Dear Friends,

The publication of IU Music signals that we’re at the end of the school year—and the end of my presidency of the Friends of Music. We spent much of my last board meeting on April 26 reviewing our accomplishments and discussing what’s still to be done.

Financially, we were able to raise our scholarship pledge to the Jacobs School this year to $420,000, and our endowments have now climbed to over $4.79 million. We’ve also enjoyed various Friends of Music events together, which are both social gatherings and fundraisers for the Friends’ scholarships.

Traditionally, we open the season with the Fall Gala. In 2011, we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Musical Arts Center and the 100th anniversary of the Jacobs School. Last fall, we called on Kevin Murphy, director of music administration for IU Opera Theater, to give us an overview of the upcoming opera season, and board member Kathy Anderson to highlight the ballet program. Both events gave us an insider’s view of the school—and the scholarship donations exceeded our goals!

The Travel Grant Competition celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2012. Helen Butler chaired a very special celebration with Travel Grant founder Mark McAlister present; and Ruth Albright and Judy Schroeder compiled a booklet covering the 20-year history of the grant. After this “best ever” event in 2012, we were all disappointed to cancel the 2013 competition, but we’re already gearing up for early March 2014, with the preliminary judging to be accomplished using students’ uploaded audition videos. We hope this new format will carry us through the next 20 years, at least!

For the first time in many years, we brought together donors and students who received their named scholarships. In March 2013, we held Spring Fest, an indoor picnic in the Musical Arts Center, with Lenny and Lou Newman (see p. 67) providing lively accordion-piano entertainment as groups assembled. How rewarding it was for donors to meet their students personally!

We look for opportunities each year to give a special thanks to the Friends of Music members who make our scholarship donations possible. On April 17, we held a reception funded by the Friends before the performance of Verdi’s Requiem.

My thanks extend to the hard-working members of the board of the Friends of Music, with a special thanks to the Executive Committee—Ruth Albright, Henry Upper, George Korinek, Laurie Burns McRobbie, and Murray Robinson—for their wisdom and guidance. And we simply couldn’t operate without the top-functioning team from the Jacobs School Development Office—our special “go-to” person Brittany D. Friesner, Development Assistant Annie Walters, and Development Director Melissa Korzec Dickson—and of course, Dean Gwyn Richards and Associate Dean Eugene O’Brien.

What about next year? We’re in great hands! On July 1, Murray Robinson, our long-term treasurer, will become president of the Friends of Music. Many of you know Murray and his wife, Sue, who retired to Bloomington, where they met as students. Murray’s undergraduate and M.B.A. degrees are from IU, and his career in agribusiness companies—in marketing, as chief financial operator, and as CEO—took him around the country. I’d consider his illustrious career to be mere training for his retirement “jobs” in Bloomington—treasurer of three organizations: Trinity Episcopal Church, the National Society of Arts and Letters, and the Friends of Music—and now president of the Friends! The board “tapped” Murray as president-designate a year ago so he could transition from treasurer to president, which gave us the opportunity to work as a team this year. His leadership skills are obvious, and I’ve come to appreciate his wisdom, his kindness, and his unwavering dedication to the Friends of Music.

Jo Ellen Ham, President
For Louise and Leonard Newman, the love of music struck at a young age and has played a major role in their lives and the lives of many people in Bloomington, Ind.—the town they have chosen to retire in. Whether they are attending an orchestra concert or playing their music for residents of local retirement communities, they are sharing their love of music with others.

They are such avid fans of Jacobs School of Music events that Dean Gwyn Richards recently joked that Lou and Lenny attend more music school events than he does. And that could be true. Look around you, and you will likely spot the Newmans almost everywhere there is beautiful music to be heard.

And when they attend, they don’t just sit there and enjoy the music. They interact with the people around them. They get to know the student musicians attending events. They know so many young musicians that by the end of the semester, when students are playing their required recitals, Lou and Lenny sometimes attend as many as five student recitals a day.

Their support for young music students does not stop there. They are also longtime members of the Society of the Friends of Music, through their involvement, they help raise scholarship money for Jacobs School students. They have even established their own endowed scholarship fund in memory of their parents, who encouraged them as youngsters to love music. They thoroughly enjoy getting to know the young recipients of those scholarships and continue to follow their careers long after the students have left Bloomington.

Where did this love of music begin? For Lou, she was walking home from school one day when she was five or six and heard a pretty little song. When she got home, she sat down at the family’s old piano and tried to pick out the notes, even though she had never played the piano before. Somehow, she figured it out, and that was the start of her piano career.

At the age of four, Lenny asked his parents for an accordion, which was a very popular instrument when he was growing up. He says it’s probably lucky that his parents held off from buying the accordion until he was nine because he probably would have started playing at six and given it up at seven. His teacher was a man who played the cello and the organ but had never held an accordion until he started teaching Lenny. So they learned together.

Music even played a big role in Lou and Lenny’s romance. Through mutual friends and relatives, Lenny had gotten to know everyone in Lou’s family except for her, and, time after time, people had told him he just had to meet Lou. He was studying in St. Louis and called Lou and suggested that it was time for them to meet, so on the way home from the University of Wisconsin, she stopped in St. Louis to visit cousins and meet Lenny. During that first meeting, Lenny sat down at the piano and played the notes for “Back Home Again,” and Lou pushed him over and played “in Indiana.”

That night he told his mother he had met the girl he was going to marry, and three days later, they were engaged.

“He figured that a girl who grew up in Missouri, graduated from high school in Tennessee, and knew ‘Back Home Again in Indiana’ couldn’t be all that bad,” Lou jokes. And it has been a wonderful 62 years together. For 40 of those years, they lived in Jasper, Ind., and raised five children. They were involved in several businesses, including a jewelry store.

“We didn’t play a lot when we lived in Jasper,” Lou says. “We were too busy running our businesses. Lenny was teaching economics at Vincennes University, and I was trying to keep five kids on the straight and narrow.”

Lenny points out, however, that the whole time they lived in Jasper, they would manage to come up to Bloomington once a week for a symphony or an opera performance.

“That was just part of our lives and part of how we built our friendships,” he explains. Eventually the commuting got old, and they bought a condo at the Pointe and later a house on the north side of town. They came “in easy stages” until they moved to Bloomington permanently in 1990.

They weren’t in town two weeks before they were asked to be on the board of directors of...
Dear Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Newman,

I would like to start off by saying that people like you made my dream of attending the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music possible. Without your incredible generosity, I would not be sitting in an IU residence hall at this very moment. I am incredibly grateful and amazed by your kindness and support for Jacobs School students.

My name is Libby Abbott. I am currently a freshman at Jacobs studying oboe performance with Professor Linda Strommen. My hometown is Richmond, Va., and that is where I began my journey with music.

The summer before my senior year of high school, I attended an Interlochen summer program and worked with Professor Strommen. Being amazed with her knowledge and passion for music, I decided to apply to IU.

After going through the application and audition processes, I was accepted and awarded enough scholarship to make IU affordable for my family.

I have two older brothers and a twin brother who is also currently a freshman at a music conservatory studying music performance. Our family would be unable to afford two young adults attending conservatories at the same time. This is why your generous donation means so much to me and my family.

Being able to attend the Jacobs School of Music has been a dream come true. The faculty is top notch, and I have received really unique and exciting opportunities while I’ve been here.

So far, I have performed on oboe and English horn in two concerts with the Symphonic Band. Playing in the Musical Arts Center was an amazing experience and one that I will always hold close to my heart.

I want to express my deep appreciation for your selfless donation to students like me. I pray that you never forget just how grateful we all are for your generosity. It is you who enable our dreams to become reality.

Thank you again for your amazing gift.

Libby Abbott

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the Friends of Music. They were on the board just a few weeks when they were asked by Vera O’Lessker to be her co-chairs on a committee to sell Mario Cristini’s artwork to raise funds to establish endowed scholarships for IU music students through the Friends. (Cristini was an opera theater designer at IU until his death in 1970.)

“We had to get two professional appraisals,” Lenny says. “Both appraisers said we could probably bring in about $10,000. I said we would bring in $75,000, and we actually took in $97,000. We worked day and night on that project for almost three years—every day.”

Both feel it was worth the effort because of the generous scholarships it has provided and will continue to provide for Jacobs students. Lou later went on to serve two terms as president of the Friends of Music.

Through one of the Newmans’ “random acts of kindness” in their community, the Friends received a sizable gift from a Bloomington resident to whom they delivered Meals on Wheels. Lenny took her lunch in one day and happened to spot a harp in the corner. He asked if she played, and when she said yes, he asked if she went to music performances in town. She said she wasn’t able to get out and attend, and Lenny offered to pick her up any time so that she could accompany them to performances. He also talked to her about becoming a member of the Friends of Music and helping young music students. Unfortunately, they lost track of her when her name was removed from their delivery list.

A few months later, they got a call from Dean Richards, saying that she had left more than $600,000 to the Friends of Music. Lenny’s random act of kindness and the donor’s overwhelming generosity provided scholarships for dozens of young musicians—and will continue to do so in perpetuity.

The Newmans’ outreach to their community includes playing regularly at all the retirement homes in Bloomington, both for independent residents and residents who are in the health pavilions. They especially enjoy playing for the patients with Alzheimer’s disease.

“When we play for the Alzheimer’s patients, we see them mouthing the words to the songs when they don’t even know their children’s names. It is astounding. There is a place in the brain that never forgets those old songs,” Lou says.

Perhaps that goes along with Lenny’s feeling that an important element of music is that it makes people peaceful. “Music lends an air of peace that no other factor in our lives is capable of,” he says. And both feel that it would be very difficult to live without music.

With their dedication to attending musical performances, getting to know musicians, and taking their own music to seniors in the community, there’s not much chance they will ever have to find out.
Friends, Students, Residents Celebrate at Meadowood

On Feb. 19, 2013, the Friends of Music and Meadowood Retirement Community welcomed Jacobs School Friends of Music scholarship students and Friends of Music Meadowood residents for dinner and a celebratory recital.

Jacobs Dean Gwyn Richards introduced the evening’s program, thanking Meadowood and its Friends of Music residents for all they do to support the school.

Since 1997, Meadowood has pledged its support through the Meadowood Retirement Community Friends of Music Guarantor Scholarship. In addition, several residents have established endowed Jacobs School scholarships through their own generosity, benefiting scores of students.

Jacobs students Margaret Chun, Andrew Lunsford, Jeremy Reger, Jason Duika, and Mai Mizuno gave moving performances, including works by Scarlatti, Verdi, and Haydn.

1. Friends of Music board member Ruth Albright (left) dines with Cathy Diersing and Larry Diersing, Meadowood executive director.
2. From left: Jeremy Reger, Mai Mizuno, Jason Duika, Andrew Lunsford, and Margaret Chun performed for Meadowood residents.
3. Friends of Music Meadowood residents enjoy a delicious dinner preceding the evening’s concert.
The Society of the Friends of Music Donors

The mission of the Society of the Friends of Music is to raise scholarship funds for deserving, talented students at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. The society was established in 1964 by a small group led by Herman B Wells and Wilfred C. Bain. We are pleased to acknowledge outright gifts made between Jan. 1, 2012, and Dec. 31, 2012.

**Endowed Gift Funds**
- Friends of Music David Albright Memorial Scholarship
- The Robert Barker Scholarship in Honor of Patsy Fell-Barker
- Thomas J. Beddow & Joseph W. Nordloh Memorial Scholarship
- Alan P. Bell Memorial Friends of Music Scholarship
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- Marvin Carmack Music Scholarship
- Anita Hursh Cast Friends of Music Scholarship
- Cristina Friends of Music Scholarship
- The Patsy Earles Friends of Music Scholarship
- Robert A. Edwards Friends of Music Scholarship
- The Patsy Fell-Barker Scholarship in Honor of My Family
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- Mr. and Mrs. Jake Shainberg & Mr. and Mrs. David Newman Scholarship
- Ruth E. Thompson Friends of Music Scholarship
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- Regina Dean, in honor of David H. Jacobs
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- Susie J. Dewey, in memory of Robert Hastings Dewey
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