Dear Music Associates,

It has been a wonderful music-filled year in the Meng Concert Hall at Cal State University, Fullerton! The marvelous performances by our talented students is a result of excellent instruction by award-winning School of Music professors and untold hours of individual practice. Many students can spend extra time practicing instead of working part-time jobs due to scholarships and performance awards given by Music Associates. During the 2018-19 school year, Music Associates gave $50,000 in scholarships, $4,000 in performance awards to our Concerto/Aria Competition winners in addition to our donation of $2,950 toward the honorarium for the judges of the Competition. Thanks to your memberships, attendance at the Carol Candlelight Dinner, Music & Magic Luncheon, and generous donations, Music Associates has, since our founding in 1968, provided more than 1.1 million dollars to our School of Music at CSUF in scholarships, performance awards and program support! You are the ones who have made this possible. You are making a positive difference in the lives of many music students and our community. Thank you for your continued generosity!

As we plan for the upcoming academic year, we are preparing the 2019-20 membership renewal information letters. (Life members will not receive the Membership renewal letters.) All Music Associates with current membership, including Life members, will be invited to a complimentary Membership Reception & Concert in the early fall.

If you are looking for a wonderful, inspirational beginning to the holiday season then our 2019 Carol Candlelight Dinner and Concert is for you. Please place the date of our Carol Candlelight Dinner & Concert on your calendar, Sunday, December 15, 2019.

In the Spring, we will be celebrating with our 51st Music & Magic Luncheon on Friday, April 24, 2020.

I’m looking forward to seeing you at upcoming Music Associates fund raising events and School of Music concerts. Thanks again for your continued generosity and support. You are providing the “margin of excellence” for our deserving students.

Musically yours,
Sandy Johnson
Co-President
Music & Magic

We are pleased that a record number of music lovers attended our annual Music & Magic luncheon held at Coyote Hills Golf Course on April 26. The day was beautiful, the setting was perfect, and the musical presentations outstanding! Performing for our entertainment were the four first-place recipients of the Music Associates Concerto/Aria Competition. They were truly inspiring! What a credit to Cal State Fullerton’s outstanding School of Music, now directed by Katherine Powers, Ph.D.

Ann Myles

Membership

In July, you will be receiving your Music Associates renewal information. I appreciate those of you who are so prompt in filling out the form, writing a check, and sending it back right away! We are grateful so many of you have made an additional donation toward the Music Associates Endowment Fund. That fund is our investment for the future. We also thank those of you who increased your membership category or became Life Members.

I look forward to seeing you in the fall, when we have our Member Event.

Betty Murphy, VP Membership
Dean’s Message

As you may know, The School of Music’s University Singers are once again jetting off to Europe to captivate a whole new audience of choral music enthusiasts. Beginning July 5, the choir will share their inimitable talents across Spain, touring five cities over the course of eight days: Madrid, Leon, Salamanca, Burgos, and Bilbao. This extension of learning far outside the classroom is one of many reasons why the University Singers is such a successful, well-regarded ensemble. Under the baton of conductor/director Dr. Robert Istad, the choir has toured more than ten countries in the past twelve years, performing with renowned orchestras in prestigious venues worldwide.

In 2017, I had the opportunity to join the University Singers on their European tour. I witnessed firsthand how their musicality and beauty of tone deeply affected audiences, many of whom were overcome with emotion by the end of the performance – an indelible impression made possible by the universal language of music. But by far, the best part of touring with the choir was seeing the world through the eyes of the students, as they, too, are often overcome with emotion travelling abroad for the first time. Historic places and famous landmarks once only seen in film or studied in books are now laid out before them as tangible cities teeming with life, cities they are then immersed in for a brief but unforgettable time period.

These tours are a massive financial undertaking, and the singers are passionately involved in raising money. Some of the funds come from professional performances by the University Singers, most recently with Andrea Bocelli at the Hollywood Bowl. Others are derived from Cal State Fullerton’s Instructionally Related Activities fund, which subsidizes educational experiences and activities directly related to courses offered at the University. In addition to the hard work put in by the students, the Dean’s Opportunity Fund made it possible for a singer on the tour to receive financial support to help cover expenses. The generous donations to this fund empower students to become the future leaders who will shape tomorrow’s music in new and innovative ways, and it was a great joy of mine to offer a deserving student the opportunity to be part of this life-changing experience.

Bon voyage to Dr. Robert Istad and the University Singers! We cheer your successes abroad from here at home.

Dale A. Merrill
Dean, College of the Arts

Installation Luncheon

On June 21st, Music Associates held its annual installation of officers at the Alta Vista Country Club. The room overlooked the beautiful golf course and the tables were decorated with blue and orange linens, with gold leaves on each table to celebrate our 50th year. Each guest received a bookmark of music symbols. While we dined, we enjoyed a relaxing performance by a CSUF Jazz Trio. The officers of the Music Associates board were recognized and thanked for their hard work this year. All are returning to their current board positions and were formally installed for 2019-2020.

Kathryn Cozza
A Note from the Director

Academic year 2018-19 was another exciting and eventful one in the School of Music! The Wind Symphony played at the College Band Director’s National Association conference in February—the first time a CSUF ensemble was invited to perform at this prestigious national conference, the highest possible achievement for a university wind ensemble. In fact, in the 78-year history of the national conference, only three ensembles from California have received invitations to perform! All reports say that our group was very well received!

Even more recognition for the School of Music: Chris Peterson was honored with the University’s Carol Barnes Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2019—the highest honor accorded to teaching at CSUF. Ernest Salem was awarded the Outstanding Educator of the Year Award from the American String Teachers Association. Our students proved successful in competitions and awards this year, including; CSUF Outstanding Graduate Student Scholarly Activities Award, Premio Jovens Musicus competition, National Association of Teachers of Singing Collegiate Competition, and Temecula Valley Symphony Young Artists Competition. Our students will be attending a number of summer music programs, including: Percussion Summer Institute at Princeton, Atlantic Music Festival, San Jose International Competition, Windsor England competition, Philadelphia Young Pianists’ Academy, Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival, Lyric Opera Studio Weimar, Berlin Opera Academy, and “Opera May” Festival in Cancun, Mexico. Furthermore, many graduating seniors and master’s students are entering advanced music degree programs, on fellowship or scholarship, including: UCLA, Boston University, Boston Conservatory, USC, Northwestern University, Royal Conservatory of Music, Columbia University, University of Louisville. Summer 2019 activities include participation in the Guitar Foundation of America’s annual convention in Miami by nearly our entire guitar major class, plus our University Singers will perform on tour in Spain.

Looking ahead to the next academic year, our incoming class of undergraduate music majors will be the largest in years; more than 100 freshmen and transfer students will join the School of Music in the fall. Also, we look forward to the first season of the new Faculty Chamber Music Series. Three concerts will feature the School of Music faculty with guest artists—among them, LA Philharmonic’s concertmaster, Martin Chalifour, will join our faculty for the April 29, 2020 concert.

We thank the Music Associates for all your many years of support, and look forward to seeing you next year!

Katherine Powers
Director, School of Music