



# Mountain Collegium

Early Music & Folk Music Workshop

1029 Hedge Lane, Marietta, Georgia 30066 USA

404-314-1891 [www.mountaincollegium.org](http://www.mountaincollegium.org)

23 July 2020

Dear Friends of Mountain Collegium,

The decision in early March to cancel this year's Mountain Collegium was easy to make when taking into account the recommendations from the medical community. The Organizing Committee conferred to make the final call and to decide how to move forward. The safety of our faculty and participants was then, and still remains, our priority.

With our being a small, yet successful workshop, the Committee also chose to leave clear for other workshops, organizations, and individual teachers the opportunity to deliver online instruction. We did not feel the need to set up class sessions that could compete with others. In the interim, many of us have learned how to better teach and participate in online music sessions. Our sister organizations San Francisco Early Music Society and Amherst Early Music Festival both tackled the challenge and we stand by their efforts, as they will benefit us all during this unexpected learning curve.

Our next workshop will be June 27–July 3, 2021, on the campus of Western Carolina University. We truly hope that Covid-19 has been brought under control by this point and that our participants will feel safe being among others. The Board also approved our delaying the 50th anniversary celebration to the 2022 workshop, giving us the ability to focus 100% on the experience of this upcoming workshop. We do hope you will put it on your calendar and we encourage you to continue to help us reach new participants.

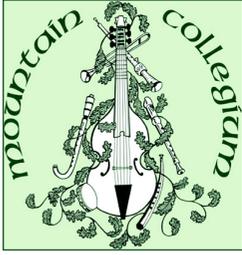
Arts organizations across the country have appealed for monetary contributions to assist professional musicians. I sent an e-mail in March asking those who could to donate and the response was simply amazing! Your contributions totalled nearly \$6000 and Mountain Collegium pledged a similar amount. Our faculty, who would have lost all of the income from this summer's workshop, received **80%** of their workshop salary through your generous donations. Words couldn't possibly express my personal appreciation for your show of support.

Your donations went much further than you may have expected. Several of the (potential) faculty recipients chose to put their portion back into the pot to be divided among the others. Those of us with other reliable sources of income did not take a cent from these donations and instead ensured funds would be distributed among those who were, indeed, suddenly unemployed. You see, our Mountain Collegium community looks out for each other and this pandemic has brought out the best in each one of you.

Please see the next page for some thank-you notes from several of our faculty. They are reprinted here anonymously, but know that your support brought joy—sometimes in the form of tears—to all of us.

Thank you for your continued support of Mountain Collegium. We will see you in 2021!

Jody Miller, Director



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## Notes of Gratitude from Mountain Collegium Faculty

*I can't tell you how meaningful it was to receive my check from Mountain Collegium this year. I was blown away by your generosity, and honored by your commitment to the faculty and what we bring to MC. I have taught at many different workshops across the country and MC is hands down my favorite for a number of reasons, not least its atmosphere of kindness and decency. Thank you for making a difficult time just a little bit easier.*



*Thank you to everyone who was able to donate to the faculty fund. I'm not sure I can put into words how much this bit of money made to my sanity. MC participants probably don't see it (by design!), but for many of us, work as a musician is a constant struggle. As artists, our work can also be tied to our very being, so lack of work can have a direct effect on our sense of worth in addition to our monetary worth. I know that most people were hit hard by the pandemic, but many of my colleagues and I also felt completely invisible. Most of us weren't eligible for unemployment, were getting cancellations daily, and were, as always, considered "nonessential." It was and is a very difficult time not only financially, but emotionally. The show of support from the amazing people at Mountain Collegium brings tears to my eyes even now, very nearly four months since I last played my instrument professionally. Thank you, with utmost sincerity.*



*To our wonderful supporters- I want to thank you for your thoughtfulness and support during these difficult times. It brought tears to my eyes when I learned what you folks were doing to help the staff out. Performers were particularly hard hit by the shutdowns needed to protect us from the virus. All of my music work, with one concert exception, have been canceled for the whole year. I was so looking forward to my classes with you and your kindness and generosity made me miss you even more. I hope that we will be able to be together again next year. I wish you all the best.*



*Dear friends and fellow musicmakers, I want you all to know how much your gift has meant to me. Of course money is welcome, but what really matters to me is this. The world can be such a terrible place and people so nasty to each other. You have shown me how love, compassion and beauty are much, much more powerful. When I get discouraged, all I have to do is remember your kind generosity and my hope returns; my day is transformed. That is a gift that will never run out. I hope you and the people you love are hale and hearty. Love to you all.*



*"Thank you" to everyone who has donated funds to help our teaching staff. We appreciate your support and look forward to working with you next summer!*



*Dear friends, I can't begin to tell you how I felt when Jody told us about your generosity. The shock of the cancellation of every concert, every workshop and every chapter meeting was still very fresh, and I had no idea how we would make it through to the other side. Not only was the actual check a real, needed help when I needed it most, but the sentiment behind it — the signal that you care what happens to those of us who make our living from music — brought me deep comfort. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, and I can't wait to see you again at the next Mountain Collegium.*



*A huge THANKS to all of you who contributed generously to help out those in the MC family who depend on teaching and workshop income for their livelihoods. It's a difficult time for everyone, but especially for those whose work opportunities have vanished. Your generosity means a great deal to all of us!*



*What an extraordinary thing to receive this check. I feel deeply appreciated, and I am deeply grateful. It came just as the full financial implications of the pandemic were finally starting to sink in and was a great help as I rethought my entire way of living and of earning a living, through these difficult times.*



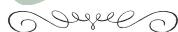
*Dear Mountain Collegium Community, I can't thank you enough for supporting your faculty in these difficult times. I was, and continue to be, deeply touched by your generous spirit. Please stay safe and healthy so we can meet again next year!*



*"Thank you" to everyone who has donated funds to help our teaching staff. We appreciate your support and look forward to working with you next summer!*



*A very humble Thank You to those who contributed to the faculty relief fund. I am reassured to see such acts of selflessness in these troubling times. Reassured, but not surprised. I've known for a long time that Mountain Collegium folks are the best!*



*I want to express my gratitude to the very generous donors of Mountain Collegium. In these tough times, I feel extremely thankful for music, friendship, and support - just a few things that keep us together and moving forward. You are helping us do this - thank you so much!!*



*It is so very heartening to witness the Mountain Collegium community spirit and generosity. I have long been humbled by how much more we are than just a workshop. Times are challenging, but knowing there are excellent people out there like you gives me confidence in our future. Thank you all for your kindness, and I look forward to seeing you all next year!*



*A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to this faculty fund! It was really devastating and distressing when everything started to get cancelled, but as usual the MC family pulled through with really touching care and generosity to make the darkness just a bit brighter. Again, thank you!*