

## **The Campaign for North Chapel Fostering Music and Performance**

The North Chapel Unitarian Universalist Church has been an integral part of Woodstock's spiritual, social and cultural life since it was founded in 1786. The church continues today to offer a place for inspiration and celebration, for church members but also for the broader Woodstock community and its many visitors.

In addition to its use for Sunday services, memorials and wedding celebrations, the Sanctuary is often used for performances and concerts. Throughout its history, the North Chapel has made intentional choices that have enhanced its value as a performance space. The Sanctuary's quiet beauty and superb acoustics, along with its historic pipe organ and performance-quality baby grand piano, makes it a desirable venue for musicians of all types and attracts a range of concerts and musical events to the Woodstock community.

North Chapel's use as a performance space is intertwined in our campaign goals, as we seek to preserve and enhance our facility as a gathering place, to strengthen the building's contribution to the life of our communities, to ensure the building's continued use and enjoyment, and to upgrade the building's energy efficiency. We invite you to join us in supporting the North Chapel as a place of cultural enrichment and inspiration for our community.

### **Music Performance and Education**

The North Chapel Concert Series, underwritten by a group of music lovers in our community, brings accomplished classical artists and groups to our Sanctuary in an annual series of free concerts.

Interplay Jazz, an arts education organization founded by local jazz musician, Fred Haas, uses the North Chapel as a teaching and performance space.

Other national and local musicians and groups such as the Thetford Chamber Singers, the "pop" a capella group Hyannis Sound, and jazz musicians including saxophonist Michael Zsoldos and internationally acclaimed cellist Eugene Friesen perform regularly at North Chapel.

### **The Historic "Thayer" Pipe Organ**

Considered "modest" in size—with just 900 pipes—the church's "Thayer Organ" has a storied history and unique sound. Built in 1875 for the prominent Boston organist, W. Eugene Thayer, the organ was purchased for the North Chapel in 1881 through the influence of another notable Boston organist and composer, Woodstock-born Samuel B. Whitney.

In 1956, the organ was awarded a plaque by the Organ Historical Society, after the “discovery” of its history and unique sound by two founding members of the Society, E. A. Boadway and Robert Reich. Another noted organist, E. Power Biggs, played the organ in a recording on Columbia Records of the “Variations on America,” by Charles Ives (also known as “My Country ‘Tis of Thee” or “God Save the Queen”).

The Thayer organ was restored in 1969, and again in 2007. The organ plays a broad range of music with dramatic effect, and is recognized for its bright yet full sound. The organ also is noted for its ability to render Baroque music, which is surprising for an organ of its size and construction, and the musical preferences of the period in which it was built. Research has revealed that Thayer, who had the organ constructed to his specifications, loved to play Bach.

### **Our Piano: Yamaha C3**

With guidance from jazz musician Fred Haas, the North Chapel purchased a performance-grade baby grand piano with a sound quality that performers enjoy playing—and is further enhanced by the acoustics of the Sanctuary.