place from January 2-5 in New York City's Good Shepherd-Faith Presbyterian Church in Lincoln Center. Nine conductors were chosen from 28 applicants to participate and perform in two final concerts on January 4 and 5.

Music Director Michael Jinbo coached during rehearsals with the full orchestra, made up of New York free-lance musicians and Monteux alumni, and conducted one piece in each concert. Monteux alumnus David Rahbee conducted a Haydn Overture in the second concert.



Michael Jinbo with all nine Winter Workshop Conductors, NY City, January, 2020

PARTICIPATING CONDUCTORS:

Christina Morris <i>Freeport, NY</i>	Jaco Wong <i>Los Angeles, CA</i>	Milan Milisavljević <i>New York, NY</i>
Danielle Garrett <i>Cheltenham, PA</i>	Emily Schaad <i>Ashville, NC</i>	William Cabison <i>Los Angeles, CA</i>
Joseph Morag <i>New York, NY</i>	Joe Wilkins <i>Mt. Pleasant, MI</i>	Matt Woodard <i>New Haven, CT</i>



Conducting Associate Dr. Tiffany Lu with Winter Workshop Guest Speaker Polly Kahn

BETWEEN REHEARSALS, GUEST SPEAKERS MET WITH THE CONDUCTORS AND SPOKE ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

Reuben Blundell:
CD Production Best Practices, Planning and Budgeting

David Rahbee:
Haydn's Expressive Qualities and Daniels Music Catalog New Edition and New Additions

Polly Kahn:
The Music Director Position, Lessons Learned and the Audition Process

Erik Ochsner:
Film Music and Video Projects with Full Orchestra

Michael Charry:
My History with Pierre Monteux, the Cleveland Orchestra and Mannes School of Music



Michael with Winter Workshop Conductor Christina Morris



Coaching Winter Workshop Conductor Emily Schaal



Michael Coaching Winter Workshop Conductor Danielle Garrett

CONCERT REPERTOIRE INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

BEETHOVEN: Leonore Overture No. 3, Op. 72b

SIBELIUS: Violin Concerto in D minor, Op. 47 - *Cyrus Beroukhim, violin*

BRAHMS: Symphony No. 2 in D major, Op. 73

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

HAYDN: Overture to Armida

MOZART: Piano Concerto No. 23 in A major, K.488 - *Christopher Johnson, piano*

DEBUSSY: Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune

SCHUBERT: Symphony No. 5 in B-flat major, D.485



Hancock summer residents at the Winter Workshop Concert, January, 2020 in Lincoln Center: George and Charlotte Draper, Joe Klapatch and Michael Jinbo, Elinor Buckley and Elsie Kilvert, Frank and Ada Graham

RECRUITING IN MEXICO WITH MONTEUX ALUMNI

In November, Executive Director Marc Thayer went to Jalapa and Puebla, Mexico, to recruit for Summer, 2020, and to talk with music students from various schools and youth orchestras.

Hosted by Tona García in Jalapa, Marc met members of the Jalapa Youth Orchestra following their concert with conductor Carlos Botero. While Marc met with students at the Conservatory of Music and at another local university to talk about the summer program in Hancock, Maine, he showed them how to do the online application and how to apply for the visa from the US Embassy.

Then he visited Gerardo Perez and Aina Roji in Puebla where they perform with the Puebla Symphony Orchestra. Gerardo and Aina shared Monteux printed materials with music students and teachers at the local schools. Marc enjoyed catching up with other Monteux alumni including conductor/percussionist Guillermo Villareal and cellist Daniel Aponte who plays with Tona in the Jalapa Symphony Orchestra.



Music Students at the Conservatory of Music in Jalapa, Mexico, Tona García in the front.



Marc backstage with Tona and Monteux alumnus and cellist Daniel Aponte.



Marc with Conductor and Monteux Alumnus Guillermo Villareal in Jalapa.



The Jalapa Youth Orchestra in the smaller concert hall at the 'Tlaqná Center'



Time for rehearsal with the Jalapa Symphony Orchestra. Their beautiful new concert hall in the 'Tlaqná Center' was designed by Kirkegaard Associates. Tonatiuh Garcia is a violist with the orchestra.



Monteux alumni and violinists Gerardo Perez Vargas and Aina Delvin Roji both play with the Puebla Symphony Orchestra in central Mexico.

CHICAGO, BOSTON & ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY MUSICIANS TO COME TO MONTEUX FOR THE FIRST TIME

Jennifer Gunn, piccolo and flutist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, **Stephen Lange**, trombonist with the Boston Symphony, and **Bjorn Ranheim**, cellist with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, will come to Hancock for the first time this summer to teach members of the Monteux Festival Orchestra and coach them in orchestral audition Masterclasses. They also will perform with Monteux musicians in the Wednesday 'Mainely' Chamber Music Concerts, Stephen on June 24, Jennifer on July 1, and Bjorn on July 8.



Jennifer Gunn has held previous orchestra positions including Assistant Principal Flute of the Louisville Orchestra, Principal Flute of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, and Second Flute of the Wheeling Symphony. She holds a Bachelor of Music Degree from the Mary Pappert School of Music at Duquesne University (PA), where she studied with Robert Langevin and Rhian Kenny. She had additional studies at the University of Akron (OH) with George Pope and Mary Kay Robinson.

Stephen Lange has been a member of The Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Boston Pops Orchestra since 2010. Previous positions have included Associate Principal Trombone of the Saint Louis Symphony and Assistant Principal Trombone/Second Trombone in the San Antonio Symphony. Mr. Lange also has performed with the New York Philharmonic and internationally toured with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and Kennedy Center Opera House. He is in demand as a clinician and soloist, presenting solo recitals and master classes worldwide. Mr. Lange has been on the faculty of many summer trombone festivals, including the Cleveland Trombone Seminar, Southeastern Trombone Symposium, and the Texas Trombone Workshop.



Cellist **Bjorn Ranheim** was appointed to the Saint Louis Symphony in 2005 and is a member of the Sun Valley Music Festival Orchestra in Idaho. He served as principal cellist with the Colorado Music Festival from 2006 – 2015 and has performed and toured with the orchestras of Atlanta, Baltimore, Cleveland and Detroit. Bjorn has been featured as soloist on multiple occasions with the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra and Colorado Music Festival, as well as with the New World Symphony, Saint Louis Philharmonic, Metropolitan Orchestra of St. Louis, Columbia Civic Orchestra, National Repertory Orchestra and the Washington University Symphony Orchestra. Seeking out new directions and partners in music making, Bjorn has collaborated with internationally known jazz musicians Branford Marsalis, Christian McBride, Peter Martin, Jeremy Davenport & Brian Owens. In the spring of 2011, Bjorn appeared on the nationally renowned radio program, *A Prairie Home Companion* with Garrison Keillor, performing alongside jazz vocalist, Erin Bode. Bjorn is a founding member of The 442s, an acoustic string ensemble that pursues innovative, genre-defying music making and collaborations. Bjorn studied at The Cleveland Institute of Music under the tutelage of Stephen Geber.

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77th SEASON

JUNE 14-JULY 26, 2020
HANCOCK, MAINE

In 1992, Jeannette Sorrell was "told not to waste her time auditioning for the assistant conductor post of a major symphony orchestra because she was a woman," writes Steve Siegel in Wednesday's (2/19) *Morning Call* (Allentown, PA). "That was . . . eight years before JoAnn Falletta would become music director of the Buffalo Philharmonic . . . and 15 years before Marin Alsop would become music director . . . of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra." Progress for women conductors is "changing, but . . . it's not linear—it seems to be a sort of stair-step kind of thing," says Allentown Symphony Orchestra music director and conductor **Diane Wittry**. [In] the last two years . . . "Women have been appointed as assistant conductors, resident directors, and especially receiving commissions for compositions," says Wittry. . . . "The real exciting thing, though, is that women as conductors are also mirroring the change that's also happening in . . . different job markets . . . I was so pleasantly surprised when I was watching the Super Bowl to see the commercial which showed Katie Sowers, the assistant coach with the San Francisco 49ers . . . A woman as a football coach today would be as unheard of as a woman as conductor back in the 1930s or even the 1960s."

On Progress for Women Conductors

ALLENTOWN SYMPHONY'S DIANE WITTRY



Diane Wittry and Tiffany Lu