Amelia Peabody Foundation Awards Major Challenge Grant to Project STEP

Help Us Meet the Challenge

The Amelia Peabody Foundation, which has supported Project STEP for the past two years, has issued a challenge: If Project STEP raises at least $20,000 in new and increased donations by April 1, 2012, they will match that new support with a grant to the program. As one of the top funders of non-profits in Massachusetts, the Peabody Foundation has become a strong supporter of Project STEP’s programs. With this gift combined with its match, the Foundation will significantly increase our ability and capacity to provide excellent music training for our talented students.

With the “challenge” portion of this grant, the Peabody Foundation has fired up Project STEP’s fundraising efforts. The Board of Directors is helping us raise as much as possible by pledging increases to their gifts, and we are now reaching out to all friends new and old—together, we can meet the challenge.

Help Project STEP meet the Peabody Foundation’s challenge, and have your donation MATCHED!

- All gifts from new donors, and all increased gifts from current donors, will be matched by the Foundation, and will help us meet the challenge.
- Your donations will only be matched if we raise at least $20,000.

Highlights from Last Year:

- Performance with Boston Civic Symphony, featuring STEP students side-by-side with professionals
- Collaborative performance with the Bermuda Music School
- Masterclass with Mark O’Connor
- STEP students toured Europe with NEC’s Youth Philharmonic Orchestra and Youth Symphony
- Collaboration with Youth Orchestra of the Americas at the Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard University
- Performances with Boston Landmarks Orchestra featuring STEP student soloists
- Premiere of PBS film chronicling the legacy of Ann Hobson Pilot’s career, including Project STEP students

Summer music camps are supported for ALL Project STEP students. One student reported:

“[Camp] Encore Coda was AWESOME!!! I had a wonderful time in orchestra playing La Forza Del Destina by Giuseppe Verdi. Actually (not to brag or anything) I played this before [my older sister] Njeri, so I was able to show her a thing or two. (Smile…) At Encore Coda, I had a wonderful private teacher and all of the counselors… were FANTASTIC!! In addition to music, I had swimming lessons every day in the lake, the food was delicious, my cabin mates were the best in the world… Thank you so much…” - Njioma, age 11
Goetz Eaton, long-term member and Treasurer of Project STEP’s Board of Directors, will now lead the organization as President of the Board. Having joined the Board in 1995, Goetz brings considerable knowledge of STEP’s programs and operations to his new role. Goetz’s limitless passion for the program, combined with his expertise and wonderful sense of humor, made him an ideal candidate to become the next President, and the entire STEP community is delighted that he has taken on this role.

Goetz was introduced to Project STEP through his significant involvement with the Boston Symphony Orchestra as a member of the BSO’s Association of Volunteers, and Overseer/Overseer Emeritus (serving on the Annual Fund, Capital Campaign and Budget committees). Goetz has built a strong career in the field of international business, having worked at multinational firms including Digital Equipment Corp., Coopers & Lybrand LLP, Cognex Corp., and Teradyne Inc., and now serves as Worldwide Tax Director for Acronis Inc. Ltd. He succeeds Randy Hiller, who served as Project STEP’s President for the past three years and Margaret Williams-DeCelles who held this role for the previous four years.

At the recent Opening Evening at STEP gathering of students, families and staff, an ensemble made up of STEP staff, faculty, and alumni Tony Rymer performed chamber music for the group. Afterwards, Goetz reflected on Tony’s success and Project STEP’s impact. “It always amazes me to see how someone such as Tony – who I remember from when he was a 1st grader – can develop into an accomplished musician with such great potential in his musical career. This is why I am involved with Project STEP—to help more kids get these opportunities, and to continue making the program better and more relevant.”

Where do our Funds Go? Where do they Come From?

Foundations and individuals note Project STEP’s record of building skills and habits that change lives. We are extremely fortunate to have strong support from the National Endowment for the Arts, a highly competitive funding agency. This year we received $60,000 from the NEA, with a message saying, “The care that goes into programming decisions stands out, and … the quality of the student performances is impressive….Clearly an excellent program.”

Please see our funders page in this newsletter for a complete list of supporters between July 1, 2010 and November 4, 2011. As the pie chart shows, 70% of our funds go directly to the instruction programs of Project STEP.
16 Violins Travel From Project STEP to El Salvador

Renowned stringed instrument dealer Christopher Reuning spent seven hours pouring over Project STEP’s instrument collection last year, segmenting them into sections of “great, good, adequate and need to be replaced.” He made notes on each instrument’s assets and weaknesses, as well as general condition. Then the question arose: What to do with those instruments that need replacing? We have several options, and in this case we sent 16 of them to a music school trying to expand its program to include strings. See photo of a Project STEP violin being delivered to an El Salvadoran boy via a Baltimore high school student. The connection is one Susan Saudek, who has made some 40 trips to El Salvador over the past 35 years, and this time she asked the 16 Baltimore high school students accompanying her each to take a violin as one of their carry-ons onto the plane.

Parents’ Corner: Pepsi was us

For Project STEP Families, the question, “What did you do on your summer vacation?” took on a whole new dimension this year – at least for June. During June, Project STEP was in the running for a $25,000 grant from the Pepsi Refresh Program. We simply needed to be one of the top 15 vote-getters by June 30th! Sounds easy, right? Initially it was. We shot up to #1 on Day 1 and we were firmly planted in the top 5 for most of the race. Our legions of families and fans were diligently voting online, text-voting and Power-voting daily. And, for that we are eternally grateful. However, during the final dog days of June, a few errant competitors shot out of nowhere to surpass us. At that point, there were only so many yellow-capped Pepsi bottles we could find! What did we win? Greater visibility for Project STEP and lots of new Facebook and Twitter followers. What did we learn? That we have an amazing network of devoted fans who will do anything to help deliver phenomenal music education to the students of Project STEP – THANK YOU! Will we do it again? Maybe. Stay tuned.

- Katbi Kelly, Parent Representative to the Board

Amir and Amalia encourage neighbors to vote for Project STEP

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NEA Awards Project STEP $60,000 for 2012
In support of the difference STEP makes in the lives of its students and families

Stay up to date with Project STEP on Twitter & Facebook!!

Facebook.com/ProjectSTEP
Twitter.com/ProjectSTEP
Good news for those having to make withdrawals from their IRA accounts!

Last December, the IRA charitable rollover provision of the Pension Protection Act was extended by Congress until December 31, 2011. Under this legislation, eligible donors are able to make outright gifts of up to $100,000 to Project STEP from their traditional or Roth IRA and have such gifts count toward their minimum distribution requirement. Donors will not be taxed on the part of the distribution that goes to Project STEP.

To benefit from this gift opportunity, the following qualifications must be met:
- Donor must be age 70 1/2 or older at the time of transfer.
- Any amount may be transferred up to $100,000 before Dec. 31 of this year.
- The gift must be transferred directly to Project STEP or to the Project STEP Endowment by the IRA administrator, without going through a donor-advised fund.

2011 Project STEP graduating students Aurélie Théramène and Abina Cohen packed up their violins and headed to Princeton University and Lake Forest College, Chicago, respectively. We are proud of their accomplishments.

Orchestrators
Holly and David Ambler
Diane Austin
Gabrielle and Kerby Bercy-Roberson
George and Roberta Berry
Katherine Brobeck
Gregory E. Bulger
Susan Okie Bush
John Campbell and Susanna Peyton
Eleanor L. and Levin H. Campbell
Mark Churchill
John Cogan
Anna and Peter Davol
Samiyah Diaz
Randolph Diggs and Stephanie Harriston
Noemía Montero-Do Canto
Reed Drews and Lisa Iezzoni
Goetz B. Eaton
Emilie D. Steele
Douglas Fenton
Jonathan L. Glionna
Charles and Sara Goldberg
Thelma and Ray Goldberg
Frederick and Donna Greterex
Diane Asseo Griliches
Louis H. Hamel, Jr.
Christopher and Kathy Heckscher
Linda Heffner
Ruth Hertz
Edwin and Mary Hiller
Randy and Elaine Hiller
Ann R. Karnovsky
Muriel Kaye
Leigh C. Kelter
Liza Ketchum and John Straus
Barbara Kravitz
Mary Lincoln
Robert and Gwyneth Loud
Dianne Luby
Margaret Williams-DeCelles
Jessica E. Margolin
Joseph and Rachel Martin
Rachel and Robert Moore
Grace and Murray Nissman
Christophe and Tara Oliver
Daniel I. and Barbara Palant
Myran Parker-Brass
Peggy Pearson
Ava Bry Penman
Elisa C. Pepe
May H. Pierce

William and Lia Poorvu
Jason Price
Cheri Robartes
Daniel Rothenberg
William and Kathleen Rousseau
Samuel and Phyllis Rubinovitz
Ryan Conall
Robert and Susan Saudek
Stephen Saudek and Janice Durham
Kathy Schlotterbeck
Thomas J. Schwab
Astrid Schwen
Gilda and Alfred Slifka
Fenwick Smith
Philip Smith
Steven Snider
Epp Sonin
Marylen Sternweiler
Marcus Thompson
Catherine Toppin

Janice Walker
Ruth Plaut Weinreb and Lloyd Weinreb
John and Samantha Williams
John Winslow and Emily Bailey

Principal players
Helen and William Allison
Elizabeth P. Atkins
Bernice Auslander
Sandra Bakalar
James and Michele Banker
Roger and Elizabeth Borghesani
Michael and Susan Brown
George Bulger
Mary S. Campbell
Loring and Katinka Coleman
Bruce and Susan Creditor
Joan P. and Ronald C. Curhan
Ruth M. Curwen
Robert M. Eisenhardt
Micheline Federman
Harriet A. Feinberg
Nadja B. Gould
John Graef
Robert Hagopian
Unae K. Han
Juanita Hardrick
Lorell Hernandez
Ruth Hertz
Doris and Howard Hiatt
Eloise Hodges
Ralph and Sherry Jones
David Kanter
Julia Kathan
Boris and Natalya Katz
John Kavanagh
Kathleen and Brian Kelly
Judith Kidd
Jennifer Lee
Clara Lennox
Sara Lennox and Larry Miller

4 - FALL 2011 • project STEP • OUR STUDENTS’ SUCCESSES ARE REALIZED BY YOUR SUPPORT – THANK YOU.
Keith and Emilie Lockhart
Kenneth and Margaret McIntosh
Gael R. Minton
Richard Morse
William and Betsy Moyer
Ellen Moyer
Richard Mullaney
John and Evelyn Neumeyer
Joseph and Betsy Nissenbaum
Anne M. Pearson
Julie Ramsey and David Cutright
Jennifer R. Regan
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Remis
Martha and Elliot Rothman
Lois C. Russell
Thomas J. Schwab
Anne St. Goar
James L. and Maude Terry
John and Dorothy Thorndike
Elizabeth W. Vorenberg
Constance White
Linda and John Wilson

Gifts were made in honor of Daniel I. Palant

**Section leaders**
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Robert Abrams
Joseph Alpers
Victoria Arthur and Thomas Cloherty
Ronald P. Barron
Rebecca Benson and Arthur Kreiger
Arnis Berger
Robert Berger
Leonard and Audrey Berman
Ethel Bernard
Marjory Blacher
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Ralph Bowers
Phyllis and Don Brick
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Nancy and Myles Pickar
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Christine Watson
Bernard Weichsel
Ray Wellbaum and Karen Campbell
Nancy and Jeffrey Werner
A. R. and L. A. Whitney
Jacqueline Wolf
Marcy Woods

Gifts were made in memory of
Arthur Kravitz
Stephen Kelly
Irving Rabb

**Government, Foundation and Corporate Support**
Boston Cultural Council
Massachusetts Cultural Council
National Endowment for the Arts
Amelia Peabody Foundation
Anonymous Family Foundation
Anonymous Corporation
Charles H. Bond Trust
Cabot Family Charitable Trust
Classics for Kids Foundation
Germeshausen Foundation
J-Choice
Kanter Kallman Foundation
Kaufman Hall
Linde Family Foundation
Blessing Foundation
Mu Phi Epsilon
Public Welfare Foundation
Ratshesky Foundation
Savage Family Foundation
Sean McDonough Foundation
Winsor Music
Yawkey Foundation II

This list includes gifts and grants received between July 1, 2010 and November 4, 2011. Please notify us if you think there is an error.
Save the Date

Masterclass with
Daniel Bernard Roumain
Sunday, March 18,
4 to 6 p.m.
Higginson Hall
Symphony Hall

We are grateful to the NEA and MCC for demonstrating their strong belief in the mission of Project STEP by making significant grants to the program.

Help us save money by joining our email list. Email us at: info@projectstep.org

Project STEP is deeply appreciative of the in-kind support from The Boston Symphony Orchestra, the New England Conservatory, and the BU School of Fine Arts. Their contributions enable us to provide our students opportunities at the highest levels.

Noah with his fans at the Golda Meir House.