

July 2007

Dear Friends:

The Council of the Friends of Music at Yale held its customary spring meeting in May, and announced several noteworthy recent changes and developments. Fenno Heath, who very ably chaired the Friends of Music since 1994, recently stepped down from the chairmanship for health reasons, but continues to serve on the Executive Committee. Elizabeth Yen (Yale College '76), a lawyer practicing in New Haven and member of the Council since 1991, was named the new Chair at a special Executive Committee meeting held in April. Leon Plantinga, presently Interim Director of the Collection of Musical Instruments at Yale and a past chair of the Music Department, agreed to be Vice-Chair. Daniel Harrison is the new Chair of the Music Department as of July 1st, and therefore the new Secretary of the Friends of Music. (Coincidentally, Dan Harrison and Elizabeth Yen sang together in the Collegium Musicum, while Dan was completing his doctorate at Yale.) Hence several new names appear in the upper left-hand corner of this stationery.

We sorrowfully report the passing of Marcia Stevens in January of this year after a brief illness. Marcia chaired the Friends of Music from 1986 to 1994; her family requested that donations in her memory be made to the Smith College Alumnae Association, the Neighborhood Music School, and the Friends of Music at Yale. Marcia led the Friends of Music during its fundraising for what is now the Irving S. Gilmore Music Library at Yale. We cherish our memories of her. We extend our sympathies to Marcia's family, and thank those who have honored Marcia by sending gifts to the Friends of Music in her memory.

On a happier note, the Friends of Music have a new web site, hosted by the Music Department. Our web site went "live" the day before the May Council meeting. Our new Internet "home page" address appears in the upper right-hand corner of this stationery. The new web pages describe the history of the Friends of Music (founded in 1940) and its mission: The support of undergraduate music activities at Yale, to further learning in the art of music in all its forms and aspects, and to that end to solicit and encourage donations to support special music-related collections and undergraduate organizations sponsored by the Music Department. As you know, the Music Department's resources are limited - annual donations to the Friends of Music augment undergraduate music activities at Yale, through grants to the Music Department, Yale Symphony Orchestra, Collegium Musicum, and other groups, as well as through prizes to accomplished undergraduate musicians.

Our new web site includes a copy of the November 2006 Council meeting minutes, as approved at the May 2007 Council meeting, and information about the February 2007 Friends of Music undergraduate recital, featuring this year's winners of the annual Friends of Music recital competition. We encourage you to review our web site at your convenience, including the "Events and News" page, which will include links to Friends of Music newsletters.

The Friends of Music also announced a new fundraising effort at the May 2007 Council meeting – the Music Department seeks to replenish its funds for subsidizing the cost of private music lessons taken by undergraduates who are not music majors. Private music lessons at Yale average \$400 per student per semester for undergraduates who are not music majors. The Friends of Music request special gifts for this purpose in Fenno Heath's honor, as a small way to demonstrate our thanks to Fenno for his many years of devoted service to music at Yale.

Jack Meyers, assistant to the provost at Yale, spoke at the May 2007 Council meeting, and reminded us that many large, well-publicized gifts and grants to Yale University are for specific restricted purposes, and do not provide entities such as the Music Department with discretionary or unallocated funds for new or expanded activities. As one example, Professor Ellen Rosand recently received a prestigious Distinguished Achievement Award from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, which will allow her to create a Baroque opera company for Yale undergraduates. But with this new exciting opportunity, partially funded by a generous grant, comes new associated expenses, reminding us that growth and progress in academia as well as business are generally achieved only with expenditures of both time and money. Baroque opera performance requires harpsichords - the Music Department can no longer further delay replacing a very old and decrepit harpsichord used for many years as a rehearsal instrument by the Collegium Musicum and others. We ask that you kindly consider the Department's special fiscal needs when reviewing the enclosed donation form. Please help the Friends of Music continue our significant work and mission.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Fenno and I thank you for your continuing support of the Friends of Music and undergraduate music activities at Yale, and wish you a very healthy and happy summer.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth C. Yen

Fenno Heath