

THE SPIRIT OF KINHAVEN

WINTER 2017

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ANOTHER EXTRAORDINARY SENIOR SESSION

We had another extraordinary Senior Session this year. The highlight for me was the Jerry Bidlack Benefit Concert, where over 100 guests reflected on Jerry's legacy with moving testimonials, a video (bit.ly/2j1aTSA), and student, staff, and faculty performances. Board member Jeri Gerold did an amazing job organizing this event. And Jerry's children – Robert, Douglas, Molly, Meredith, and Alison – honored us with their attendance.

We inaugurated an extension to the dining hall, almost doubling its size. Now all 135 faculty, staff, and students dine together! The addition was enabled by generous gifts from the EHA foundation, the Vermont Country Store, the Bay & Paul Foundations, and individual donors.

Eric Bartlett (cello) from the New York Philharmonic, and Michelle Baker (French horn) and Anton Rist (clarinet), both from the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, led a remarkable series of master classes. After every class, the conversations centered around the inspiring words these artists shared with us and the excitement to try out some of the new concepts – which is exactly why we organize these events.

We also had Joseph Encinia, creator of Yoga Youth Movement, lead the students in an afternoon of yoga. The concert hall was filled with 50 new yoga mats and 50 eager yogis! A huge thank you to Adam Grabois for organizing this.



Photos by Rob Aft

Our five-week faculty concert series had record audiences. The repertoire included a range of composers – including our own composer-in-residence Nicholas Scherzinger. And we had four guest conductors for the six-week program leading the symphonic and chamber orchestras. Simon Lipskar conducted Symphony No. 10 by Shostakovich, followed by Adria Benjamin, who led the orchestra in Prokofiev's Romeo and Juliet. David Buck conducted two movements of the Rachmaninoff Symphony No. 2, and Tito Muñoz conducted Stravinsky's Rite of Spring.

We enjoyed wonderful, locally sourced meals prepared by Chef Hugo Fuentes, who also helped students bake loaves of banana bread to donate to the Londonderry, Vermont, food pantry.

Of course we had another riotous regatta (with t-shirt silk-screening led by Kate Davison), Wally Wampus silliness, staff vs student softball, butterscotch brownies, hill-sitting, story nights, and folk dancing, all led by Libby Miles Sapadin and the activities staff.

All in all an amazing summer. I can't wait to do it all again next year!

DEBBIE BUCK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STAY IN TOUCH

We love hearing from you – send your news and photos to news@kinhaven.org.

Check out the fascinating profiles of current and past faculty, students, and guest conductors on the Kinhaven blog (www.kinhaven.org/blog).

We recently profiled **Vytas Baksys**, **Emma Dennis-Knieriem**, **Carolyn Wahl**, **Blair Goins**, and **Susan Nisbett** and **Barbara Sherman**, and all our guest conductors for 2017.

If you would like to be profiled on the blog, contact us at news@kinhaven.org.

You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram at **KinhavenMusic**.

JUNIOR SESSION A BLEND OF OLD AND NEW

Junior Session was a fantastic blend of old and new! We had more first-time student than any other year except 1990, when Junior Session began. Led by the activities staff, the students eagerly embraced the time-honored traditions of folk dancing, cabin inspection, creek walk, tie dying, Pilfer the Plunger, walks to Weston, and butterscotch brownies.



Photo by Martin Jacobs

Of course, they also found time for some fabulous music making, including performances of the first movement of Beethoven's Symphony No. 1, Mozart's Overture to Don Giovanni, Meyer's Bailes para Orquestra, and Benjamin Britten's Frolicsome Finale from his Simple Symphony. The wind ensemble performed the second and third movements of Jacob's Old Wine in New Bottles, and the Brass Choir played Hassler's Canzon Noni Toni as well as a wonderful transcription of a Bach prelude and chorale.

Food is an important aspect of the Kinhaven experience, and our caring and creative cooks kept the entire camp well fed with delicious homemade breads, lots of local fresh produce, and a varied menu to suit even the fussiest eaters.

There were many wonderful moments during our two weeks of glorious August weather. Although the solar eclipse wasn't dramatic in our area, there was a lot of interest among students (and concerned parents). Students safely viewed the eclipse with the proper glasses and supervision.

Two highlights of the Friday-night faculty performances included the entire string faculty (complete with potwashers!) performing the first movement of the Mendelssohn Octet in a concert dedicated to Jerry Bidlack. There last movement of Schubert's Trout Quintet by Junior Session was performed by four staffers who first played the piece in 2003 as campers, along with their then coach, now a colleague, violist Kathleen Foster. It was moving to see how these young musicians have embraced the ideals of their Kinhaven experience and are passing those teachings on to the next generation.



Photo by Martin Jacobs

While the high points are far too many to list, but at the top would be our wonderful student body and fantastic staff. We've already begun the countdown to Junior Session 2018!

MARTY KNIERIEM & SANDY DENNIS, DIRECTORS

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD TRUSTEES



HEATHER TAYLOR (oboe, '82-'83) is principal oboist with the Hartford Symphony and teaches young oboe students. She will never forget the joy she felt the day she received the call from Nancy Bidlack offering a full scholarship to Kinhaven for her senior year. Heather joins the Board of Trustees to perpetuate the joy of Kinhaven for current and future generations.



KARL GROHMANN (bassoon, Jr '90-'92; Sr 93-94, 96) says his whole life was immensely changed from the moment he stepped on campus. He shares his memories of Kinhaven often, including "dancing, singing, eating fresh baked bread, learning about other cultures, new music, and a glimpse into other people's lives." Karl teaches music theory and ensembles at St. Sebastian's School and Ursuline Academy in Massachusetts. His compositions have been performed internationally at festivals and universities and featured in short films. Karl will support the board's efforts in fundraising, communications, and the growth of new programs.

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