

"The Excitement, Beauty and Intimacy of Classical Music"

August 6, 2009

Dear Friends of the Summer Music Festival

We have some exciting news! In the letter we sent you just after the fabulous 2009 Summer Music Festival ended, we reported that, while the college would continue its important in-kind support, it would no longer be able to provide direct monetary or staff support from its general operating budget. Fortunately, though, the Summer Music Festival has just received a special award from the Colorado College Cultural Attractions Fund (an independent on-campus fund). The award provides to the Festival \$20,000 each year for the next two years with the possibility of a third if we show progress towards sustainability. In addition, the Cultural Attractions Fund has agreed to match donations (up to \$25,000) which take us over our 2009 fundraising base of \$95,000. And this generous commitment is also for two, and possibly three years.

We are already planning for next year and intend to keep the Festival the same size and duration as this year, while cutting expenses wherever we can. Our preliminary budget indicates that we must raise an additional \$80,000 annually. Such an increase during these difficult economic times is quite a challenge, but this generous grant certainly makes the task seem somewhat less daunting.

So, we are asking you to consider increasing your gift by 50% to meet this challenge. Not everyone will be able to do this, but, hopefully, some of you will be able to do more. All gifts, no matter what size, are very important to us and you will, of course, remain our cherished friend no matter what!

We feel confident that we can reach the new goal for next year. We would like to think, however, that we can look forward to at least three more years of financial stability. So while we are not asking for a three-year pledge at this time, we would hope you will continue your new level of support for two additional years. Please be assured that your gift is exclusive to the Summer Music Festival and will not be used for any other College program.

We enclose a pledge card. Please return it at your earliest convenience, but no later than September 15. We must accelerate the fundraising campaign this year so that we can begin hiring faculty, printing recruitment and advertising materials, and searching for a new staff person. You can continue to make your gift at the time of year when you typically do so.

Thanks again for your wonderful support, not only as donors, but as enthusiastic friends and audience members. Together, we can keep the Summer Music Festival tradition alive for our passionate audiences, our talented students, and our outstanding faculty.

Sincerely yours,



Susan Grace



Michael Grace