PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
—Candace Koski Janners, President

Every season is different although the PMMF product, superb classical music, is always a constant! One of the first things that “old friends” will notice this season is a change in timing of the Festival. In response to the 2013 audience survey, the Festival will occur later during the summer, July 19 to August 3, 2014. It will be a more “intense” season with 24 productions in 12 communities of the three regions served by the Festival: the Keweenaw, the Dickinson area and Marquette. Artistic Director Joshua Major will again produce a unique array of concerts and recitals, both vocal and instrumental, as described elsewhere in this Newsletter. In addition, the off-season, in-school program, OPERAtion Imagination was presented in March. This program introduced 1,540 children to the magic and music of opera allowing them to participate in producing their own opera scene.

In support of these productions, Festival business is conducted throughout the year guided by a Board of 15 Trustees who volunteer time, talent and financial support and by a small, very dedicated and talented staff who work countless hours “behind the scenes.” You will notice a new staff position on the Masthead. The Festival welcomes Eric Eckerberg as Festival Services Manager. Eric has recently relocated to the area from the Twin Cities and will provide the expertise necessary to manage the on-going, complex details of Festival support. Karen Frederickson has retired as Chief of Staff but will continue in a limited capacity as Bookkeeper for the Festival. Karen has been with the Festival for over 13 years, serving in varied capacities wherever she could contribute her expertise. In 2013, Karen was the recipient of the Laura Jean Deming Award which is awarded annually to an individual or organization in honor of exceptional service to the Festival.

As announced on the PMMF website in December, the Board engaged LMDA, Inc. of Chicago to conduct an organizational assessment. The final report has been received and is in review by the Board. The recommendations of the report will be analyzed and used appropriately as the Board strategizes the ongoing evolution of the Festival.

As always, throughout this evolution, the Festival could not exist without you—friends old and new, volunteers, audience, donors, patrons, artists and performers. As we anticipate the up-coming 24th season, we look forward to its celebration In the Company of Friends!

2014: IN THE COMPANY OF FRIENDS
—Joshua Major, Artistic Director

I am proud to present our 24th season, “In the Company of Friends!” As our Festival continues to grow and evolve, this year we introduce two big changes. PMMF will be condensed to a two-week season and moved to the end of July. We hope that this new format will help make it easier for all of our friends to participate in the Festival.

Our theme this year celebrates the many friends we have made in the past 24 years. Performers, staff, volunteers, audience, and Trustees have developed many life-long friendships that began with great music.

This year marks 20 years since the Bergonzi String Quartet and Lucy Thrasher began their relationship with the communities in the Upper Peninsula. The Quartet will bring their usual magic this summer, and Lucy will be featured in a cabaret with two of her friends, Holly Janz and Anne Jennifer Nash, all led by Jerry DePuit, who makes his 11th appearance with the Festival. Marking her 24th year since founding the Festival, Laura Jean Deming will return to join Jerry in the Cabaret. One of our most successful organists, David C. Jonies, returns for the second time, and the spectacular young tenor Miles Mykkanen from Bessemer, MI, will present two solo recitals. We will present an evening of opera, featuring a selection of arias from Handel as well as Lee Hoiby’s one act opera, The Italian Lesson. PMMF is proud to continue its UPstarts! series featuring musicians from the Upper Peninsula. This year we feature violinist Carrie Dlutkowski from Houghton and the return of soprano Tory Wood from Escanaba. They will be accompanied by Susan Byykonen, who first played with the Festival 15 years ago.

This year marks the retirement of Karen Fredrickson, who has been one of the great contributors to the Festival’s success. After 13 years and a recipient of the Laura Jean Deming award, Karen will be missed, but will always remain one of the Festival’s great friends. There are so many friends to be honored this summer, and I look forward to doing just that!
2014 Season Events

Lucy Thrasher and Friends. Anne Jennifer Nash and Holly Janz join Lucy Thrasher in an evening of Cabaret including compositions by Kurt Weill, Cy Coleman, Kander and Ebb, Lennon and McCartney, Stephen Sondheim, Harold Arlen, Jacques Brel and more. Jerry DePuit returns to guide us through a very special evening of song with three spectacular singers.

Organist David Jonies. David returns to the U.P. to perform on the world-class vintage instruments in the area. It will be a pleasure to welcome David back to PMMF after his spectacular concert in 2007.

Upstarts! In our third Upstarts! season we continue to feature young professionally ambitious musicians from the Upper Peninsula. Violin, voice, and piano will be featured this season.

Bergonzi String Quartet. Ross, Glenn, Pamela, and Scott will bring their magic to our stages once again, and this season marks their 20th anniversary with the Festival. The relationship between these beloved musicians and the community is something to be celebrated, and we encourage all of you to join us in expressing our gratitude for 20 years of beautiful music-making.

Opera! Handel and Hoiby. Joseph Mechavich returns to Pine Mountain Music Festival (Così fan tutte, 2012) as accompanist in an evening of opera, featuring arias from Handel’s greatest operas as well as Lee Hoiby’s opera, The Italian Lesson. Based on Ruth Draper’s monologue, Hoiby created an inventive and charming opera for soprano voice. This will be an unusual and exciting evening.

KeWEENaw Gala. Join us on July 19th in a private home for an up-close and intimate evening with some of our guest artists. This will be a great time to meet artists, gather with friends, and enjoy some highlights of the Festival.

Miles Mykkanen in Recital. Tenor Miles Mykkanen, from Bessemer, Michigan will be featured in a solo recital accompanied by Joseph Mechavich. Currently a student at the Juilliard School of Music in New York, Miles sings a solo evening of music that will reveal remarkable musicality and talent. Mechavich previously conducted Così fan tutte in 2012. This promises to be a noteworthy evening.

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Pine Mountain Music Festival announces with excitement and gratitude the award of a $17,000 grant from the State of Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA). PMMF, one of 428 applicants to compete for the MCACA fiscal year 2014 funding, was awarded the grant through the MCACA peer review process. The National Endowment for the Arts also provided partial funding of the grant.

We express our appreciation to the MCACA and to the state legislators who approved MCACA’S budget. The MCACA grant supports the Festival’s 2014 Season, “In the Company of Friends.” Serving communities throughout the Upper Peninsula, PMMF receives significant financial support from individuals in addition to corporate and foundation support.

THANK YOU!

Our theme this year is “In the Company of Friends.” Along with excellence in classical music, what sets Pine Mountain Music Festival apart is friendship. There are so many people who have committed their talents to the Festival for many years and have become favorite Festival friends. Lucy Thrasher and the Bergonzi String Quartet both debuted 20 years ago, and Jerry DePuit and Joshua Major have contributed their talents for 11 years!

Without you, our friends who attend and support the concerts with your time and treasure, none of this would be possible. This year we have a $200,000 goal, a 10% increase from what we raised last year. With your help, we know we can make it! We deeply appreciate your commitment and support in past years and ask you to be just as generous in support of our 24th annual season.

MCACA GRANT

Thank you for your generous support. Your commitment is important and is a testament to the quality and duration of the Pine Mountain Music Festival. The support of friends like you is a integral component of our mission to provide a diverse program of musical excellence in a setting where people can share a love of music in a personal way.”
OPERATION IMAGINATION

OPERAtion Imagination is our off-season in-school educational outreach program. We send a small troupe of singers, with a pianist, to present the joys of singing and the fascination of opera.

The program is led by Ann Campbell, an experienced vocal and music instructor, with assistance from three local singers, Greg Campbell, Lara Neves, and Jared Anderson, as well as local pianist Susan Byykkonen. The singers demonstrate different voice types and ways of delivering a song according to context. Short opera scenes are presented using props and involve children as “extras.”

Following the in-school presentations, an optional opera workshop is conducted in which a limited number of children create their own opera scene and perform it on-stage for parents and others. This year’s workshop was held on March 15 at the Rozsa Center for the Performing Arts.

OPERAtion Imagination has been educating and engaging children since 2002. Some years ago, the program reached 3,900 students in 19 schools throughout a four county region. Since then, funding limitations have reduced the program’s reach. In 2014, sessions were held in March at six Keweenaw elementary schools.

This activity is supported in part by Portage Health.

CELEBRATING LUCY THRASHER’S SERVICE

I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate Lucy Thrasher and the 20 years she has devoted to the Festival. Lucy first joined the Festival in 1995 singing Susanna in The Marriage of Figaro. Since that time she has been involved as performer, mentor, advisor, and director of the Resident Opera Artist (ROA) Program and my very close colleague. All of those who have been fortunate to work with her know first-hand her expertise, graciousness, and devotion to the Festival.

In my 11 years at the Festival, I have come to know and trust Lucy as a great advisor and leader. In these years, as well as performing, (her recent brilliant performance of Désirée in A Little Night Music comes to mind) she has been committed to behind the scenes activity.

In our years together, we have spent countless hours auditioning and deliberating over thousands of young artists who have vied to become part of the ROA Program. With her sensitivity, understanding and experience in the field, Lucy has helped make the ROA Program one of the finest young artist programs in the country. For me, personally, she has been a generous and supportive colleague, and there are many times I would have simply been lost without her. Her dedication to and love of the Festival is one of the reasons for its success, and I would like to take a moment this summer to acknowledge and thank Lucy for her years of service to the Pine Mountain Music Festival.