

# *the* Crowden Letter

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



## Announcing the Ann and Gordon Getty Fund

We are thrilled to announce that Crowden's Board of Trustees has established the Ann and Gordon Getty Fund, seeded by the Getty's extraordinary donation of \$10 million, to further open the doors to a Crowden education for all children.

Ann (1941–2020) and Gordon Getty's extended relationship with Crowden has spanned over three decades, culminating with an incredible \$10 million donation. In addition to this truly transformative gift, and annual support from the Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation, over the years Mr. and Mrs. Getty hosted regular receptions in their home to nurture the creative endeavors of Crowden's young musicians, introducing many emerging talents to their first influential audiences. A composer himself, Mr. Getty has a particular interest in the incubation of young composers and was instrumental in founding Crowden's John Adams Young

Composers Program.

"Ann and Gordon always valued Crowden's philosophy of blending music with academic scholarship as the secret to a balanced education, and the foundational work that we specialize in," remarks Crowden's Executive and Artistic Director Doris Fukawa. "Crowden started as a labor of love by teachers and that continues today. We really see each student, and we care, and our students know that—they feel seen, and are comfortable being and finding themselves. Our shared love for music, and the joy of playing together, translates for our students into a lifelong curiosity and passion

for learning in all areas.”

With the Ann and Gordon Getty Fund now established, Crowden is focused on growing support for student financial assistance and program delivery at Crowden, with particular emphasis on enabling interested students to attend The Crowden School for grades 3–8. Financial assistance includes scholarships

and need-based aid to overcome barriers that can impede access to quality education and instrumental study for young people. This restricted gift will serve as an anchor to ensuring Crowden’s long term sustainable future, including competitive salaries for faculty and staff.

“The Getty Foundation’s gift, via the fund we have created in Ann and Gordon Getty’s

honor, will make it possible for Crowden to support even more children as they simultaneously develop as musicians, learners, and people,” Doris observes. “The Fund will be a living testament to their dedication to the development of children and young people through all aspects of music, education, and learning.” ♪



## Newsflashes

### *In Memoriam: John Lowitz*

Longtime Crowden trustee **JOHN S. LOWITZ, M.D.** passed this fall, surrounded by his loved ones. John served on our Crowden Board of Trustees from 2003 to 2011. He was the driving force behind the transformation of our ‘beloved barn’ into the state-of-the-art performance hall we enjoy today. “Those of us who were lucky enough to serve side-by-side with John will remember his infectious zest for life, music, good food and fine wines, and his unflagging dedication to our school and organization,” remembers Doris Fukawa. “Always ready with a smile and a laugh, he was a loyal and dear friend to Crowden and to many of us personally.” Crowden hosted a memorial for John this past November. His family requests that gifts in his memory be directed to Crowden or to the Jewish Community Free Clinic of Sonoma County. ♪

### *Board Updates*

The Crowden Board of Trustees is thankful to departing members **CARY KOH**, now a member of Crowden’s Advisory Board,

**SHAWN FREEDBERG, ZACHARY GRIFFIN, FRED KONKEL, JEROME MATTHEWS, and S. YOUNG LEE.** This winter, the Board welcomed new members **ZOE GLYNN, ERIC HALLSTEIN, and MICHELLE KLUCSOR**, and returning longtime trustee **ANGELA ARCHIE.** **DR. JAMES MARKS** has been voted Interim Board Chair, with **DONNA EYESTONE** continuing as Secretary and **HARRY LOUCKS** as Treasurer. ♪

*Crowden is recruiting new Board members. If you are interested in serving as a Trustee, or would like to recommend a candidate, please let us know at [boardchair@crowden.org](mailto:boardchair@crowden.org).*

### *An Incredibly Special Visitor*

We were thrilled to welcome **ANNE JOHNSTONE**, granddaughter of our founder Anne Crowden, to campus last month. Anne was traveling and stopped by to tour our Crowden School morning music classes. Thank you for a wonderful visit, Anne! ♪

### *Sundays @ Four Returns, Pauses*

Crowden’s *Sundays @ Four* chamber music series reconvened in person this fall, with sold-out—if limited capacity—performances by

our great friends the Alexander String Quartet and Delphi Trio. Unfortunately, our January concert featuring Chamber Music Society of San Francisco (including alum **JORY FANKUCHEN**, ’91), was postponed due to the Omicron surge here in Berkeley. We have rescheduled that concert for March 6, and we look forward to Vitamin Em on May 1. ♪

### *Guest Artist Visits*

Our John Adams Young Composers Program hosted California Symphony’s Young American Composer in Residence **VIET CUONG** this January. Cuong’s music has been commissioned and performed on six continents by ensembles such as the New York Philharmonic and Eighth Blackbird. A relatively young composer himself, Viet Cuong worked with our students in a fascinating master class and presentation.

Crowden School alumna **KARLA DONEHEW PEREZ** (’99) visited our Crowden School students with her renowned ensemble, the Catalyst Quartet, in early February. Catalysts treated our third–eighth graders to a riveting preview of their SF Performances *Uncovered* series. What a treat! ♪

PHOTOS (LEFT TO RIGHT): Fran Krieger Lowitz and John Lowitz at a Crowden Gala; Anne Johnstone with TCS parent Ben Johnson, Doris Fukawa, Eugene Sor, and Crowden School students; Alexander String Quartet performs on our Auditorium stage.





## Crowden's Financial Aid Options Are Growing

At Crowden, we have a financial aid solution for every family.

More than ever before, Crowden families are challenged to meet the dual and often conflicting goals of enrolling their children

in an elementary school with a world-class education—one with music at its core—and affording independent school fees. Now, affording a Crowden School tuition, or enrolling in a chamber music program at Crowden, is more accessible than ever before, thanks to Crowden's new Getty Fund and named scholarships to widen access to financial assistance.

If you've ever thought that a Crowden School education might be the right fit for your musically-inclined child (or perhaps for a relative, a family friend, or neighbor), but you concluded that it was out of reach financially—we invite you to think again. Come explore our offerings, and inquire about our financial aid designed to fit all families. ♪

### *Getting Started with Financial Aid at Crowden*

Crowden's new **GETTY FUND** was established in part to ensure that more families can access a Crowden School education. After submitting an application, along with the FACTS financial aid application, Crowden's admissions team will work with you privately to find and fit a financial aid solution that meets your family's needs.

*Learn more by contacting*  
[admissions@crowden.org](mailto:admissions@crowden.org).

### *Christine Chu Scholarship for Crowden School Cellists*

Children with some experience on the cello who are interested in attending The Crowden School are eligible for the Christine Chu Scholarship, founded in memory of beloved Crowden School alumna **CHRISTINE CHU** ('88). Recipients are recommended by our Crowden School Music Director, and private teachers are strongly encouraged to nominate their students for consideration.

*Learn more by contacting*  
[TCSmusicdirector@crowden.org](mailto:TCSmusicdirector@crowden.org)

### *Hampton Scholarship for Cellists and Chamber Musicians*

The Hampton Scholarship was created in honor of **BONNIE, COLIN, and IAN HAMPTON** to encourage the development of exceptional young cellists and chamber musicians up to age 18. The scholarship supports fees, instrument expenses, and other costs directly associated with music study or performance for a cellist, chamber music student, or ensemble.

*Learn more by contacting*  
[community@crowden.org](mailto:community@crowden.org)



## Two Dream Weeks of Chamber Music

Crowden's summer youth Chamber Music Workshop may be the most magical two weeks at Crowden of the entire year.

Every summer, advanced string and piano players in high school convene for one of Crowden's most beloved opportunities, our Chamber Music Workshop for youth ages 14 to 19. These serious young musicians participate in chamber music ensembles, orchestra, master

classes, fiddling workshops, and more, in an immersive approach that leads to transformative musical experiences and lasting bonds with their fellow players. The main draw of this exceptional program, however, is the workshop's world class faculty.

Last summer, for instance, coaches included the entire **ALEXANDER STRING QUARTET (ZAKARIAS GRAFILO, FRED LIFSITZ, DAVID SAMUEL, SANDY WILSON); TELEGRAPH QUARTET (ERIC CHIN, JOSEPH MAILE, PEILING LIN, JEREMIAH SHAW);** violinists

**LIANA BÉRUBÉ, YURI CHO, JORY FANKUCHEN ('91), ARIANA KIM, EVAN PRICE, KENNETH RENSHAW ('08), ANNA RENTON** (community programs '20); cellists **BONNIE HAMPTON, JAMES JAFFE, EUGENE SOR;** and pianists **ELIZABETH DORMAN, ELIZABETH SCHUMANN,** and **ARKADI SERPER.** "It's a pretty stunning opportunity for our students to be able to work so closely with such a large group of globally acclaimed performers and pedagogues, even at the most famous destination summer programs," marvels

## Three Strategic Goals and a \$100,000 Matching Gift

One year ago, Crowden unveiled our new Strategic Plan, articulating eight goals that form the blueprint for Crowden's future.

As we embark on 2022, we are aiming to

make great headway on three goals that were recently prioritized by our Board of Trustees: (1) maximize enrollment at The Crowden School, (2) retain and attract our exceptional faculty and staff, including significantly increasing staff/faculty salaries and benefits, and (3) increase the diversity of Crowden School students and faculty, while building more

inclusive classrooms.

On the eve of this New Year, we were doubly honored by our most loyal donors helping us reach nearly half of our Annual Fund goal before December 31, and then by **an anonymous Crowden donor committing up to \$100,000 in matching funds for all donations made to Crowden's Annual Fund**





workshop director Eugene Sor. “It’s the pinnacle of our year.”

“Crowden’s annual Summer Chamber Music Workshop embodies the most rigorous deep-dive into the highlights of the western canon and yet far beyond into the inner workings of improvisation for aspiring pre-collegiate musicians,” observes ASQ cellist Sandy Wilson. “The stunning caliber of instruction, performances, presentation and accomplishment may be the envy of the most renowned and exclusive institutions on an international level. A hugely anticipated immersive treat for dedicated and hardworking students and their teachers, the redoubtable founder and director, Eugene Sor reliably curates and guides

an intensive, compassionate, and fully adaptive experience, supported by his dedicated world-class faculty. No attention to detail is overlooked ensuring that the respect, generosity, pride, support, and compassion modeled throughout two consecutive weeks is hugely infectious. It provides a deeply touching experience, profoundly supporting young people through the art of collaborative endeavor toward fully realizing their nascent higher human capabilities.”

Longtime participant Isaiah Iny-Woods agrees: “Getting to participate in this year’s chamber music camp at Crowden, especially after the past year and a half, was an amazing experience. The music we get to play is amaz-

ing, and it is just such a privilege to get to work with the incredible coaches every year. I have also made many new friends at camp over the years, and I look forward to next year.” ♪

***Crowden’s 2022 summer camps and workshops, including our Youth Chamber Music Workshop, are now open for enrollment. Learn more at [crowden.org/summer](https://crowden.org/summer).***

TOP PHOTOS (LEFT TO RIGHT):

Our Chamber Music Workshop also features orchestra, master classes, and more, as well as small ensembles. Here, the all-workshop orchestra’s violin section, including Isaiah Iny-Woods (center), rehearse.

Just part of our 2021 Chamber Music Workshop faculty, from left to right: David Samuel, Frederick Lifszitz, Yuri Cho, Sandy Wilson, Bonnie Hampton, Eugene Sor, Ariana Kim, Elizabeth Schumann, James Jaffe, Zakarias Grafilo, Anna Renton (community programs ’20), Jory Fankuchen (TCS ’91), Arkadi Serper, and Kenneth Lenshaw (TCS ’08).

Photos by Michelle Lee.

### between January 1 and June 30!

Every year our Annual Fund contributes up to 20% of our overall operating budget of ~\$3.5M, from gifts of all sizes. This year’s new \$100,000 matching gift commitment will double every dollar given in the remainder of this fiscal year.

We invite everyone in the Crowden community to help us achieve our stated strategic goals by making a donation to our Annual Fund, and doubling the impact of your gift. A

gift of any amount keeps our mission thriving for all members of our growing community! ♪

***Visit [donate.crowden.org](https://donate.crowden.org) to make an online donation, or reach out to Director of Development Diane Stair ([dstair@crowden.org](mailto:dstair@crowden.org) or 510.559.6910 x. 121) to discover all the ways you can support Crowden.***

PHOTO: A Crowden School sixth grade double bassist in rehearsal. Photo 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 January 1, 2021 and January 28, 2022. Kindly notify us of any inadvertent omissions. Thank you!*

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Crowden's annual free musical carnival will be held both online and in person!

# Community Music Day

**Sunday, March 20**

★ **Very First Concerts** with the **San Francisco Chamber Orchestra**

★ **String Instruments Petting Zoo**

**[crowden.org/carnival](https://crowden.org/carnival)**

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## *Music Changes Everything*

### In this Issue

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