

May 9, 1987

Dear Toby,

One of the most rewarding things that I have ever done for myself has been to become acquainted with the Community School. For many months now I have wanted to write to you to thank you for the joy and enrichment which you permit me to share. Many thank yous are in order, so somewhat belatedly, let me try to articulate a few.

First and foremost is the quality and the spirit of the school. The excellence. The care and dedication to the elementary student playing before his or her peers, right on through to the astonishingly gifted; to those who may go on to renown, and to those whose lives will forever be enriched regardless of the path they may choose.

Thank you for letting me witness the depth and breadth that make possible the Honors Recitals and the Joyeux. They are in themselves pure elation! Nothing can quite describe the delight of seeing these young people joyfully producing a joyful sound. But what moves me so profoundly are the steps along the way. To watch the Open Classes, the

Friday Night Recitals, The Master Classes, The School Recitals and now The Chamber Music Recitals, is to see those steps: the interplay between students and teachers and families so vital to their development as musicians and as whole beings; the coming together of striving young individuals in that special world of 'making music'; the sense of something beautiful and worthwhile shared.

It is a rare and lovely privilege to be transported to that purely emotional, inspirational realm which is essential to our lives, but which, lacking nurture, can so easily be lost.

I thank you most profoundly for permitting me to share in this extra dimension.

Sincerely,

Jona Benson

