

Dear Lyra Family,



Katelyn at The Mann Center for her first performance after 1 year of harp lessons

I hope you are enjoying your fall season.

Your enthusiasm and support have been crucial for our students' achievements and growth. This newsletter celebrates our - the Lyra Family's - accomplishments over the past year and previews opportunities for our students to flourish.

I hope that you will be as proud as we are when you read how Lyra's staff and students realized such success during such a difficult time. We look forward to a new season full of programming for our students, and engaging activities for you all!

With deepest gratitude,

Helen Gerhold, Executive Director

Lyra's New Mission & Vision:

Mission: to promote cultural equity through access to harp education.

Vision: Lyra's programs will continue to be accessible to a diverse pool of students. Lyra commits to using music education as a vehicle to instill cognitive, social, and leadership skills that are fundamental to music and critical to success regardless of the paths our students take. Through personal mentorship, students further their individual educational and career goals and express their creative voices. The Lyra experience empowers students by helping them discover their talents, strengthen self-confidence, expand opportunities, and enrich their lives and the lives they touch.

*Cultural equity is defined on our website by the Americans for the Arts. See more at LyraSociety.org.

"Because of The Lyra Society, I not only feel encouraged in the classroom, but also supported outside of it, and for that I am forever grateful."

- Medgina, Alumna, Temple University

Lyra's First Golf Event a Success! - 2021 Golf 'n' Gliss Benefit

Lyra's 2021 Golf 'n' Gliss Benefit held September 6, at The Union League Golf Club at Torresdale was a perfect beginning to our new fiscal year! Thanks to you, we raised over \$30,000 to continue Lyra's mission of improving young Philadelphian lives through access to harp education. With nine holes of golf, dinner, and a student concert, our first golf event was a wonderful way for our students and staff to meet new friends and see familiar ones. We look forward to bringing this experience to our patrons again in 2022! Thank you all for making this such a glowing success!



Lyra student, Maya, performing for Golf 'n' Gliss attendees at dinner



(L to R) George Pierson, Sheri Ranger, Kristie Bergey, Bob Toryak in front of the clubhouse.



Lyra Alumna Medgina playing for guests as they arrive.

Special thank you to our sponsors:

Event Sponsor: Sandra & David G. Marshall

Corporate Sponsor: Belfor Property Restoration

Halfway House Sponsor: William & Anna Marie Petersen

Lyra Student Sponsor: Ken Hutchins

Golf Cart Sponsors: Philadelphia Youth Orchestra | Lifetime Wells International | Edward Powell Pump & Well Drilling

Harp Performance Sponsors: Diane Mallery | Avram & Rita Woidislawsky | Louis & Linda Schwartz | Robert Schwartz | Common Ground Abstract

Photography by Rex Yape, Jr.



Lyra's students and alums performed and joined attendees for dinner!

Thank you, Elizabeth White Clark - Director of Costello Competition



The Lyra Family bids a fond farewell to Elizabeth White Clark, the Marilyn Costello Competition for Composition founder and director. Thank you to Elizabeth for her profound work in composition education and repertoire expansion for our beloved instrument! The Costello Competition expanded the harp repertoire by commissioning gifted composers. During her time directing the Costello Composition Competition, Elizabeth published eight works, awarded thousands of dollars of prizes, and premiered these works for the composers. We wish Elizabeth all the best as she continues to pursue her harp performance career and growing family.

This year our Costello Competition is taking a hiatus for further development.

College-Bound Seniors in STEM

Board member Anita Henderson, with the aid of Executive Director Helen Gerhold, developed a new structure to our college admissions and financial aid process. Central to this process is a new Board committee for College and Financial Aid Counseling.

Upon meeting with our seniors, we learned that all of our seniors want to major in the sciences. They are interested in majoring in: molecular biology, biochemistry, computer science, psychology, and organic chemistry. Students remain interested in supplementing their education by minoring in harp studies or pursuing private harp lessons and orchestra classes in college.

Conservatory on Full Scholarship



Our 2021 Lyra graduate, Blue, started studying with Elizabeth Steiner and completed his four years of study with Katie Ventura at Central High School. Blue was admitted to the Manhattan School of Music on full scholarship for flute performance, where he began his studies this fall.

Congratulations to Blue: we look forward to seeing and hearing his personal and musical growth throughout his conservatory studies!

The Glissando program has opened me up to an entire community of wonderful people - including both teachers and students - and I feel very grateful to be part of it.

- María, 12th Grade

Current School Year

Harp is back in schools, and classes have started! The Lyra Society has returned to schools, all at the discretion of safety and comfort levels of our teaching artists. We are grateful for the support of our Lyra Family for making COVID virtual lessons a reality over the last year - we look forward to continuing our programming in-person. Please stay tuned for opportunities to meet our students and even play with them this season.

2020-2021 Highlights



Lyra continued online lessons during the 2020-2021 school year; we provided our students harps in their homes. Here are some highlights:

- 100% of graduating seniors are attending college or conservatory
- Student Maya received The Philadelphia Orchestra/All-City Orchestra Fellowship
- Student María won honorable mention in her first All-City Orchestra Concerto Competition

- Four students participated with full scholarships to Curtis Harp Days
- Several of our students received free orchestral and ensemble training in partnership with All-City Orchestra and The Mann Center at the All-City Orchestra Summer Academy (pictured)
- Additional programming included: Virtual Celebrity Dinner Party; World premiere at the NADIA Virtual Festival of Lyra's first documentary; 2021 Virtual Masterclass with Elizabeth Hainen in partnership with the PYO Music Institute.