



*Music Changes  
Everything*



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# Community Music Day

**Saturday, November 28, 10am to 12pm**

★ Featuring **Very First Concerts** with the **San Francisco Chamber Orchestra** and much more!

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# *the* Crowden Letter

THE CROWDEN MUSIC CENTER | 1475 ROSE STREET BERKELEY CA 94702-1255 | WWW.CROWDEN.ORG



## Crowden Reopens Campus, Cautiously

Music is filling our classrooms and hallways again, as we carefully reopen our campus in a limited capacity.

After months of remote learning only, Crowden has opened its doors to students and faculty—if not the general public—once more. “Crowden prioritizes the health and safety of our community members above all else,” states Artistic and Executive Director Doris Fukawa. “We also recognize the value of in-person

instruction, particularly for our beginning instrumentalists and younger learners. And we have sorely missed seeing our students in person, and hearing music in our halls. We have coordinated closely with the City of Berkeley and Alameda County health departments in order to begin on-campus activities, but our reopening is only possible because of the tremendous efforts of our faculty and staff. In particular, our Reopening Task Force team spent all spring and summer planning countless safety protocols, for multiple different contingencies, in ever-changing waters—all on top of their usual teaching and administrative

duties. We are tired, but it has been worth it to be able to make music together again.”

This summer, the California Department of Public Health announced guidelines allowing youth enrichment activities to meet in person, provided a long list of protocols and planning were met. This has allowed us to open our campus to youth ensembles again. We piloted Crowden’s COVID-19 Response protocols in July, with our beloved summer Chamber Music Workshop for Youth. Program Director Eugene Sor had to re-envision the workshop with his faculty and participating students: expanding it from two to three weeks to meet government guidelines for cohorts, balancing an elaborate

*...continued on pages 4-5*

## Newsflashes

### Board Update

Crowden's Board of Trustees welcomed new member **DORIS CHEN** this fall, while saying goodbye and thank you to longtime Board member and Crowden School alumna **TRACY DOOLEY** ('95). "Tracy brought great enthusiasm and energy as a school alumna to the Board," comments Doris Fukawa. "I thank her for her tremendous service, and hope you will join me in welcoming Doris into our Crowden community." ♪

### Our New Third Grade

We were extremely excited to welcome our first ever third grade class to The Crowden School this fall! Nine students have joined our inaugural class, which is taught by beloved longtime faculty member Heidi Mattson. Ms. Mattson is also continuing in her roles as fourth grade core teacher and the school's Assistant Principal. She spoke to our new third grade families in her Back-to-School Night video: "They are amazing, thank you so much! They are excited, they are enthusiastic, they have a lot of energy, they have great ideas, they want to share their

thoughts, they are a wonderful class... I feel very fortunate to be able to work with them."

The Crowden School is now accepting applications for the 2021-22 school year! To learn more, contact Admissions Manager Anette Skloot at [admissions@crowden.org](mailto:admissions@crowden.org). ♪

### Strategic Planning

Way back last fall—it seems a lifetime ago since shelter-in-place—Crowden embarked on a strategic planning process. Many of you participated in one of our audience surveys, focus groups, or individual interviews to help Crowden chart its goals and priorities for the next several years. In January, a large group of Crowden stakeholders met to discuss the results of that process, and to identify eight key goals for Crowden's future: Faculty and Staff Plan; Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; Expansion of Offerings; Facilities; School Environment; Student Recruitment; Financial Sustainability; and Leadership Succession. Although the pandemic delayed our time line, the strategic planning process has continued in earnest, with task forces for each goal meeting to establish strategies and measurable benchmarks. Faculty and staff met this October to discuss a preliminary draft of Crowden's mission, values, and the eight key goals that we identified during the process. The strategic plan

is currently under discussion by the Board of Trustees, and we will be unveiling results in the coming months. ♪

### Recovery Challenge Match

Crowden wishes to thank the three anonymous donors who together provided \$175,000 in challenge match funds to support our recovery through the summer, and into the fall semester.

We challenged our community to help raise \$175,000 to be matched by this fund between July 1 and September 30, and we were overwhelmed by your response.

As of October 1, the Crowden community not only met our goal for this match challenge, but **SURPASSED** it: the total giving came to \$226,500!

This means that Crowden has received the full match of \$175,000 for a combined total of \$401,500 of funding that is vital to the success of Crowden's continued survival.

Crowden still has a long way to go towards reaching our year-long fundraising goals, but the success of this challenge match has helped to ensure that our doors will remain open, whenever possible, and that our staff will feel secure in their paid positions and in the safety measures we are able to provide here on campus. ♪

## Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion at Crowden

As mentioned above, back in January Crowden identified improving Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion as one of our top organizational priorities. We are proud that our wonderful community is unusually diverse for a classical music organization, but we also recognize that we have significant work to do as an institution, particularly given the structural and institutional racism so deeply intertwined with

classical music, and the accessibility barriers inherent to instrumental study. As we move forward with our strategic plan, **we want to hear from our community members who identify as Black, Indigenous, Brown, Latinx, LG-BTQ+, a person of color, or a member of a marginalized community. Please share your personal experiences at Crowden**, so that we can better identify our successes and failures as we implement our plans to improve Crowden's

practices and culture. You can email your perspectives directly to our Artistic and Executive Director, Doris Fukawa, at [dorisfukawa@crowden.org](mailto:dorisfukawa@crowden.org). Many of you have already expressed interest in helping us plan and implement our EDI strategies—and quite a few of you have already helped enormously in shaping these plans—so please make sure to let us know if you'd like to get further involved! ♪



## In Memoriam

With deep sadness, we celebrate the lives of two pivotal members of the Crowden community: Ann Getty and Debra Wood Schwartz.

Crowden lost a dear friend when **ANN GETTY** passed away this September. A longtime Crowden supporter, Ann and her husband Gordon graciously hosted many essential fundraisers for us in their San Francisco home over the years, and supported student scholarships, original commissions, and much more. “It is no understatement to say that Ann Getty’s vision, enthusiasm, and commitment to Crowden has helped us enormously over the years. She loved meeting and talking with our young musicians, and took great delight in observing them and reacquainting herself with them as they developed into young adults,” remembers Crowden Executive and Artistic Director Doris Fukawa. “Beyond that, she was a dear friend to me, and friend to so many of

our young musicians.” Crowden School alumnus Samuel Carl Adams was one of those many Crowden talents whom Ann befriended as they began to establish their careers. He shares, “Among the myriad ways that Ann Getty has contributed to Bay Area cultural life, what I’ll remember most is her steadfast commitment to both young artists and the institutions that foster their growth. The impact of her generosity will not be forgotten.” Doris concludes simply: “Ann will forever be remembered here at Crowden. Our deepest condolences to Gordon and the Getty family.”

**DEBBRA WOOD SCHWARTZ** served on Crowden’s Board of Trustees from 1995 to 2007, and sent both her children, Margot (’96) and Noah (’98), to The Crowden School. A violin teacher, Debra’s involvement with Crowden began when Margo took an ensemble at Crowden—coached by none other than Doris Fukawa—back in the early 90s. One day Anne Crowden pulled Debra into her office, although at the time they didn’t know one another, and asked her to take over Crowden’s “Extension” program, the origin of our current community programs. When Crowden formalized the Extension program into our current community programs division, for a while named “Crowden Center for

Music in the Community,” Debra served as its Artistic Director. Her many contributions to Crowden include the formation of a Scripps program for the day school, serving as architect of a Music Pathways program helping students develop from music discovery classes through the Crowden offerings, and facilitating the Glenda Kapsalis Scholarship, not to mention teaching violin at the school and attending nearly every major Crowden event in recent memory.

In an interview in the mid aughts, Debra remembered the magic of Crowden’s early days: “The thing that made us love the school back then, is that the education was totally about the kids. They wrote the musicals, they conducted the orchestra. Wonderful, spontaneous things happened. It was that sort of place. Kids who really love music, do these spontaneous things, play music for the fun of it. Trying to instill that music in the kids. Sticking their necks out. It was very exciting that they were given that kind of responsibility.” We are proud that that legacy of creativity and devotion to our students thrives at Crowden today.

Our hearts are with the families and friends of Ann Getty and Debra Wood Schwartz. ♪

PHOTOS: Gordon Getty, Doris Fukawa, and Ann Getty (Drew Altizer Photography); Debra Wood Schwartz with beloved Crowden cello teacher Milly Rosner (courtesy Margot Schwartz).





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schedule of in-person rehearsals and virtual coachings, communicating through masks, maintaining social distancing, and more. Some faculty coached remotely from locations like New York, while others taught ensembles on campus in a staggered schedule. “Our reopening for live ensemble rehearsals has so far gone as smoothly as I could have hoped,” says Eugene. “The students and teachers have been delighted to work together in person again, and it has been wonderful to once again hear music resonating from all corners of our campus.”

The enrichment guidelines have also allowed The Crowden School to return to campus for music this fall. Students are attending academic classes remotely through the Zoom platform, and come to Crowden twice a week for our “enrichment schedule,” which includes ensemble rehearsals, Music History, homerooms for the lower school, PE, and Art activities. Students are thrilled to be back. “It’s been really amazing being back on campus this past month and a half,” explains eighth grader Jesse Distiller. “I had been struggling a lot over the summer with not being able to see anyone in person, and, thinking about all the music and concerts we had missed, I had gotten a little bit depressed. Even just going back two mornings a week has made such a big difference to me.” Community education ensembles like our Youth Chamber Music program and Preparatory String Ensemble also have resumed in-person this fall. Although at first the enrichment guidelines only allowed in-person youth activities, we are excited that our popular Adult Chamber Music program will resume in a limited capacity for its winter session.

Since we are not yet able to hold concerts in person, Crowden students and faculty are recording socially distant and masked performances on our Hoefer Auditorium stage, for virtual watch party presentations. Although we sorely miss hearing our students perform in person, our community has found the fun in the new format, cheering on performers in live chats. Virtual concerts also hold some hidden

perks: for our John Adams Young Composers Program, it’s meant that students can participate from all over the country.

Even this partial reopening has taken tremendous planning, and relies on the cooperation and effort of our entire community. Faculty and staff who are coming on campus are tested for the coronavirus on site at Crowden weekly. Crowden School students are tested weekly on campus, with community students receiving monthly tests. We have been able to offer our students’ and employees’ family members tests as well. All rehearsals are masked and socially distanced, and everyone pulls together to meet a host of health and hygiene practices. “The most gratifying element of our reopening has been the embodiment of the Crowden collaborative spirit not just inside the rehearsal room, but outside it as well: we simply couldn’t reopen successfully without the entire community’s massive efforts to follow all the required safety guidelines,” Eugene remarks. “That we’ve been able to do so is a testament to the strength of our community and to Anne Crowden’s vision of music and teamwork.”

Doris agrees. “Our students and their families have truly rallied to help make reopening possible. And our staff and faculty inspire me every day in their dedication and efforts. I want to thank each and every one of you for making Crowden such a remarkable family.” ♪

FRONT PAGE PHOTO: Joseph Maile of the Telegraph Quartet coaches Minna Krastev, Mica Schillinger-Hyman, Kenji Sor, and Katelyn Liao in Crowden’s Dalby room.

PHOTOS (TOP TO BOTTOM, LEFT TO RIGHT): Mica Schillinger-Hyman leaves rehearsal in a staggered departure; walls of windows in Crowden’s Mancini room make rehearsal safer for Angelina Melis, Sahil Najeeb, and Sofia Poncel; Telegraph violinist Eric Chin coaches Gabrielle Baum, Emma Northcutt, Ella Ferencz, Emile Serper, and Milayna Melis in Crowden’s Hoefer Auditorium; Crowden cellist Milo Klise takes a break from rehearsal in Dalby; Sina Kalkan and Sara Morgantini rehearse in our Auditorium.

Cover photo and all photos in this spread by Heidi Alletzhäuser

# With Your Support, Music Changes Everything!

*The Crowden Music Center gratefully acknowledges the support of the following Crowden families, employees, individual members, government agencies, foundations, and businesses between July 1, 2020 and October 1, 2020. Kindly notify us of any inadvertent omissions. Thank you!*

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### Opus 18

Crowden's Alumni Association plays a key role in helping to fund the future for young musicians. Support from past graduates helps to ensure ongoing funds remain available for scholarships, faculty and staff salaries, and vital equipment. If you are an alumnus of The Crowden School, make your gift today to become part of this illustrious association. To learn more, contact Alumni Relations Coordinator, Andrew McKleroy, at [amckleroy@crowden.org](mailto:amckleroy@crowden.org). ♪

The Anne Crowden Legacy Society is a group of individuals with the generosity and foresight to include Crowden in their estate plans. Whether you are an alum, a teacher, or a friend in the wider community, your legacy gift can have a meaningful and lasting impact. Regardless of the amount, your gift is a statement of your belief that musical training and education makes a lasting difference in young people's lives. When you demonstrate that you care about Crowden's future, others will follow your generous example. To learn more, contact Director of Development, Moana Newman, at [mnewman@crowden.org](mailto:mnewman@crowden.org). ♪

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