

A young girl with dark hair in two long braids is sitting in a red chair. She is wearing a white face mask with a colorful floral pattern and the word 'Sweet' written on it. She is holding and playing a light-colored wooden ukulele. She is wearing a blue t-shirt with a graphic design. The background is a plain wall. On the left side of the image, there are several overlapping blue geometric shapes.

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

indian hill  
**music**



LISA FIORENTINO, CEO



PETER ASHTON  
BOARD CO-CHAIR



SIMON JONES  
BOARD CO-CHAIR

## Greetings, Indian Hill Music Friends,

How to talk about 2020-21? It was a year filled with studying, playing, and experiencing all kinds of music, to be sure. But also a year of frustration, success, hope, lots of planning – then lots of revised planning! Through it all, you’ve been with us. Engaging in remote learning, participating in our virtual offerings and livestream concerts, bringing along friends and family, and generally being a steadfast and generous partner when we needed you most.

The year was also marked by a number of firsts. The first time Indian Hill Music produced a livestream concert (featured in this report is a story about our extraordinary staff who worked wonders to make that happen). The first time we offered early childhood classes in Spanish and in Mandarin. The first time we staged a parking lot sing-along with our youth chorus. And, sadly, it was the first time the beloved Orchestra of Indian Hill did not perform a single note. Indeed, how to talk about 2020-21?

As you know, we have been working to significantly grow our individual annual giving – that means increasing the amount we raise and the number of people who participate as donors. This year, thanks to all of you, we significantly exceeded our goal by \$140,362, including 86 new and reengaged donors, and \$168,640 in increased donations from current donors. You may be interested to know that our 82% annual donor retention rate is way above the 55% national average for established organizations. This indicates to us that you are not only generous individuals, but also that you trust Indian Hill Music to use your gifts wisely and prudently, year after year. Thank you for that supreme vote of confidence and support.

As you read this year in review, take note of the rays of optimism, gratitude, and joy that come through, despite a year that cannot be easily described. And note the hundreds of you who stepped up to invest in our vision for music to lead the way toward greater understanding, respect, and renewal. It’s all here.

*With deepest thanks,*

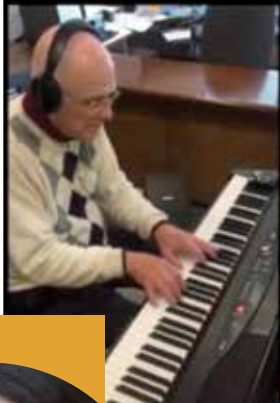
Lisa Fiorentino, CEO

Peter Ashton, Board co-chair

Simon Jones, Board co-chair

**“I AM HONORED TO BE PART OF SUCH A WONDERFUL, TALENTED AND INTELLIGENT GROUP OF ARTISTS, STAFF AND MUSIC LOVERS. YOU HAVE ALL PULLED TOGETHER DURING AN UNPRECEDENTED TIME IN OUR HISTORY.”**

– Susan Bonito, faculty



## INDIAN HILL MUSIC JAZZ LAB ENSEMBLE “AUTUMN LEAVES”

VIRTUAL WINTER RECITAL 2020

## Facing the Challenges of Performing Together While Apart



**Andrea Mejia, Faculty**  
***New Horizons Concert Band***

“This past year brought significant challenges and also a few silver linings. The concept of learning how to play an instrument online was something so extremely far-fetched, and somehow educators found a way to adapt their instruction to keep music alive. We were learning as we went; the days were long and sometimes extremely frustrating. We relied on our comforting and patient words, our screens, and the compassion in our hearts to push through the struggles and keep the connections we had with our students. I am proud of the work we did and what was accomplished. We have many successes to celebrate from a year that was so challenging for us all.”



“AS A SENIOR CITIZEN IN LOCK-DOWN MODE, I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE WEEKLY PACKAGE OF SMILES, LAUGHTER AND LEARNING DELIVERED BY MY PIANO TEACHER. THANK YOU.”

– Adult Student





• BEHIND THE SCENES

# Live from Indian Hill

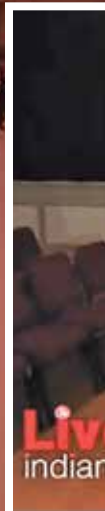
When concert venues were shuttered nationwide, we immediately began looking for ways to fill the void.

“Nothing compares to the energy of a live performance,” says Marketing and PR Manager, Jeff Moore.



**“IT WAS SO NICE TO BE BACK HEARING INDIAN HILL MUSIC AGAIN! ONE ADVANTAGE OF A STREAMED CONCERT...THE CLOSE-UP VIEWS.”**

– Attendee, *Live from Indian Hill*





LIVE FROM  
INDIAN HILL  
**580**  
households

## LIVE FROM INDIAN HILL GUEST ARTISTS

**MAEVE GILCHRIST** - OCTOBER 24, 2020

**ALBINO MBIE** - NOVEMBER 21, 2020

**MIKE BLOCK** - JANUARY 23, 2021

**ZAHILI GONAZLEZ ZAMORA DUO** -  
FEBRUARY 27, 2021

**TONY WATT AND LAURA ORSHAW** -  
MARCH 27, 2021

**ROBYN BOLLINGER** - APRIL 24, 2021

**ETHAN IVERSON** - MAY 22, 2021

“We discussed pre-recording performances but we wanted to make sure that it was live, that you were seeing it in the moment. There is something special about it that we wanted to capture.” And thus, *Live from Indian Hill* was launched – professional, world-class musicians performing in our hall to a remote audience, in real time.



Hosting a live-streamed event requires a fair amount of technical expertise to be done well, but this was mostly new to our staff. Jeff notes “I had a baseline knowledge I could expand upon, but it was definitely a learning experience for all involved. We tried out various set-ups to get it right, but the result was a high-quality experience that we are proud of. We enjoyed the challenge.” The custom set-up included multiple microphones and five cameras on-stage, along with hardware that combined the various audio and visual inputs and allowed Jeff to switch between them. But as he reminded us, even with extensive pre-event

**“IT WAS AMAZING! ETHAN [IVERSON]  
IS A NATIONAL TREASURE!”**

– Attendee, *Live from Indian Hill*

preparations, a live event is still a live event. “We had a few instances where I would have to change cameras so Pete Robbins [Director of Education and Non-Orchestral Performance Programming] could rush on stage and adjust something, but really we did a ton of work to make sure it was set up correctly and then a run-through with the artist to make sure it all sounded and looked good.”

There was an unexpected bonus to the live-stream format. Jeff recalled that, “We were able to give viewers some really cool up-close and personal shots that you can’t see if you are attending in person, such as clamping the camera right on the piano keys, or positioning it so you can see the finger work of a guitarist.” And then there was the bonus of being the one behind the controls. “In the hall, it was just the performers, Pete and me,” said Jeff. “It was like having a world-class performance to ourselves. Sometimes it would be a little melancholy at the end of the night. Ordinarily, there would have been a standing ovation for these performances but it was just Pete and me, clapping for them in an empty hall. It was times like that that things really hit you.”



## Balancing the Silence of the Pandemic with a Hopeful Voice

**Bruce Hangen, Artistic Director and Conductor**  
*Orchestra of Indian Hill (April 2021)*

“A year ago who would’ve thought we’d be missing an entire season of concerts, not to mention the couple of concerts from the previous year? Alas, here we are. But the end of this dry period is coming. I for one look forward to that time when we’re all together again, in the same room, making music.”

“To paraphrase a famous Leonard Bernstein quote: ‘This will be our reply to [the silence of the pandemic]: to make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before.’”

• APART BUT STILL TOGETHER

## VIRTUAL CONNECTIONS: The Orchestra of Indian Hill

MEET THE  
MUSICIANS  
2100  
viewers

Since we could not be together in the same space,  
we created three virtual series to bring the Orchestra to you.

### MEET THE MUSICIANS

**AMELIA HOLLANDER-AMES**  
CO-PRINCIPAL VIOLA

**YOUNG SOOK LEE**  
PRINCIPAL CELLO

**KEVIN ANN GREEN**  
PRINCIPAL BASS

**MICHAEL BELLOFATTO**  
PRINCIPAL HORN

**PETER CIRELLI**  
PRINCIPAL TROMBONE

**MICHAEL AMBROSZEWSKI**  
PRINCIPAL PERCUSSION

**ALICE HALLSTROM**  
CONCERTMASTER

**BONNIE ANDERSON**  
PRINCIPAL PIANIST

**HAZEL MALCOLMSON**  
PRINCIPAL BASSOON

**ROBB AISTRUP**, ASSISTANT  
PRINCIPAL CONTRABASS

**ONA JONAITYTE**  
PICCOLO AND FLUTE

**MARK EMERY**  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL TRUMPET

**DEBORAH FELD-FABISIEWICZ**  
PRINCIPAL HARP

“THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR CONCERT, BRUCE. ENJOYED IT IMMENSELY, AND IT PROVIDED MUCH-NEEDED RELIEF FROM THESE TRYING TIMES. HOPE YOU SEND MORE!”

– Barbara Stone, patron, Orchestra of Indian Hill *Inspired Ensembles*

INSPIRED  
ENSEMBLES  
3000  
listeners

### BRUCE’S PLAYLIST PODCAST

**JULY 2020:**  
“How Will it Ever End?”

**OCTOBER 2020:**  
“Let’s Make An Entrance”

**FEBRUARY 2021:**  
“Songs of My Youth”

**SEPTEMBER 2020:**  
“Great Tunes For All Time”

**DECEMBER 2020:**  
“’Tis the Season”

**APRIL 2021:**  
“Italy Mix”

BRUCE’S  
PLAYLIST  
765  
downloads

## MARK EMERY

### Assistant Principal Trumpet

"In the orchestra, there's so much going on – a tremendous amount of communication and negotiation happening – from body language, to breath, to the individual and collective energy while we're playing. It's about tapping into that larger dynamic.

"What the pandemic allowed me to do is relax and look inward. To look artistically at myself as a musician, as a player, and reflect on my motivations. I look forward to bringing that to this next – hopefully pandemic-free – chapter.



## "LOVED HEARING MY BRASS COLLEAGUES PLAY! THIS BRIGHTENED MY DAY. THANK YOU!"

– Laura Crook Brisson, horn, on Orchestra of Indian Hill Inspired Ensembles virtual performance

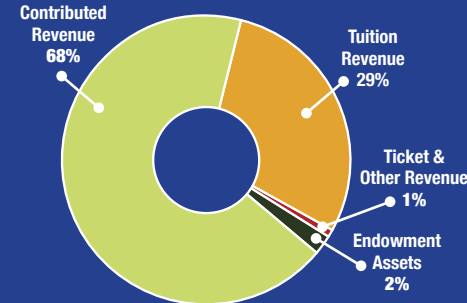
"What do I want to play in the new facility? To Bruce's great credit, this is the only orchestra I've been part of that has such a conscientious approach toward repertoire and that is interested in what musicians think. I can't wait to play the Bach *Magnificat* in there; can't wait to hear Stravinsky, the way his music moves and builds on layers;

and big brass ensembles by Gabrieli. In my heart, what I most look forward to is seeing my colleagues and Bruce. It's unbelievable what people put into their craft and to be around that, and such great soloists within our ranks, is what I miss most of all."

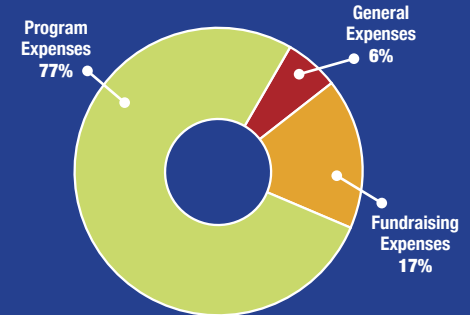
## Financial Results Fiscal Year 2021

Despite the pandemic, Indian Hill Music remains a strong, financially sound organization. We are a completely debt-free organization. While our earned revenue decreased somewhat due to the pandemic, our contributed revenue was strong thanks to the generosity of our community. We have \$25 million in investments and we are resuming our growth plan as we prepare for our move to Groton Hill Music Center in the fall of 2022.

### 2021 Operating Support & Revenue (Excludes Capital Support)



### 2021 Operating Expenses (Excludes Expenses Related to Construction)



Note that the charts illustrate operating activity only and exclude all activity related to construction of our new home. For additional information and our full financial statements, please contact Debra Gorfine at [debra@indianhillmusic.org](mailto:debra@indianhillmusic.org).

## INSPIRED ENSEMBLES

### A MUSICAL OFFERING

Alice Hallstrom, *Concertmaster*  
Amelia Hollander Ames,  
*Co-Principal Viola*  
Young Sook Lee, *Principal Cello*  
Kevin Green, *Principal Bass*

### MUSIC OF COLE PORTER

Mary-Lynne Bohn, *Principal Trumpet*  
Mark Emery, *Asst. Principal Trumpet*  
Michael Bellofatto, *Principal Horn*  
Alexei Doohovskoy, *Trombone*  
Michael Stephan, *Principal Tuba*

### MUSIC OF EDVARD GRIEG

Melissa Mielens, *Principal Flute*  
Nancy Dimock, *Principal Oboe*  
Sandra Halberstadt, *Clarinet*  
Michael Bellofatto, *Principal Horn*  
Hazel Malcolmson,  
*Principal Bassoon*

### MUSIC OF TCHAIKOVSKY, MUSSORGSKY, BIZET

Michael Ambroszewski,  
*Principal, Marimba*  
Aaron Trant, *Vibraphone*  
Greg Simonds, *Xylophone*  
Bill Manley, *Glockenspiel*

### MUSIC OF MOZART

Amelia Hollander Ames  
Peter Sulski  
*Co-Principal Violists*

### MUSIC OF CORELLI, BEETHOVEN

Angel Hernandez, *Violin*  
Caroline Reiner-Williams,  
*Indian Hill Music faculty cellist*

### MUSIC OF ARNE RUNNING

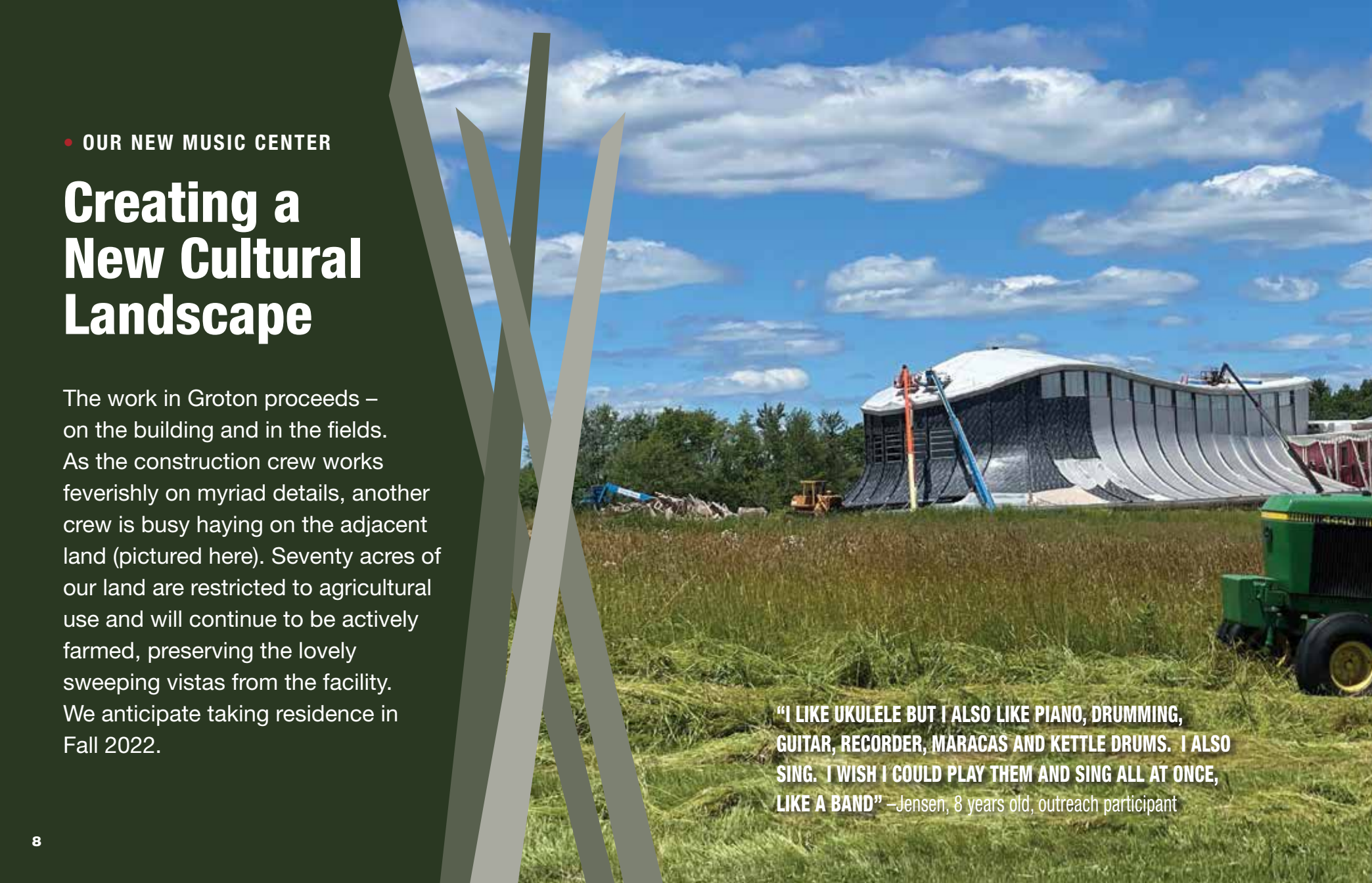
Nancy Dimock, *Principal Oboe*  
Jennifer Slowik, *English Horn*



• OUR NEW MUSIC CENTER

# Creating a New Cultural Landscape

The work in Groton proceeds – on the building and in the fields. As the construction crew works feverishly on myriad details, another crew is busy haying on the adjacent land (pictured here). Seventy acres of our land are restricted to agricultural use and will continue to be actively farmed, preserving the lovely sweeping vistas from the facility. We anticipate taking residence in Fall 2022.



**“I LIKE UKULELE BUT I ALSO LIKE PIANO, DRUMMING, GUITAR, RECORDER, MARACAS AND KETTLE DRUMS. I ALSO SING. I WISH I COULD PLAY THEM AND SING ALL AT ONCE, LIKE A BAND”** –Jensen, 8 years old, outreach participant



**“MUSIC GREATLY BENEFITS THE BRAIN, SOUL, AND ABILITY TO FOCUS AND DISCIPLINE ONE’S SELF. IT BRINGS A SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT AND OF PLEASURE LIKE NOTHING ELSE CAN. EVEN MORE IN A WORLD SURROUNDED BY CONSTANT TECHNOLOGY AND ISOLATION FROM HISTORY AND ART, MUSIC IS CRUCIAL FOR DEVELOPING GROUNDED CHILDREN.”**

– Parent, scholarship student



We are thrilled to announce that the current Littleton-based Indian Hill Music will become Groton Hill Music Center when we move next year. The Orchestra of Indian Hill, led by acclaimed conductor and music director Bruce Hangen, will complete its 47th season in Littleton, and kick off the 2022-23 season in its new Groton home, also under a new name soon to be announced.





# Adapting to New Technologies to Connect in New Ways

## Rob Woodin, Faculty - Voice

“Transitioning to online teaching was certainly a hurdle, but one we traversed with growing ease as we worked through that difficulty together. Both teachers and students quickly adapted to new technology, new challenges, and new ways of connecting, teaching, learning and growing.

“The voice faculty and administration worked together to find a way to create a live online performance opportunity for the students. There were some unexpected silver linings...sharing our music with more people outside Indian Hill Music’s community was exciting, and great for the students to invite friends and family, who wouldn’t have otherwise been able to attend the recital. I’m so proud of what we accomplished, and overjoyed at the growth exhibited by our students.”



COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER, FITCHBURG:

**12** PERFORMANCES  
**1200** LISTENERS



### BACH'S LUNCH ON THE ROAD:

# 6 PERFORMANCES reach 210 SENIOR CITIZENS

#### OCTOBER 2020

**Dave Fox Trio**  
Concord Park  
Concord MA  
Bridges by Epoch  
Westford, MA

#### MAY 2021

**Indian Hill String Trio**  
Concord Park  
Concord MA  
Edgewood  
North Andover MA

#### JUNE 2021

**Indian Hill String Trio**  
RiverCourt Residences  
Groton, MA  
The Huntington  
Nashua, NH



## Generating the Energy of Live Performance While Remote

### Laurel Martin, Faculty - Irish Fiddle

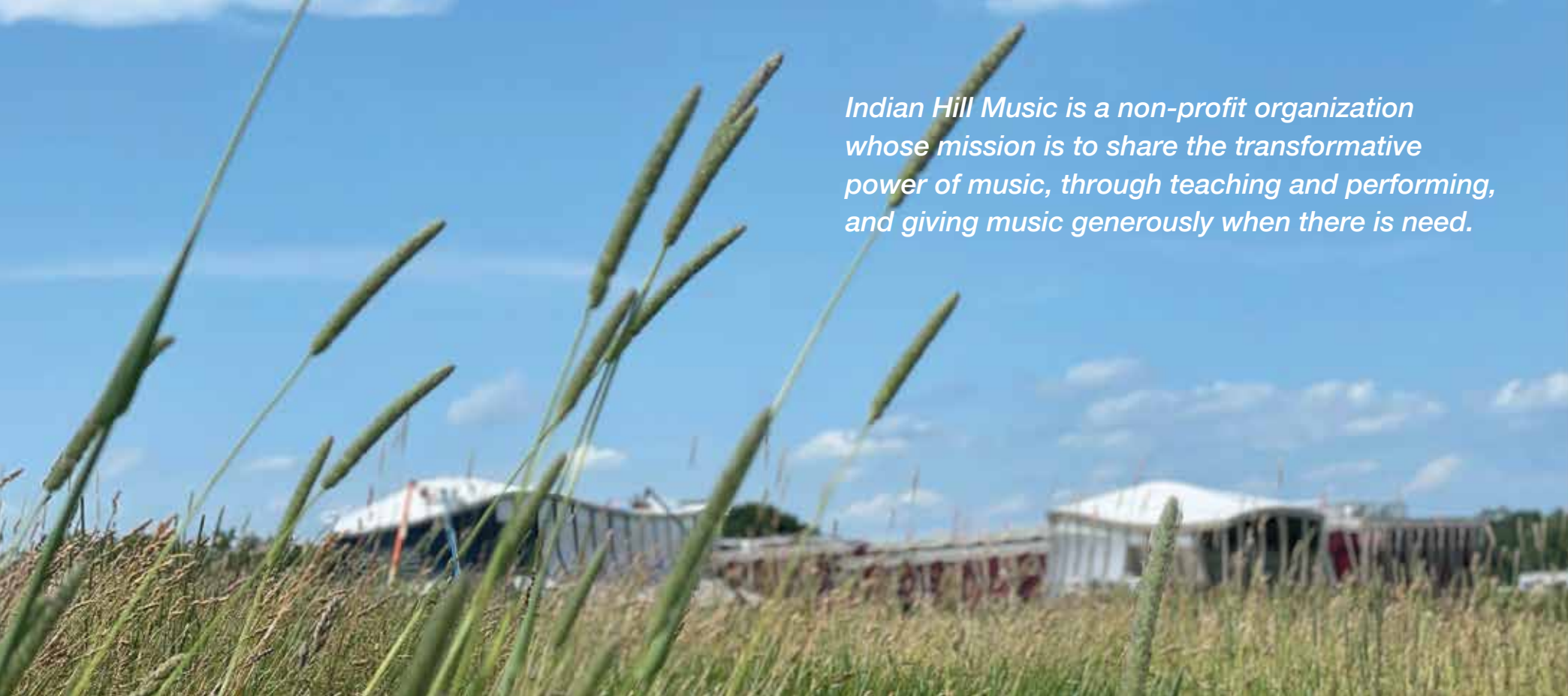


“The early months of the pandemic were terribly isolating, and I was so grateful for the connections I was able to make each week with my students via Zoom. It was such a comfort to know that they were all still there, that they were all right, and that I could continue to encourage them in their musical journeys. If there was a gift in all of it for me, it was that the crisis highlighted how much I love what I do, and what a bright light music is for me and for those whom I teach.”

**“THANK YOU FOR TEACHING ME AND HELPING ME WORK THROUGH HARD SONGS. I’M GRATEFUL FOR STILL HAVING PIANO LESSONS WITH YOU AT HOME.” – Student**







*Indian Hill Music is a non-profit organization whose mission is to share the transformative power of music, through teaching and performing, and giving music generously when there is need.*

indian hill  
**music**

36 King Street, PO Box 1484  
Littleton, MA 01460  
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