



Martha's Vineyard
Chamber Music Society
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2019
FALL
APPEAL

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Dear

As one of our most loyal supporters, I know you will share in my excitement about the Martha's Vineyard Chamber Music Society's upcoming 2019/2020 season. We are planning a wonderful series of summer concerts in celebration of Delores Stevens and her incalculable contribution to our organization. Not only does this year represent the extraordinary milestone of our Fiftieth Anniversary, it also marks the launch of an invigorated drive to build on that history to serve more fully the entire Martha's Vineyard Community year-round.

Since our first concert in Chilmark in 1970, we have brought fifty uninterrupted years of world class musical performances to the island. Renowned artists from around the world have presented programs spanning centuries, genres and styles. MVCMS has become an indispensable part of *Summer on the Vineyard*. But we are so much more.

Over those fifty years, we have also become an indispensable part of the music education of our island's youth. Currently we provide cost-free loans of over sixty string instruments to student musicians each year. We sponsor an Artist in Residency program in the spring and fall, giving students direct exposure to exceptional professional artists. Most recently, MVCMS filled a gap on the island by sponsoring a cello instructor for private lessons (in addition to the private violin lessons we already supported). And did I mention that students can attend all of our concerts free of charge? We will continue to explore opportunities to broaden our contribution to music education.

Equally important, we are committed to expanding our musical offerings year-round. Of course, we will continue to present our outstanding summer concert series. But we intend to present our offerings of classical music (broadly defined) throughout the year, in order to more fully meet the needs of the diverse island community we serve. We just completed the first example of that effort, our hugely successful *Fall Cello Festival*. Over the course of a month, we presented four concerts ranging from the complete Bach Unaccompanied Cello Suites to Romantic Cello Duets to the innovative Holes in the Floor Quartet. This is but one example of what we plan to do going forward.

Year after year, people like yourself tell us how important MVCMS is to their musical and cultural life on the island. Enthusiastic audiences at our concerts agree, but it all takes funding. Ticket sales pay for only a small part of our costs. We depend on our loyal supporters like you to bridge that gap and keep us moving forward. MVCMS is dedicated to championing world class musical performance on the island year-round and to providing educational resources for students and islanders of all ages. Help us to make that possible. Quite literally, we can't do it without you. Please give as generously as you can.

Thank you. I can't say it enough. Thank you.

David Behnke
President of the Board