




Lowell Mason House
News Notes



Lowell Mason House, Inc.

www.lowellmasonhouse.net

December 2020, Volume I, No.1

Welcome to the Lowell Mason House!

Welcome to the first edition of the Newsletter of the Lowell Mason House, located at 59 Green Street in Medfield, MA! During a year of great uncertainty, three constants in life remain: Family, Community and Music. Our organization is dedicated to Lowell Mason (1792-1872) the father of American School Music Education. New to our organization is the mission “to use this architecturally significant house as the foundation to promote Lowell Mason’s legacy through initiatives that support music education, music therapy and music ministry.” The goal of creating programs and a facility that supports music education for all ages gets closer to reality every day.

Here is a quick tour:

House Update – Tremendous progress has been made since acquiring the house ten years ago. We moved it to a new site on a new foundation, installed a new roof and gutters, new siding, new windows, new doors, and painted the exterior. In 2020, the photo above shows the new stairs to the front door and inside, stairs connecting the first floor with the lower garden level were installed at the same time. There is still lots of work to be done, including: connecting water, sewer, electric, and gas lines; installing an ADA approved bathroom; and installing new electric wiring, floors, and walls; and creating handicapped access. <https://lowellmasonhouse.net/projects>



The house with new front stairs, November, 2020 .

Annual Competition Update – The 2020 Competition, “Call for Virtual Lesson Plans”, invites all music educators to submit their best lesson plan via email by the extended due date of January 1, 2021. The winner will be announced on January 8, 2021, Lowell Mason’s 229th birthday. <https://www.lowellmasonhouse.net/lesson-plan-competition>

Organization with a Mission – The Lowell Mason House developed a mission statement and strategic plan that we believe will carry the organization through the next phase of our evolution. Central to our mission is connecting the work of music students with music educators in our schools to the greater community through outreach, performances, and programs. Our strategic plan is a working document that we will continue to refine and update in the future. <https://www.lowellmasonhouse.net/about-us>

Community Outreach – The LMH will continue to provide concert opportunities. This year’s holiday concert will be on December 5 produced virtually on MedfieldTV. We now have this Newsletter, and are posting Amazing Artifacts of the Lowell Mason House on our website and on social media. Additionally, you can find the video submissions from last year’s competition on our website, and soon we will post a library of best in class music lesson plans from our current competition. https://776c5002-51d6-4a5e-b535-b355ca49d401.filesusr.com/ugd/93438f_9aac83ae6fae4791b4a86d27a44c1530.pdf



Don’t miss the Lowell Mason House 6th Annual Holiday Concert –

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2020 at 7:00pm on Medfield TV!

The prerecorded Lowell Mason House virtual concert will air on Medfield TV cable stations Comcast 8 and Verizon 47, and online at www.medfield.tv/watch.



Lowell Mason House Concert Goes Virtual

For the 6th year, local performers of all ages, genres and musical experiences, will share their talents in the Lowell Mason House Holiday Concert to be held virtually this year at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 5 on Medfield TV.

With the support of First Parish Unitarian Universalist -- the very church where Lowell Mason was music director in the 1800s -- the concert will feature an array of musical pieces interspersed with inspirational remarks about the benefits of music and music education. Contributing to that concert theme is a guest appearance from John Benham, a national music education advocacy expert.

Due to COVID-19, the prerecorded Lowell Mason House virtual concert will air on Medfield TV cable stations Comcast 8 and Verizon 47, and online at www.medfield.tv/watch. In lieu of concert tickets, virtual attendees are encouraged to make a donation to the nonprofit Lowell Mason House at www.lowellmasonhouse.net.

Lowell Mason House concert performers include:

- First Parish UU Choir;
- Trills n' Chills a cappella group;
- Montrose School Treble Makers & Bell Choir;
- Medfield students Andie Brown and Emily Sheppard;
- MHS jazz alumni Anton Derevyanko, Matt Stavrakas and Mitchell Selib;
- Vocal trio Becca, John and Rachel Kornet;
- Jill & Peter Moran
- Kramer sisters;
- Jeri Bergonzi Jazz Trio;
- Andy Costello on violin;
- Justin Casinghino on piano and vocals;
- Don Rankin on tuba; and
- Concert Pianist David McGrory (grand finale).

This year's concert is funded in part by a grant from the Medfield Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.



BUILDING REPORT - Lowell Mason House

We've made tremendous progress over the years since we first acquired the House. We've moved it to a new site on a new foundation, installed a new roof, new siding, new windows, new doors, and painted the outside. The before picture is featured here:

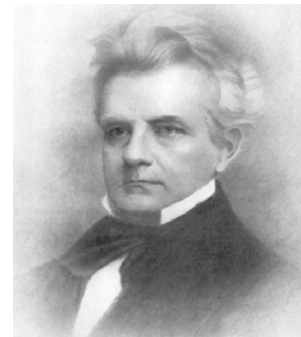


The house in 2013 before the exterior updates.

Our accomplishments to date would not have been possible without the tremendous response and support we've had, both from the local community and from music teachers around the country. These are people who understand the importance of music and music education in the fabric of our society, and they've helped us raise over \$400,000.

There is still an enormous amount of work that needs to be done, including: connecting water, sewer, electric and gas lines; installing an ADA approved bathroom; and working inside the house to install new electric wiring, floors, walls, and handicapped access.

We thank all our donors for their support in the past, and hope we can continue to count on your support, as well as the support of our expanding list of donors, as we enter this new and exciting part of the development of the house.



Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

CALL FOR VIRTUAL LESSON PLANS

Competition 2020

The Lowell Mason House is excited to sponsor a **competition for music educators** that recognizes excellence in teaching music in a virtual, online environment. We are calling for music educators to submit their very best lesson plan for teaching music in an online, virtual environment. The pandemic of 2020 has demonstrated the need for music teachers to be prepared to teach in virtual online sessions that are both engaging and enriching for students at all levels. Lowell Mason, who believed that it was important for every child to be taught music in order for them to reap the therapeutic health and wellness benefits of the power of music, would want to make sure that any instruction of music at all, no matter through what medium, should be of high quality and substance. Teaching music through the computer is just another vehicle for delivering quality music education.

The Lowell Mason House “Call for Virtual Lesson Plans” invites all music educators, whether presently working in the field, preparing as future music educators at the college level, or retired music educators to submit their very best lesson plan by emailing it to manager.lowellmasonhouse@gmail.com to the extended due date of January 1, 2021. Submissions will be reviewed by a panel of judges at the collegiate level in music educators and the top three winners will be announced on January 8, 2021, Lowell Mason’s 229th birthday. All reviewed submissions will be placed on a special Google Drive where music educators may search for ideas for musical virtual lesson plans. The top three winners will each receive a \$2,000.00 prize for their work.

Each applicant should only send one of their very best virtual learning music lesson plans. The lesson plan must be completely original and NOT be based upon a commercially available lesson plan that may be copied/purchased online. Each lesson plan will be judged upon the following criteria: Originality/Creativity; Excitement; Student Engagement Potential; Potential for Successful, Measurable Learning; and Age-Appropriateness for the identified level of students for

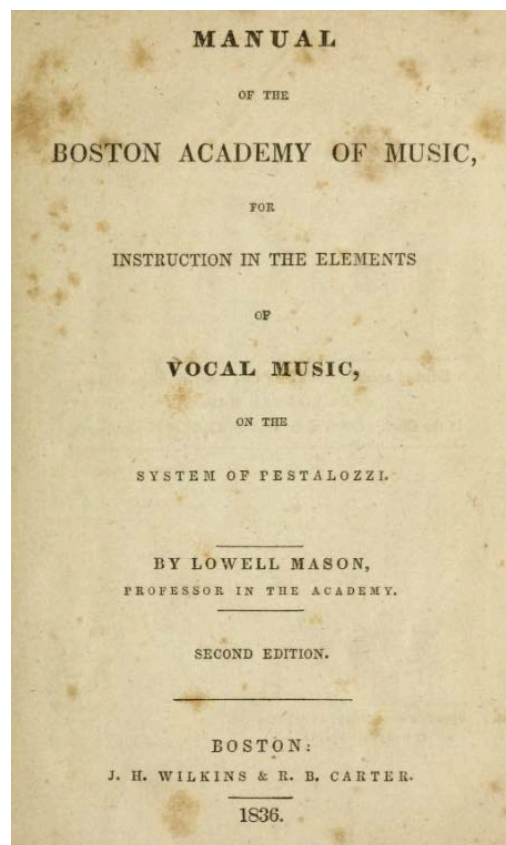
whom it was written: pre-school, elementary, middle, secondary, college, or adult learning. Each applicant agrees to allow the Lowell Mason House to place his/her lesson plan submission on the special Google Drive linked to its public website.

The Lowell Mason House “Call for Virtual Lesson Plans” promises to be an exciting program designed to engage music educators at all levels. We look forward to the incoming submissions as we do our part to facilitate the quality of music education for all even through this most difficult of pandemic times!

AMAZING ARTIFACTS OF THE LOWELL MASON HOUSE

(In each newsletter we will present a different “Amazing Artifact” in the Lowell Mason House Collection)

Artifact #1 – The Manual of the Boston Academy of Music in Vocal Instruction



The Manual of the Boston Academy of Music for Instruction in the Elements of Vocal Music on the System of Pestalozzi, was written by Lowell Mason in 1834 and published in 1836 in Boston by J. H. Wilkins and R. B. Carter. A book for teachers like this was novel at that

time. After Lowell Mason founded the Boston Academy of Music in 1833 to teach classes of boys and girls in singing, he created a rigorous, thorough curriculum of musical instruction in the form of a vocal music instruction method book to facilitate high quality music learning among children. It was one of the most comprehensive manuals for teaching vocal music ever developed up to that time. In its 258 pages, one will find detailed instructions for music educators for teaching vocal music, facilities and equipment needs for music instruction, vocal production, voice ranges, and a comprehensive series of chapters of teaching all elements of music theory including note reading, rhythms, pitches, scales, melodies, harmonies, keys and modulation, dynamics, intonation, articulation, and diction. Certainly, this instruction manual was so thorough that it far exceeded any vocal method book that had ever been developed in the United States up to that point. His methodology was based around the teaching principles of the famed Swiss general educator Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi. Mason applied Pestalozzi's techniques directly to music education. The Boston Academy of Music was the main institution that used this manual until music was

introduced into the public grammar schools of the city of Boston beginning in 1837 and formally in 1838.



Artist rendering of the Lowell Mason House by architect David Sharff

“Children should be taught music as they are taught to read.” - Lowell Mason

SUPPORT THE LOWELL MASON HOUSE

We believe that Lowell Mason (1792-1872), the father of American School Music Education and a pioneer in American Sacred Music, would be so proud to see his Medfield, MA birthplace supporting the cause that he loved so much! Our dream of creating programs and a functional facility that support music education gets closer to reality as every day passes. Will you help us to complete this dream by making a donation to the Lowell Mason House? Your gift, no matter how large or small, can become the gift of music to a child... to a senior citizen... or to a member of our community and beyond. We began this mission of saving Lowell Mason's birthplace close to ten years ago, and now, we would like to have this saved historical treasure of Medfield become a functional facility that could be opened to further promote music in our schools and music in our lives. You can make a donation by going to our website at <https://www.lowellmasonhouse.net>. Donations by mail may also be sent to:

**The Lowell Mason House
PO Box 913
Medfield, MA 02052**

Thanks for your consideration and support giving others the gift of music!

