

Notes from the Executive Director

Welcome to this special "Back to School" issue of *HB Notes*! Having just wrapped a successful Summer Session here at Hoff-Barthelson, faculty and staff are now preparing for the 2021-22 academic year, which launches September 9 and will continue to unfold as classes and ensembles in our Early Childhood, K-12 and Adult Divisions host their first sessions from mid-September through mid-October.

Returning to Campus, Restoring In-Person Instruction, and Adding New Programs

I'm pleased to report that we've made careful arrangements to return all our "regular" programming to campus this fall, while at the same time continuing to serve students needing to continue their studies remotely.

This issue of *Notes*, our first since the pandemic, profiles six master teachers joining our extraordinary faculty this fall; highlights exciting new classes, chamber music and piano ensemble opportunities; spotlights the return of all four of our dynamic youth orchestras; reports on important updates to our health and safety protocols; and includes information on our upcoming open houses.

Fall Registration and Financial Aid

If you have not yet registered for Fall 2021, I encourage you to do so at your earliest convenience, as our faculty members' schedules are filling fast.

The **tiered pricing structure** we introduced last year, which ties tuition for our Comprehensive Program to levels of utilization and has proven highly popular, remains in effect. (Our Comprehensive Program is centered on weekly private lessons with frequent performance workshop and recital opportunities, musicianship classes, ensembles, accompaniment, and ongoing assessment of student progress.)

The same is true of our **newly expanded financial aid program**, which now enables families with incomes up to 400% of New York State's Reduced Lunch Eligibility Levels to qualify for aid awards of up to 40% of their total tuition. (Visit the [Financial Aid](#) page on our website to download the guidelines and application form.)



Celebrating the Success of Our 75th Anniversary Campaign

In late 2018, in conjunction with our 75th Anniversary, the School launched a 15-month strategic planning process that engaged HBMS faculty, students, families, staff, trustees and alumni in charting a course for the next chapter of music education and community impact. The resulting plan, formally adopted in April 2020, is focused on further enhancing the musical, developmental

and social benefits that students of all ages garner through their studies here, while ensuring that future generations of students also enjoy the myriad advantages world-class music education provides.

To support the execution of the plan, we launched our 75th Anniversary Campaign in February 2020, seeking support in the following categories:



Access: These funds support our newly broadened financial aid program and tiered pricing structure as well as our community-based programs for underserved youth and older adults.

Advancement: Advancement dollars have already been used to upgrade our HVAC systems to combat COVID-19, purchase equipment and provide technical support and tools needed to deliver music instruction and stream student performances online, and improve our facilities.

The Ruth Alperson Fund for Excellence in Music Education: This board-designated fund supports faculty-led initiatives including performance and community programming, the refinement of existing programs and development of new offerings (such as those described on pages 4 and 5), and professional development opportunities for our faculty.

Despite the many challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which arrived just a month after launch, I'm delighted to announce that, thanks to the extraordinary generosity of the Hoff-Barthelson community, the 75th Anniversary Campaign raised a total of \$1,173,477 from more than 125 donors. We are deeply grateful to all who gave and look forward to thanking you and celebrating our collective success at a special event we'll be hosting on campus this October 3. Please save the date – details to follow!



To learn more about any of our programs or to get involved, please contact us at 914-723-1169, hb@hbms.org or via www.hbms.org. We'd love to hear from you and look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

Ken Cole
Executive Director

Advanced Track Musicianship Program to Launch this Fall

We are pleased to introduce new Advanced Track Musicianship (ATM) classes at the Upper Elementary 3, Junior, and Senior Levels. ATM classes are specially tailored for students with the following profile: a strong musicianship background relative to their age/grade/experience level; an avid desire to develop a comprehensive understanding of music theory and related aural skills; and a strong commitment to the program. A placement exam, which can be completed at home, prior to the start of the Fall Semester, is required.



A comprehensive overview of the ATM program, including how to request a placement exam, guidelines for taking the exam, course content, student assessment and commitment, schedule information, and enrollment instructions can be [found here](#).

Fall 2021 Safety Update

This Fall, given the significant progress made in the battle against COVID-19, the upgrades to our air filtration and purification systems, and the efficacy of the many safety protocols enacted over the past year, the School will return to delivering most of our instructional programs in-person, on campus.

At the same time, because of the rise of the Delta variant, the multi-generational nature of our student population (ranging in age from 9 months to 80+ years), and current projections that students under the age of 12 will not be eligible for vaccination until late this year, we are redoubling our efforts to ensure the safety of everyone in our HBMS community. Among the key precautions that will be in effect for Fall 2021:

- The continuation of our universal mask mandate for all indoor, in-person activities. Specially designed masks and bell covers will be provided to all wind and brass students and voice students will receive singers masks.
- All participants ages 12 and above – including faculty, staff, and students – in the following “high exhalation activities” must be fully vaccinated (defined as 2 weeks after receiving one’s final vaccine dose) prior to attending their first in-person session: woodwind, brass, and voice lessons; Festival Orchestra; Chamber Choir; Sight Singing – High School and Advanced Placement; Flute Club; Wind Ensemble; Advanced Jazz Ensemble; and all adult ensembles and classes. We will be directly in touch with students and families impacted by these safety protocols and appreciate your understanding, cooperation and support as we work to ensure everyone’s safety. Requests for medical and religious exemptions will be considered.
- We are leasing additional large and well-ventilated teaching and rehearsal spaces at the Scarsdale Community Baptist Church, just down the road from us, and will be moving a number of classes, lessons, and ensemble rehearsals to this space to decrease campus density during the Fall Semester.
- Students not yet vaccinated or unable to come to campus due to health concerns may request online lessons and elect to participate in online performance workshops and recitals by emailing registration@hbms.org or calling 914-723-1169.
- We have installed two “smart classrooms” to enable students unable to come to campus the opportunity to participate in musicianship at the Upper Elementary Level and above remotely.

Learn more about these and other precautions and review our [Fall 2021 Safety Guidelines here](#).

Should you have any questions, concerns or advice to share, please contact Executive Director Ken Cole at kcole@hbms.org or 914-902-0721.

Calling All Double Reed Players!

Double reed players interested in performing baroque, classical and popular repertoire arranged for a double reed-only ensemble are invited to audition for Hoff-Barthelton’s new **Westchester Double Reed Band**! This intergenerational ensemble, under the direction of HBMS faculty member **Elizabeth Condon**, welcomes the participation of intermediate to advanced oboe, English horn, and bassoon players in grades 6 through adult. In addition to learning from expert faculty and double reed guest artists, participants will learn reed refinement techniques, share repertoire playlists and music, summer festival ideas, college recording planning, and more. The Band rehearses once a month on Saturdays from 3:30 - 4:30 pm. Each rehearsal includes time to focus on key areas of interest.

[Learn more about the ensemble including about our very friendly audition process, here.](#)



New Faces at HBMS

Hoff-Barthelson Hoff-Barthelson is pleased to welcome these extraordinary artist-educators to our faculty:

Noted for her “uncommon voice of great beauty,” and “exceptionally moving interpretation of all kinds of music,” **Kristin Halliday** (voice) is the winner of the Rosa Ponselle vocal competition’s Peggy and Yale Gordon Award and the top prize in the Gretchen Hood Vocal Competition. She has performed concerts and recitals internationally including the Altenburg Music Festival. Singers who study with Kristin have performed on Broadway, at the Kennedy Center, Ford’s Theatre, Arena Stage, and Carnegie Hall. Kristin’s teaching philosophy is to empower students and lead them to awareness and mastery of their own instrument.



Andrew Marino (guitar, group guitar classes) holds the degree of Doctor of Musical Arts in Guitar Performance from the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University where he studied with renowned guitarist and pedagogue Julian Gray and taught the Guitar Methods course. Andrew has performed extensively throughout the East Coast and beyond and won prizes in State University’s GuitarFest Competition, SUNY Potsdam’s Chamber Music Competition, and the Philadelphia Classical Guitar Competition. Andrew served on the faculty of the International School of Music and Cockeysville Music Education Center in Maryland. He enjoys working with students of all ages.



Maxim Pakhomov, (piano, Suzuki piano) originally from the Far East region of Russia, completed his studies at the Moscow State Conservatory. He has appeared internationally in both solo and chamber music concerts. His credits include performances at Merkin Hall and Zankel Hall where he premiered his arrangement of Stravinsky’s *Petrushka* for piano duo. His performance repertoire includes the piano concerti of Rachmaninoff, Tchaikovsky, Saint-Saëns, Brahms, Beethoven, and Shostakovich. He received his Suzuki training at the School for Strings with Marina Obukovsky.



Anna Rabinova (violin) joined the NY Philharmonic in 1994, and first performed as a soloist with the Orchestra in 2009. She performs nationally and internationally as a soloist, chamber and orchestral musician. She has appeared with numerous European orchestras including the Moscow State Symphony, Halle Philharmonic, Schwerin Philharmonic, and has

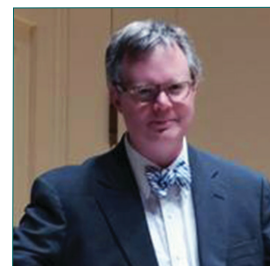


been soloist with the Orchestra of St. Luke’s, and the American Symphony Orchestra, among others. She has premiered works by John Corigliano and Alfred Schnittke, gives master classes internationally and has long been a student favorite when coaching chamber music and Festival Orchestra sectional rehearsals during annual New York Philharmonic musician residencies at HBMS.

Drew Vandewinckel (saxophone) is an in-demand saxophonist, multi-instrumentalist, composer, and educator who brings his passion to the bandstand and the classroom. After graduating magna cum laude from SUNY Purchase, Drew began a decade-long career performing across the tristate area while teaching private lessons and running successful classroom music programs. Highlights include performing with the award-winning Ed Palermo Big Band, music directing the JC Hopkins Biggish Band, playing every saxophone chair with Sal “The Voice” Valentinetti, and appearing on America’s Got Talent.



Conductor and violist, **Amédée Williams** (viola, violin, Viola Clubs) has performed internationally and was featured on a Young Artist Concert Series presented by the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. He is the author of *Lillian Fuchs: First Lady of the Viola* and contributed several articles for the new edition of the Grove’s Dictionary of Music and Musicians. Amédée has been the orchestra director at Scarsdale High School since 2007, has taught viola privately for decades, and has long been a member of our Summer Arts Program faculty.



To learn more about these and other HBMS faculty members, visit the [Faculty section of our website](#).

The School is also pleased to welcome **Luis Ramos** to our administrative team as our controller. Luis is an experienced nonprofit accountant who has worked with HBMS in a consulting capacity for more than six years. He holds a bachelor’s degree in accounting from LIU Post and an MBA from Mercy College.



Welcome one and all!

Smart Classrooms!

Did you know that the School has invested in new technology to create high-quality hybrid class experiences? Two state-of-the-art smart classrooms have been installed that allow online and in-person attendees to participate in each class session. Hybrid classes can be found in both the K-12 and Adult class listings found on the School’s website. The symbol ‡ in these listings denotes hybrid classes.

Chamber Music at HBMS

New Piano Ensemble Program Launches in October

Hoff-Barthelson's Chamber Music Program offers small ensemble experiences to intermediate and advanced instrumentalists and pianists. The program is open to students committed to maintaining the highest standard of dedication, commitment, and attendance.



We are excited to announce a new **Piano Ensemble Program** within our larger Chamber Music Program. The Piano Ensemble Program is available for intermediate to advanced piano students who would like to develop ensemble and sightreading skills as well as enjoy the social and emotional benefits of participating in music-making with others. The program will be held in our state-of-the-art piano lab.



Placement Auditions for both Chamber Music Divisions will be held on Tuesday, September 7, and Wednesday, September 8 from 3:00-9:00 pm.

Chamber Music and Piano Ensemble Open House

Parents, current and prospective string, wind, brass and piano students are invited to join us at our in-person **Chamber Music Open House on Wednesday, September 1, 6:00-8:30 pm.**

Students will have an opportunity to participate in chamber music activities, music games, and ensemble rehearsals while parents attend an interactive meeting with program directors Donna Elaine and Tomoko Uchino and Deans Kathy Jones and Christopher Kenniff. All will enjoy pizza and performances by faculty and student ensembles. Parents unable to attend in person are invited to participate in the meeting and Q&A with the program directors and deans via Zoom.

All in-person participants must adhere to the School's Fall 2021 Safety Protocols.

[Learn more about the Chamber Music Program, RSVP to attend the Open House and/or request an in-person placement meeting here.](#)

New For Fall! Group Guitar Classes for All Ages

We are pleased to share that the School will offer group classes for students ages 4-adult interested in learning to play the guitar.

First Instrument Class: Guitar Together is the perfect first step for students ages 4-6 who want to learn to play an instrument before beginning private instruction. Class time is divided between learning the basics of guitar technique and activities away from the guitar that develop children's sensitivity to pitch, rhythm, and musical expression. Students play on appropriately sized guitars and participate in an end-of-course, in-class recital. Visit the **Early Childhood** page on our website for more information about this and other first instrument classes.

Learn to Play the Guitar provides an opportunity for students who are new to the guitar to develop skills that will grow their enjoyment of music, knowledge of music theory, and their overall musicianship. Students learn the fundamentals of guitar playing — reading, technique, scale study, harmonic progressions, repertoire, basic accompaniment and ensemble playing. Class sections are offered for grades 2-5 and grades 6-12.

[Learn more about these classes and other musicianship and group classes here.](#)

Learn to Play the Guitar for Adults – see our article on adult classes on page 5 for details!



Adult Programs at HBMS



Students of all ages find a musical home at Hoff-Barthelsson, and adults are no exception! The high quality of our faculty and the warm, welcoming nature of the HBMS community has attracted a wide following of adults eager to develop their musical skills and explore classical, jazz, and popular repertoire at all levels of advancement. Lessons, ensemble opportunities, musicianship courses, and performance opportunities enable adults to discover new talents and interests and build on existing skills.

Did you know that The School partners with Scarsdale Adult School to offer several classes for our adult learners? Offerings this year include group instruction in piano, violin, guitar, ukulele, and world drumming. [Visit the Adult section of our website](#) to access our full menu of opportunities for adults!

New Adult Opportunities for Fall 2021

Adult Music Theory and Ear Training Bootcamp

By popular demand, HBMS will be offering a 10-session Adult Music Theory and Ear Training Bootcamp on Wednesday evenings beginning October 10. This hybrid class is designed for adult students — instrumentalists, vocalists, and composers — who seek to develop a strong foundation in music theory and aural training fundamentals. All classes will be recorded and available for sharing with enrolled students, either for review purposes or in place of class attendance.

Learn to Play the Guitar for Adults

This course teaches foundational and continuing skills in guitar technique, music reading, music theory, and listening to adults new to the guitar and the elements of music. The group class format provides a unique opportunity for students to enjoy making music together, engage in group discussion, and support one another. No previous musical experience is necessary. Classes begin Wednesday, October 6 at 8:00 pm.

Adult Programs Open House

Join us on **Saturday, September 18, 2021, from 2:15-3:15 pm!** (in-person or online) for a discussion centering on the new semester, safety protocols, how to make the most of our programs, course offerings, and other opportunities for adult learners.



Adult Handbell Class Welcomes New Bells and Invites New Members!

Generous support from an 'angel' donor has made it possible to refurbish a set of White Chapel Bells — the Stradivari of handbells — which Faculty Member Donna Elaine and Associate Dean Kathy Jones acquired on behalf of the School prior to the pandemic.

Our Adult Handbell Class will be ringing in this beautifully refurbished new set this fall and welcomes new members. Playing handbells is a wonderful way for adult amateur musicians of all levels to make truly beautiful music together. The group meets Fridays at 11:30 beginning on October 1.

[Learn more her about these and other adult opportunities, register and/or RSVP here](#)
or call 914-723-1169 or email registration@hbms.org.

Hoff-Barthelson Music School is proud to be a grantee of ArtsWestchester with funding made possible by Westchester County government with the support of County Executive George Latimer. Programs are made possible, in part, with support from the New York State Council on the Arts.

All photos by Steven Schnur except for School Sign on page 8 by Jennifer Petrocelli.



Visit www.hbms.org to view the calendar of events!



Fall Open Houses and Orientation Sessions

Learn more about Hoff-Barthelson's offerings by joining us at one or more of our Fall Open Houses!

Chamber Music and Piano Ensembles - Wednesday, September 1, 6:00-8:30 pm (In-person)

Parent Orientation - Saturday, September 11, 1:30-2:45 pm (Hybrid)

Suzuki Open House and Porch Party - Saturday, September 11, 4:00-5:00 pm (In-person)

Early Childhood Program - Monday, September 13, 10:00-11:30 am (In-person)

Youth Orchestra Program - Tuesday, September 14, 7:30-9:00 pm (via Zoom)

Adult Programs - Saturday, September 18, 2:15-3:15 pm (Hybrid)

For additional information or to RSVP, click on the links above, call 914-723-1169, or email hb@hbms.org.

Masks, social distancing, adherence to our Fall Safety Guidelines (see information on page 2) and RSVP required for all in-person event participants.

HBMS Orchestras to Resume Full Strength this Fall



Did you know that Hoff-Barthelson is the only community music school in Westchester with a four-tiered orchestral pyramid, serving students from grades 2-12? Each is welcoming new and returning students this fall:

The Young People's Symphonette is a beginning string orchestra for string players in grades 2-5 conducted by Robert Schwartz. Students must be ready to study the last piece in Suzuki Book 1 (or its equivalent) and be able to read the notes on all four strings.

The Chamber Orchestra is an intermediate string orchestra for string players in grades 6-10 conducted by Robert Schwartz.

Led by Joseph Piscitelli, the **Wind Ensemble** is for woodwind, brass and percussion players in grades 6-12. Audition required.

The **Festival Orchestra** is a full symphonic orchestra for high school students at the highest level of technical ability and musical artistry. Under the direction of conductor Jun Nakabayashi, the orchestra performs three concerts annually; two are with guest artists of international stature. Festival Orchestra members also receive coaching from members of the NY Philharmonic. Auditions for clarinet, bassoon, trumpet, timpani, and strings will be held online on September 2.

HBMS YOUTH ORCHESTRA OPEN HOUSE: Join Robert Schwartz, Joseph Piscitelli, Jun Nakabayashi, and HBMS Executive Director Ken Cole via Zoom for a lively discussion about the School's four-tiered Youth Orchestra Programs on **Tuesday, September 14, 2021, from 7:30-9:00 pm**. The discussion will include information about repertoire, educational goals, performance schedules, safety protocols, and more!

RSVP here to attend the Open House and receive the Zoom link or call 914-723-1169 or email hb@hbms.org.