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Fred and Dinah Gretsch School of Music Newsletter

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**GEORGIA
SOUTHERN
UNIVERSITY**

**FRED AND DINAH GRETSCH
SCHOOL OF MUSIC**

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It was about this time last year when we all went away for Spring Break and returned to a vastly different environment. Georgia Southern (like the other University System of Georgia institutions) needed to transition to remote learning for the remainder of the Spring semester (and perhaps beyond). We hadn't prepared for this, and it isn't easy to teach music remotely.

Two strains of thought had to be balanced. On the one hand, we wanted to give students as normal an experience as possible. On the other hand, we needed to creatively adapt our teaching to best suit this "new normal," finding ways that extraordinary circumstances can lead to extraordinary experiences. We've done whatever has been needed to keep our students growing and developing as musicians, adapting time-honored principles to a novel situation.

Our faculty have been exceptionally creative and energetic in meeting our students' needs.

Those who were tech-savvy (not like me) spent countless hours not just setting up their own classes, but helping those who were not tech-savvy (very much like me). Faculty, staff and students came together for the benefit of the whole school, helping each other, lending support, keeping each other engaged and focused. And there have been some truly great experiences for all of us.

To our faculty, staff, and students, what I want to say is not so much “Thank you;” it’s **“Wow!”**

And we haven’t just maintained what we had. Remarkably, in the midst of all of this, President Marrero, Provost Reiber, Dean Kraft, and the whole team at the Georgia Southern Foundation worked to develop the agreement that created the Fred and Dinah Gretsch School of Music, which was announced last month. Mr. and Mrs. Gretsch have been friends and supporters of Georgia Southern for many years, and this continuing and deepening partnership is creating enormous opportunities for growth. Furthermore, we have received approval from the National Association of Schools of Music to begin offering a Bachelor of Arts in Music Industry program on the Armstrong Campus this Fall. The culmination of over two years worth of work, this new program gives our campuses complementary missions and expands the reach and scope of the Fred and Dinah Gretsch School of Music.

We know that we’re still a few months away from getting fully back to normal, but we’re excited about the future of the Gretsch School and Georgia Southern. We’re like an orchestra or band tuning before a concert; we’re warmed-up and Ready!

Best,

Steven A. Harper
Chair, Fred and Dinah Gretsch School of Music

SUPPORT THE GRETSCH SCHOOL OF MUSIC

The Fred and Dinah Gretsch School of Music embraces the legacy of a century of music-making at Georgia Southern University. We need you to be a part of the continuation and expansion of this tradition of excellence.

You can support the faculty, students, staff, and mission of the Gretsch School of Music with your gift by visiting the Georgia Southern Foundation (<https://advancement.georgiasouthern.edu/giving/>) and designating your gift for Fund GS0077 (Fred and Dinah Gretsch School of Music).

The faculty, staff, and students of the Fred and Dinah Gretsch School of Music thank you!

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Our mailing address is:

P.O. BOX 8052 STATESBORO, GEORGIA 30460-8052

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