

KINHAVEN MUSIC SCHOOL RECEIVES A SIGNIFICANT CAPITAL GIFT

(Weston, VT) Kinhaven Music School is delighted to announce a \$200,000 capital campaign gift from Lyman Orton and the Vermont Country Store, given in honor of Mildred Ellen Orton. Both Lyman Orton and his mother, Mildred, are alumni of Kinhaven, a summer music school located on 31 acres of rolling hills in Weston, Vermont. The Orton family owns and runs The Vermont Country Store, the famous “purveyors of the practical and hard to find.”

This gift comes at a crucial time for the school as it works to refurbish its 55-year-old campus. This past summer, the Kinhaven board of trustees launched *Rebuilding Kinhaven: The Campaign For The Next Generation* to generate the resources needed to repair or replace many of the buildings on campus. The campaign, thanks to the leadership support of Lyman Orton and the Vermont Country Store, has now raised nearly one million dollars. "As a camper at Kinhaven's first year in 1952," said Mr. Orton, "little did I know how important a role it would play in the evolution of Weston. The thousands of campers who have made the weekly stroll over the years down to The Vermont Country Store are symbolic of the connection between The Orton Family, the town of Weston, and Kinhaven. We are very fortunate that the Dushkins' vision has been realized here in Weston."

All campaign funds are used to address a major housing need by replacing student and faculty cabins as well as making other pressing capital improvements. Additional funds are still needed to replace and rebuild additional student and faculty cabins, upgrade kitchen and dining facilities and improve rehearsal facilities. "The Orton Family and the Vermont Country store are part of the fabric of our community. First as students, then parents, and now alumni of our school, the Ortons are shining examples of what makes us so proud of Kinhaven's tradition. We are honored, and humbled, by this generous gift from Lyman. We are also thrilled to honor his mother Mildred Ellen whose spirit, energy and enthusiasm resound throughout our campus," said Jerry Bidlack, Director Emeritus of Kinhaven Music School.



Lyman Orton and his mother, Mildred Ellen Orton, at her 80th reunion at Burr & Burton Academy last June

Founded in 1952 by two visionary music educators, David and Dorothy Dushkin, Kinhaven Music School is dedicated to nurturing the musical and personal growth of young people through an intensive, professional, and highly supportive summer program of classical music studies. Each summer, over the course of two separate sessions, Kinhaven reaches approximately 160 young instrumentalists. Students receive individual instruction, participate in a wide variety of chamber ensembles, and put on free concerts for the community each weekend. Saturday night faculty concerts are presented throughout July and are free and open to the public. Kinhaven also offers two adult sessions for piano and chamber music, which are attended by about 60 students each year. Students come from all over the United States and the world. The school strives to admit talented students regardless of their ability to pay, providing scholarships to nearly half the student body. Lyman Orton and his three sons, Gardner, Cabot, and Eliot now run the family business, but it was founded in 1945 by Lyman's parents Mildred Ellen and Vrest as the first restored rural general store in the nation. The loyalty, compassion and old-fashioned values of this family are strongholds of the Vermont community and Kinhaven alumni.

For more information about the Vermont Country Store, please visit www.vermontcountrystore.com.