



Arrowbear Music Associates An Educational Corporation

Fall 2026

President's Message

Our 85th Reunion was a unique experience for all of those who attended. It rained from morning to evening. However, the events of the day went on even though we had to make some adjustments to our original plans. The surprising thing was that everyone seemed to enjoy the rain. Over one hundred alumni plus their families joyfully endured the wet weather. Most of the activities were held in the Dining Hall and the Orchestra Bowl. I enjoyed seeing friends from camp sessions I attended many years ago. Dennis mentioned that we had the most diverse gathering of former campers ever. There were campers from the 1950s up to current campers.

The day ended with a concert that started in the Dining Hall with the Choir and then moved to the Orchestra Bowl where the Brass Choir and Orchestra performed in the rain. I want to thank all the volunteers and our Board of Directors for all the work that was needed to put on this event. I especially want to thank the Dockstader family for their help in planning this fundraising event. This place we call Arrowbear unites us all in a special way and brings back the memories that will remain forever in our hearts.

Arrowbear ran a full summer of instrumental sessions including an Elementary, Pre-Intermediate, Intermediate, Jazz, Advanced, and a Choral session. They did not fill all of the sessions and need your help to advertise Arrowbear for next summer. Laura and I visited most of the sessions and took photos of the scholarship winners and spoke to the entire camp about the scholarship program. We encouraged them all to speak to their peers about coming to Arrowbear and applying for a scholarship if they need help to attend.

I hope to see many alumni at our annual event, "*Sounds of the Season*," on December 24, at the Los Cerritos Mall. All string players are welcome to join us to play carols for the shoppers. Music is provided. Just bring a stand. We play from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. Even if you no longer play, please come and enjoy the program and visit with us.

By the time you get this newsletter, the holiday season will be upon us. I hope that your plans are fun and full of joyful celebrations.

Cliff Kusaba
President



Scholarships for Summer 2027

Scholarship applications will be available beginning **February 1, 2027**, on our web site at **www.arrowbearmusicassoc.org/scholarships**. You can also contact our Scholarship Chairperson, Laura Kusaba, at 562-716-4898 or by email at **arrowbearmusicassociates@gmail.com** to request a paper application after February 1. Last summer we granted \$83,188 in scholarships to 64 recipients. Most scholarships awarded are partial scholarships. There are a limited number of full scholarships available. We grant scholarships to both choral and instrumental applicants. Recipients are chosen based on both need and merit. Nearly all of our recipients would not have been able to attend a summer music camp without financial assistance. Applications are due in mid-April. We notify all applicants by the middle of May. The process includes a written application, a recording of a solo with or without accompaniment on a flash drive or emailed to us, a letter written by the applicant explaining why he or she needs a scholarship, and a recommendation letter from a private or school music teacher. **Please be sure of your summer plans before you apply for a scholarship. Once awarded, scholarships are not transferable to another session, music camp, or person. Recipients are expected to attend the entire session without arriving late or leaving early unless there is an emergency.**

Spring and Summer 2026 Donations

Many, many thanks to the friends and alumni of Arrowbear who donated to our Scholarship Fund during the spring and summer months. Donations from the Spring Newsletter and Reunion fundraiser totaled **\$38,315.31**. That's a great start in building the scholarship bucket for Summer 2027. The names below are people who donated separately from attending the Reunion or who registered for the Reunion and couldn't make it up to camp that day.

Every donation is appreciated. We receive amounts from \$10 to hundreds of dollars. It all adds up. Don't worry about waiting until you can give more at some point in the future. Any amount makes a difference. It's always a wonderful surprise to visit the mailbox and hear how you're doing and what is keeping you busy. Please keep in touch and give when you can. We'd love to hear from you.

Frank Arundel
Paul Arundel
Nancy Bell
Henry & Lily Boterenbrood
Dave & Teresa Marsi Bothman
Barbara Goorevitch Cook
Chris Craig
Jack Eastman
Mike & Marylynn Wilcox Eipper
Erin Nakagawa Felix
Lida Lockwood Gerenraich
Julie Gill
Eileen Choi Golden
Tobin Gomez
Timb Harris
Kate Conroy Hernandez

Brooke Hearons Hicks
Stefanie Holzman
Dennis & Jayne Lanners Horn
Todd Johnson
Marian Kent
Cameron Keys
Martine Korach & Steve Brenton
Jay Kohorn
Hayden Lawrence
Toni Lighty
Marianne Marsi
Margie Masterson
John Menke
Robert Menke
David Moody
Anne Osborne Nicholls

Jon Nowak
Diane Otsuki
Felix Potter
Nailah Roque
Oliver Seely
Ildiko Meracz Siegrist
& Thomas Meracz
Kari Bush Stebbing
KC Still
Stephen Tucker
Karen Tkacayk
R. Waldorf
Stan Weber
Laura Lee Wells
Jane Linville Wolff
Sandi Concolino Wright



Donations and Grants

- Thank you to the six alumni who have set up automatic monthly donations through PayPal, Zelle, and DAFgiving360. We receive \$220 in total every month from these alumni for a yearly total of \$2,640.
- Thank you to **Sarah Solberg** who set up a Facebook donation for her birthday with the donations going to our Scholarship Fund. Thank you to everyone who donated.
- Thank you to **Russell Graham** for arranging for us to receive payroll withholdings from the Northrop Grumman Employees Charity Organization (ECHO) and the Charities Aid Foundation America program.
- Thank you to **Jim Garrecht** who arranged for us to receive payroll deductions through America Online Giving.
- Thank you to **Nancy Alpert** for a grant from the Jewish Federation Bay Area organization.

Birthday fundraisers have raised **\$1,059.90** so far in 2026 with more donations expected in November. We are so grateful to everyone who sets up a fundraiser and to those who donate. You are awesome!

Donation Dedications

Mark Scott in memory of Jim and Jacque Scott.

Karen Ostrom Wiles in memory of Steve Romansky.

Lennard & Jean Reynolds Eckhardt in memory of Brian Reynolds.

Nancy Strobridge Chase in memory of Sue Waddelow Fishman.

Gustavo Alfaro in memory of his mother-in-law, Cherry Blossom, who taught her children the joy of music.





See's Candy Holiday Season Fundraiser

You can now purchase delicious See's Candy for the upcoming holiday season while helping us raise funds for scholarships to summer music camps. Order through our online store **now through December 4**. Your candy purchases will ship to you directly beginning November 10. Orders totaling \$75 or more qualify for free shipping. We receive a percentage of every sale.

Enjoy your favorite chocolates by the pound or in smaller assortments along with truffles, peanut brittle, lollipops, molasses chips, peppermints, toffee, and chocolate bars. Candy boxes are decorated for Christmas, Hanukkah, and in generic silver, red, or gold.

See's Candy makes a great hostess gift, a gift for work colleagues, and a delicious gift for your loved ones of all ages. Visit our online store and place your order by December 4.

<https://www.yumraising.com/store/winter-2026-arrowbear-music-associates-holiday-fundraiser-b42a/LauKus4137>



Long Beach Gives – Held September 24, 2026 – Fundraiser for Private Lessons



We are so grateful to the donors who supported our organization through **Long Beach Gives** on September 24, 2026. We raised **\$6,291.10** for scholarships to fund private lessons for middle school students in Long Beach Unified. We helped twenty-one young musicians receive private lessons in Spring 2026. We are funding lessons again for one student at each middle and K-8 school in LBUSD for the Fall 2026-2027 school year. Thank you to everyone who donated.

Anonymous	Linda Fletcher	Anonymous	Carolyn Kusaba Carroll	Eric Fiero	Robyn Archer
	Dawn Swanson	Linda Curtis Kellogg	Dennis Trembly	Laura Merryfield	
Elizabeth Epstein	Marcy Sudock	Craig Gibson	Claudia Hoskins Fitzpatrick		
Sue Green	David Washburn	Jeff Haberman	Beckie Roth Celikel		
Marc Rothenberg	Mukta Mohapatra	Laura Dean Kusaba	Stefanie Holzman		



Ri-Jen Chou in memory of Fei-Mei Lee Chou.

We accept donations to this scholarship program year-round.

Just let us know that you'd like your donation to be applied to our music lessons scholarship program.

Contact us:

We encourage you to join our group on Facebook. We post information, photos, updates, videos from camp sessions, and fun cartoons and articles that are music related. It is also the best place for info on the Reunions that take place every 5 years. Please join us!!

arrowbearmusicassociates@gmail.com
LKusaba@sbcglobal.net or CKusaba5254@sbcglobal.net
 562-716-4898
Website: arrowbearmusicassoc.org

Follow us on:

Facebook: Arrowbear Music Associates
Instagram: arrowbearassoc
Threads: arrowbearassoc



In Memoriam

John Byun passed away in May 2026. He was Director of Choral and Vocal activities at Riverside City College. John often brought his RCC Chamber Singers to Arrowbear for a weekend retreat.

Carole Ozanian passed June 1, 2026. She attended Arrowbear's very first Choral session in 1954. Carole owned Big Valley Music which she grew from a small guitar store into two full music stores. Then she formed her own marketing company – a music industry consulting business. We missed seeing her smiling face at the recent reunion.

Jim Fraser passed away on September 19, 2026. He was an oboe player who attended Arrowbear in the 1970s along with his siblings. We send our love to the entire Fraser family.



Giving Tuesday – Coming December 1, 2026

Giving Tuesday is a national event designed to encourage donations to worthy causes.

It was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. It has grown into a global movement that inspires millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity.

Help us fund scholarships to send young musicians to a summer music camp.

Donations are processed through
Fundraisers on our Facebook group page
and on our Instagram page.



Raffle Drawing

We can't thank Ann Rasmussen Brenton enough for designing and creating this beautiful tote bag for us to raffle off at the Reunion. We raised **\$239** for summer music camp scholarships due to her generosity. The lucky winner was Craig Gibson. As he was purchasing his tickets, Craig said, "I feel lucky." Somehow, he knew the tote bag was destined to go home with him. Congratulations!

Scholarship Recipients – 2026

Visit our website to see all the photos of our Scholarship Recipients plus photos from each of the 2026 Sessions.

Visit arrowbearmusicassoc.org/scholarships and our Photo Gallery



Full Intermediate



Jazz Session

Coffee Time with Ross

Wow! What a reunion! One thing that really jumped out at me was the multigenerational nature of this particular reunion, and not only because my own daughter was there (more on that later). For instance, I was reunited with a great friend I had not seen or spoken to in nearly 30 years, and the reason for her return was that she had enrolled her daughter as a camper at the Choral Session this summer. Dennis observed early in the day that this reunion seemed to have one of the most balanced age profiles that he could remember, and I agree that it was nice to see folks not only from the 50s, 60s and 70s, but many campers and staff from the 80s, 90s and 2000s, and even from this summer.

Besides the fact of being greeted by Cliff and Laura's kids, it really jumped out at me during camp singing. I have had the privilege to be one of the main song leaders the last 40 years, and it is always a joy to share the front of the Orchestra Bowl with David James at the reunions. David was a counselor and song leader my first year camping in 1982, and there we were standing together in front of a bowl that included his son and my daughter. Not only have I been staff when his son was a camper, but his son and my daughter have now counseled together a few times. I would not be lying to say I was full of pride when, in an unscripted moment, David and I asked if anyone would like to come up to lead "Little Cabin in the Woods" (tough to lead when one's hands are busy with the guitar), and when no-one else volunteered, my daughter Syd jumped up to lead it! Another fun fact, when Syd was little, a high school aged camper came up to babysit them for a week while I worked. In recent years, Syd was a counselor for that babysitter's daughter!

As we played our evening concert, I was sitting next to my old friend Alexis, who, if I remember correctly, was the first to play the *Firebird* horn solo in the now traditional intermediate session finale (around '92 or '93). A few years ago, her son played the oboe solo in the same piece, and now they were both sitting in the orchestra bowl and sharing that musical moment together. Never mind the fact that Breck's daughter, Mr. O's great-granddaughter, has been camping lately, and she has her Aunt Larke on staff. I noted that Rocky was there with some younger person with "Reames" on their name tag, and I am sure there are myriad other examples at reunion I am not aware of.

Over the years we have had many second and third generation campers attend sessions, but to have so many overlapped layers of generations visible at this reunion helped make it truly special.



Ross
ross.durand@gmail.com

Arrowbear Hall of Fame

Arrowbear Music Associates inducted three honorees to join the **Arrowbear Hall of Fame** during the 85th Reunion. The Hall of Fame recognizes staff members whose contributions to Arrowbear made the experience of a summer music camp magical for campers. The honorees are recognized with a bronze plaque that is permanently affixed to the back wall of the Orchestra Bowl – now known as the Ohlendorf Bowl.

The inductees for the 85th Reunion include:

Albert Jeung – Albert was a camper beginning in 1978. He worked at camp as a counselor, assistant to Mr. O, camp director, nurse, cook, lifeguard, and as an orchestra and band conductor for numerous Elementary and Intermediate sessions.

Peter Allan – Peter was the Choir Director for four summers beginning in 1981. He was a priest in the Church of England and a friend of Ellen Deffner.

Dr. Stephen Tucker – Stephen was the orchestra conductor at Senior Session from 1997 to 2009. He was the conductor of the Symphony Orchestra at UC Irvine until his retirement.

Congratulations to our new inductees.

Are you curious about who else is a member of the Hall of Fame? Would you like to read more about our new inductees? Please visit our website at <https://www.arrowbearmusicassoc.org/hall-of-fame> to learn more.



Peter Allan

85 Years of Melodies and Memories

The Reunion on September 6 was a great success. We laughed, reminisced, played great music together, and enjoyed each other's company despite the relentless rain. We also raised **\$4,269.10** for scholarships after paying all the bills. We are so grateful. Cliff and I would like to thank all of the people behind the scenes who made it happen:

- **Dolores Loera** for printing and organizing the music into folders.
- **David James** and **Ross Durand** for acting as song leaders for Camp Singing.
- **Claudia Hoskins Fitzpatrick** for organizing the Happy Gap Hour.
- **Laura Collins** for helping with Registration all day long.
- **Jeff Haberman** for designing and ordering the Reunion T-Shirts.
- **Vincent Felix, Marian English, Boedy Reisner, and Tyler Jacobson** who assisted with kitchen setup and cleanup all day.
- **Ady Taylor** who accompanied the Reunion Choir.
- **Kirk Watilo** and **Jeff Haberman** who served as MCs for the day.
- **Jim Garrecht** for filming and taking photos despite the rain.
- **Breck Dockstader** for designing the Reunion photo.
- **Allen Carroll, Jacob Rogers, and Dennis Dockstader** who shuttled alumni from the parking area at the lake up to the camp.
- Our cook, **Susan Marroquin**, who spent the entire day prepping and serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The food was delicious!
- **Dennis and Larke Dockstader** for coordinating with the Reunion Committee and allowing us to have the event at the camp.
- Our conductors: **Albert Jeung, Branden Muresan** and **Dennis Dockstader** who conducted the Reunion Orchestra, **Jack Hollander** who conducted the Brass Choir, and **G. Cameron Keys** who conducted the Reunion Choir.



Many, many thanks to all the alumni who pitched in and who offered to help throughout the day.

Visit our website at <https://www.arrowbearmusicassoc.org/about-1> to relive the 85th Reunion. Along with dozens of photos taken that day by different attendees, you can download:

- The Reunion Note
- The Reunion Photo
- The Song Lyrics for songs we sang during Camp Singing
- A Contact List for everyone who attended the event.

Included is the Reunion Concert Program, photos of the rain, and a link to join our Alumni Facebook group. We have some **Reunion T-Shirts** still available for a minimum donation of \$25. Please contact Laura at arrowbearmusicassociates@gmail.com or **562-716-4898** before ordering to make sure your size is still available.

Arrowbear Music Associates Board of Directors

Alan Black	Member-at-Large	Clifford Kusaba	President
Carolyn Kusaba Carroll	Member-at-Large	Laura Dean Kusaba	Secretary/Treasurer/Scholarships
Michelle Chace Fraser	Member-at-Large	Dolores Loera	Member-at-Large
Virginia Lee Frazier	Vice President	Ken Olson	Member-at-Large
Jim Garrecht	Member-at-Large	Luanne Langevin Olson	Member-at Large
Jeff Haberman	Alumni Chair	Eli Ramer	Member-at-Large
David James	Member-at-Large	Kirk Watilo	Member-at-Large





Arrowbear Music Associates is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Our purpose is to provide scholarships to deserving young musicians for summer music camps. The number of scholarships depends upon the donations we receive each year. Our major expenses are the two Newsletters which are published in the fall and in the spring. We mail Newsletters to over two thousand alumni and friends of Arrowbear.

The members of the Board of Directors volunteer their time and talents so that we can provide scholarships and keep you informed about what is going on at Arrowbear. We are always in need of more help. If you are interested in joining a committee, please call us at 562-716-4898, email us at arrowbearmusicassociates@gmail.com, or write to us at PO Box 1294, Lakewood CA 90714. We meet three to four times a year. We'd love to have you join us.

Name _____ Maiden _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home phone () _____

Cell phone () _____

E-mail _____

Years at Arrowbear 19____ to 19____ Or 19____ to 20____ Or 20____ to 20____

Instrument/Voice _____

Camper _____ Counselor _____ Staff _____ Parent _____ Friend _____



Donations to the Fred and Edna Ohlendorf Memorial Scholarship Fund

\$10____ \$20____ \$25____ \$50____ \$100____ \$500____ Other \$_____

Yes, I'd like a Reunion T-Shirt for my donation of \$25 or more: ____ S ____ L ____ XL ____ 2X ____ 4X

**Please check with Laura at arrowbearmusicassociates@gmail.com to make sure the size is still available.

Donations may be tax deductible.

Please make your check payable to: **ARROWBEAR MUSIC ASSOCIATES**

Address - **Arrowbear Music Associates**
PO Box 1294, Lakewood CA 90714-1294 OR



PayPal & Zelle are available for
donations at
arrowbearmusicassoc.org/donate

Alumni Addresses or Comments:

ARROWBEAR MUSIC ASSOCIATES
AN EDUCATIONAL CORPORATION
PO BOX 1294
LAKEWOOD CA 90714-1294

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NonProfit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Long Beach, CA
Permit No. 368