

## **Greetings, Friends!**

Here we are in the year 2025. We're also at year 47 for the existence of Hop River Chamber Music. I'm glad that many of you are returning to Von der Mehden Recital Hall after the promise that we could be here again following the installation of a new roof. It is on, and we are here in the comfort of a building that was built for such concerts as these. Welcome to new members of our audiences and welcome back to all others. We hope you will enjoy hearing the music of Barber, Beethoven, Bolcom, Brahms, Faure, Gade, Mendelssohn, Sibelius and Wolf.

Recordings now enable us to hear a vast amount of music, far beyond the performances transmitted by telephone that Edward Bellamy imagined in his 1888 novel, *Looking Backward*. We can listen to music written centuries ago and to synthesized music that cannot be performed. What recordings cannot provide is the immediacy of being in the audience at a live performance. A recording studio and professional string quartet can produce a note-perfect recording of Mendelssohn's octet for double string quartet, but not a recording of its first performance or the experience of hearing a live performance in that tradition. The first performance of that Octet by Hop River Chamber Music may be heard live on July 24.

As you await these performances, here are some musings on music:

Music is the universal language of mankind. *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

If you want to make beautiful music, you must play the black and white notes together. *Richard M. Nixon*

When words fail, music speaks. *Hans Christian Andersen*

Music is a higher revelation than all wisdom and philosophy. *Ludwig van Beethoven*

The aim and final end of all music should be none other than the glory of God and the refreshment of the soul. *J. S. Bach*

Music is the heart of life. *Franz Liszt*

Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent. *Victor Hugo*

I am grateful to each Board member, to our intern and to the musicians who give generously of their time and talents in order to provide outstanding concerts each year. Thank you, classical music lovers, for your interest, your support and your attendance at performances of the Hop River Chamber Music concerts.

**Dr. Carolyn Lester**  
**President, Board of Directors**