About Indian Hill Music

Making Music ... Creating Community

Now in its 35th year, Indian Hill Music is a thriving non-profit regional center for music education and performance located in picturesque Central Massachusetts. One of only a small group of non-profit organizations nationwide that encompasses a community music school, professional orchestra, and high-impact music philanthropy programs, Indian Hill Music serves 79 communities ranging from Greater Boston to Southern New Hampshire. We are motivated by the belief that music inspires both our hearts and our minds, encourages the growth and development of the “whole person,” and is integral to the lives of the individuals and communities we serve.

At the core of Indian Hill’s mission is a comprehensive and synergistic music education program serving a community of over 1,000 students of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds, where studying music, attending performances and lectures, participating in workshops, and performing with others are key components. Through the integration of the music school and the professional performance series, and a commitment to giving music to the community, the transformative power of music is fully realized.

The Music School provides lessons in 30+ instruments and voice for individuals of all ages, abilities, and musical interests, taught by a distinguished and experienced faculty of over 70 teaching artists with degrees from the world’s top conservatories. Private and group instruction in classical, contemporary, jazz, rock, pop, folk, traditional, Broadway, opera, and early music are offered, along with an extensive array of workshops and lectures, masterclasses with guest artists, and summer programs. Student performing ensembles include the Indian Hill Music Youth Orchestra, the New England Flute Orchestra of Indian Hill, and the Indian Hill Big Band, which provide students with high-quality training and opportunities to collaborate and share music in the community.

Indian Hill Music’s professional performance season is anchored by concerts of the 70-member Orchestra of Indian Hill, the region’s premier professional symphony orchestra, led by Artistic Director and Conductor, Bruce Hangen. We also present live performances by Grammy-nominated artists in our Headliners Series as well as other renowned guest artists in our faculty Chamber Music Series, Jazz Series, Roots Jams, and the acclaimed Kalliroscope Gallery Chamber series.
Dedicated to enriching the communities it serves, Indian Hill Music has developed strong and flourishing relationships through a full complement of outreach programming serving some 6,000 people. We provide over $100,000 in need-based scholarships and community outreach programs annually, including performances and educational programs for public schools in Ayer-Shirley and Fitchburg as well as our popular free Bach’s Lunch Concerts, a monthly series that regularly attracts hundreds of local seniors. Indian Hill also offers the Threshold Singers of Indian Hill Music, a complimentary service providing compassion and comfort through the ancient tradition of singing at the bedsides of people who are ill or at the end of life.

Indian Hill Music gratefully acknowledges the generosity of individuals, families, businesses, foundations, and government agencies that support our numerous programs.

Our History and Our Future

Indian Hill Music (formerly Indian Hill Arts) was created in 1985 to provide the best in music education and performance for the whole community. The center’s founders combined the music education programs developed by a local arts organization (Groton Center for the Arts) with the previously established Indian Hill Symphony. The music education programs grew into a full-fledged community music school, Indian Hill Music School.

Over the past 30+ years, Indian Hill Music has grown to become a major cultural institution in the region. In 1995, the National Endowment for the Arts selected the center as one of 30 organizations from across the country to participate in the Advancement Program for strategic planning. Our mission was clarified during the planning process and was vital in managing the phenomenal growth of the organization in the subsequent three years. In 2001, the center constructed and dedicated a 200-seat recital facility, Camilla Blackman Hall, completing a five-year, $3.5 million Capital Campaign called "Make Space for Music." The new space is used for our professional concerts, student recitals, ensembles, and special events.

In August 2015, Indian Hill Music publicly confirmed that it had purchased property in neighboring Groton and announced plans for a new music education and performance center. As a result of generous contributed revenue, the Indian Hill community is thrilled to move forward with an exciting new phase of the organization’s future and is currently in the construction phase of its new home, with potential plans for an expected move in fall 2022.