

*“The excitement, beauty and intimacy of classical music”*

July 6, 2009

Dear Friends of the Summer Music Festival

What a year it has been for chamber and orchestra music! We will not soon forget Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*, the Tchaikovsky Sextet, the Antheil Violin Sonata or the Grieg Piano Concerto (Sue protests our mentioning this!), to name just a few. We hope you have enjoyed the concerts as much as we have. We know how the students felt and have attached a page of their comments.

And the faculty are even more outspoken. As Scott Yoo said at the Scholarship Luncheon, this is his most cherished event of the year, and he recently returned from conducting the Yomiuri Nippon Orchestra in Tokyo and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra! There are some more faculty comments on the attached page. Our festival artists love working with our talented students and vice versa, and both love playing for our dedicated and appreciative audiences – that's you!

At this time, we want to ensure that this Festival will continue for the foreseeable future. As you probably know colleges and universities are being hit hard by the recession. Colorado College's endowment is down and so is the income it generates to support programs. As a result, it has been forced to make budget and program cuts. Unfortunately, after this year the Summer Music Festival will receive no direct subsidy from the College as we have in the past, and we will receive less staff support as well. We will, however, receive the College's very important in-kind support such as the use of facilities, the public relations office, a prominent place in the College website, and the enthusiastic endorsement of many faculty and administrative staff.

All this means that we will have to raise more money if we want to continue. In simple terms, we need to increase our overall revenue by about 50%.

- We will raise ticket prices a bit (keeping affordable student tickets).
- We will seek grants from more foundations and agencies.
- We will be more aggressive with fundraising events – would you like to hear concerts by the likes of Jon Manasse, John Novacek, John Nakamatsu, Scott Yoo, Mark Fewer, Sue Grace, and others? They have all agreed to help out by playing benefit programs for us to help keep the Festival going. Does that tell us how they feel about this festival?
- And we will have to receive increased gifts from our annual donors.

This is where you fit in. It would be wonderful if everybody could increase his or her gift by 50%, but we know that is not always possible. And we know that we are not the only organization you support which needs more contributed dollars in these troubled economic

times. We hope that some of you can meet this goal and that some can exceed it, and understand that some will just be able to hold at the same level. If you can just keep the status quo, you will remain a cherished friend! And please remember that your contributions go directly to the Summer Music Festival and are used only to support student scholarships and festival artists.

So please think about what this festival is worth to you! Recall the exciting three weeks of music each June and the joy we experience as we leave Packard Hall after performances by our Festival Artists. Remember the mingling in the magnificent atrium of the Cornerstone Arts Center and hearing the sensational sounds of antiphonal brass choirs during the intermission of a superb orchestra concert. How often do we say to one another "These are the greatest students yet," or "this is the best festival ever"? These moments are palpable!

In about two weeks, you will hear more from us specifically about how you can help and about an accelerated time-line for pledges to next year's Festival. Early pledges will be crucial to our commitment to keeping the festival alive and planning for another wonderful summer of music at Colorado College.

If you have friends who may not know much about the Festival, please feel free to forward this letter to them.

Sincerely,



Susan Grace



Michael Grace

PS. We would like to acknowledge a small group of people who have agreed to be on an Advisory Board. They believe this Festival is an important asset to our cultural landscape and have agreed to help us find ways to keep it alive. If you see any of these individuals, please thank them for their support.

Tuck Aikin  
Gary Bradley  
Laurent Carrier  
Tim Fuller  
Michael Grace

Jeff Haney  
Jon Medved  
Libby Rittenberg  
Bettina Swigger  
Judith Wray