

Bowdoin International Music Festival

2020 Annual Report





The Ying Quartet performed together for the first time since March in a concert livestreamed from David Ying's living room on July 3, 2020.

Bowdoin Festival Online reflecting on resilience during COVID

Thank you for your generous support during this most unusual year. We are proud of the ways we fulfilled our educational and artistic mission through virtual events, and because of your financial support, we were able to offer all of our summer programming free of charge to both our students and community — one of few Festivals to do so.

As we reflect upon the season, we are inspired by the resilience of our Festival community and the commitment from everyone to keep the Festival strong. Many of you, along with new audience members just discovering the Festival, tuned in from all over the country and internationally to masterclasses, livestreamed concerts, and discussions with our artists. Your active participation created a wonderful virtual community, one that in some sense captured the magical atmosphere of creating, learning, inspiring, nurturing, and sharing that we treasure every summer in Maine.

We are also grateful to our faculty for their enthusiasm and collegiality during the move to online platforms that are always subject to the limitations of microphones, speakers, internet stability, and bandwidth. In every case, their

energy and positive spirit made the difference, allowing students the opportunity to perform for each other, share feedback, and have important conversations about staying healthy and motivated both physically and mentally while distanced.

Many of our students took full advantage of our virtual offerings and even explored beyond their studio. One student commented, “I had a great time meeting new people and learning from instrumentalists in other masterclasses...because everything was online, I was able to jump from one class to another and participate in as many as I could.”

The knowledge we've gained through this summer will guide us into the future as we build on our ability to foster and strengthen the artistic connections within our Festival family. We still believe ultimately in the precious, human treasure of sharing live music. At the same time, we have increased confidence that no matter what we will face in the years to come, our love of music and our ability to enjoy it together can never be stopped! We are proud to have you with us on this quest.

David Ying and Phillip Ying
Artistic Directors

A Virtual Community

coming together across the globe

Public Events

BY THE NUMBERS

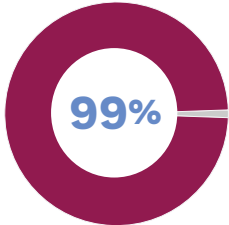
- 11 artist talks
- 19 masterclasses
- 20 concerts
- 50 total public livestreams
- 20,059 total views from 83 countries

Audience Response

IN YOUR WORDS

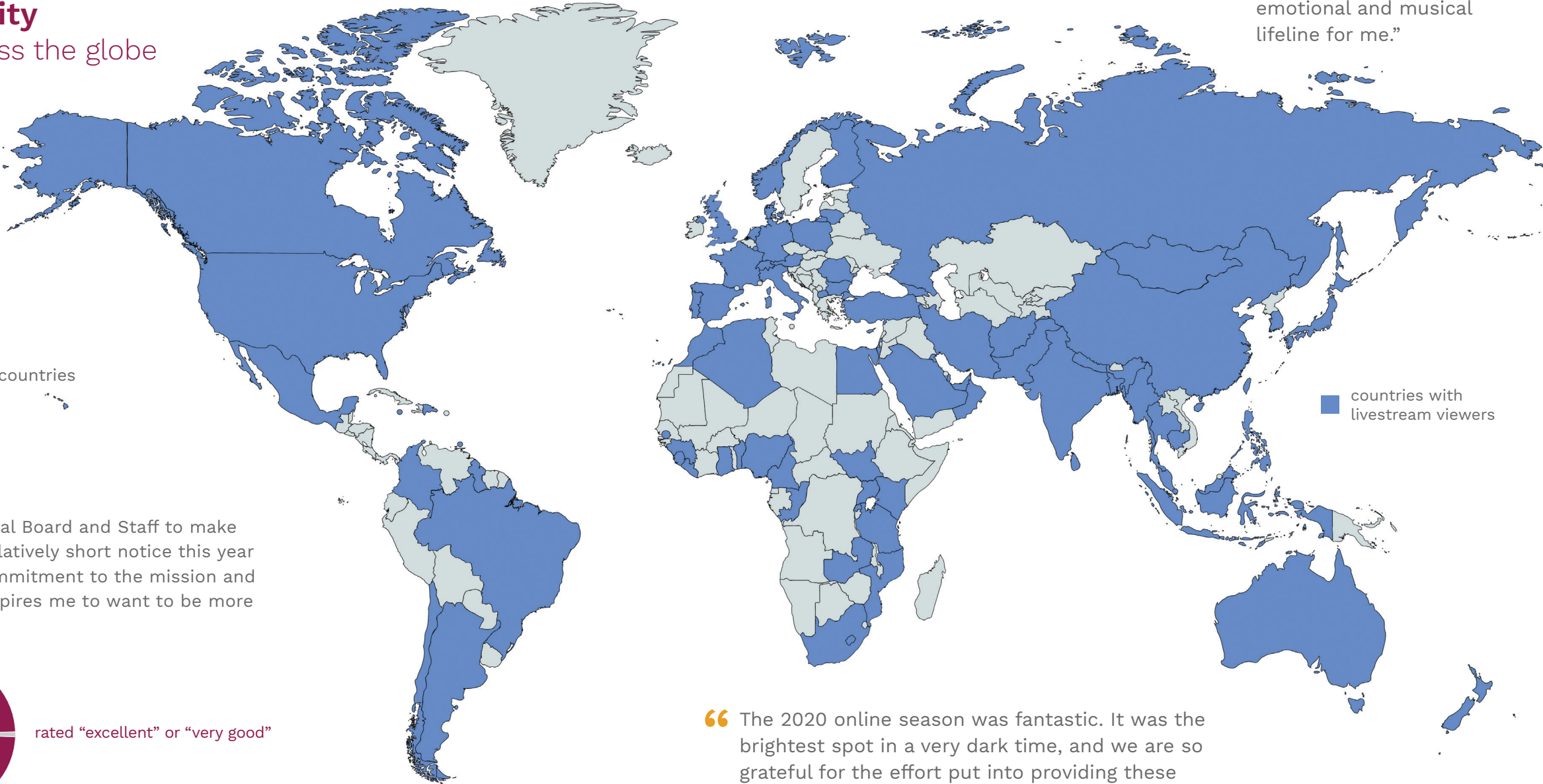
“The willingness of the Festival Board and Staff to make these events available on relatively short notice this year reaffirms the passionate commitment to the mission and reach of the Festival and inspires me to want to be more supportive myself.”

Program Quality



rated “excellent” or “very good”

“Festival concerts were an emotional and musical lifeline for me.”



“The 2020 online season was fantastic. It was the brightest spot in a very dark time, and we are so grateful for the effort put into providing these beautiful concerts.”

Thank You, Faculty for your dedication

Faculty welcomed us into their homes for **108** Zoom classes!

- David Ying, cello

Ayano Ninomiya, violin

Derek Bermel,
composition

Amir Eldan, cello

June Han, harp

Masumi Rostad, viola

Carol Rodland, viola

Kurt Sassmannshaus,
violin

Elinor Freer, piano

Kurt Muroki, bass

Che-Yen Chen, viola

Paul Katz, cello

Dimitri Murrath, viola

Ran Dank, piano

Soyeon Kate Lee, piano

Daniel McDonough, cello

Janet Sung, violin

Nelson Lee, violin

Renée Jolles, violin

Sergiu Schwartz, violin

Douglas Humpherys,
piano
- Liz Freivogel, viola

Ian Swensen, violin

Pei-Shan Lee,
collaborative piano

Edward Arron, cello

Luke Rinderknecht,
percussion

Andreia Pinto Correia,
composition

Ani Schnarch, violin

Itzhak Rashkovsky, violin

Tao Lin, piano

Meg Freivogel, violin

Phillip Ying, viola

Paola Prestini,
composition

Jeffrey Zeigler, cello

Kirsten Docter, viola

David Bowlin, violin

Linda Chesis, winds

Steven Doane, cello

Mikhail Kopelman, violin

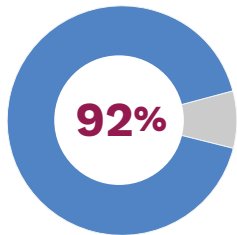


Festival Students

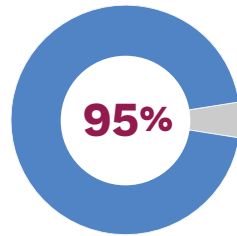
excelling online from home

248 students from **35** states and **20** countries participated in
108 masterclasses, **11** artist talks, and **4** virtual young artists concerts.

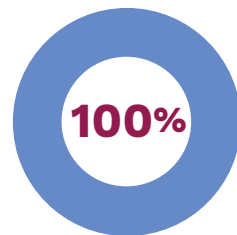
- “ Thank you for pulling through these unprecedented times to create such a fantastic program online this summer. Sure, it wasn’t the same as being all together in person, but you didn’t let that stop you from making BIMF 2020 a fun, enriching, exciting place to be. I learned so much this summer from the studio classes, artist talks, and concerts you hosted, and even made a couple of new friends.”
- “ I never imagined I would love virtual masterclass this much, but I learned so much from the Festival, not only from piano classes, but also from watching other instrumental classes, composer talks, and the concerts.”
- “ My summer highlight was definitely the new music collaboration project. I loved working with a Festival composer to create a new piece and share it with the world. Such an exciting opportunity!!”



rated masterclasses
“excellent” or “very good”



rated lessons
“excellent” or “very good”

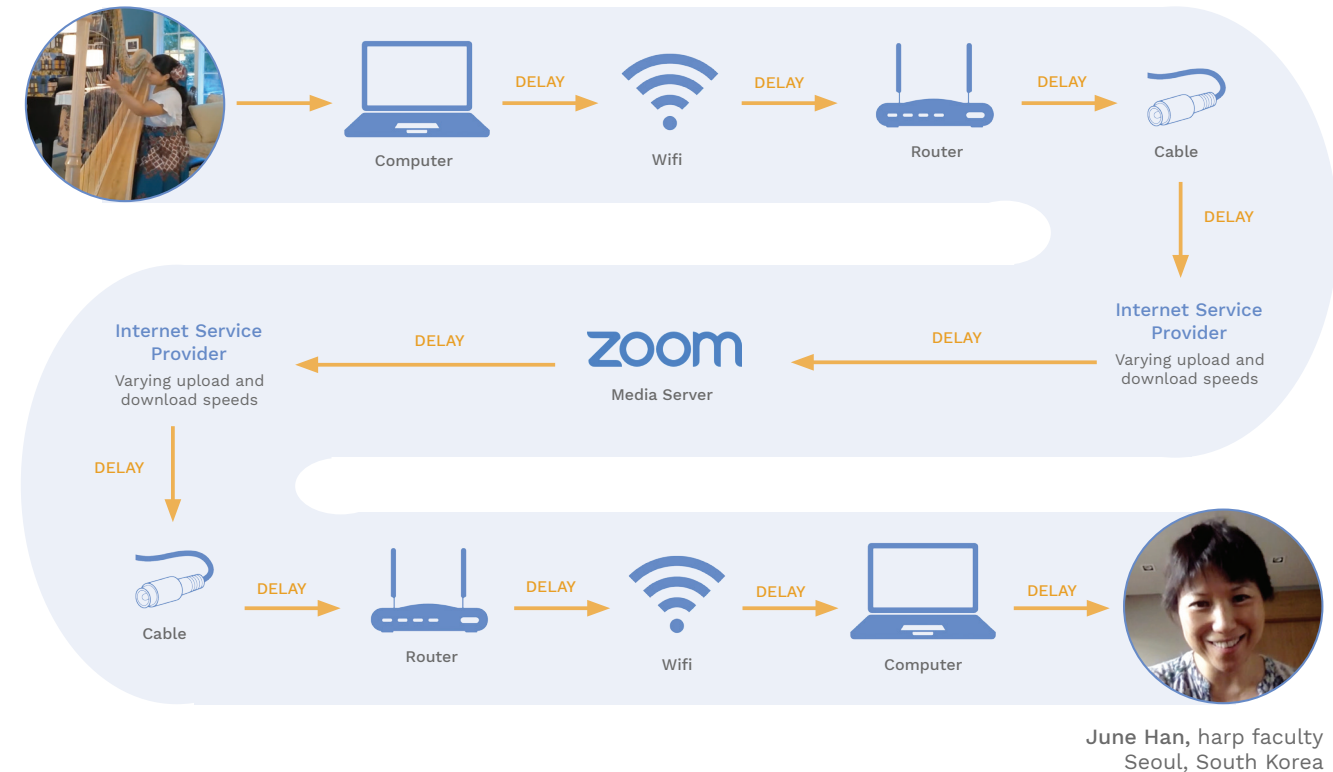


attended Festival-sponsored
activities free of charge

Adapting to Zoom & streaming musical audio

This diagram, adapted from Stephen Roessner’s “Streaming Musical Audio” talk on June 29, 2020, shows the number of millisecond delays and latency that occur when we meet and play music over Zoom.

Renée Murphy, harp student
Bloomington, Indiana



Festival Purchases Historic Building

a brief history of 181 Park Row

1842

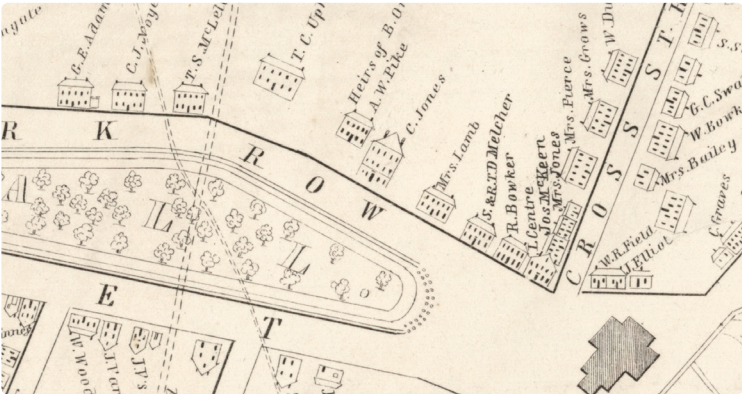
Brunswick merchant **Charles Jones** purchases half an acre of land from the Estate of Benjamin Orr for \$400.

Construction begins on his Greek Revival home.

1846

Construction is completed.

C.J. Noyes creates this Brunswick Village Plan.



1910

Walter D. Hatch purchases the home.

1929

Helen Sawyer purchases the home.

1938

Frederic E. T. Tillotson (aka "Tilly") and Marjory Tillotson purchase the house from Helen Sawyer.

Frederic, the long-time (25 yrs+) chair of the music department at Bowdoin College, brings distinguished visitors, including Aaron Copland and Sergei Prokofiev, to the house.

The first floor parlor is home to two grand pianos that the Tillotsons use for lessons as well as cocktail parties and musical soirees.

Marjory Tillotson teaches pianoforte and holds student recitals at the house Thursday nights at 7 PM.

1940s-1963

Frederic Tillotson dies in 1963 at age 66.

1964

The **Festival** is founded by Robert K. Beckwith and Lewis Kaplan.



Photo: Pejepscot History Center

1976

Norton Insurance buys the house from the estate of Marjory Tillotson.

Brunswick celebrates the U.S. bicentennial.



Photo: Pejepscot History Center

1983

A train derails at Fitch Place.

The **Festival** starts leasing the second floor for its main office.

1997

The **Festival** becomes an independent non-profit.



2007

2014

David Ying and Phillip Ying become the Festival's Artistic Directors.

2020

The **Festival** purchases 181 Park Row on March 3, 2020.

Thank You for Your Support!

November 1, 2019 – October 31, 2020

Thank you for your critical support during this year of uncertainty. Your generosity enabled us to continue to fulfill our mission this season and offer all online programming to our students and community for free.

INDIVIDUALS

Visionary (\$25,000+)

Anonymous (2)
Patricia Brown

Founder (\$10,000–\$24,999)

Margy Burroughs
Peter & Harriette Griffin
Deborah Schall
Claudia & Michael Spies

Benefactor (\$5,000–\$9,999)

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Barbara Gauditz
Susan Lavan
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Lenore & Norman Rapkin
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& Octavio Pajaro
Laurel Walsh & Justin Schuetz

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Maine Arts Commission

^ deceased

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acknowledge all donors. Please
call us to report any error or
omissions: 207-373-1400.

Statement of Financial Position

As of October 31, 2020 (estimated, unaudited)

The Festival remains in a strong financial position despite moving
our 2020 season online. We avoided most expenses associated
with the on-campus experience, and while we did not collect
tuition or ticket revenue, strong community support allowed us
to end our fiscal year with a surplus and increase in net assets.

ASSETS

Cash and Other Current Assets	203,000
Investments	3,633,000
Building & Equipment	683,000
Total Assets	4,519,000

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	5,000
Accrued Expenses	18,000
Notes Payable	360,000
Total Liabilities	383,000

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	2,400,000
Temporarily Restricted	233,000
Permanently Restricted	1,503,000
Total Net Assets	4,136,000
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	4,519,000

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