

# OLD NORTH CHURCH

## *Music Patrons Fund*

8 Stacey Street, Marblehead, MA 01945

October 2023

Dear Friends,

I hope this finds you very well – restored after a wonderful summer, excited about the season ahead, and anticipating a beautiful New England fall!

As I embark upon my 35<sup>th</sup> year as *Minister of Music* at Old North Church, I should like to reflect on the last several months and enthuse about the future. Much has changed here at Old North Church since my last letter to you in May of 2022.

Foremost on my mind, is our annual *Music Patrons Fund* initiative. Recall, this is typically paired with the 10am service on *Music Sunday* (also known as *Jazz Sunday*) every year in late May. However, our campaign was intentionally deferred from May 2023 to October 2023 so that our church community could focus on our *Keep it Ringing!* Capital Campaign.

While my colleagues on the church ministry and staff are delighted to have achieved our ambitious Capital Campaign goal, contributions are still needed – and will be very much appreciated – to support many costly repairs to our beloved and historic church building. Further, the upcoming Fall Stewardship campaign will endeavor to raise awareness and pledges, so that we approach the new fiscal year with a balanced budget and with our financial house in order.

With plans for these two essential fundraising campaigns firmly in place, on behalf of the hard-working Music Ministry Board, *it is my sincere hope that you will also continue to support our vibrant music program at Old North Church with a gift to our Music Patrons Fund!* I believe there is compelling need for all of these campaigns at Old North; I also believe that our various fundraising goals are well within reach, and that participation should not be competitive, but charitable and forthcoming. I hope you agree!

As far as our music program is concerned, I will admit that the questions and challenges we have faced – during the last three years – have been formidable. But I have been so comforted by your motivation and encouragement – as well as the support of my colleague ministers and staff members, our professional musicians, lay ministry, countless volunteers, and so many remarkable friends here at Old North. *Thank you* for providing an environment which encourages and nourishes music as an indispensable ministry.

Turning your attention to the *Music Patrons Fund*, you should know that our general church budget supports many core elements of the music program we all deeply cherish at Old North, but certainly not the *entire* program. To this end, many of the musical events we provide, present, and produce – which minister to the entire community – ultimately depend upon you and your generous gift to the *Music Patrons Fund*. We describe our *Music Patrons Fund* as a revolving account, supporting *special* music throughout the church year, including: Jazz Sunday, an entire worship service devoted to sacred jazz and gospel music; Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas services; and Easter services with brass and timpani. One important clarification: our annual Festival Chorus Christmas Concerts are funded separately and do not rely on support from the Old North Church budget or the Music Patrons Fund.

The ***Music Patrons Fund*** also provides partial funding for the annual Lenten Choral Concert on the evening of Palm Sunday. Our Lenten Choral Concert last spring – which featured Mozart’s *Requiem* – was comprised of an intergenerational chorus and nearly 400 in attendance! Sprinkled throughout the season are other remarkable and unique musical events, including performances by acclaimed string quartets, jazz pianists, brass players, classical guitarists, African drummers, and others. And, speaking of African drummers, I hope you will join us on Sunday, October 29 at 10am for *Africa Sunday* – and a guest appearance by the Akwaaba Ensemble led by master percussionist, Theophilus Marty.

While I firmly believe that the Old North Church community enjoys and appreciates all types of music – many, in fact, *love* music – as evidenced by my 35-year tenure, it is your ongoing commitment to support the quality and variety of our music program that I find truly inspiring. As the next chapter of our Old North journey unfolds, I am energized by the prospect of providing consistency and growth in our music program, and I am deeply moved by the rich connections that are made through the physical and spiritual acts of music making.

If you are in a position to contribute to our ***Music Patrons Fund*** at this time, your gift will not only help fund numerous programs which minister to the entire community and preserve our vibrant musical life at Old North, but you will be providing sustenance to so many artists who continue to restore their careers after an unimaginable three-year professional upheaval.

Kindly make your check payable to ***Old North Church***, noting “Music Patrons Fund” in the memo line, and mail to:

Music Committee  
Old North Church, 8 Stacey Street, Marblehead, MA 01945

On behalf of our Music Ministry Board – Ruth Ann Wallace and Dee Burgett (Co-Chairs), Pattye Comfort, Nicole Eicker, Kevin Hayden, Andrew Rodger, and Becky Robison – as well as Bell Choir Director Liz Smith, *thank you* for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Maria*

Maria van Kalken  
*Minister of Music*