



# Crowden

*With your support, music changes everything!*

July 2020

Dear Crowden Friend,

**We've missed you.**

Our campus has been closed to students for nearly five months, and we anticipate that the road toward reopening will be a multi-tiered plan, unfolding over the course of the next several months. You may be wondering how this extended closure has been affecting us at Crowden. Here are a few of the ways we have been impacted:

**The Crowden School students** spent the final quarter of the school year adapting to online instruction, and students have had no opportunity to physically connect with their peers, either for study or for ensemble practice. **Music lessons**, in all ways possible, have been channeled to online instruction as well. Ensemble programs, of course, are hindered. **Summer programs** have been delayed or cancelled, as we continue to monitor the potential for reopening in appropriate stages. We have issued refunds for those who had pre-enrolled, for all who requested them. This was the right thing to do to support our community, but was not part of our normal budget or monthly cash flow calculations. **Our biennial Gala has been postponed:** The postponement of our largest fundraising effort and the cancellation of many of our summer programs has left us with a deficit of more than \$350,000 this year.

Crowden cares very deeply for the faculty and staff who share their talents with our community year in and year out. We have committed to our employees that we will pay them for as long as possible before beginning to reduce their hours and introduce temporary furloughs, as necessary. I am proud to report that we have kept this commitment to caring for our team, and I am determined to protect their jobs in every way I can.

Additionally, there are numerous requirements involved to ensure the safety of our students as we reopen Crowden's campus in the weeks to come. Protective gear and handwashing stations, redesigned classroom spaces, improved internet connectivity for continued offsite learning options, and many more upgrades will add significantly to the cost of bringing our in-person services back safely. These are all losses and expenses that could not have been predicted six months ago, but must be factored into our budget now. Today, more than ever, we need your help to keep Crowden open, vital, and connected. We know that this community is committed to keeping our unique home for music study and appreciation thriving.

**A small group of supporters have joined together to lead the way for a recovery from these setbacks.** Thanks to these extraordinary benefactors, we have exciting news for you:

Crowden has been offered a \$175,000 challenge gift to help bolster our funds for the coming fiscal year! These challengers will match all donations within the next three months, up to \$175,000, in order to help us secure a total of \$350,000.

**Between now and September 30, every donation will be matched, up to \$175,000.**

This means that your donation will have DOUBLE the impact during this challenge event, and with your support Crowden will receive up to \$350,000 by meeting this challenge. Help us to take full advantage of this outstanding opportunity by making a gift, or pledging a gift, before our deadline on September 30.

**Will you make a significant gift today to help ensure that our faculty and staff members are sustained, and that Crowden has the funds needed to adjust to our new reality safely and responsibly?**

I recognize that you may already have given in some capacity this year, and that you may plan to give again next year. If this is the case, I ask you to consider making next year's gift now, when we need it most.

We believe that this is a temporary but critical setback for us. Our ability to invest in sound safety protocols now will determine how successful the next several seasons will be.

**Your support now will help to ensure that we are able to return with full strength when these closures are lifted. By helping us to meet this exciting goal, you will play a significant part in sustaining our shared community.**

We are being challenged at levels never before seen, but I remain confident in our ability to respond with creativity and a shared commitment to Crowden's mission and to one another. Please stay healthy and safe, and thank you for making this organization so great.

Sincerely,



Doris Fukawa

*Executive and Artistic Director*