

The Lowell Mason House

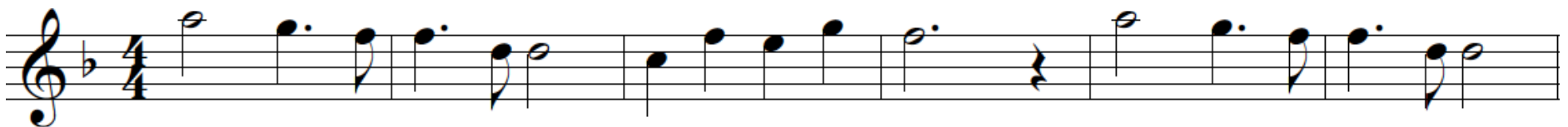
Lowell Mason (1792 – 1872)

Birthplace of “The Father of American Public School Music Education”

59 Green Street

Medfield, Massachusetts 02052

<https://www.lowellmasonhouse.net>



The Lowell Mason House – An Introduction

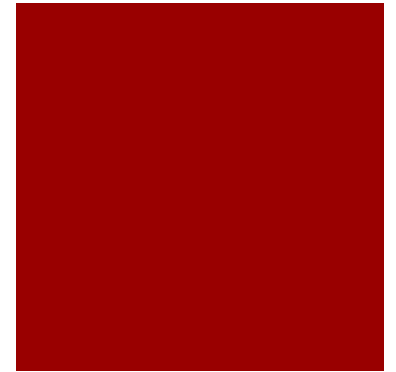
a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization

Who was Lowell Mason?

- Lowell Mason (1792-1872) was the Founder of American public school music education. He opened singing schools believing that *“children should be taught music as they are taught to read.”* In the 1800s, Mason traveled to schools in Massachusetts, as well as the rest of the Northeast, the South and the Midwest advocating for the importance of music education in schools.
- Lowell Mason was also an early American composer, arranger, and publisher of sacred and secular music and published many influential singing books that had a national audience. For instance, Mason wrote the tune for “Mary Had a Little Lamb”

Why is Lowell Mason’s birthplace home important?

- It is a significant building in the history of the town of Medfield, Massachusetts, one of the first inland American communities, settled 29 years after the Pilgrims arrived at Plymouth Rock in 1620. Beams in its original construction date back to 1651.
- It was moved around in the town from its original site on North Street, to Adams Street, and, in 2011, to its present location at 59 Green Street. The House was already decades old when Mason was born in 1792.



Mission Statement

- The Mission of the Lowell Mason House is to create and program an active space for music making and music education advocacy, within Lowell Mason's historic original birthplace.
- The Lowell Mason House will serve as a major innovation center for music education. It will offer a diverse selection of musical instruction, performance, wellness, and educational programming to the wider community.
- It will honor Lowell Mason's legacy by encouraging artistic expression and promoting the value of music education both locally and nationally. It will also celebrate the important contributions that Lowell Mason made to other aspects of American music, including sacred music, musical composition, and music publishing.



PROJECT INFORMATION

- **Our vision:**

- Utilize this architecturally significant house to promote Lowell Mason's legacy
- Support music education, music therapy and music ministry through innovative music education advocacy programming encompassing instruction, performances, publications, and wellness education

- **Financial support since April 2023:**

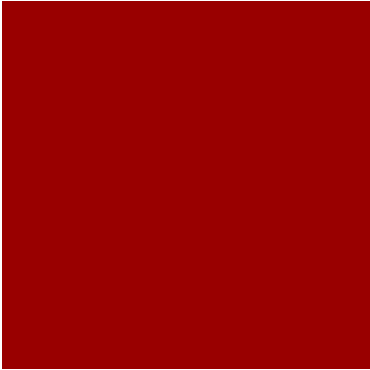
- Receipt of a gift of \$300,000 from Gladys Stone Wright of West Lafayette, Indiana that creates the "Al and Gladys Wright Innovation Center for Music Education at the Lowell Mason House". This will support continued renovations to the building and expand Lowell Mason House program offerings.
- Receipt of a Mass Cultural Council "Feasibility and Technical Assistance Grant" for \$35,000. This grant supports the architectural planning, drawings, permitting, and general design and usage consultation for the building.



Project Information (cont.)

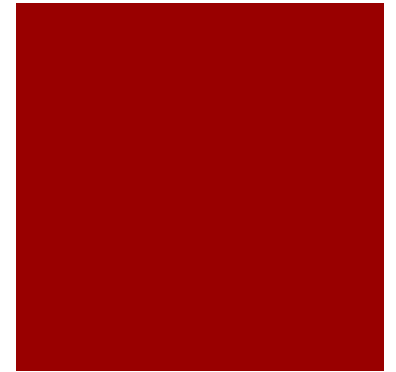
- **What has been completed?**

- Full interior wall framing and ceiling strapping for all three levels of the building.
- Rear Garden Level access door widened, lowered and replaced to improve ADA-access compliance to the lowest level of the building from the outside.
- Exterior of the building completed based on a mid-1700's historical theme. Has new siding, windows, doors, roof, stairs, and painting.
- Electricity, water, gas, and sewer utilities connected
- Building supports and beaming have been upgraded as interior is renovated. Collaboration with structural engineer.
- Music Education Innovation Competition held for the fourth year with prize winners from across the country.



Project Information (cont.)

- **WORK TO BE COMPLETED ON THE HOUSE:**
- Work with architect for building plans, especially with ADA compliant addition/elevator, drawings, permitting, and general consultation.
- Collaborating with interior design and historical construction consultants.
- Install green heating/cooling/HVAC system, plumbing, permanent electrical system, fire suppression, and other infrastructure.
- Installation of Insulation, interior walls w/blue board skim coat, ceilings, floors, doors, doorbells, woodwork, painting/staining.
- Installation of such necessities as acoustical panels, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, stair upgrades, interior lighting, infrastructure controls, elevator, handicapped access ramps and rear retaining walls.
- Install equipment for four music practice rooms, three ADA-compliant restrooms, a historical collections room, a performance, meeting and gathering room, a garden level meeting room/performance space, and a kitchenette. Installation of Internet infrastructure - wireless router, etc.
- Exterior grading, installation of driveways/parking, landscaping, walkways, and applications such as faux foundation coverings.



Contractors and Consultants

- **General Contractor**
Greg Testa
Hurley-Testa Construction Co., Inc.
- **Structural Engineer**
Richard Testa
Testa Engineering Associate, LLC
- **Architectural Designer**
Geoffrey Narlee
Narlee Design
- **Architect**
Kevin Uniacke
- **Interior Designer**
David Beal
David Beal Interiors
- **Historical Construction Consultant**
Tim Wohlhueter
Squaw Hollow Restoration, Inc.



Early Moving Photos

Left to Right: House on the move, 4/19/2011; House transported by truck; House stopped near Lowell Mason Road; Top-House on its foundation with its old paint and windows



Gun Stock Post and Framing

Left to Right:

- Gun stock post: Used in early New England house construction.
- Wooden peg construction: Used in timber frame homes of the period.
- Reused timber dated to 1651: The year Medfield was incorporated.



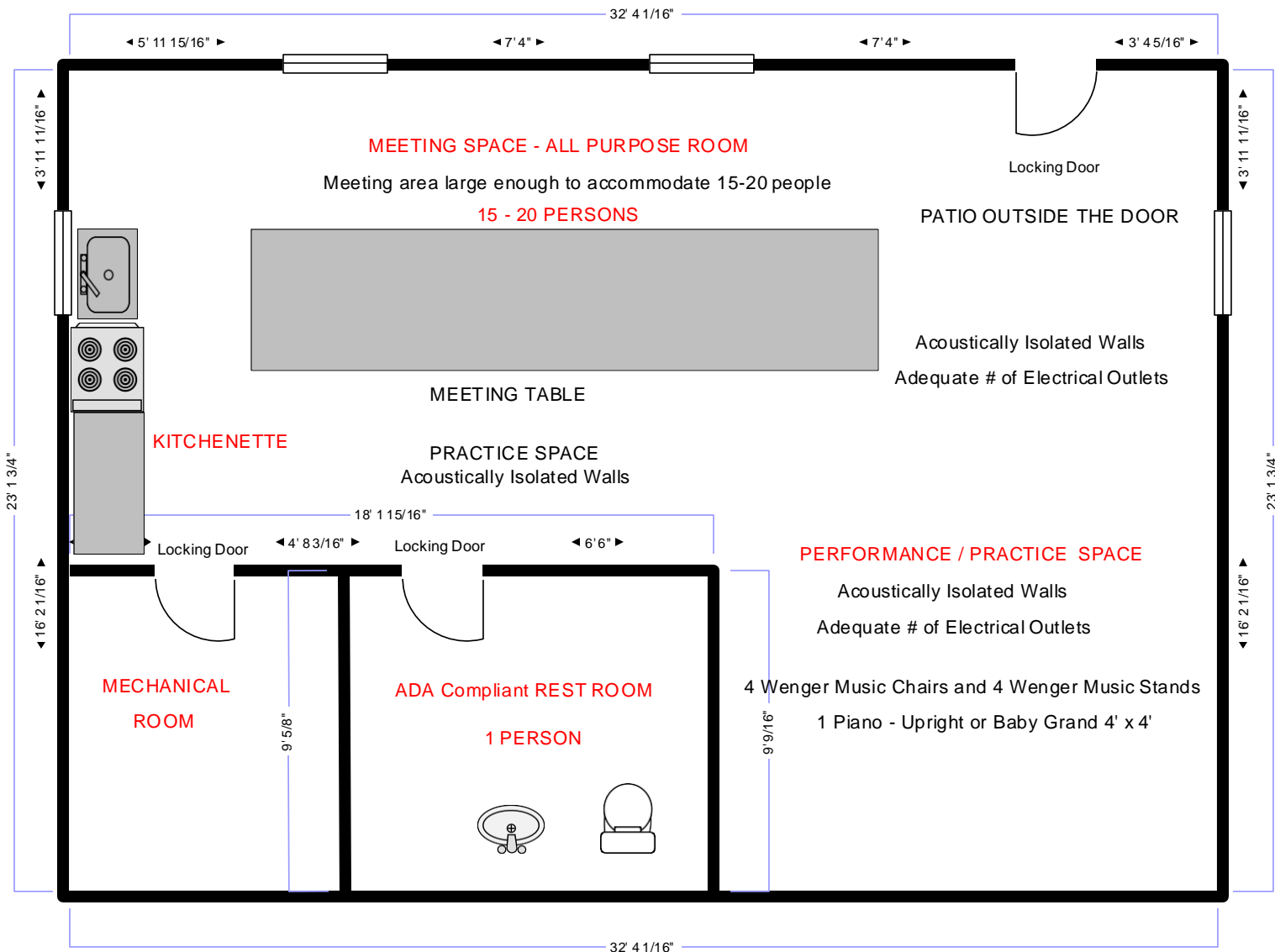
Outside - Front of Lowell Mason House with Sign



Outside of LMH – Left Front, Left Side



Outside of LMH – Left Back, Left Side



LOWELL MASON HOUSE

59 Green Street, Medfield, MA 02052

Level 1 - Garden Level (Basement) rev. 7.20.2024

Inside – Level 1 – Garden Level Floor Plan and Room Usage



Inside – Level 1 – Garden Level – Meeting and Recital Room West to East



Inside – Level 1 – Garden Level – Meeting and Recital Room West to East – Architect's Rendering

Inside – Level 2 – First Floor Plan and Room Usage



Inside – Level 2 – First Floor Collections Room



Inside – Level 2 – First Floor – Collections Room – Architect's Rendering



Inside – Level 2 – First Floor – Collections Room – Architect's Rendering



Inside – Level 2 – First Floor – Meeting Performance and Gathering Room



Inside – Level 2 – First Floor – Meeting, Performance and Gathering Room – West to East – Architect's Rendering



Inside – Level 2 – First Floor – Meeting, Performance and Gathering Room – West – Architect's Rendering



Inside – Level 3 – Second Floor – Practice Room A



Inside – Level 3 Practice Room – Architect's Rendering

Programs...

Dr. Al and Gladys Wright Music Education Innovation Center at the Lowell Mason House

Presenting Innovative Music Education Programs and Materials including:

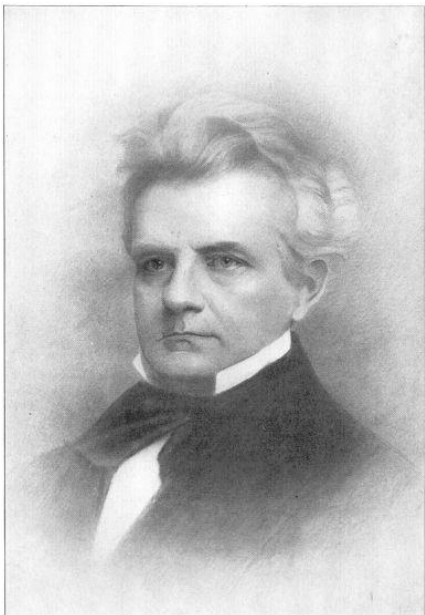
- Music Education Advocacy Competitions
- Lyceum Lecture Series
- Vocal Techniques of Lowell Mason and others
- Integration of Music and Movement
- Music Therapy - Techniques – Research – Practice
- Health Benefits through Music
- Music for the Whole Person
- Cutting Edge teaching approaches
- Multi-cultural Concert Performances



Lowell Mason House Music Center

Music Making Community Resource Center for the Region and Beyond:

- Museum/Collections Room
- Lowell Mason Historical Documents Republishing
- Liturgy based Sacred Music Contributions
- Spaces for Music Practice and Music Teaching/Lessons
- Traditional Concert Performances
- Chamber Recitals
- Meetings for Music Ed Organizations & Other Local Groups
- General Community Events



In Closing...

- The Lowell Mason House is a source of community pride for the town of Medfield, Massachusetts. Medfield has a long and rich history of school music education, beginning with Lowell Mason, the first US public school music educator, along with many major music educators, and professional musicians from the town. The local school music program has been recognized nationwide.
- The Lowell Mason House will be open for its historical collections, music education research, and will sponsor and host concerts, be available to students and others for field trips, research, practice space and music lessons. It will extend school music outside the classroom and into the community.



Contact Info...



*Located at 59 Green Street, Medfield, Massachusetts
A 501(c)(3) organization*

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