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WCMS AWARDS FACULTY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

WINCHESTER, MASS., March 31, 2016 – During the 2015-2016 school year, Winchester Community Music School is pleased to have reestablished and formalized a fund for faculty professional development grants. The \$5,000 fund was made possible this academic year by an anonymous donor. WCMS Faculty Development grants can support special projects, including recordings or publishing; touring; purchasing instruments or materials; professional development seminars; or other initiatives that further the professional development of faculty or advance their education and training of WCMS students. The grant application process is overseen and reviewed by the Programmatic Council of Department Chairs and the Executive Director.

Earlier this year, grants were awarded to the following five faculty members:

Glenn Dickson, clarinet faculty member, for the purpose of purchasing Kohlert Albert A and Bb clarinets. Glenn looks forward to incorporating these instruments into the repertoire of the Village Band, (which he also coaches) as well as to introduce new pieces to his WCMS private lesson students.

Kaeza Fearn, piano faculty member, for a recording project of her own compositions. Kaeza incorporates composition into her piano teaching whenever possible and recognizes that having her own works accessible on iTunes would be an encouragement to young composers and her WCMS piano students.

Tad Hitchcock, guitar faculty member, for the funding to enroll in the Dalcroze Eurhythmics Continuing Education class at WCMS this spring semester. Tad is learning how to apply Dalcroze Eurhythmics into his private lesson teaching and ensemble coaching. He acknowledges the importance of movement and feeling comfortable with movement in music making, whether it is a classroom of four-year olds or an ensemble of adult learners.

Marina Krickler, French horn faculty member, to continue pursuing her voice study at WCMS with Norina Rowen. Marina realizes the value of constantly improving her mind-body connection between having a strong musical ear and being able to map pitches to produce them accurately. With voice lessons, she is working on becoming a more confident singer to directly improve her ability to teach and coach. She is often singing to and with her students in lessons and the better she can model for them, the better they will learn.

Valerie Walton, saxophone faculty member, to craft a series of private lessons with a variety of teachers for the purpose of refreshing and increasing her skills as an instructor. Over the course of working with five various teachers, Valerie hopes to: expand her knowledge of saxophone pedagogy, increase her foundation in working with beginning flutists and flute/piccolo pedagogy, seek out information about clarinet playing and pedagogy, and further develop her computer composition skills.

There is a modest amount of money remaining in the fund for 2015-2016. The department chairs have determined that this will be put toward music for the WCMS music resource library.

Congratulations to all of this year's grant recipients. We look forward to learning more about how these funds impact our professional music educators.

Winchester Community Music School (WCMS) is a nonprofit organization providing outstanding and diverse musical education and performance, accessible to all. Founded in 1981, WCMS currently serves more than 850 students of all ages from Winchester and more than 30 neighboring communities. WCMS offers private lessons, group classes, ensemble programs, and music therapy, with instruction from exceptional professional faculty members in classical, jazz, rock, and blues.

To learn more about WCMS visit www.winchestermusic.org or call WCMS at (781) 721-2950.

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