



## Dear Friends,

It's good to be back with you. We have been making some important changes at *IUMusic* magazine since our last issue.

By embracing our changing communications world and in an effort to support a greener environment, *IUMusic* will include an increasing number of Web-based offerings. We also intend to publish all printed elements of the publication on the *IUMusic* Web site: [music.indiana.edu/iumusic](http://music.indiana.edu/iumusic). As a result, you will notice that this issue is a somewhat leaner version of our usual printed periodical.

With this in mind, we plan to create a digital-only edition every spring, while publishing a more complete print and digital issue in the fall. The fall printed issue will carry the important Class Notes and In Memoriam sections. We hope you will take time to join us for each issue, whether in print or online.

Our cover story chronicles a collaboration between Jacobs music education faculty and the local Fairview Elementary School. Thanks to principal Karen Adams and music teacher Kathy Heise, our faculty and students have been given an opportunity to test a number of long-held principles of K-6 music education. As we examine how different cultures use music for more than developmental reasons and how school music programs often introduce instrumental study at a very early age, fundamental questions about music study in the primary grades are being asked.

Increasing evidence suggests that there are many cognitive and societal benefits from learning to play an instrument at an early age, yet unassailable evidence seems yet to be codified. Therefore music education faculty Brenda Brenner and Lissa May are spearheading original research in this area by incorporating violin lessons into the curriculum of all three first-grade classes at Fairview. The article outlines the approach they are taking and describes some of the early experience.

This issue also features one of our venerable faculty members, Professor and Master Scenic Artist C. David Higgins, chair of the IU Opera Studies Department and principal designer for IU Opera Theater.

After designing professionally with IU Opera Theater, and

Gwyn Richards (left) and Brenda Brenner (right) discuss upcoming operas with principal designer C. David Higgins.

beyond, for almost 40 years, David is at the top of his game, and his amazing creativity continues to flourish. Pull back the curtain with us for a rare peak at the modest man behind the glitz and glitter of the IU Opera Theater stage.

In this magazine, we are fortunate to be able to celebrate many generous donations, including the receipt of an unprecedented gift from the family of Leonard Bernstein that contains the contents of his Fairfield, Conn., composing studio, and a \$1 million gift from The Georgina Joshi Foundation, Inc. to establish two major fellowships as a tribute to the memory of Georgina Joshi, a graduate student at the Jacobs School.

Feel free to join us online for the ample offerings of *IUMusicLive!*, a site dedicated to the wealth of performances given in the Jacobs School. By going to [music.indiana.edu/iumusiclive](http://music.indiana.edu/iumusiclive), you will see and hear our latest podcasts and on-demand archived video. We also invite you to join us online for those exceptional IU Opera and Ballet Theater performances, live from the Musical Arts Center stage.

And, finally, we'd love to hear from you! Please keep in touch by sending us updates on your activities and thoughts about how the IU Jacobs School of Music and the IU Alumni Association can be more responsive to your interests and needs.

Sincerely,

Gwyn Richards  
Dean, IU Jacobs School of Music

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