

THE FRIENDS OF MUSIC AT YALE

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Dear Friends:

The Executive Committee and the Council of the Friends of Music at Yale held their customary fall meetings a few weeks ago. We sadly report the passing in late October of Eugene Waith (B.A. '35, Ph.D. '39), a longtime member of the Executive Committee and Council, at the age of 94. Gene was a very loyal supporter of many musical organizations in the New Haven area, including the Friends of Music at Yale, the Yale Collection of Musical Instruments, and the Neighborhood Music School, to name just a few. Internationally known as a scholar of Elizabethan and Jacobean theater, he was awarded the Wilbur Cross Medal in 1985 by the Graduate School Alumni Association for outstanding scholarship, teaching and public service, and received many other academic honors. We are grateful for Gene's counsel and support over many years.

Jeffrey Douma, director of the Yale Glee Club and Assistant Professor (Adjunct) of Choral Music at the School of Music, is now joining the Executive Committee. We hope to incorporate some of his insights into undergraduate music at Yale into our own undertakings. We also look forward to continuing discussions with Robert Blocker, Dean of the School of Music, an *ex officio* member of the Executive Committee, concerning ways in which the School and Department of Music might collaborate to further our mutual interests in undergraduate music education.

Since our summer letter, the Department has successfully repaired and refurbished two rehearsal harpsichords (including one that had initially been assessed as beyond repair), principally for use in connection with the Yale Baroque Opera Project. The Friends of Music annual undergraduate recital winners were also recently selected – the co-winners of this competition (a solo pianist and a vocal duo) will give their Friends-sponsored recital in the spring of 2008. Notice of the upcoming recital should be posted soon on the Friends of Music web site.

The year 2007 marks the 75th anniversary of the first fundraising effort by the founders of the Friends of Music on behalf of Yale University – namely, the purchase of the original manuscript of J.S. Bach's *Clavier-Büchlein vor Wilhelm Friedemann Bach*, generally considered the most important Bach manuscript in the United States. We are currently trying to help the Department of Music defray the costs of undergraduate private music lessons – an important project, given the increasing baseline costs of attending Yale College (tuition alone is presently \$34,530/year). We ask that you please consider a year-end gift in memory of Eugene Waith to help the Department establish a sufficient reservoir of funds to resume offering music lesson subsidies to qualifying undergraduates.

To help put the work of the Friends of Music into perspective, Lawrence S. Wilkinson ('50 B.S., Engineering), another longtime member and supporter of the Council of the Friends of Music as well as the executive committee and advisory board of the Yale Collection of Musical Instruments, recently shared the following thoughts with me: "Classical and baroque music have always been a pleasant escape from the pressures of life's demands. Many of the Friends' members did not seek degrees in music, but because of their love of music, demonstrate their support of the Friends of Music at Yale by contributing time or financial support."

On behalf of the Executive Committee, thank you for supporting the Friends of Music and undergraduate music education and related activities at Yale.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth C. Yen