Last Year at a Glance

Change, some planned and some imposed from outside, characterized the 2008-2009 year. Upon William Thomas’ retirement, STEP appointed its first Artistic Director to have graduated from the program; Mariana Greenhill, ’97. We began with a record number of students, 51, and launched what will be a dynamic relationship with the Museum of Fine Arts’ Teen Arts Council. Mid-way through the year Jen Lee left for her home in Seattle, and Javier Caballero took her place as Program Coordinator. Tony Rymer, ’07, reached new heights winning First Prize at the National Sphinx Competition, and began a year of solo appearances debuting right here with the Boston Pops (see related article).

Along with the uplifting news, the cataclysmic economic events of last fall and winter took their toll on Project STEP. We reacted swiftly by reducing administrative costs immediately, tightening the budget to all but the essentials of the program. Even so we took a larger than usual draw from our endowment, but our mission guided us in maintaining the program. Even so we took a larger than usual draw from our endowment, but our mission guided us in maintaining the program. 2009 year. Upon William Thomas’ retirement, STEP appointed its first Artistic Director to have graduated from the program; Mariana Greenhill, ’97. We began with a record number of students, 51, and launched what will be a dynamic relationship with the Museum of Fine Arts’ Teen Arts Council. Mid-way through the year Jen Lee left for her home in Seattle, and Javier Caballero took her place as Program Coordinator. Tony Rymer, ’07, reached new heights winning First Prize at the National Sphinx Competition, and began a year of solo appearances debuting right here with the Boston Pops (see related article).

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Welcome to Four New Members of our Board of Directors

We are very pleased to welcome four new Directors, each of whom brings valuable experience and skills to Project STEP.

Catherine Toppin, Esq., is an Associate Attorney in the Intellectual Property Group of Edwards, Angell, Palmer and Dodge, LLP. Growing up in Washington, D.C., Ms. Toppin spent Saturdays with her violin in lessons and rehearsals, so she is personally familiar with the benefits of intense and long term music instruction – even if she opted for a different profession. She holds a JD from the University of Maryland School of Law, and a BA from Princeton.

Myran Parker-Brass, Director of Education and Community Programs for the Boston Symphony Orchestra, is also a mezzo-soprano who has soloed throughout the world as well as with the Boston Pops Orchestra, among many other Boston performances. Ms. Parker-Brass has been in her position at the BSO for over 15 years, and knows Project STEP well. She represents the Boston Symphony Orchestra on Project STEP’s Board of Directors. She holds an MFA and MME from Governors State University, and a BA from the University of Illinois, Chicago.

Christopher Heckscher, Investment Analyst, is currently Investment Director – High Yield for Standard Life Investments in Boston. As a member of the Community Consulting Team’s Project STEP consulting group, Mr. Heckscher came to know STEP from all angles: he led the team that interviewed 34 constituents. He holds an MBA from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth, and a BA from Harvard.

Christophe Oliver is a business development executive with over 16 years of international experience. He spent over 12 years at Saint-Gobain of Worcester, MA, most recently as Director of Strategy for the global coated abrasives business. As a provost consultant with the Community Consulting Teams of Boston / STEP team, he analyzed Project STEP’s operations, helping STEP define, quantify, and chart key metrics. He holds an MBA from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth, and attended university in his native France.

We note with sadness the passing of our former member, Greenwich’s Catherine Toppin, Esq., in 2010. She is deeply missed by all of us at Project STEP.

A Practical Approach to Theory

This year we are launching two classes for our youngest students that will make music theory more practical. Weekly 45 minute piano lessons will give our young students a grounding on the keyboard, where intervals and key signatures may be learned visually and by ear, facilitating note reading. Supplementing the piano lessons will be solfège classes, which will help our students in ear and rhythm training. Together these classes will prepare our students to enter higher level theory classes in seventh grade.

Marianna Green-Hill
Gives a Strad Some Exercise

Marianna Green-Hill, esteemed Artistic Director of Project STEP was invited to play a Stradivarius violin for a lunchtime concert in New York arranged by the Sphinx Music Organization. Ms. Green-Hill first met the violin on Monday morning, September 14th, and practiced with it for two hours before the performance. She played a Brahms sonata and a William Grant Still suite, and felt that the modern work by Still was easier to play on the Strad. Asked how she found the instrument to play she said, “It was very clean, bright. It would take me a while to figure out how to play it with nuance.” Would she like to play on it again? Maybe, but “- I love my own violin – love it. We are one; we understand each other.”

Congratulations to our graduated Seniors!

Daniele Lennox-Heichman, violin student of Janet Packer, will be studying music at NYU. Adrya Sanchez, cello student of Jennifer Lucht, will be studying business at Babson College and plans to play in the Babson orchestra. Our seniors gave a spectacular and moving graduation recital in June.

New Project STEP Program Coordinator

Last year we bid farewell to Jennifer Lee, Project STEP Program and Development Coordinator, as she moved back to her home in Seattle and started a job with the Seattle Symphony. Jen worked at Project STEP for 2 ½ years and had a huge positive impact. As hard as it was to say goodbye to Jen, we were extremely fortunate that Javier Caballero stepped into the position in January of 2009. Javier had managed Project STEP’s instrument collection for 18 months, and in that time he updated our instrument inventory (described and numbered 196 instruments and 68 bows). Born in Puerto Rico, he grew up in Florida and began playing the violin at age 11 and later switched to cello. Javier has a Masters Degree in Cello from the Boston Conservatory and teaches and freelances locally. Javier spent summers at the Apple Hill Chamber Music Festival for years, where he met Tony and Marta Rymer, and was Tony’s counselor.

Atlanta Colleges Request STEP for Masterclass and Performance

Atlanta called and Marianna Green-Hill responded to a request to bring Project STEP students to play with the orchestras of Spelman and Morehouse Colleges. Monique Smith, a senior at Boston Latin and a violin at Project STEP and Aurelie Theramène, a junior at The Commonwealth School and a violist at Project STEP, and Aurélie Théramène, a senior at Boston Latin and a violist at Project STEP, will help our students in ear and rhythm training. Together these classes will prepare our students to enter higher level theory classes in seventh grade.

STEP Graduate Plays Pops!

Tony Rymer, Project STEP 07’, won First Prize at the 2009 national Sphinx Competition (www.sphinxmusic.org). As a result, Tony was invited to perform on Opening Night with the Boston Pops, marking the second year in a row Project STEP made an onstage appearance with the orchestras of Boston. (Last year Artistic Director and STEP alum Mariana Green-Hill and then-Junior Danielle Lennox-Heichman played a movement of the Bach Double Concerto at spring Pops.) In addition to his increasing professional engagements, Tony has made time to volunteer and perform locally for such events as the Mass Mentoring Program’s ‘Mentors of Color Campaign,’ held on June 2, 2009 at the UMass Boston campus. This fall Tony begins his junior year at the New England Conservatory as a student of Paul Katz.

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Kravitz and Campbell Scholars Named

Two longstanding Project STEP advocates have established scholarships to make certain that our high school students will have the support they need to reach their potential in music. Barbara Kravitz, honoring her late husband Arthur’s deep commitment to STEP, and Judge Levin Campbell, honoring his wife Eleanor’s long belief in and support of music, have both made gifts that will support one Pre-College student each year in perpetuity. This year’s scholars are:

![Monique Smith, viola, senior at Boston Latin Academy, is the Arthur Kravitz Scholar.](right)

![Aurélie Théramène, violin, junior at The Commonwealth School, is the Eleanor L. and Levin H. Campbell Scholar.](left)

Alan and Marjorie Strauss  
James L. and Maude Terry  
John and Dorothy Thornhike  
Elizabeth W. Vorenbarg  
David Walther  
Ruth Plaut and Lloyd Weinreb  
Christopher Wheat  
Sonya R. White  
Iain and Elizabeth Whitfield  
John Winslow  
Lisa Wong & Lynn Chang  
Jolee and Mark Zola  

Musicians  
Kenneth G. and Anita Adams  
Helen Adelman  
Constantine Alexander  
Helen and William Allison  
Evelyn Amrhein  
Anonymous  
Marjorie A. Arons-Barron and James H. Barron  
Paul and Cynthia Barcellos  
Ina K. Wilhelm Barron and Ronald P. Barron  
Barbara A. Benjamin  
Jacob Bergman  
Leonard D. and Audrey B. Berman  
Ethel Bernard  
Marjory P. Blacher  
Linda Black  
Pamela Blau  
Nancy H. Bracken  
George R. Bulger  
Jennifer R. Buras and Christopher R. Carmosino  
Marshall G. Burlingame and Aline C. Benoit  
Sharon R. and Lawrence R. Byrd  
Moises M. and Judith A. Carrasco  
Ann N. Cobb  
Robert F. and Judy Saiki Couture  
Ruth Curwen  
David Cutright and Julie Ramsey  
Elizabeth M. Davis  
R. Bruce and Madelyn B. Donoff  
Catharine-Mary Donovan  
Doriot Anthony Dryer  
Stephanie Engel  
Russell Engler and Tracy Miller  
Frank Epstein  
Herbert Epstein  
Harriet Feinberg  
Janet M. Finn  
Jill Fischer  
Marylin D. Franklin  
Thomas L. and Annemarie Gauger  
Andrew and Sarah Glenn  
Jara S. Goodrich  
William R. and Carolyn R. Grace  
Elizabeth Graef  
Leon and Johanna Ellen Gunther  
Helen Hagopian  
Barbara Harris  
Rebecca Harris  
Robert M. Heinenman  
Patrick and Lorell Hernandez  
David C. and Miriam I. Horton  
Louise M. Huddleston  
Ronda M. Jacobson  
Mary S. and Bennett Jaffe  
Marjory Johnson  
Lois Josimovich  
Arnold and Joan Kerzner  
Pamela Kirkpatrick  
Carrie Kourkoumelis  
Richard G. and Deborah A. Laflamme  
Jasper J. Lawson  
Sara Lennox and Larry Miller  
Constance R. Levine  
Robert and Gwyneth Loud  
Elisabeth H. Loukas  
Betty Sweeney Lyons  
Julie-Ann and James A. Mac Lean  
John and Olive Malcolm  
Benjamin and Deborah T. Mangel  
John A. R. and Barbara S. Marden  
Malcolm A. Margolies  
Anne E. McCollum  
Mary Jane McNinnis  
Ralph and Sylvia Memolo  
Alan and Cecily Morse  
Ruthanne Moyer  
Walter J. and Linda C. Murphy  
Judith Norgasian  
Dana M. Nugent  
Lindsay and Brian O’Donovan  
Karen A. and John R. O’ Malley  
Paula Page  
Robert Panessiti and Michael Hogan  
Ava Bry Pennman  
Elsa Pepe  
David Perlman and Jackie Wolf  
Barbara Poeschl-Edrich  
Carol A. Procter  
David and Rose Raduziner  
Aza Raykhtsbaum  
Peter and Suzanne Read  
David H. and Susan S. Rosen  
Ellen J. Rubin  
Matthew Ruggiero and Nancy Cirillo  
Kathy Schlotteback  
Harvey Seigel and Martha Babcock  
Alan J. and Leslie A. Sherman  
Molly Singer  
Ellen and Jay Sklar  
Nanci and Bud Spannaus  
Hugh A. and Catherine Stacey  
Margaret Steer  
Marcia Stern & Sean Morrison  
Agathi Stratis  
Marylynn A. Sullivan  
Caitlin J. Thomas  
Judith Ebel Tsipis  
Vychaslov and Maya Uritsky  
Edith L. Walker  
George Walker  
Ray Wellbaum and Karen Campbell  
Constance V. R. White  
Linda and John Willson  
Ernest and Roswitha Winsor  
Beverly Woodward and Paul Monsky  
Edward Yau  
Michael Zaretsky  

Foundations and Corporations  
Peter T. Anderson Insurance Services  
Barthol Family Foundation  
Blessing Foundation  
Boston Musicians Association  
Charles Bond Trust  
Bridgehaven Foundation  
City of Boston  
First Night  
Germeshausen Foundation  
Grantham, Mayo, Van Otterloo & Co. LLC  
Johnson Strings  
Kanter Kallman Foundation, Inc.  
Rita J. and Stanley H. Kaplan Family Found  
Edward and Joyce Linde Family Foundation  
Lyon & Healy  
Mass Cultural Council  
Sean McDonough Foundation  
Morse Foundation  
Mu Phi Epsilon Foundation  
National Endowment for the Arts  
New England Patriots Foundation  
Ramsey McCluskey Family Foundation  
Carl and Ruth Shapiro Family Foundation  

You can be Instrumental  

Project STEP is fortunate to have an instrument collection of violins, violas, cellos and double basses, and bows. This year we will concentrate on bringing this valuable asset into full working order. With 28 instruments in need of major repairs, this great asset is not working for us as it should; some of our students are playing on lesser quality instruments. We also must fill gaps in the collection. Please help us revitalize our instrument collection:

• $300 will cover minor repairs to an instrument – bridge replacement, minor cracks, a bow re-hair.  
• $1,800 will cover major repairs to an instrument – major cracks, broken soundboard, fingerboard.  
• $19,000 would bring all 28 instruments to excellent condition.  
• $9,000 would purchase instruments to fill gaps in our collection.  

Can you help?  

If you would like to be Instrumental, you can:

- sponsor an instrument at $3,000, and your name will be on the instrument!  
- donate toward the purchase of an instrument at $2,000, and we will have it set into full working order.  
- purchase a bow at $500, and your name will be on the instrument!  
- purchase an instrument at $1,000, and your name will be on the instrument!  
- $500 or more will support our collection.

Please help us revitalize our instrument collection.  
Sponsor an instrument with a gift of $3,000, and the instrument will bear your name!

The Kanter Kallman Foundation, inspired by Project STEP’s 25th anniversary film, supports one accomplished musician for study. This year’s Kanter Kallman Scholar is Jordan Calixto, double bass. Jordan is in the 9th grade at Marblehead High School.

Ann Hobson Pilot’s retirement activities are well underway. Go to www.musicaljourney.org to read about the film she is making, and Project STEP’s role in it.