

Letter from the Director

April 2023

Dear DUSS Families and Community,

I am happy to report that our ensembles are sounding great, our teachers are wonderful, and our students continue to make progress on their instruments. Thanks to successful Covid management, we have a burst of new life and energy in our community and music making.



This year we have gradually resumed area connections, including performing with the NC Symphony Ovarations series and at the Forest at Duke Retirement Center. In April we offered a New Music Workshop with DUSS Faculty Dr. Isoa Chapman, and our older students had the opportunity of taking a new 6-week Alexander Technique class offered by Duke Professor Eric Pritchard. In addition, our Chapel Hill-based teachers have begun teaching at the United Church of Chapel Hill, which has helped us to form community relationships outside of Durham. Our DCC Chamber groups helped raise money for the Scholarships for Peace Program at their fundraiser concert in November. I look forward to more opportunities like these, and more social events next year at DUSS!

I have joined with local music program directors to form the Triangle Community Music Education Consortium.

Partners include: Community Music School, Kidznotes, North Carolina Chamber Music Institute, Triangle Youth Music, and Wake Forest Community Youth Orchestra. It has been a wonderful experience to connect with these leaders and to brainstorm ways to support our teachers. We look forward to more collaboration in the future.

This weekend we are honoring J. Samuel Hammond's service and mentorship at DUSS. Each ensemble is performing a piece by J.S. Bach, Sam's favorite composer. Sam made each individual student, parent, teacher, and friend at DUSS feel important and needed. He has made an enormous impact on our community, and we will remember him forever.

We are saying good-bye to a great group of high school seniors who are off to accomplish wonderful things. Each individual has brought dedication to their instrument and to our musical community in their many years at DUSS. We are proud of you, seniors! See below to read their insights for the next generation, and to see where they are headed.

We wish you all a wonderful summer full of rejuvenation and renewal!

Sincerely,

Erica A. Shirts
Erica Shirts



1 year old Rhea playing on the Dorothy Kitchen violin bench at Oval Park

FIDDLING AROUND!

Daphne Davis, YSO, will be performing with Unchambered in several concerts this summer. All are invited!

UNCHAMBERED CONCERT

Sunday, June 4th 7 p.m.
First Baptist Church Durham
414 Cleveland St.

Follow us on Instagram or Facebook for ticket sales.



UNCHAMBERED

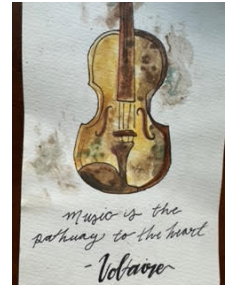
"THE AIM AND FINAL END OF ALL MUSIC SHOULD BE NONE OTHER THAN THE GLORY OF GOD AND THE REFRESHMENT OF THE SOUL."
— J.S. BACH

UNCHAMBERED seeks to glorify God and bring joy to others by bridging the worlds of old and new music through a new lens. Consisting of strings, percussion, guitar, piano, and synthesizer, the group brings a genre-transcending take on instrumental music. In their effort to better the community and refresh the souls of others, UNCHAMBERED has become proud partners with the restored souls foundation.

FOLLOW US @UNCHAMBERED

Jonas Prager was nominated for and accepted to the NC Governor's School Summer program for gifted and talented youth. His area of study will primarily be violin with courses in philosophy and epistemology. He has also been accepted to the UNC-G music summer program for senior orchestra violinists. Before attending his summer camps, Jonas will be starting the summer off with an exciting end-of-school trip to Iceland where he will hike glaciers, explore a multitude of waterfalls, snorkel between tectonic plates and spend his birthday traversing lava tubes!

Téa Bowers attended Kinhaven Chamber Music Festival in Weston, VT last year and is excited to be attending Boston University Tanglewood Institute this summer.



Sisters **Collette** and **Rielle** continue a long tradition of siblings succeeding as both Kidznotes and DUSS students! Collette plays violin in Kidznotes' advanced Abreu Ensemble and Rielle plays cello in the intermediate orchestra. Collette got to meet Rissi Palmer after performing at Big Night In For the Arts last month! She is pictured here, 4th from the left. Fellow DUSS/KN student **Zion** is also pictured, 2nd from left, and **Zanadia**, 3rd from right.



Zion is a talented and dedicated cellist who has demonstrated phenomenal progress over the past year. He has stepped into a key role with our advanced Abreu Ensemble and he is still in just the 6th grade! Zion is a regular soloist at our concerts and community performances.



Zanadia worked closely with Associate Conductor of the NC Symphony Michelle Di Russo when she visited Kidznotes earlier this semester. Zanadia also recently performed as part of OVATIONS - performances held by the NC Symphony in Raleigh's Memorial Auditorium before concerts. Check out her and fellow DUSS/KN student **Colette** holding down the violin section at our Durham Nucleo with Conductor Di Russo at the helm!



DUSS students play at Durham Nucleo



DUSS students and fellow performers at Durham Nucleo



DUSS students at Durham Nucleo



DCC Group performs for The Forest at Duke Retirement community



Dr. Isoa Chapman teaches new music workshop to DUSS students



Duke Professor Eric Pritchard teaches Alexander technique to DUSS students

DUSS Summer Camp 2023:

Due to construction at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, we are unable to offer our camp this year. Looking forward to Summer 2024!



CONGRATULATIONS TO DUSS SENIORS!

Best wishes to our senior students leaving DUSS for the next stage in their careers. We hope they will send news of their adventures for future editions of our newsletter. Here are their plans for Fall 2023!

Senior	Fall 2023
Aspen Brayton Angerer (viola)	UNC Greensboro – music performance
Karthik Annadurai (violin)	UNC Charlotte – business analytics major, music minor
Aniketh Arvind (violin)	UNC Charlotte
Roger Brooks (cello, trombone)	Princeton University
Amelia Cho (violin)	University - undecided
Paige Christensen (violin)	Brigham Young University (Provo)
Sonya Coulter (double bass)	Elizabeth City State University
Anna Darr (cello)	Furman University - cello performance & classical languages
Daphne Davis (violin)	UNC Chapel Hill - musical performance
David Fernandez Fragoso (cello)	Pace U or Brooklyn College or City College of New York
Olivia Henry (violin)	Duke, Williams, or Vanderbilt – music minor
Santosh Gopalan (violin)	Elon University - Leadership Fellows program
Joshua Kendall (violin)	Stanford University
Delphine Liu (violin)	UNC Chapel Hill – history & environmental science
Aileen Niu (violin)	Duke University
Sophia Nolan (violin, guitar, vocal)	UNC Chapel Hill
Ozioma Obi (violin)	Harvard University - neuroscience and music double major
Mariana Osiris (double bass)	College
Collin Overby (cello)	University
Liam Roberts (viola)	Dickinson College
Teo Cheng Rojas (cello)	National Taiwan University
Keshav Varadarajan (violin)	Duke University
Natalia Williams (violin)	Cedarville University - molecular Biology
Maria Zola (violin)	Gap year - applying for universities in Poland



DUSS SENIORS REFLECT ON THE VALUE OF PLAYING MUSIC

Karthik Annadurai: Music has opened a new perspective on my life as a whole. It's like learning a whole new language and that allowed me to explore more.

Aniketh Arvind: I value the satisfaction I get after finally mastering a piece I have been working on.

Roger Brooks: I value the peace it brings me, and the community it creates. To me, music is a relief from the craziness of academic life, and it is always something I can turn to when I need a break from stress.

Amelia Cho: I enjoy being able to create a beautiful moment with other people through music. I enjoy being able to bond with the people I play with.

Paige Christensen: Music allows me to express myself, and it is a way to gather people.

Sonya Coulter: I value being able to express creativity with many others and create something beautiful.

Anna Darr: My favorite thing about playing music is that it allows me to be part of something bigger than myself, whether I'm playing solo and just sharing with an audience or playing with others and getting to share the process with them.

Daphne Davis: I believe music has the power to change lives, both for musicians and for those who hear it, so it is important for musicians to use their art to benefit others and make a lasting impact on their community.

David Fernandez Fragoso: I value the discipline of music, and the feeling of playing cooperatively within an orchestra, or even the bond that most players have with their instruments.

Santosh Gopalan: The thing I value about playing music is the joy it brings me when I play.

Olivia Henry: When I play together with musicians as passionate about music as I am, I feel connected, and part of something larger than me, especially when I am performing. To know there is someone experiencing the magic of the piece for the first time brings me joy and is my reason for continuing to perform music.

Joshua Kendall: Getting to play with others and hearing all the sound come together - it takes so much work to get everything together, but in the end I'm very proud that I get to be part of something so spectacular.

Delphine Liu: I love listening to the different voices that come out in each piece and hearing them interact and converse.

Aileen Niu: What I love most about music is the ability to take myself beyond notes! I like interpreting what's on the page and adding emotion to what I play. Different styles and instruments offer me even more chances to explore.

Sophia Nolan: Not only has playing music been an emotional outlet for me, it has also helped me connect with many friends and talented musicians. I consider music to be a third language and that is why I value it.

Ozioma Obi: I value most the power of music. Music has changed so much about the way I think, process emotion, and find happiness. I will forever be grateful for it.

Mariana Osiris: I value the fun I have when I play my instrument, because it feels nice to play different types of music, because they tell different stories, or moods when playing. It is very interesting to see the music come to fruition when many instruments play together.

Collin Overby: I value creating something special with other people and the ways music can share emotions and bring people together regardless of other differences.

Liam Roberts: The thing I love about playing music the most is the connections that I make with other musicians.

Keshav Varadarajan: I think the most important part of music is the connection formed with the audience during a performance. It's hard to describe, but it's a feeling that's impossible to have when you are just in a practice room.

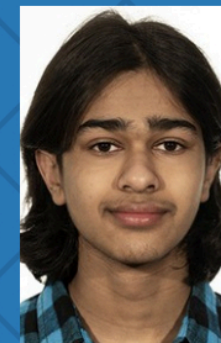
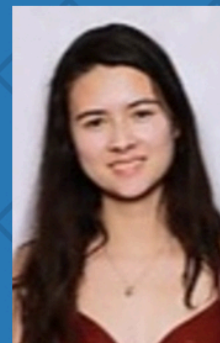
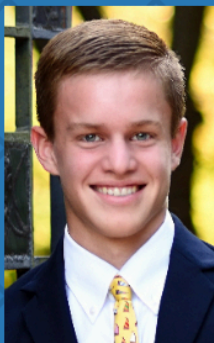
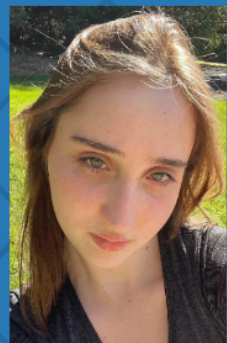
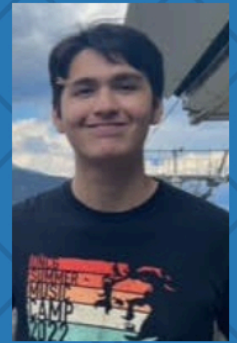
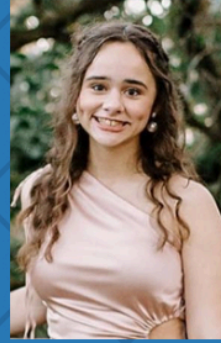
Natalia Williams: I love that I have the ability to put work into something and then see the efforts of my work through beautiful music.

Maria Zola: Playing music gives me a chance to step back from everyday problems and focus on something as simple as tuning notes and learning rhythms - a performance-ready-sounding piece being a good side effect.



Youth Symphony rehearsing with Professor Davidson and one of our Concerto Competition winners, Anthara Vivek

DUSS SENIORS 2023



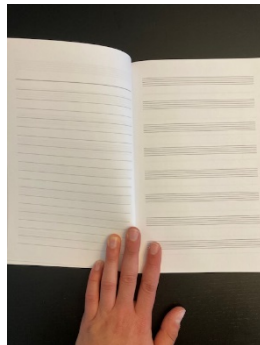
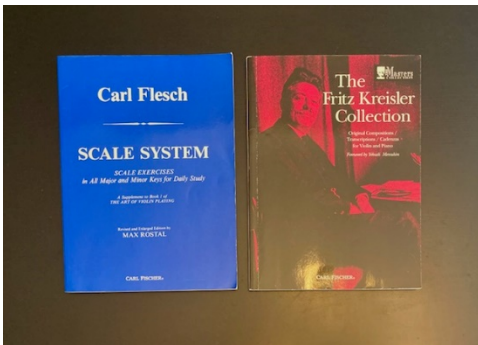
INSTRUMENT SALES

Violin for Sale: $\frac{3}{4}$ size; E. R. Pfretzschner, 1971, West Germany; violin in excellent condition, bow needs to be rehired \$300; with bow \$350; Contact Sheila, Patek snp2@duke.edu

Violin for Sale: Excellent condition, with geared pegs and bow \$800; case handle missing, but back strap for carrying; Contact Alexandra Love, alalexalove@gmail.com



Violin Books for Sale: Kreisler has pencil markings in one piece only, scale book is unused \$20 (for two); music notebook unused, excellent condition \$10; Contact Alexandra Love alalexalove@gmail.com



Electronic Keyboard for Sale: Excellent condition, with storage box \$150; Contact Alexandra Love alalexalove@gmail.com



Memories of Sam Hammond

*J. Samuel Hammond (1947-2021), Duke University
Carillonner, Library, and beloved DUSS Accompanist*

Mr. Hammond's physical appearance embodied his generous spirit. He had the unmistakable round, rosy cheeks and genuine smile of a truly good person - like a JR-Tolkien hobbit or one of Santa's elves, we thought. My son immediately took to Sam the first time he accompanied him, and, from then on, they both sort of glowed when they practiced or played together, which I always thought gave them both an angelic appearance; Sam certainly brought out the angel in my little boy.



I've attached my favorite String School photo. My son is practicing with Sam before a beginner concert in the Nelson Music Room on Duke campus. Their mutual enjoyment is unmistakable in the glowing smiles on their faces. No audience was necessary; the music they were making together was more than enough.

Sam's shining goodness lives on in my children, who will never forget him, and all those who had the pleasure and good fortune to make music with him. We refer to him often and always with smiling appreciation.

-Melissa Rooney

In our short time at DUSS, Mr. Hammond accompanied my 3 kids many times. He helped them feel so comfortable and confident and played for them with such gentleness and patience. It made performing such a positive experience during formative years and they still love performing to this day. Years after being at DUSS, I still remember with gratitude what he did for my children. God bless him and your family!

-SalleeAnn Miller

One time in ISO, nobody was sure what a marking meant so Mr. Stutzman said "we should ask Mr. Hammond, the living musical dictionary." And Mr. Hammond instantly knew what it meant and how to play it.

-Grace Hochstetler

After playing at a recital at DUSS with Mr. Hammond accompanying me, Mr. Hammond came to me and told me that I was a fabulous player and I should never give up the violin. Though I had only known him for a short time he still treated me as family. He was a very kind person.

-Emily Thacker

As a parent at DUSS concerts I got to enjoy Sam's incredible dedication to music and DUSS students. I always watched with joy at his musical commitment and sensitivity to every student he performed with, it didn't matter if he was performing the twinkle variations for the millionth time or an especially gifted and advanced student perform a Mozart concerto, everyone he seemed to play with

the same level of sensitivity and care for the music and student performing. You will be missed and we will be forever grateful for all you gave to the DUSS community.

-Simon Ertz

We all share the sonic memory of the daily bells in our public space at 5 pm daily. All on West Campus chose this time to reflect. Because of Sam, there was no other university quite like ours with its beautiful Carillon, so wonderfully played by him. As the afternoon softened into the evening people would stop, listen, and think about their day as the tones urged them on without fail. His devotion to music and the music department will always be remembered.

-Bryan Gilliam

Mr. Hammond was loved by all both by parents and children. He was a wonderful DUSS family member. He accommodated everyone without any reservation, regardless of their skill, he blended his skills to accommodate that child's confidence and provided support to the instructors. He was a role model for being neutral and encouraging. His passing on the full Moon day reflects on the blessings he earned while he was on the earth. He will be deeply missed and our heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Hammond.

-Brahma and Ramya

We are relatively new to DUSS and only attended 2 or 3 recitals, and never worked with Mr. Hammond individually. However, I was struck by the joy he exuded when accompanying the children on piano. It was clear that he loved supporting them and playing alongside them, and his goal was always to let them shine. I saw him walking away from the concert building one time and thought to myself how just then he looked like any other elderly gentleman, but when he sat at the piano, he came alive and seemed decades younger, and played with such nuance and grace. He was a true embodiment of the living joy of music! My sincere condolences to his wife Marie and his family.

-Jessica Poland

I met Mr. Hammond when I first came to the string school as an 8th grader and had the pleasure of knowing him all the way to college. My favorite memories of Sam were from seeing him every Saturday morning before symphony rehearsal. He would have just finished helping the orchestra before mine and there were a few minutes for us to chat or just say hello. He always greeted me with a long "hellooo Petah" and would tell me a joke or some fact about whatever day it happened to be. One such day he handed me a small bundle of books from his childhood he thought I would enjoy reading. When I studied at the strings school under Carlos Bardales, Sam was my accompanist for all my recitals, as he was for so many others. I remember the first time I ever performed with an accompanist - maybe my first recital ever. We played "The Swan" by Saint Saens. With his pure spirit and musicianship, he was able to take my nerves off playing well. No matter how I sounded, he always encouraged me and believed in me. This was one of the most influential things he did for me. Even years after we stopped playing music together, he would tell me something positive after every performance or even rehearsals. That gave me the confidence to imagine a career in music and apply to music school. At my graduating DUSS concert in 2019 I had already decided to go to Berklee College of Music. After the concert he gifted me a hand-knit blanket (of course it was beautiful, just like his spirit) and a card wishing me well at school. The blanket is still on my bed at home. I can't say it enough, but thank you Sam. Rest easy.

-Peter Sumner

Whenever we think of Sam, we think of our kids' musical years at Duke University String School. Sam was an indispensable presence in their young lives. Sam accompanied Michael and Julia when they were young, studying chamber music and violin at Duke University String School. In fact, he accompanied Michael to play his first competition piece "Mozart Piano Concerto No. 20 in D minor." Michael enjoyed rehearsing with Sam, and as inquisitive as he always was, bombarded Sam with countless questions. Sam would patiently answer every question of his. Very often, many hours would pass with the two alternating between chatting and playing. It was in the winter, and when we came out of the Mary Biddle Music Building, it was chilly, and the next day, Sam knit a scarf for Michael. We did not know Sam could knit! The scarf is still in Michael's closet which we will treasure for the memory of Sam. Later, he also rehearsed with Michael for his Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 1 for which he won North Carolina Symphony Kathleen Price and Joseph Bryan Concerto Competition. Sam started accompanying Julia after Julia's beloved teacher, Richard Luby, passed away, and when she needed an accompanist badly for her competition. Sam would very often comforted Julia while playing "Vitali Chaconne" which was the last piece Richard had assigned to her. It was the most challenging piece for Julia to play at the most difficult time, but Sam offered not only the accompaniment but also solace to her. He also went all the way to her middle school to accompany her for her talent show of this piece. We became friends through our kids. We enjoyed music, food and Marie's reading of her published book together. Sam instilled in our children not only the love of music but also love of life. Sam's warmth, talent, and laughter will stay with us for ever.

-Hongqiu Yang, Bai Gao, Michael Gao, Julia Gao

Mr. Hammond struck the perfect balance with young musicians -- he took performances seriously but not too seriously. My favorite memory was when a teenaged girl tackled a challenging piece on violin at Nelson. She played beautifully but got stuck in a loop and couldn't find her way out. Mr. Hammond played along, with the same sweet smile on his face, as if the music was written with a perpetual repeat and he would have gladly accompanied her all evening. His calm demeanor set the tone on stage for anxious musicians, with cameras recording their every note. It takes talent to follow kids and make it sound natural! He was a true professional and kind soul, we are grateful that our girls experienced his gentle presence on stage.

-Landon, Margot, Melissa, and Nina Cox

I have known Mr. Hammond since I was six, when I began playing the violin. When I was 10, Mr. Hammond was accompanying me on the Vivaldi Violin Concerto in A Minor for one of those music festivals where you get graded on how you play. At that point in my playing, I had begun to get nervous when performing in front of people, and I was also a very shy kid. Mr. Hammond noticed my tension and said something hilarious to make me laugh, relax, and enjoy my time performing. He always brought out the best in me and helped me play well and truly be there for the music. Mr. Hammond had that calming and encouraging effect on everyone he knew and never failed to make the world a better place. He's always been there for me in my musical career, and I can't believe I'll be going to college for music next year without being able to thank him for getting me there. Mr. Hammond will always be with me in my musical career.

-Amanda Harrell

What I remember most is the way that Sam made my students feel, and how lovely he was to work with. He always had a twinkle in his eye, willing to rehearse as many times as my students needed,

always accommodating. They seemed to really love him, which is such a rare gift in this world. He always made me, and my students remember what is most important about music, and ultimately about life.

-Sangeeta Swamy

My son Ivan played cello in the DUSS Intermediate String Orchestra last year. One morning, we arrived early and found the door to the rehearsal room open. There is a decent Steinway in the room, and I encouraged Ivan to play. Ivan was hesitant, but began his piece. Mr. Hammond came in a couple of minutes later and listened respectfully while Ivan finished his Beethoven. He then gave some very encouraging words, and some specific advice which was perfect, and showed deep musicality. The next week, he gave Ivan a CD of fortepiano music so Ivan could understand better what Beethoven's piano sounded like. He also gave us some sheet music for four hands piano, so Ivan and I could play something together. We have played the piece many times with joy, and listened to the CD many times, thinking of Mr. Hammond's kindness always. Because of Covid, Ivan is not in orchestra this year (chamber instead), so we hadn't seen Mr. Hammond for many months. However, very recently Mr. Hammond gifted a great deal of his sheet music for cello and piano, and specifically requested that some be given to Ivan. His thoughtfulness was very touching, and very encouraging to Ivan. Now, it will be with tears of gratitude that we play those wonderful pieces, remembering the kind musical man with a friendly smile and a generous spirit.

-Delsin Menolascino

I usually get intense stage fright before my recitals. Before each recital, I would always hope that Mr. Hammond would be my piano accompanist because he always put me at ease. I was so grateful for everytime he calmed my nerves while playing with me on stage. I remember participating in the Concerto Competition a few years ago. I was terrified, but got through it. As I walked back to my parent's car, Mr. Hammond told me I played beautifully and that made my day. He gave me encouragement right when I needed it. When playing at CSO, I loved how he never failed to make Mr. Rempher and the rest of the orchestra smile. His passion for music was contagious. I am so thankful to have met him.

-Sophia Nolan

At the end of my very first rehearsal conducting the Intermediate String Orchestra, I heard Mr. Hammond chuckling with his unmistakable giddy Sam-laughter. Self-conscience, I asked him if everything was ok. Through his laughter he explained, "Those kids have never had a rehearsal quite like that!" To my relief he was expressing the pleasure he felt accompanying the students during the rehearsal. His approval that day gave me the confidence to continue working with ISO which still propels me today. Sam's laughter and love for music is missed greatly.

-Matt Stutzman

We all have so many wonderful memories of Mr. Sam that it's hard to choose just one. With both of our sons playing in ISO, CSO and Youth at some point during their time with DUSS, we saw him every Saturday for many years. For all of us, I think the times that both Jacob and Ben had the privilege of rehearsing with Sam for solo performances were their favorites. He always had an extra moment for them after these rehearsals, encouraging Ben before his first solo performance by giving gentle feedback, and praising his volume and tone, and engaging Jacob in a conversation about a piece of music he heard him playing during his warm-up. This was a song Jacob had heard, but didn't know the name of, and he was trying to feel his way

through. A few weeks later, Jacob received an envelope in the mail from Mr. Sam, which contained the sheet music to the song and a lovely, encouraging letter. We also always enjoyed his wry chuckle when songs went astray! Mr. Sam was one of those rare people who just brought light each time we saw him, and even though we will not have a DUSS aged student after this year, we will miss his smiles, steady presence, and knowing he's out in the world spreading happiness through his music every day. We do feel he has left a wonderful legacy through all the students he worked with for over five decades, and hope they all carry a bit of that light and joy in their music out into the world.

-Greg, Kristi, Jacob and Benjamin Anspach

Mr Hammond always made me feel at ease whenever he would rehearse with me for a recital. He would give me great feedback and encourage me to always give my all when I perform. I will miss his warm smile.

-Colette Charles

We are saddened by the news of Mr Hammond's passing. My daughters know him as "the sweet man who wears a suit and played the piano for us." My daughters had the highest respect for him as he was ever present at practices, orchestra performances and recitals. We are grateful for his kindness and piano accompaniment for DUSS. Our deep condolences to his family.

-Dulce, Liana & Meg

Like everyone in the DUSS community, I was so incredibly grateful for Mr. Hammond's quiet, deeply meaningful, service to DUSS and its students. This was particularly so the year my son, Ben, was the only bassist in CSO. Mr. Hammond helped him feel not quite so alone in the back and, based on the smiles I saw on Ben, they must have shared a streak of wry humor.

-Emily Moseley

When my kids played in DUSS orchestra in the late '90s and early 2000s, Sam and I would often play a piano 4 hands version along with whatever symphony the orchestra was playing. We had such a good time playing together and admiring the talents of all the students. Sam always came to hear my kids when they played concerts, and he was a particular fan of my son, who was a fine pianist. Sam always wrote him beautiful notes after hearing him play. He crocheted an afghan for him when he went off to college!

-Susan Greenberg

Once at the DUSS summer camp I played a piano piece that I had been learning for Mr Hammond. While I was much more serious about bass than piano and wasn't particularly good at the latter, Mr Hammond was still very kind and helpful.

-Ben Esther

Mr. Sam Hammond had an incredibly generous spirit. Not only has he given countless hours rehearsing and performing with String School groups and accompanying individual students, but he gave generously to me personally. He crocheted a blanket when our son Jesse was born, he donated his son's old wooden toy violin to DUSS and he was very happy when I swiped it for Jesse. I can't remember a time when I asked for something that he said no (so I specifically tried not to ask too much, because I knew he would always say



yes!) I have been thinking of Sam each Saturday since we have been back in Biddle. I am so grateful to Marie for sharing her wonderful husband with the DUSS community and beyond. We love the Hammonds and will miss Mr. Hammond so much.

-Erica Shirts

I am very thankful Mr. Hammond. I am thankful for how he shared your knowledge with kindness to all: parent, teachers, and students. Each of your rehearsal and collaboration moments with the students and teachers were each time a teachable moment from you to our community. Thank you Mr. Hammond for your constancy and dedication. It was always a true honor and of admiration.

-Maria Valencia

Every time I had entered the room to rehearse with Mr. Hammond, he always greeted me with a smile. I remember at the end of a piece, he would always ask first if there were any parts I would like to play again. Once when I had to change the rehearsal time to another day, he gladly said yes, even though he must have been busy. When I brought the wrong piano music once, he told me it was okay, and pulled out the music from his big bag of music he always carried around. Even though I have not talked to him much, he would always smile to me first and I would never forget his warm smiles.

-Yeyul Lee

We will really miss Mr. Hammond's beautiful music, his pleasant personality, and his smiling face! He accompanied us in countless rehearsals, solo recitals, and orchestra performances over the years - always so calm and patient, which gave us the support and confidence to give our best performances. He will be missed!

-The Boltz family

I remember one time, in preparation for a recital, perhaps in senior year, Mr. Hammond and family generously welcomed me into their home to rehearse. We rehearsed there several times, on weekends and evenings, Mr. Hammond gently, kindly prodding me into shape. One time we had tea (my first time having it the British way, complete with a tea cozy!). After, he gave me a beautiful blue, soft blanket he had made, which has lived on my bed ever since-- and still does--through college and bachelorhood and births of children. It serves daily as a reminder of his warmth, generosity, and kindness. My condolences and best wishes to you and your family,

-Anders Meyer

Sam Hammond was not only a brilliant musician but also a kind person as well. I remember when I was younger I was selling (burnt) cookies and (poorly made) trinkets in front of Nice Price Books. No one was really buying anything (for obvious reasons) and it made me sad. But then Sam Hammond came up and bought everything to make me feel happy. Though this was a small moment, I feel like it shows who Sam Hammond was as a person. Kind, thoughtful, and supportive.

-Olivia Henry



Mr. Hammond was extremely dedicated to the success of string students of all ages and abilities. Not only did he accompany the string orchestras, but he also accompanied countless individual recitals with seemingly infinite patience and the ability to make students feel comfortable and confident. He is missed and we all have much to learn from his example!

-Laura Lindsey-Boltz

Mr. Hammond accompanied all of our kids and did so for several years. We have so many fond memories of him coaching the kids in his inimitable style - warm, nurturing and always with a smile. We greatly miss seeing him shuffle past the Fountain Room but never failing to pause, smile and wave at us before hurrying off to accompany another student. His legacy is one I hope brings smiles to all in the DUSS community for years to come.

-The Rajagopal Family

Mr. Hammond was so gracious and kind to my son when he was practicing for a performance; his humanity & love for music was palpable & I will forever be grateful that we had an opportunity to meet him.

-Anya

I remember when I first had met Sam in the DUSS Intermediate Orchestra. He was a fine fellow: always had a smile, a big heart for his work, a contagious laugh, and he never missed the opportunity to support growing musicians whom he had come across. Fortunately, I was one of the musicians. He and I shared many good memories not just at the string school, but also in my house and recitals, where he would accompany me on concerti. When it was time to go, Sam would get up from the piano bench with his briefcase and say, "I had a real cigar with you today, my friend." I will never forget his ways with humor and kindness. He truly made music and life that much more special.

-Avery Davidson

