

Greenwood

NEWSLETTER



Zilchfest 2018 This fall marked the fourth and presumably annual “Zilchfest”. On the second weekend of September, twenty-four alums and friends, from their 20’s all the way up, descended upon the camp for a weekend of food, zilching and merriment. The level was pretty high this year. Highlights included the alums debut of the Schnitke Quartet, as well as Brahms, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Mozart, Dvorak, Shostakovich, and countless more. Because there were so many attendees we did read through Brandenburgs 4 and 5 one morning (group decision). The Zilchfest is a free-flowing and unstructured weekend of zilching, pot-luck dinner and fun. We hope everyone can come again next year. September 13-15, 2019 is the tentative date if you want to mark your calendars. Bring a friend!

In Memory of Oscar Zilch and other Greenwoodisms ...

I was thinking about Oscar Zilch. The events surrounding the first use of the name at Greenwood were related to me by an alumnus years ago and sadly I have forgotten them. Surely one of you knows, and will tell me when you read this. But at some point, someone (who?) etched into wood “In Memory of Oscar Zilch,” and the sign hung above the conductor’s head every morning in the old barn. When the new barn was constructed, Paul Rosenau and I intuited that it should be moved, and so move it we did, and concert-goers in passing might wonder what it means. I remember as a camper in the 1980’s noting the sign and accepting that it belonged just like the rusted and unexplainable garden equipment. To most it was there to remind us that the joke was on, because to “zilch” meant to sight-read: the term was Greenwood vernacular. So today on a whim, I googled “Oscar Zilch”. To my interest I found one post which states that in 1936, “Oscar Zilch” was a generic “joke name” of the era. There is one photo floating around of an injured WW1 soldier with the name inscribed on his cast.

There are other examples of timeless Greenwood terminology. Every summer at camp, my children beg for a little extra cash so they can walk down to “Woody’s.” As most of us know, “Woody’s” was the older term of the store before it became “The Cummington Creamery.” In the early 1900’s, the store was more of a large cooperative for the dairy farmers of Cummington. At its busiest, 145 dairy farms sold 20,000 pounds of butter there each month. After 1940, as refrigeration was widely introduced and a dairy cooperative was no longer needed, it was “Woody’s,” a filling station where you might also buy a bag of potato chips or a piece of chocolate. Then it was sold, and became “the Cummington Creamery”. In 1988 they added a sunny café area. In 2000 it was purchased again, and in 2012, after three years of fundraising, it became a co-operative of the town of Cummington. Over decades it has transformed from a massive butter operation into the popular bohemian road-stop where one might spy Rachel Maddow (or more likely Rodney Lister) sipping at a wheel-thrown mug brimming with organic coffee. But

Continued on Page 5

Senior Camp

We started out the summer with an intense heat wave during the first week (so unusual for July in Cummington), which didn't squash enthusiasm for fun or rehearsing. The first concert was astonishingly good, and made us wonder where we could go from there! Somehow each concert lived up to, or exceeded expectations created by the first. The faculty agreed that this was musically one of the best camps any of us could remember. Campers tackled all sorts of repertoire with extraordinary commitment and excitement. At the end of the first week, alumna Lea Pearson came and spent 3 days working with campers and staff to teach us all how to play without causing injury. She was terrific, and we all referred back to her advice frequently during the summer.

The faculty gave a record number of concerts, and everyone participated. Much fun was had preparing the 4th Brandenburg with the whole faculty performing. We heard the Chiara Quartet's REAL Final Concert (after the one at reunion). It was interesting later in the summer to see and hear each person following his/her own interests. In addition, alumna Lura Johnson treated us to a fascinating exploration of Preludes and Fugues by Bach and Shostakovich.

I am so grateful to the really outstanding counselors, who added so much musically, were extraordinarily responsible, and had such a wonderful camaraderie. They were particularly wonderful role models for the campers.

We had the good fortune of getting Missy Mazzoli to be our Composer-in-Residence. Although we did not commission a piece from her, "Sinfonia (for Orbiting Spheres)," is a terrific work, which really challenged the campers, and which they definitely enjoyed playing. Her complex, beautiful and difficult string quartet "Death Valley Junction" was also performed by campers at the chamber music concerts. Missy is a lovely person who became part of the fabric of the camp for the week she was with us. I was very pleased to see a long article about her in the New York Times Sunday Arts section a few weeks ago. The final orchestra concert also included new works by camper



Bram Fisher, faculty Jonah Sirota, as well as good old Beethoven's 6th Symphony.

In keeping with the excellence of all the musical endeavors, the chorus was particularly wonderful this summer, ending with a spirited final performance in the Cummington Church, of excerpts from Handel's "Israel in Egypt."

There were many signs of particularly good spirits: the first annual speed walking race (which was hysterical), spontaneous singing at meals, and a daily composer pun. When I cancelled the usual Charades night because we had run out of evening times, a bunch of campers organized a Sunday afternoon version. I loved the initiative! Of course we did play Murder, and had the usual rousing and hilarious Treasure Hunt.

All in all, an outstanding summer in every way!

Deb Sherr
Senior Camp Director

Junior Camp

“We have rain from the sky but sunshine in our hearts!” That was our saying for the first week of Junior Camp this year. We could have floated a raft on our usual playing field but the campers found joy in catching frogs in the puddles and becoming one with the mud! The sun did come out the second week and we were able to enjoy the pool, capture the flag, badminton, and lots of other frolicking. No matter the weather, the campers were happy just to be together.

One notable thing this year was how much the campers wanted to “zilch” (sight read chamber music) together when they had free time. When approached by a camper, often the question was, “Do we have the Dvorak American? Or the Borodin quartet? Or what can we zilch with this combination of instruments?” All these questions warmed my heart and made me realize that the main goal of the camp had been accomplished. So many campers want to play for fun!

The concerts varied from early Mozart to Shostakovich. Yaniv Segal (J91-92) was our conductor and took on the role with enthusiasm. Each Friday was “Scrambled Orchestra Day” where the campers sat with their stand partners but then had to be with different instruments in clusters of 4-6 players. This was a brilliant way to engage the Friday tiredness and help them to understand the need to listen while playing in an orchestra. As always, I loved seeing the parents’ faces when we had our Sing performance under the direction of Geoff Hudson (J79-



80, S81-83). We had a sea of tenors! All of the faculty coached masterfully and brought the best out of the campers. Some new literature was tackled that we hadn’t dared to do at Junior Camp before, which was very exciting.

The counselors organized the cow-themed treasure hunt, scavenger hunt, capture the flag, talent show, and acting improvisation, while joining the campers in some of the chamber ensembles.

We had an electronic music concert with violin faculty Clara Kim (S98, 01) and visiting composer Daniel Silliman. Clara and Daniel introduced the concert and suggested what to listen for and the campers were enthralled and very curious about the imagery. Questions galore! Other counselor and faculty musical treats consisted of Popper, Bartok, Brahms, Hindemith, and a camper favorite was the return of PDQ Bach night, organized by Russell O’Rourke (J0-03, S05-07). It was wonderful to watch the campers’ faces when Russell explained in his pre-concert lecture that PDQ was the 21st of Bach’s 20 children.

Campers often ask why Greenwood can’t be a year-round school, but I’m sure that everyone is happy back home. We hope that those of you who can come back will, and to those who have aged out we will think of you with sunshine in our hearts.

Debby Greenebaum
Junior Camp Director

Help save the Village Church!

Greenwooders for generations have spent Sundays playing and singing at the Village Congregational Church. The church is in some financial trouble, and could use our assistance. Please consider helping to preserve this cherished part of the Greenwood experience by donating to the church.

Their mailing address is: P.O. Box 76, Cummington MA 01026, and you can get in touch with them via cummingtonvillagechurch.org

Alumni News

Julian Kuerti (S89-93, CS97-99, FJ06, FS06, 08)

“Greenwood was one of the most amazing and transformative places for me, I wouldn’t be the musician or person I am now without my time spent there.”

The Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra announced that internationally renowned conductor Julian Kuerti has been appointed as its new Music Director. The 2018-2019 season will be Julian Kuerti’s inaugural season as Musical Director of the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, following his highly successful debut last season. Kuerti was chosen following a year-long search by a 12-member committee chaired by the KSO Board of Directors Chair, and comprised of musicians, board, and staff.

Julian combines a confident style, artistic integrity and a passion for collaboration to position himself at the forefront of the international music scene. Having been Principal Guest Conductor of the Orchestre Métropolitain de Montreal and Principal Conductor of the Orquesta Sinfónica Universidad de Concepción in Chile, he has made a reputation for himself both in the Americas and abroad.

Kensho Watanabe (J96-00, FJ2013-17)

There was a good reason Kensho could not conduct at Junior Camp in 2018. He was busy making his Japanese debut with Saito Kinen Orchestra. In 1984 Seiji Ozawa assembled his globally acclaimed fellow students to play a memorial concert for and thus The Saito Kinen Orchestra was born. Congratulations Kensho.

Forrest Eimold (S14-18)

“Now is as good a time as any to announce officially that I have just started my position as Music Scholar for Trinity Church, Wall Street! I’m beyond grateful to have received this opportunity to play with and write for their stunning music program, and to do so with such lovely



people, no less.

I’ll be inaugurating my time at Trinity by presenting a recital there on Oct. 5th at their St. Paul’s Chapel: it will feature U.S. premieres of pieces by Gerald Barry and Michael Finnissy, and a Northeast premiere of a piece by Judith Weir, as well as pieces by John Cage and William Bolcom. Come say hi to me—it’s free—or watch the livestream on their website (which will be viewable after the performance, too).”

Alumni Happy Hour in New York City



On a beautiful afternoon in May, a group of New York City young alumni came together for a rooftop happy hour hosted by Oliver (S99-04) and Isabel (J03-04, S05-09) Hagen. The group had a great time reconnecting and reminiscing about camp. Look out for a NYC alumni get-together coming later this year.

Upcoming Alumni Events

Make sure you check our website and Facebook page to find out about two house concerts we will be hosting in 2019. Up first will be a house concert in New York City in January, followed by a house concert in the Boston area sometime in the Spring. These are very popular and fill up fast so make your reservations when you first see the event.

Work Weekend

This fall 9 alums headed to Greenwood to move mattresses, tables and benches and debris plus take a couple of very old couches to the dump. The gardens were cleaned up and the one in front of the dining hall readied for next Spring's redesign. Besides all this, there was time for zilching! If you want to help Greenwood, get some fresh air and hard work plus play some music, email info@greenwoodmusiccamp.org to sign up for the next notice.



Greenwoodisms (continued from page 1)

at Greenwood, the kids still call it “Woody’s”.

Daily life at the camp? Some things have changed. The kids are wakened by “the bell.” The bell used to be a circular rusted metal object hanging from a rope which had to be mercilessly beaten with a crow-bar. Then in the 1980’s someone replaced it with the bell we have today. It leans awkwardly on a rock outside the new kitchen. The campers coalesce for breakfast. Then they have sing or orchestra (alternating days). Next they have coaching sessions, or they rehearse, or they practice. In

the old days I was sent to “La”, a spider-infested vertical coffin. Thank goodness that’s gone! Sometimes campers practice outside, by the old well. Then lunch, then an afternoon to play or sit on the wall and look at the view. Maybe a game of cards. Then dinner. In the gloaming there is a faculty concert or they play “murder” (my daughter was the murderer this year, and she almost got away with it...). Later before bed they have “kitchen” (Greenwood vernacular for an evening snack), and then in the warm length of the summer night they whisper under a bed of stars even after the counselor has told them they have to go to sleep. No doubt these are secrets we adults could never imagine.

And all of this is, exactly, as it always was. Just like us, each one of those campers is convinced that their summer is novel and amazing and unique. But we all experienced it the same way, just at different times. On Sundays, they still have free time.

Perhaps they will zilch, or maybe take a walk down to Woody’s.

Brian Alverson
Board Chair



Membership of the Oscar Zilch Society recognizes that the member has included Greenwood in the member's will or made Greenwood one of their beneficiaries of an IRA or 401(K). The gift is only made upon settlement of that member's estate and so it is an easy and painless way of ensuring that Greenwood will continue to benefit from the member's generosity. Please consider becoming a member of the Oscar Zilch Society, by making Greenwood aware of your decision concerning your will or IRA beneficiary designation.

Oscar Zilch Society Members:

Yorke Allen III, MD
Sally Robinson Bagg
Katharine Baker
Kristin Bergfeld
Susan P. Crawford
Catherine and Julian Demetriadi
Laurence Dreyfus
Patricia Smith Elvebak
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Estate of Elizabeth Mansfield
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Carey McIntosh
Kenneth McIntosh
Estate of John Noe
Estate of Emily Reading
Estate of Ted Rex
William Feinstein and Deborah Sherr
David S. Tartakoff
Richard West
Eleanor Winslow

Development

This summer, my parents surprised me by driving out to Cumington and attending the Greenwood reunion in June! My son loved seeing them, and my parents loved seeing Greenwood again, more than 25 years after my last final camp concert. They got to catch up with parents of other campers they'd known, and they enjoyed the Chiara Quartet's penultimate concert (while I had to put a cranky child to bed). Visiting the camp reminded them of what a large and important role Greenwood played in my adolescence (and does again now), and they have decided to put Greenwood in their will.



The grandfather of another camper also put Greenwood in his will, and upon his sad passing this year, the camp was the grateful recipient of a substantial sum of money. The funds will be used for a number of buildings and grounds projects, possibly including new faculty housing, adding solar panels to existing structures, and fixing the stone wall so that future generations can enjoy the beautiful view in front of the house without risk. Giving on an annual basis to Greenwood is a great way to show your continual support of the camp. Adding Greenwood to your will is a wonderful way to show your everlasting support. I encourage you to do both, if you can.

To make a donation to the annual fund, please send in your gift either by using the tear-off slip in this newsletter and mailing it in, or by going online to the Greenwood web site where you can donate by credit card. Go to www.greenwoodmusiccamp.org and click on the Support Greenwood button. To make Greenwood aware that you have put the camp in your will, please email info@greenwoodmusiccamp.org.

Sonia Klemperer-Johnson (J87, S88-S90)

Development Chai

Alumni 2018 Reunion



This year's reunion marked the end of an era: the Chiara quartet played some of its final notes, we celebrated the life of Joe Schaaf, and the Board announced the search for the next executive director. With all this change came some comfort of familiarity – reunion was truly as wonderful as it's ever been.

The orchestra, guest conducted by Daniel Brottman, welcomed all ages (0.5 to 80+). We read a smattering of works, from Beethoven to Grieg. And Becca Fischer and Jonah Sirota joined us for a delightful reading of Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante.

Bunny beautified the garden while David decimated some unwanted saplings. Ken cajoled us into singing, and we were glad he did – at Sing, we celebrated the life of Joe Schaaf with photos, memories, and singing his favorite songs. What better way to commemorate a Greenwood hero?

The centerpiece of the reunion was the Chiara quartet's concert on Saturday evening. From the first notes of Gabriela Lena Frank's "Leyendas," the audience knew this would be special: here was a quartet that grew up at Greenwood, presenting its final notes to a group of friends and loved ones. The Debussy quartet was fiery and exciting, but the Beethoven Op. 132 transcended all else. Through the last notes of the Heiliger Dankesang, a song of thanksgiving, eyes brimmed with gratitude for the music, for the community, for the magic of the place. If this wasn't perfect enough, the quartet performed in vintage Greenwood sweatshirts.

This was an unforgettable reunion, and we cannot wait until "camp" for alums next June! Mark your calendars for June 20-23, 2019 right now.

Jennifer Chang (J96-99, S00-03)
Chair of the Alumni Reunion



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