

Supporting the New Violin Family



A letter from Executive Director Carleen Hutchins

Dear Friends of the New Violin Family,



In my long years of directing and supporting the development of the Violin Octet, first in collaboration with Frederick Saunders, John Schelleng, Maxwell Kimball and others too numerous to mention here, then with the Catgut Acoustical Society, and now under the banner of the New Violin Family Association, I have seen many changes and met many challenges. However, none of these, as important as they seemed at the time, are as daunting as the challenges that confront us now. The Association

must plan for new directions, define new goals, and prepare itself for the future under new leadership.

The development of the New Violin Family and the Violin Octet has always been a group effort, and I could not think of a better cause to which I could devote my life's work. But all things come to an end, and I must step down soon due to advancing age. I will no longer be able to provide the considerable personal, financial, and philosophical support that, with the help of generous friends, I have maintained over the past 50 years. This is a burden that must now be taken up by others if the Association is to continue in the 21st century.

We have an urgent need for gifts and donations of all kinds if the Association is to function effectively during the next 24 months, which I see as our most vulnerable period. We have long-term needs, such as the creation of an endowment fund to provide continuing support, and we have short-term needs such as revenue for daily operations so that we can continue to staff a central office, publish our newsletter, and distribute luthier's kits, technical drawings, sheet music, and compact discs of performances by New Family instruments. Additional funds will help us institute a major membership drive and address the need to produce enough octet instruments to fill a growing demand.

My family and I very much want the NVFA to continue promoting the Violin Octet, the development of which has been not only my life's work, but an undertaking that has benefitted from the labor and sacrifice of hundreds of col-

leagues, members, and students over the years. If this spirit of collaboration and mutual support can remain in place, then the future of the Association does not look bleak at all!

There are many ways to help support the NVFA, but now financial support is critical. Bob Spear, who has edited all our newsletters but the first, has put together this insert for your information and, I hope, for your favorable consideration. I want to assure you that we have a dedicated and committed Board of Directors that is ready and willing to carry the Association into the future. I also want to assure you that they are equal to the task and come with my unqualified support and approval. A hard pull lies ahead, and they deserve all the assistance we can give them.

There are many ways to support the New Violin Family, including some in this insert that you might be new to you. If you have questions or need further information, please feel free to get in touch with F. Scott Ponicsan, our Assistant Executive Director for Funding and Finance. You can reach Scott by phone at 973 493 0302, or by email at [<fsponicsan@aol.com>](mailto:fsponicsan@aol.com).

Together we have run a long, strong race during the last half-century, but the finish line is not yet in sight. Others will take the baton to run the next leg, and I wish them well. With your continued support, they will succeed.

With all my love and affection,

Carleen M. Hutchins, Executive Director

The New Violin Family Association is a non-profit 501 (C) (3) corporation incorporated in the State of New Jersey and licensed as a Foreign Corporation in the State of New Hampshire. Contributions are deductible as allowed by law.

New Violin Family Association
42 Taylor Drive, PO Box 987
Wolfeboro, NH 03894
603 569 7946
nvfa@metrocast.net
www.nvfa.org

Charitable IRA Rollover

The Pension Protection Act of 2006, signed into law in August of 2006, gives individuals greater control over their pension and retirement funds. It allows persons aged 70 1/2 years and older to directly distribute up to **\$100,000** from traditional IRA accounts or Roth IRA accounts to qualified charities and other non-profit organizations as described in IRC 170(b)(1)(A) without penalties for early withdrawal. Such transfers can be made directly to the NVFA.

This provision applies only to **tax years 2006 and 2007**. Previously, such distributions were taxable, but for this period they are now excluded from gross in-



come, which eliminates the income tax penalty for charitable gifts of this type. In other words, unlike other forms of charitable

giving, there is no income tax deduction: the amount is simply not included in the IRA owner's income. Because of the way charitable IRA rollovers are



constructed, it does not count against limits for any other type of charitable gifts you might be making. There is a minimum required distribution, and transfers to donor-advised funds and private foundations do not qualify.

Distribution must be made by December 31 of the year in which an exemption is to be taken. Some limitations and restrictions apply, so consult your legal and financial advisor, or get in touch with F. Scott Ponicsan, our Assistant Executive Director of Funding and Finance.

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Mission Statement

Founded in 1999, the mission of the New Violin Family is to educate the public about the new octet violins through writings, concerts, lectures, and demonstrations; to encourage players to use the new octet violins in public performance and in teaching; to stimulate the composition of music for the new octet violins and make such music available to the public at large; to instruct others in the making of new octet violins; and to sponsor the collection and preservation of documents and other materials relating to these violins and their development, so that such archives are generally available.

Cash Gifts

When it comes to running a non-profit organization, **there's nothing as welcome as cash!** Expenses for the day-to-day operation of our office can never be postponed: cash is the oil that lubricates our gears and keeps the good works coming.

Credit Card.

To make a gift using your Visa or Mastercard, call our central office at 603 569 7946 and we'll assist you. The advantage of a credit card is that the money becomes available for use immediately. If you wish to have your gift used for a specific purpose, please let us know at the time you call.

Check.

Make checks payable to the *New Violin Family Association*. If the gift is for a specific purpose, please indicate your intent on the check's memo line. You will receive a written response and a confirmation that your wishes have been carried out. Mail checks to:

New Violin Family Association
42 Taylor Drive
PO Box 987
Wolfeboro, NH 03894

Cash.

If you would like to stop by and make your cash gift in person, just let us know. We'll be happy to see you. Please do not send cash through the mail since we can not be responsible for it. Our number is 603 569 7946.

Secure Online.

Cash gifts can also be made through our secure web server. The form to use is on the member's page. Here you may join the Association, pay dues, make a gift, or some combination of dues and gift. Remember that the dues are not tax-deductible, but any amount over is deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Please indicate in the "comments" field if you have a definite purpose for your gift.

Our payment system uses a secure server and all transactions are encrypted.



Questions About Contributing Securities?

Please call **F. Scott Ponicsan** or **Jayme Califano** at
UBS Financial Services
800 631 8179

Gifts of Securities

Many donors favor gifts of cash, but there are advantages to giving long-term appreciated securities in support of the exciting work being done by the New Violin Family Association. These include a charitable deduction on your personal income taxes based on the market value of the security at the time it was given, and avoiding capital gains tax on the appreciated value of the securities.

Value of Gift.

Value is the mean of the high and low trading prices on the date of the gift. The official date of the gift is determined in several ways. It is the postmark date if sent by mail. It is the date we receive it if sent by other carriers. It is the date the security is received in the NVFA brokerage account if sent by wire transfer, and it is the date on the new certificates if you re-register the security in the NVFA's name. If you have held the securities for more than a year before donating them to the NVFA, you should not be liable for capital gains tax on any appreciation.

Stocks and Bonds.

Certificates in your name can be sent to the NVFA central office by certified mail or express carriers overnight. Do not make any endorsements or other notations. Include a letter indicating the exact purpose of your donation. Attach a separate envelope containing a bond power filled in with only your signature exactly as your name appears on the certificates plus a copy of the letter indicating the exact purpose of your gift.

Securities held by a bank or broker require your written authorization and a statement that you wish to make a gift or transfer of a certain number of shares of a

particular security to the NVFA for a specified purpose.

Electronic transfer instructions:

DTC#0221

**UBS Financial Services
FBO Account MW 18188 PS
New Violin Family Association, Inc.**

Physical delivery instructions:

**UBS Financial Services
500 Campus Drive
Florham Park, NJ 07932
For deposit to FBO Account
MW 18188 PS
New Violin Family Association, Inc.**

Send a copy of your authorization letter to the New Violin Family Association at the address on the front page of this insert.

Mutual Funds and Closely Held Stock.

Stocks that are non-marketable (closely held) or mutual fund shares can also be given to the NVFA. If you are contemplating a gift of this type, call or write F. Scott Ponicsan, Assistant Executive Director for Funding and Finance for details.

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Including the NVFA in financial and estate planning often confers considerable tax advantages. For example, a gift of \$10,000 in stock might entitle you to a \$10,000 deduction on your income tax return! Careful planning and consultation might allow you to make a larger gift than you think possible while supporting the goals of the New Violin Family Association.

Planned Gifts

Life Insurance.

You can make the New Violin Family Association the beneficiary of old or new life insurance



policies. If the policy is not paid up and premiums are due, you still must make the payments but will qualify for an income tax deduction.

Retirement Assets.

If you transfer the assets remaining in qualified retirement plans to any family member other than your spouse, you might pay as much as 80% or more in taxes. Naming the NVFA as the successor beneficiary of your spouse will permit both you and your spouse to have use of the assets in your lifetime, after which any remaining assets will support the work of the NVFA.

Real Estate.

Giving a gift of real estate is similar to giving stocks in that the value of the gift is not the original purchase price, but the fair market value of your property at the time you make the gift. Best of all, no taxes will be due on the appreciated value of the property.

Another example of this type is a *Charitable Remainder Unitrust*. You can create a special trust called a *unitrust* into which you transfer your real or other tangible property. The unitrust would then sell the property, but the gains would not be taxed because the unitrust is a charitable entity. In fact, you might be entitled to a substantial charitable income tax deduction.

The money is invested and the trust pays you an annual income for life, typically 5% - 8% of the trust's value. Unitrusts are revalued annually, and since the trust is likely to grow long term, payments to you would rise as you get older. Upon your demise, the remainder of the trust passes to the NVFA.

Retained Life Estate.

You can give ownership of your home to the New Violin Family Association, enjoy all the security of remaining in your home for life, and receive tax benefits.



Endowments

An endowment gift is an investment in the future. It is a fund made up of gifts and bequests in which there is a legal requirement that the gift remain intact and be invested to provide a steady source of income. However, donors may specify that the principal remain untouched forever or for a specified period of time, usually determined at a point where sufficient assets have accumulated to achieve a desired goal. For example, one goal might be the construction of one complete Octet. Another typical use of the interest earned is for operating expenses, while unused interest is added back into the fund to keep it growing.

Individuals may establish an endowment fund in their name or the names of loved ones by giving \$10,000 or more. The donors can specify that the interest earned be used in their particular area of interest. Some examples might be a fund for the production of compact discs or the creation of new musical works for combinations of octet instruments. Others may also contribute in any amount and at any time to named endowments. Upon request, the NVFA will provide an annual financial report for named endowments.



In our increasingly complex society, decisions concerning the distribution of your assets after you pass away become more complicated. It is extremely important that you decide what happens to your estate in a timely manner so that your wishes can be carried out easily and without delay, and so that you can provide for your family, loved ones, and causes that are important to you.

Limits on Bequests.

There is no limit on the amount you can give the NVFA or other non-profits through your will.

Types of Bequests.

Specific Requests allow you to name the NVFA as a direct beneficiary of a stated amount of money, property, or percentage of your estate.

Residuary Bequests allow the NVFA to receive all or a specified part of your estate once all other terms and conditions of your will have been satisfied.

Contingent Bequests allow you to name the NVFA as a contingent beneficiary in the event other beneficiaries named in your will predecease you. Your will should name the NVFA by its legal designation, which is: *The New Violin Family Association, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation with its principal office currently located at 42 Taylor Drive, Wolfeboro, NH 03824.*

Your bequest may be either restricted or unrestricted. Restricted gifts allow you to decide the purpose or purposes for which your bequest will be used. Unrestricted gifts allow the NVFA to allocate resources to the areas of greatest need.

Giving by Will (Bequests)

Why You Need a Will.

Very simply, if you do not have a will that specifies how to distribute your estate, strangers will do it for you. Your assets might be entangled in probate for months or even years, and in some cases might be taken by the government. If you already have a will, it might be worthwhile to review it and see if it needs updating. If you have moved to another state, sold or purchased property, or received an inheritance since you made your will, the value of your estate might have changed substantially.

A will is more than a legal document that distributes your assets; it is a means by which you express your love for family members, dear friends, and the worthwhile causes you support --and we hope that the New Violin Family is one of them.

Perhaps you'd like to set up a fund for a specific purpose in a charity or non-profit organization. Your bequest to the NVFA can be earmarked for any of the projects we're developing such as the endowment fund, the production of musical CDs and DVDs, educational projects--even as particular as underwriting the building of a single octet instrument! Be explicit in your will: enumerate your beneficiaries and bequests by name.

If you have collected art objects, a valuable stamp collection, or other tangible items that you would like to leave to someone, make sure you include them in your will so they will not be sold or included in a blanket bequest of your remaining estate. Your bequest can be a specific sum, a percentage of your es-

tate, items such as real estate, or securities. Tangible personal property such as jewelry can also be given.

In addition to supporting a worthwhile musical cause, your charitable bequests and giving



to the NVFA might entitle you to significant tax advantages. See your financial advisor to discuss the best approaches for you, or get in touch with our Assistant Executive Director for Funding and Finance, F. Scott Ponicsan.

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To learn more about current NVFA projects, contact our Assistant Executive Director for Operations, Robert J. Spear.

<rjspear@zoom-dsl.com>
PO Box 6562
Ithaca, NY 14850

For other inquiries, phone or email our central office and someone will be in touch with you shortly.

<nvfa@metrocast.net>
603 569 7946

If you decide to include the NVFA in your completed will, we ask you to share this information with us.