



2015 ANNUAL REPORT



Aaron Copland
COPLAND HOUSE

...where America's musical past and future meet

February 2016

Dear Friends of Copland House:

We are very pleased to report on an eventful year at Copland House. We began 2015 as the recipient of a coveted Yale Distinguished Music Educator Award. The year concluded with a prominent Sunday *New York Times* feature headlined *The Sound of Mavericks at Copland House*, profiling 2015's last two concerts on our mainstage series at the Merestead estate in nearby Mount Kisco. In the intervening months came a succession of important artistic and organizational achievements.



By the end of 2015, our flagship Copland House Residency Awards closed in on the milestone of having hosted a total of 150 composers from every corner of America for short-term stays at Copland's National Historic Landmark home, where they could focus without interruption on their creative work. (In photo left, 2014-15 Resident Tyler Capp is seen during his stay here.) As California-based Anne LeBaron noted about her residency last fall, "I had an amazingly productive time at Copland House, where the isolation and inspiring surroundings did a great deal to contribute to my creative process." Ten composers were selected from 86 applicants in 26 states and 2 countries as our 2015 Residents: Carlos Carrillo, 45 (IL); Viet Cuong, 24 (NJ); William Dougherty, 27 (NY); Melody Eötvös, 30 (IN); Jeremy Gill, 40 (MA); Charles Halka, 32 (TX); Gabriella Smith, 23 (CA); Christopher Stark, 34 (MO); Christopher Trapani, 35 (NY); and Roger Zare, 29 (IL).

In the few short years since it was launched in 2012, our CULTIVATE emerging composers institute has become an important way-station for highly-gifted young artists in their 20s and at the beginnings of their professional careers. Chosen in 2015 out of 85 applicants in 25 states for this intensive, all-scholarship creative workshop and mentoring program were (clockwise in photo, starting from upper right) Gity Razaz (NY), Michael Gilbertson (CT), Daniel Silliman (CA), Michael-Thomas Fomai (HI), Polina Nazaykinskaya (CT), and Andrew McManus (IL); they are seen here working with CULTIVATE Director Derek Bermel (in hat). Their fellowships were sponsored by the ASCAP Foundation, Westchester Community Foundation, John Strugar, and the Friends of Copland House. As Silliman noted, "CULTIVATE has become one of the most exciting and generous opportunities for young composers to have new work produced and to interact with luminaries in the field."



Music from Copland House's North American concert activities last year included its debut in Mexico, which featured three of the ensemble's Founding Artists – Nicholas Kitchen, Michael Boriskin, and Wilhelmina Smith (seen here before their first concert in the central Mexican city of San Miguel de Allende). MCH also kicked off the American Composers Orchestra's Sounds of a New Century (SONiC) Festival, with a live-broadcast concert in the fall at WQXR's Greene Space in Manhattan (left top-banner photo). Another highlight was a fascinating concert at the Caramoor Festival, where the group collaborated with the brilliant German thereminist Carolina Eyck (left in photo right). MCH's Merestead concerts last year were typically wide ranging, and included classics by Leonard Bernstein, Lou Harrison, Gunther Schuller, and George Perle; theatre music by Marc Blitzstein and Kurt Weill; and major compositions by (young and older) contemporary masters Ned Rorem, John Harbison, Pierre Jalbert, and Jorge Grossmann.



Lakeland High School Band Director Paul Mesches and our then-Development Director Rebecca Sayles traveled to New Haven to accept the Yale Distinguished Music Education Award (photo left). Recognizing the excellence of Copland House's collaborations with local schools, the award specifically cited our *What's the Score?* program at Lakeland – composer commissions to create new works for school ensembles – as "one of the nation's finest music partnerships." At year's end, *What's the Score?* debuted in nearby Peekskill High School, when Copland House Resident Raymond Lustig (right top-banner photo) began working with the students there on his new composition for the school's chorus and wind ensemble, which they will premiere in Spring 2016.

Restauranteur Nick Livanos and his team were gracious hosts at their stylish Oceana restaurant in midtown Manhattan for our annual culinary and musical gala. In September, we collaborated on a nautical epicurean journey called *Making Musical Waves*, captained by celebrated chef Ben Pollinger, seen here with Co-Chairs Susan Geffen (left) and Ann Scheuer.



Music from Copland House paired each course with a live musical menu of Astor Piazzolla, Charles Ives, Mark O'Connor, and Claude Debussy. Each year brings transitions. We mourned the loss of our Founding Treasurer and long-serving Trustee David Kornreich. While Lauren Katzowitz Shenfield left Copland House's Board to focus on other endeavors, we were very pleased to welcome new Trustee Thomas Lalla, an accomplished attorney with considerable corporate and non-profit experience. Patricia Ann Neely (in photo) joined our staff as Development Director, succeeding Rebecca Sayles, who served with great devotion and high professionalism. Ian Murdoch's title was upgraded to Operations and Artistic Administrator.

Phase One of a major preservation effort at Copland's home came to a successful conclusion with the complete exterior re-painting of the house and the detached office. We were very grateful to receive support from the Benjamin Moore Foundation, which provided all of the paint and stain products for this essential task. Kimberlee Bradshaw, Managing Director of the Giving Moore Foundation, and Julianne Maguire of Benjamin Moore & Company (left to right in Copland's studio) visited here following the completion of work, which was expertly executed by Mitch Berliner and Derek Vincent and their team at CertaPro of Bedford Hills, NY.



Addressing these vital infrastructure needs enhances the experience of visiting here, as Copland House becomes an increasingly-popular destination for school, senior, community, travel, and history groups. At one such visit last year by the Elmhurst College Philharmonic Orchestra from Illinois, Copland House Resident Jeremy Podgursky (seen below) spoke with the students and teachers about music in the U.S., his career as a composer, and his creative process.



Thanks to our rigorous management of expenditures, we were largely able to mitigate the effects last year of an inconsistent economy. According to our most recent audited financial statement (available for viewing on our website), over 75 cents of every dollar we raise goes directly into our musical and educational programs that serve the professional community, concertgoers, and the general public.

Because 80% of our operating revenues come from contributed income (individual donations, foundation grants, government support, etc.), we depend especially heavily on people like you, and this Annual Report shows the tangible results of what we have been able to accomplish together. Your support helps to shape and energize the future of American music, and we deeply appreciate your commitment to Copland House. We also gratefully recognize the institutional vision, leadership, and generosity of the Aaron Copland Fund for Music, Amphion Foundation, Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation, ArtsWestchester, ASCAP Foundation, Charles Evans Hughes Foundation, Edward T. Cone Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, Ruth M. Knight Foundation, and Westchester Community Foundation.

Before we forge ahead in 2016 to several important new program initiatives, and to staff and organizational expansion, we are very happy to reflect, with pride, on what we attained with your help last year. Aaron Copland's multi-faceted legacy as an incomparable composer advocate, musical citizen, cultural leader, and creative pioneer animates everything we do at Copland House, and we look forward to composing exciting new chapters together with you in this inspiring and remarkable musical adventure!

Fred Pack
President, Board of Trustees

Michael Boriskin
Artistic and Executive Director