



IN THE MIDST OF CHAOS,
THERE IS ALSO OPPORTUNITY.

Sun-Tzu, The Art of War

November 2020

Dear Friends of Chesapeake Music,

There is no question, the global pandemic brought chaos to Chesapeake Music. One by one, our signature programs, as we had known them and planned for them, fell by the wayside. The prestigious Chamber Music Competition was postponed to April 2021, with the same five finalists scheduled to compete. The annual Chamber Music Festival transformed into *Virtual Virtuosi!*, one of the first virtual concert series to be delivered in the country, featuring four original performances and an interactive family concert. Our ever-popular Monty Alexander Jazz Festival, unfortunately, was cancelled.

Despite these challenges, Chesapeake Music, its Board, staff, Artistic Directors, and volunteers, remain committed to our mission—**to bring renowned musicians to delight, engage and surprise today's audiences, and educate, inspire and develop tomorrow's.** We were determined to maintain our connections with you, our generous supporters and patrons, and to support our exceptional musicians, whose livelihoods were entirely disrupted.

While online programs are no substitute for live performances, they are part of our future, and this past year solidified our ability to deliver virtual programming. This October, we kicked off our 2020-2021 season with a successful virtual concert presented by the Verona Quartet, for our Circle of Friends and special supporters. In January 2021, we will spotlight young performers in an online concert by the Carr-Petrova duo, two young women playing the piano and viola; and Randall Goosby, an African-American violinist, who won the Sphinx Organization's Isaac Stern Award and recently signed with Decca Records.

This year, for the first time, Chesapeake Music will have a permanent home! We will present, with few exceptions, all live concerts at the Prager Family Auditorium, in downtown Easton, where our administrative offices will also be located. Our immense gratitude to Paul and Joanne Prager for making this new home possible. The auditorium is undergoing renovation, the result of which will be a performance location designed for exceptional audience comfort, equipped with state-of-the-art audio and video equipment. This permanent home also allows us to fulfill our dream of owning our own 9-foot concert grand piano! We thank a small group of music enthusiasts who are helping us achieve our dream.

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As for many others, the disruption of this past year placed significant financial strains on Chesapeake Music. An outpouring of support for *Virtual Virtuosi!* helped us through our roughest patch, for which we are most grateful. Our expenses are supported by far more than just ticket sales, and we ask again for your generous support.

We have emerged from this challenging year as a stronger and more nimble organization. We will continue to present internationally recognized musicians in concert, showcase rising stars, and offer musical experiences that demonstrate our diverse traditions and heritages. Your contribution will help us thrive and continue to bring you the exceptional programming you, our supporters, expect. It is my privilege as President to thank you, our donors and patrons, for supporting Chesapeake Music.

You make the music happen.



Barry Koh
President, Chesapeake Music