



December 24, 2023

Dear Friends of Meadowmount,

Like so many other young musicians that have experienced musical summers at Meadowmount, my first summer at age ten was truly transformative. Now in my current role as Artistic Director, I am repeatedly inspired to see how this special place still has a profound impact on young artists of all ages.

This past summer, we welcomed 190 students, ages 11-30, to Meadowmount, from across the Americas as well as Australia, Asia, and Europe. We had 38 concerts and performances throughout the summer, with 3-4 concerts each week on campus and various off-campus concerts happening in Westport to Plattsburgh to Saranac, NY, and other locations.

This summer's concerts again included six livestream broadcasts of our Wednesday concerts through our partner, The Violin Channel, featuring our talented young artists and watched by tens of thousands of viewers. Many of these performances and others are available to watch on our Meadowmount School of Music YouTube channel, and we hope you enjoy as we continue to add more.

We also welcomed many esteemed guest artists who offered inspiring performances, masterclasses, and career Q&A's. Guest performances, often in collaboration with Meadowmount artist faculty and students, included those by violinist Jaime Laredo and cellist Sharon Robinson, cellist Astrid Schween, the Aizuri String Quartet, and a special "Concert and Conversation" with violinist Joshua Bell. Cellist Jeffrey Solow and Philadelphia Orchestra Concertmaster David Kim gave guest masterclasses, the latter offering a popular and very informative session on orchestral auditions. We also had artist manager Tanja Dorn, Founder and CEO of Dorn Music, offer her unique perspective on the music business. It is particularly significant that many of our guest artists are also Meadowmount alums, returning to this storied place that has special meaning for each of them, including Jaime Laredo whose last visit was as a student in 1959; Astrid Schween, a Meadowmount student when she was twelve years old; and Joshua Bell who got to revisit his old dorm room. It is a wonderful way for the new generations of young artists to see how Meadowmount can have an impact on their musical lives for many years.

We are very honored to continue the \$50,000 Gurrena Fellowship, generously sponsored by Linda Gurrena Barnebl and her family. The Fellowship is offered each year to an exceptionally talented artist from the Meadowmount community to support their pursuit of a distinguished career within the field of music. This year's Fellowship recipient is cellist Luiz Fernando

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Venturelli, who spent eight summers studying at Meadowmount and recently won the Astral Artist Auditions, amongst other prizes. As part of the fellowship award, Luiz will be presented in concerts throughout the US this year and we hope you can join us at these events.

Last Spring 2023, Mountain Lakes PBS aired a six-episode series, "Music from Meadowmount," taken from our six livestream concerts on The Violin Channel from the summer of 2022. We are very pleased that PBS will again be broadcasting another six-episode series in the spring of 2024, which will feature our livestream concerts from summer 2023.

It is also our aim to expand upon the performing and professional opportunities for students and incorporate activities that focus on the physical and mental well-being of young artists. With a full team of Alexander Technique faculty working with our students, led by Robyn Avalon, and offering other wellness sessions like yoga, we hope to help students establish foundations that lead to greater longevity in their musical lives.

One of the last highlights of the summer was our annual Benefit Concert on Sunday, August 6, featuring artist faculty and students collaborating on Tchaikovsky's *Souvenir de Florence*, Shostakovich's *Two Pieces for String Octet*, and a 29-cello ensemble performing Barber's *Adagio* conducted by cello faculty Hans Jensen. (You can enjoy a short clip of the "Souvenir de Florence" in our 2023 Holiday Greeting video.) This concert was followed by a lovely catered reception held at Main House which was open to the public.

Though there are many other details to share, I hope this can offer you a glimpse of this past year and how Meadowmount continues to be a place where young artists can be encouraged, nourished, and truly thrive.

Thank you for being a part of our Meadowmount community. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and next summer in upstate New York for our 80th Anniversary season!

With best wishes for the New Year 2024!

Musically yours,

Janet Sung

Artistic Director, Meadowmount

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