

Latest Schools' Feedback:

your music made me feel like another world and in a peaceful calm universe.

Your music made me feel wild and then calm. I like your music because you change dynamics smoothly, make things dramatic and make things look easy.

When you played I felt free to fly and soar through the clouds.

Your music made me feel calm in my heart.

Our community is truly blessed to have you! Thank you for sharing your beautiful music with Symonds School.

Your music made me feel joyful and happy it made me remember all the happy moments in my life and that was another moment that was happy!



Ashuelot Concerts

August 2020 Newsletter

ashuelotconcerts.org

Planning for a Pandemic: Announcing 2020-21 Season

Our mission at Ashuelot Concerts is simple; to use the power of Live Chamber Music as a force for good in this community.

Now more than ever, Live Music has an essential role to play in alleviating suffering, lifting spirits and bringing people together in a positive, unifying and inspiring shared experience.

While it is impossible to know what will happen over the next few weeks or months, Ashuelot Concerts remains determined to provide live performances of the greatest music ever written, one way or another.

Enclosed, you will find our 2020-21 Season Brochure with details of 10 exquisite concerts and 18 talks taking you behind the scenes. All of our events will be Live-Streamed for you to enjoy in the safety of your home using upgraded equipment and additional cameras to bring you ever closer to the live experience.

We are also working with our friends at the Keene Synagogue and UCC to allow limited in-person attendance, closely following the latest CDC and State guidance for COVID-19 protocols.

Shortly before each event, and only if local infection rates remain very low, we will publish on our website how many seats will be made available for socially-distanced, in-person attendance. Should there be any sign that the situation locally is worsening, we will again take our program fully online.

Your safety and well-being is our first priority and so we will be closely following the local risk level



Great Music to Look Forward to in 2020-21:

Solo Cello Works:
Bach
Lawrence Siegel

Piano Trios:
Beethoven, Dvořák,
Haydn, Mendelssohn,
Smetana & Tchaikovsky.

Duos:
Kodaly & Fauré

Piano Quartets:
Brahms, Dvořák,
Danny Elfman,
Fauré, Mendelssohn,
Walton & Huw Watkins

as described by the Harvard Global Health Institute. In-person attendance will be safely distanced, mask wearing will be mandatory and there will be no intermission or refreshments served. Tickets will have to be purchased in advance and attendees will be screened on arrival.

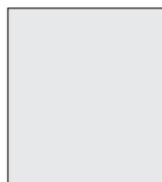
If an event is over subscribed, season ticket holders will be entered into a lottery to determine the allocation of seats.

The Pandemic has placed us under huge additional financial pressure. We encourage you to consider subscribing to our series to support us in our mission to

keep live music very much alive during this time and ensure the future of the organization.

In turn, we are treating this as an opportunity to extend our reach and impact beyond our local community through our live-streaming program.

There are many ways that we can use technology to bring you even closer to the creative process. Our talks series this year will feature in-depth interviews with our performers and living composers, behind-the-scenes rehearsal footage as well as the familiar exploration of the Great Works and Composers. We hope you will join us!





Learning to Live-Stream in 5 Days!

In late February, at our last board meeting before the lockdown, I jokingly suggested that we need not worry, if the pandemic caused us to cancel a concert or two, we would just live-stream! At that point, I was only half-serious and we all laughed - it was such a far-fetched idea at the time!

Two weeks later, the world had changed beyond recognition and we

were no longer laughing. During the week of March 9, as the shutdown looked increasingly inevitable, we quickly worked out what we might need to broadcast our performances on YouTube and on our website.

Initially, we used equipment that we had at home; a computer webcam and a simple microphone. Over the next few days, we ordered professional microphones, an audio

Looking to the Future...

So far, Ashuelot Concert Musicians had visited 16 local schools, bringing live performances to thousands of local children. When schools reopen, we are ready to expand our program to reach thousands more children in New Hampshire.

Our performances are designed to spark enthusiasm and interest in music in our children - something already evident in their feedback. The next challenge is to capitalize on that enthusiasm.

We are currently developing a pilot-program to offer 15 children the chance to learn the piano, violin or cello from our musicians. Access would be free, with instruments and music provided. In return, we will ask participants to attend supervised practice sessions every

day. These sessions will take place after school just like being part of an elite sports team.

Supervised by specially trained volunteers and our staff, this program would offer a unique opportunity for interested children to progress on an instrument in an unrivaled way.

For years, society has mistakenly assumed that musical talent runs in families. In fact, growing up, most professional musicians succeeded only with significant help from both their parents and teachers in their daily practice. For those without such help, becoming fully fluent on an instrument remains an almost impossible task.

In our own teaching over the years we have witnessed countless

interface, microphone stands, camera adapters and wires to improve the quality of the sound and video in an effort to replicate as much of the live experience as possible over the internet.

On Friday, March 13th we held our last in-person event at the UCC while testing our new live-stream capability. Immediately afterwards we made the decision to shut the doors and move our entire program online for the rest of the season.

Over 12 weeks from March - June, we presented 24 different talks and concerts, many of which are still viewable on our website.

The response was amazing. Our live-streams were viewed collectively over 4000 times and thanks to your generosity, we were able to raise the \$50,000 needed to complete our planned budget for the 2019-20 season.

We also were able to reach new audience members throughout the USA, UK, Switzerland & Czech Republic. We regularly saw over 100 people join us live, with many more watching in the days that followed. Live-streaming will remain a permanent feature of our program from now on and we will continue to find innovative ways to enhance the quality of our productions.



students hamper their own progress and ultimate potential by reinforcing mistakes over, and over again between lessons.

This program will create a warm, fostering atmosphere of help and encouragement where anyone who is able to commit, will have a fantastic chance to excel on an instrument.

Keep up to date with developments on our website as we prepare to launch this exciting new initiative.

Supporting Music Teachers Virtually

Music Teachers across the country are facing unprecedented challenges right now as schools seek to find ways to safely operate. Many of the pandemic mitigation measures are making it especially difficult to deliver a musical education to children. Music instruction does not lend itself easily to remote learning. Social distancing, mask-wearing and the risks associated with singing are all barriers that fundamentally limit curriculum possibilities during the pandemic.

In order to further support music teachers, over the next few weeks and months, we will be releasing regular videos on our website and YouTube channel that will provide schools with new material that can be used in the classroom or remotely.

Our musicians will explore the building blocks of music, using examples of real-life concert performances to illustrate each topic. Videos will be published with a text transcript so teachers can use

the material in any way that proves helpful.

The first series of videos will be aimed at Elementary School Children and explore the following:

- Fast & Slow
- Loud & Soft
- High & Low
- Staccato & Legato
- Phrases
- Major & Minor Keys
- Form & Structure
- Style & Period



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

These are extraordinary times and we ask for your support to help us navigate this difficult period:

Season Tickets:

- All 9 concerts: \$250, \$210 (seniors)
- 4-concert pass: \$110, \$90 (seniors)

Please also consider donating to support our program. Usually ticket revenues would contribute only 10% of our annual budget. This year we anticipate that it will likely be even less due to the pandemic.

- Your donation could help:
- support our Live-Streams - \$100

- enable a duo school performance - \$500
- enable a quartet school performance - \$1000
- sponsor one school's annual participation in our program (3 or 4 visits) - \$2,500
- sponsor one of our synagogue concerts - \$5,000

Please send a check to:

Ashuelot Concerts,
PO Box 181,
Keene, NH 03431

Or visit our website to donate securely online.

ashuelotconcerts.org

Ashuelot Concerts is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Corporation.

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