



Music Changes Everything

THE CROWDEN LETTER

WINTER/SPRING 2021

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the Crowden Letter

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



Crowden Unveils Bold Vision and Goals in New Strategic Plan

A road map for the next several years, Crowden's new strategic plan reaffirms our vision, mission, and values, while establishing concrete goals for Crowden's future.

Crowden's Board of Trustees approved our new strategic plan this November, capping a nearly two year-long process that involved stakeholders from every corner of the Crowden community.

"This strategic plan is a true product of the collaborative imagination and hard work of our Crowden community members," remarks Executive and Artistic Director Doris Fukawa. "Board members, alumni from throughout our history, parents, students, employees, and friends all contributed their insights and experiences. Although our process was extended due to the pandemic, the interest and commitment of our community never flagged. What we discovered was an incredible synergy among everyone involved. It was deeply rewarding—particularly for my staff and faculty—to see near universal alignment on

Crowden's strengths, value to our community, and future priorities." Crowden's Board Chair, Cary Koh, concurs. "As a both an alumnus from the Crowden School's inaugural years and now its Board Chair in the 21st century, I am very proud to see such strong consensus about Crowden's path forward."

The new strategic plan establishes an over-arching vision for Crowden as a whole, and separate mission statements and values for Crowden Music Center and The Crowden School.

"It became clear that The Crowden School needed a separate mission to best

support the full developmental needs of our students,” explains Doris. “And by elaborating our specific values for both the school and our organization as a whole, we ensure that what we love about Crowden will remain core to all future endeavors and planning.”

In addition to defining Crowden’s missions and values, the strategic plan identifies eight key goals to further strengthen Crowden’s community, programs, and sustainability .

These priorities include improved support for Crowden’s faculty and staff, a strong commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion goals, and plans to expand offerings for teenagers.

“This strategic plan reaffirms Anne Crowden’s vision with powerful statements of our mission, values, and culture,” Doris observes. “And it gives us a clear, bold pathway forward. I want to thank all of our participants for your invaluable input, and I hope you’ll

join in support as we pursue our key goals and strategies to ensure the continued magic of the Crowden community.” ♪

Key findings of Crowden’s Strategic Plan are below. To read the full blueprint for Crowden’s future, including our strategies, visit crowden.org/strategic-planning.

Crowden’s Vision: Where students come to receive a world-class education with music at its core.

Crowden Music Center Mission:

Crowden Music Center is committed to excellence in education, performance, and creative endeavor, and to the cultural enrichment of the larger community.

Values:

1. We believe that the understanding, practice, and study of music enriches the quality of life, nourishes the human spirit, and fosters the growth of intellect, creativity, and character.
2. We believe that the drive to learn is an innate human quality. We encourage curiosity, discovery, and engagement through an active learning process.
3. We believe in the power of interpersonal communications, and actively practice and teach skills of listening, empathy, and collaborative effort.
4. We value an inclusive community of students, parents, faculty, and supporters, celebrating differences of race, culture, ethnicity, socio-economic status, gender identity, and sexual orientation.

The Crowden School Mission:

The Crowden School provides students in their foundational stages with excellent musical and academic teaching within a supportive school environment.

Values:

1. We instill students with self-confidence, adaptability, maturity, critical thinking, and perspective to sustain their continued development and personal fulfillment throughout their lives.
2. We value quality musical training and performance in balance with scholarly education as a core educational development of a whole person.
3. We foster creative, problem-solving, compassionate young people with integrity and a sense of responsibility, who enrich their communities.
4. We develop collaborative classrooms and school community where each staff member, student, and family takes responsibility for the collective success and well-being of all.

The following goals are the heart of Crowden’s new strategic plan:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1. Expand Crowden Music Center offerings to better serve the community and increase revenue. | build a more collaborative school environment. | including significantly increasing staff/faculty salaries and benefits. |
| 2. Develop a short-term and long-term plan to address Crowden facility needs. | 4. Increase the number of Latinx and Black Crowden School students and faculty, and build more inclusive classrooms. | 7. Achieve greater financial stability by developing and increasing more reliable earned and contributed revenue sources. |
| 3. Instill the values of Crowden among all stakeholders, including faculty, staff, parents, students, and board members to | 5. Maximize enrollment at The Crowden School. | 8. Develop a Leadership Succession Plan for the Executive Artistic Director and senior leadership. |
| | 6. Attract and retain faculty and staff, | |



Reopening Update

Crowden has been working closely with the City of Berkeley Health Department to safely and gradually resume our on-campus activities. Youth enrichment guidelines passed last summer have allowed some programs to meet on campus, including our community ensembles for youth. The Crowden School has been meeting on campus twice a week on an Enrichment schedule, allowing in-person music rehearsals to continue. At the time of publication, the school was preparing to formally reopen on a hybrid schedule in two phases. Phase I brings students in grades 3–6 to campus three days a week, with in-person enrichment days, including some academic classes, extended for seventh and eighth graders. Phase II will bring all students back on campus five days a week; we are hoping conditions will allow us to proceed to this phase in mid-March. Summer programs are now enrolling for on-campus camps and workshops, and we hope to be able to resume our adult chamber music program by summer.

The music continues on Crowden's campus! 🎵

PHOTOS (LEFT AND COVER): Heidi Alletzhäuser



Crowden presents Naumburg-winning Telegraph Quartet

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Announcing the Hampton Scholarship

Established by a grant from the Bonnie Hampton Trust, the Hampton Scholarship was created to encourage the development of exceptional young cellists, and musicians and ensembles in Crowden's Chamber Music Program.

The Hampton Scholarship builds on the decades-long relationship between Crowden and **BONNIE, COLIN, and IAN HAMPTON**. Together, this family of exceptional musicians has contributed immensely to both Crowden and the global cello community, and their passion for chamber music has fostered thousands of students over decades of active teaching, composing, and performance. Bonnie has been a mentor and coach here at Crowden



since our founding, and serves on our Music Advisory Board. Colin was a founding member of Crowden's Board of Trustees, and played a significant role in helping Anne Crowden develop her vision into our unique organization. Colin and his son Ian were both coaches and mentors to Crowden's current Executive and Artistic Director, Doris Fukawa, during her early years of training. The combined influences of each member of the Hampton family have helped to shaped countless young musicians, and have played an integral part of

the longevity and quality of training provided at Crowden.

The Hampton Scholarship is a continuation of the family commitment to the highest ideal for young cellists and chamber music students. ♪

To learn more about the Hampton Scholarship and how to apply, visit crowden.org/Hampton-Scholarship.

PHOTO: Bonnie Hampton, right, takes a bow at Crowden's 30th Anniversary Concert. With Emil Miland, Deirdre Cooper (Anne's daughter and Bonnie's student), and Crowden faculty cellists Monica Scott, Cathy Allen, Eugene Sor. en Luce Photography.



PHOTO: Tay Netoff ('86)

Where Are They Now? Class of 1986

Introducing a new ongoing series profiling different classes of Crowden alumni. For our inaugural feature, it felt right to start with our very first students.

CARY KOH attended Crowden from fifth grade, in the very first year of the school, to eighth grade, graduating in 1986.

Cary has fond memories of throwing long

football passes at recess with his friend Jason Wong in the narrow parking lot that served as a playground in those early years. Despite the makeshift environs of that first campus, Cary remembers Crowden's early days as very committed, joyous, and personal in its cause. Watermarks of his early experiences at Crowden include learning the foundational chamber music repertoire with Brigitte Mancini, and experiencing the alchemical impact of Anne Crowden, who pushed students to realize their full potential, often despite themselves.

Cary traveled the world for 20 years as a

Plugging In with Mason Bates

Crowden Young Composers explore new creative avenues with inspiration from the Grammy-winning composer.

Internationally acclaimed composer Mason Bates recently visited our John Adams Young Composers Program as the fall semester's guest artist. Bates—whose reputation was built around creative works integrating symphonic music with electronic sounds, film scores, and multimedia—joined Crowden's student composers online from his Bay Area studio to share his expertise. Using examples of his own works, from his days as a college deejay to his YouTube Symphony commission *Mothership* and Grammy-winning opera *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs*, Bates shared his process of integrating electronic elements with live performers through orchestration, composing with theatrical production, the importance of narrative, and trusting your musical instincts.



He stressed the unique opportunity for composers to make the most of their limited musical resources during isolation as a way to spark experimentation. Students enjoyed a preview of his yet-unreleased multimedia work *Philharmonia Fantastique: The Making of the Orchestra* for animated film and live orchestra, sparking discussion about the challenges of interdisciplinary collaboration. He imparted that seeing things through the lens of another artistic process can bring new ideas—embracing an inquisitive and collaborative spirit that resonates with the Crowden philosophy.

Mason Bates left the young composers with a final pearl of wisdom: “The most

important thing is having integrity in what you do. Always think as creatively about how your music can get out there and get into new formats as you do about the notes on the page. There are a lot of creative ways to think about bringing music to people.” Inspired by Bates’ guest lecture and the guidance of Crowden’s expert faculty, students in the John Adams Young Composers Program presented a wide variety of premieres synthesizing these new techniques in a livestream concert this January. You can re-watch the broadcast, including interviews with the students on their inspiration and processes, on Crowden’s YouTube Channel. ♪

violinist, including five years touring the globe with the internationally renowned Australian Chamber Orchestra. After returning to the Bay Area, he served as Concertmaster at Broadway SF, Associate Conductor of *Wicked*, and taught at Crowden for a couple of years. Being able to hear young children perform the timeless music he so loves has kept him connected to Crowden one way or another since the 1980s. Cary currently works in finance and serves as Chair of our Board of Trustees.

TAY NETOFF attended The Crowden School from sixth to eighth grade, graduating with Cary in 1986. He currently lives in Minneapolis with his wife, Martha Netoff, and their 13-year-

old daughter, Brekin Rose Netoff.

Tay is now a Professor at the University of Minnesota in the Department of Biomedical Engineering, where he runs a thriving research lab that is studying therapies for Epilepsy, Parkinson’s disease, and spinal cord injury. His work has taken him around the world: “The summer before last, Cary [Koh] and I were in Japan at the same time. Unfortunately, we didn’t get to meet. But, he said the volcanic hot springs in Japan reminded him of a trip we took together to Calistoga when we were at Crowden.” Music still plays a central role in Tay’s life: he listens to music while he works, and occasionally picks up the violin or mandolin to play. “My daughter plays guitar, and I try

to encourage and foster her love for music.”

Tey recalls a favorite Crowden memory: “I remember during the summer music camp I overheard Anne and other the teachers talking about the different quartets. The teachers were talking about which were the best groups and Anne said, ‘Yes, but I think Tay’s group is having the most fun.’ While I was never the best violinist at the school, it really said to me that Anne valued a love for the music over perfection.” ♪

In touch with your old Crowden friends?
Nominate your class for the next “Where are they now?” installment: email alumni@crowden.org. We welcome your alumni news!

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 January 1, 2020 and February 10, 2021. Kindly notify us of any inadvertent omissions. Thank you!

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