

**May 2012**

Dear Friends of Copland House:

2011 was another strong year at Copland House. It began auspiciously when the American Music Center awarded us its coveted *Letter of Distinction* for "significant contribution to contemporary music," previously given to Martha Graham, Leonard Bernstein, George Balanchine, Dizzy Gillespie, and Copland, among others. *Westchester* magazine also saluted Copland House in its "Best of the Decade" issue.

A *New York Times* feature heralded our 2011-12 concert season and raved that "by offering first-rate fare focused on the modern American repertory, the performances at Merestead are gaining a reputation for quality – one to match those of the coveted Copland House composers' residencies." Our season began with a sold-out performance of *Late Night with Leonard Bernstein*, created by Jamie Bernstein and New York City Opera General Director George Steel, who co-narrated this vivid exploration of the iconic master's private, personal side. Princeton radio station WWFM began recording our Merestead concerts for broadcast and webcast, which will significantly expand our audiences and enable those of you not near Music from Copland House performance venues around the U.S. to hear what everyone has been buzzing about! The first program aired in December, featuring the local premiere of the original chamber version of Copland's *Quiet City*.

10 gifted composers from 6 states were chosen in the latest round of our all-expenses-paid residencies at Copland's home. Selected from 90 applicants in 23 states were David Gompper, Joel Hoffman, Robert Honstein, Greg Kallor, Daniel Kellogg, Angel Lam, Reinaldo Moya, and Nathan Shields, as well as Marcus Karl Maroney and Robert Xavier Rodriguez, who return for their second residencies. Martin Kennedy is an Alternate. On this year's eminent jury were composers Robert Beaser and Steven Stucky, and violinist Curtis Macomber.

Our educational activities continued to grow. Our innovative new *Music from the Inside Out* sends composers into schools to compose a work together with students in multiple sessions throughout the year. In our own Hendrick Hudson school district, Copland House brought together parent, educational, and community organizations to commission former Resident Lisa DeSpain, whose impressive new *Cantos de Amor* was premiered in June by the high school band and chorus at a multi-school, year-end concert showcasing American composers. We subsequently received funding to bring this program to other schools. We also presented various other educational activities in several nearby districts (Lakeland, Peekskill, Quaker Ridge), and welcomed student groups from near and far to Copland House.

Our culinary and musical gala last fall with Chef Marcus Samuelsson at his Red Rooster in Harlem featured performances of music by Still, Handy, Ellington, Copland, and others, and earned over \$120,000 in revenues. As always, the gala was sold out and won media raves, hailed by *Westchester* magazine as "enormously triumphant," and cited in the *Bloomberg News* year-end review of "Top 10" New York City events.


Our Board of Trustees continued to embrace the far-reaching recommendations of its Forward Planning process, which will help us build our programmatic and institutional capacities. The highly-regarded Rebecca Sayles joined our staff as Development Officer, to oversee and augment our fund-raising activities. We began to expand our Board and re-vamp its operations, streamline our internal systems, upgrade our office technology, initiate social media presence, and overhaul our Website.

We concluded 2011 with a surplus, raising \$486,680 in revenues (plus an estimated \$50,000 in in-kind goods and services) against expenses of \$458,033, achieved through careful resource management, prudent spending, and vigorous fund-raising. We are gratified to have maintained our financial stability during these economically-uncertain times while also expanding our activities and continuing to remain debt-free. We do not take these fiscal achievements for granted, as we inhabit a fragile non-profit ecosystem that makes us vulnerable to the lackluster economic climate. Our programs are conceived to address today's seismic technological, cultural, and behavioral changes that are profoundly transforming how concert music is regarded, presented, taught, and consumed.

Reflecting what the *American Record Guide* called our "emotionally generous" and "humane yet measured approach typical of Copland," ours is a "human-scaled" organization that enables individuals to have a meaningful impact on Copland House's mission and service to the community. We salute the involvement and generosity of a few of these people. Carol and Robert Morris are among our most loyal supporters, and have played a key role in all of our recent successes and growth. Our Board colleague and recently-elected Vice President, Tony Maddalena, has been an ardent, effective advocate for Copland House in the corporate, political, and civic communities. All our Trustees have been focused and prodigious. Former Trustee James Babcock demonstrated on several occasions the enduring effect one person can have on both the glamorous (underwriting two Merestead concerts in 2011) and the mundane (sponsoring routine maintenance work and the most recent re-painting of Copland's home). Our volunteer Master Gardeners group –led by Pat Reber, Sara Doherty, and Mattie Varvaro– again tirelessly donated their time and energies throughout the spring, summer, and fall to make Copland House as inspiring outside as it is within.

Major institutional supporters also had a substantive effect on our activities in 2011, including our primary government funders (National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, and ArtsWestchester), and the Aaron Copland Fund for Music and Charles Evans Hughes Memorial Foundation. We received initial assistance from the Westchester Community Foundation and the Francis Goelet Charitable Lead Trusts, and gratefully welcomed back a pivotal early supporter, the Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation.

At Copland House, your support is tangibly seen and heard. This report reflects the concrete results of your investment in Copland House, and our achievements described here would have been impossible without your commitment and generosity. We continue to justify your involvement and confidence in our abilities and our work, and eagerly look forward to sharing many exciting new artistic adventures with you.

  
 Lawrence L. Faltz, MD  
 President, Board of Trustees

  
 Michael Boriskin  
 Artistic and Executive Director



**A sold-out Merestead concert**



**John Musto and James Martin at the Gala**



**Copland House in the schools**