

THE FRIENDS OF MUSIC AT YALE

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November 2008

Dear Friend!

The Friends of Music at Yale have had another exciting year and we are delighted to send you this update. The most recent winners of the Friends of Music undergraduate recital competition gave a wonderful concert recital in March – this year’s talented winners were the soprano/mezzo-soprano vocal duo of Esteli Gomez and Annie Rosen (both members of the Class of 2008) and solo pianist Daniel Schlosberg (Class of 2010). This annual recital competition is organized and judged by volunteers who generously donate their time and services. Competition winners receive modest cash prizes and professionally recorded CDs of their concert recital. These and other competition and recital costs are covered by the Friends of Music. This past year’s judges included violinist David Clampitt, associate professor in the Music Department; violinist Wendy Sharp, lecturer in the Music Department and the School of Music; and singer Martha Oneppo (’77 Mus). Each year we are impressed by the consistently high caliber of undergraduate music performance, both at the Friends of Music competitive audition and winners’ recital.

We also have further news to share with you. Several members of the Class of 1958, spearheaded by Tom Dixon (a longtime member of the Council of the Friends of Music), graciously made earmarked donations to the Friends of Music to increase significantly a reservoir of funds that should allow the Music Department to resume offering subsidies to qualifying undergraduates in the near future, to defray the cost of private music lessons. This is an important project, given the costs of attending Yale College (tuition alone is presently \$35,300/year). The Department discontinued these subsidies several years ago for lack of funds. These special gifts made by members of the Class of 1958 to the Friends of Music during the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2008 could also be counted towards the Class of 1958’s 50th class reunion gift to Yale College. (Members of the Class of 1959 - please take note of this!)

The Yale Office of the Controller has also agreed to pay the Friends of Music interest on funds we maintain at Yale for future disbursement. This is welcome news to our entirely volunteer-staffed organization.

Our mission continues to be the financial support of faculty-directed undergraduate music programs whose other sources of funds are not sufficient to accomplish their goals. For example, we provide financial support to the Yale Symphony Orchestra and its annual William Waite Concerto Competition. We also support special music collections at Yale, such as the Collection of Musical Instruments and the Historical Sound Recordings Collection. We request annual gifts to support these music programs and collections, as well as the Friends of Music recital competition.

In addition, as mentioned above, the Music Department would like to resume offering private music lesson subsidies to eligible undergraduates who have not declared themselves to be music majors. In the past, such undergraduates could audition for and potentially receive subsidies of \$400 - \$500 per semester, based on merit and financial need. (Music majors generally receive academic credit for their private music lessons, so the cost of their private lessons is effectively covered by their tuition.) To be able to offer eligible students these subsidies, the Department must first acquire sufficient funds to allow the subsidy program to be offered for several consecutive years, without risk of interruption. Ideally, the fund for undergraduate private music lesson subsidies (combined with other sources of funding) should yield on the order of \$5,000 annually to the Department.

We thank you for your support of undergraduate music at Yale, and wish you a healthy and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth C. Yen