

THE DONALD & MAUREEN GREEN MUSIC CENTER

WINTER 2011
SPRING 2012



the tempo quickens

CELLO GREAT YO-YO MA IMPROVISES WITH SANTA ROSA SYMPHONY CONDUCTOR LAUREATE JEFFREY KAHANE IN AN IMPROMPTU TEST DRIVE OF THE NEARLY COMPLETED WEILL HALL.



The Steinway Concert Grand Piano and 1400 handcrafted steamed beech chairs await the September 29, 2012 grand opening of Weill Hall.



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PHOTO: DAN STONE

“This is truly a moment for which we have all been waiting.”

DR. RUBEN ARMIÑANA | PRESIDENT OF SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

COVER PHOTO: GARRETT SCAFANI

Life is defined by moments—moments of anticipation, of delight, of pride—moments that we may spend many years waiting to experience.

September 29, 2012, is sure to be a day of unforgettable moments. It is with great pleasure that I share with you this date, marking the grand opening of the Joan and Sanford I. Weill Hall at Sonoma State University's Donald and Maureen Green Music Center.

Already an incredible selection of artists is lining up for the inaugural season of *Green Music Center Presents*, which will also include our orchestra in residence, the Santa Rosa Symphony. From the pinnacle of classical to the heart of jazz, the 2012/13 season will not be soon forgotten.

We would not be here today without you. The support that you have shown this project throughout its many phases has now brought us to this grand moment in time. While there are still challenges to meet, such as the completion of both the lawn and Schroeder's Recital Hall, this is an enormous milestone that we can all celebrate.

This is truly a moment for which we have all been waiting.



DR. RUBEN ARMIÑANA
PRESIDENT, SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

a dream realized

It happened seemingly overnight. Philanthropists Joan and Sanford I. “Sandy” Weill, newly arrived residents to Sonoma County, announced a generous gift to the Donald and Maureen Green Music Center on March 22, 2011. A portion of their \$12 million gift has made it possible for the acoustically perfect concert hall to open in September 2012 with a season of internationally renowned artists.

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“Joan and I were immediately inspired by the beauty, the acoustics and wonderful potential for the Green Music Center,” says Sandy Weill. “We are proud to be a part of this world-class destination.”

Friends of the Weills, including acclaimed artists Yo-Yo Ma and Lang Lang, have since travelled to the Green Music Center to experience the architectural and acoustical wonders of the concert hall.

“We are honored to join Donald and Maureen Green and the many other generous contributors who have stepped forward to help make this dream a reality,” said the Weills. “There is no question that it has been a labor of love.”

“... Mr. Weill noted that creating the perfect conditions for a musical performance by a talented artist requires both science—the finest acoustical design and instrument making—and a bit of prayer. When they come together, it is magical. And for those who have been devoted to the Green Music Center effort for these many years, this is magical.”

BRAD BOLLINGER | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
NORTH BAY BUSINESS JOURNAL



Don Green (left) and Sanford “Sandy” Weill following the announcement of the Weills’ \$12 million gift.

Joan and Sandy Weill (standing) and Maureen and Donald Green (seated) listen to violinist David McCarroll perform in Weill Hall.



PHOTOS: LINNEA MULLINS

join us ...



RENDERING: SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

A rendering of the lawn to the south of Weill Hall, featuring seating for 3,000 and a full view into the concert hall.

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Join the thousands of others who have helped build this magnificent venue. The Weills have offered a generous challenge and gift: they will match every dollar you contribute, up to four million. With your help, the 3,000-seat south lawn will be ready for the opening weekend of the Joan and Sanford I. Weill Hall on September 29-30, 2012.

Your contribution will ensure the completion of this extraordinary outdoor seating area, enhancing the concert experience while offering a full view into the hall.

To have your gift matched 1:1, contact University Development at (707) 664-3203 | erik.greeny@sonoma.edu.

ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF GIVING ...



PHOTO: LINNEA MULLINS

We know you're excited to secure your tickets for the inaugural season of *Green Music Center Presents* at Sonoma State University—featuring an array of dazzling performers from a variety of genres—so mark your calendars for March 2012.

One of the many benefits of becoming a donor is that you'll **receive priority access** to subscription tickets. To stay up to date on all things Green Music Center and to purchase your tickets next spring, visit our website at gmc.sonoma.edu.

Joan and Sanford I. "Sandy" Weill, whose \$12 million contribution to the Green Music Center has made it possible for Weill Hall to open on September 29, 2012.

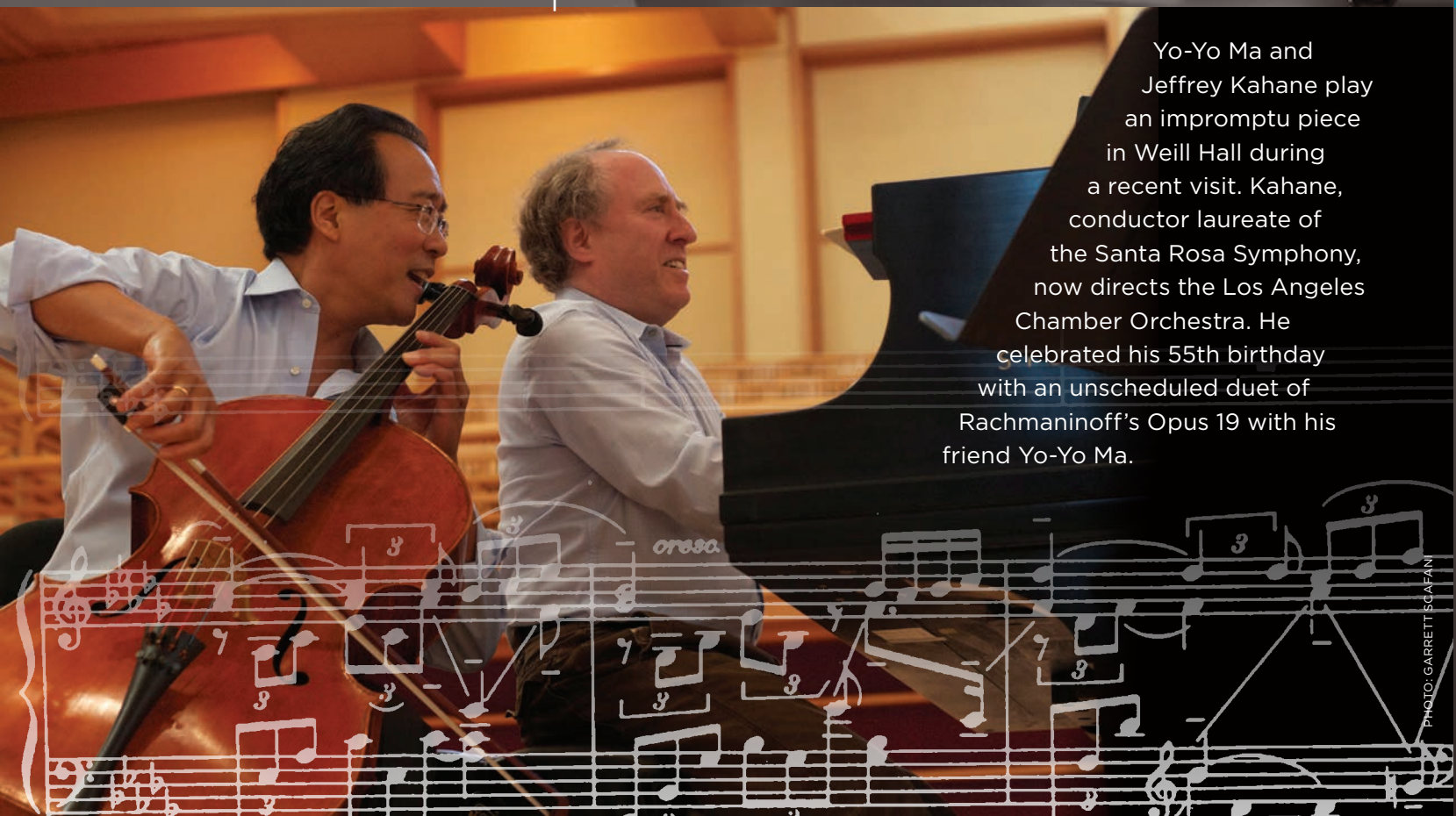
“I think the hall is extraordinary . . . I look forward to making the Green Music Center a regular stop during my future world tours.”

LANG LANG

Though the grand opening of the Joan and Sanford I. Weill Hall is still some months away, acclaimed artists, such as Yo-Yo Ma, Lang Lang, and Jeffrey Kahane, have travelled to Sonoma County for a preview of this exceptional venue.

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PHOTO: DETLEF SCHNEIDER, COURTESY OF COLUMBIA ARTISTS MANAGEMENT INC.



Yo-Yo Ma and Jeffrey Kahane play an impromptu piece in Weill Hall during a recent visit. Kahane, conductor laureate of the Santa Rosa Symphony, now directs the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra. He celebrated his 55th birthday with an unscheduled duet of Rachmaninoff's Opus 19 with his friend Yo-Yo Ma.

PHOTO: GARRETT SCAPAN



PHOTOS: CLAUDINE GOSSETT FOR DREW ALTIZER PHOTOGRAPHY



a community of giving

A community of giving has been created through this project, and it is to these individuals that we owe many thanks. From the largest of gifts to the smallest, from the first donors to the most recent, each of you has made this dream a reality. Your commitment to education, to the arts, to excellence, and to Sonoma County has brought us to this moment—so close that we can almost hear the music.

TOP: Herb Dwight and Eileen Trione.
ABOVE: (left to right) John Boland, president of KQED, Joan Weill, and Sonoma State University President Ruben Armiñana.

BELOW: Maribelle and Stephen Leavitt have recently joined the extended family of Green Music Center supporters, contributing for the first time as part of the \$4 million 1:1 match challenge.

We fell in love with the Green Music Center—its exterior: the gorgeous, modern architecture and the soaring roofline; and its interior: the artistic woodwork and the sound. The first time we toured and listened to music played on the stage by a faculty member, we were transported. The acoustics were superb. Everything was superb.

The foresight to build a world-class concert hall that spills outside for summer evenings, the perfect sound, the classrooms . . . there is nothing like it in Sonoma, or in all of California!

We love classical music. We saw ourselves making the gentle drive from Glen Ellen and savoring the music and dance for the rest of our lives. And, we especially love that the center is located on the Sonoma State University campus and that students and faculty will have this remarkable concert hall as a part of their daily lives.

- MARIBELLE & STEPHEN LEAVITT



2001



2007



we've come
a long way...

2007



2008



JANUARY 2001

A groundbreaking ceremony brought together (l to r) Laurence Gould, then-chair of the CSU Board of Trustees; Ruben Armiñana, president of Sonoma State University; Phil McHough, then-chair of the faculty; and Eric Carlson, then-president of the Associated Students.

JUNE 2007

Steel reinforcements rise from the foundations as Weill Hall begins to take shape.

JANUARY 2007

The Green Music Center exterior cladding is applied.

OCTOBER 2008

A donor tour group at the south side of the hall observes what their generous contributions have made possible.

NOVEMBER 2008

A complex pattern of ventilation holes takes shape on the floor as master carpenters complete the intricate millwork that helps sculpt the soundscape of the hall.

JUNE 2011

A worker carefully checks the alignment while installing the beautifully handcrafted, acoustically neutral chairs.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY



2008



2011

D

estined to become one of the most sought-after music and arts venues in the world, the Green Music Center is comprised of the world-class Joan and Sanford I. Weill Hall, the intimate Schroeder's Recital Hall, a multiuse music education facility, and an elegant hospitality center. This versatile complex is focused on creating the highest quality music education experience for students and the community.

AIM high

At the Green Music Center, audiences and musicians alike will have the privilege of experiencing music as few ever have. An immersion into pure sound, it brings out the finest talents in its performers and the deepest appreciation in its listeners.



PHOTO: DAN STONE



RENDERING: SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

REACH wide

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In its public university setting, the Green Music Center offers a peerless venue with superb acoustics where people of all ages and backgrounds can come to hear, work alongside, and learn from the very best.

EDUCATE all

The Green Music Center is a place where the next generation of fine musicians, vocalists, and dancers will develop their artistry. It will be a place where the world of arts and ideas thrives.



PHOTO: ELISABETH LOVI



PHOTO: SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

please take your seats...

All 1,400 handcrafted concert-hall chairs have been installed, marking a significant moment in this project as we move from temporary to permanent.

The custom-fabricated seats fill the main floor and both upper balconies and, whether occupied or empty, remain acoustically neutral. For better audience viewing during performances, some of the chairs dispersed throughout the hall are adjustable to maximize the best sightlines as well as to accommodate those with accessibility needs.

Each of the European steamed beech maple seats is equipped with a comfortable, built-in burgundy cushion and was hand-assembled at the 200-year-old Fancher Chair Co. in New York. Theatre Solutions of Philadelphia served as the main contractor, bringing extensive expertise in fixed seating from previous work at prestigious music halls throughout the country.

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PHOTO: SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

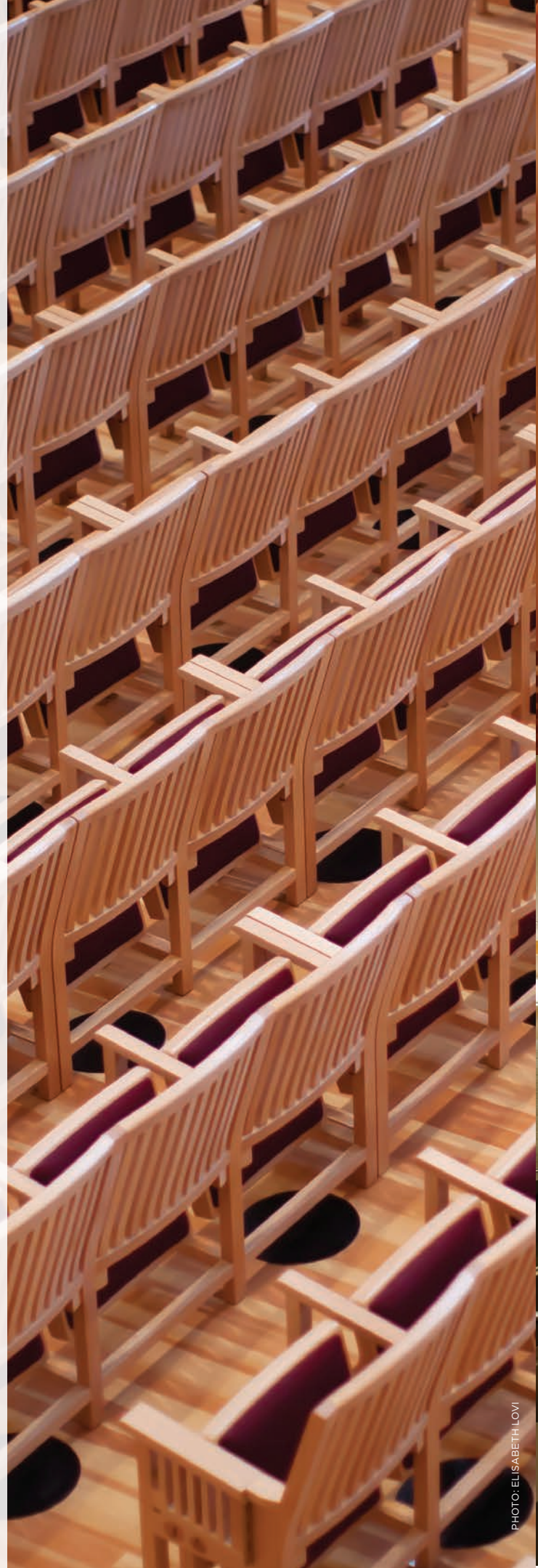


PHOTO: ELISABETH LOVI



down to the details . . .

We are happy to report that many of our ongoing projects have been completed, while additional construction continues to move forward.

Crews have begun excavation at the future site of the **courtyard**, which in less than one year's time will become the main entry to Weill Hall adorned with stone pavers and 100-year-old trees. To the west, a covered walkway colonnade will border the courtyard. Imagine yourself enjoying a pre-concert gathering or an intermission stroll in this charming, natural space.

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The performance **support spaces** in the back of the house, with rooms for performers to prepare or relax, office space for our orchestra in residence, and dressing rooms for performers, are quickly nearing completion. Even behind the scenes, the facilities at Weill Hall are finely crafted.

From amidst the construction beams and scaffolding of the **Person Lobby** in Weill Hall, one can already discern the shape of the grand staircase forming in the northeast corner. This interior space, complete with stone flooring, chandelier fixtures, and windows overlooking the courtyard, will provide an elegant interior gathering space for concertgoers.

Theatrical **lighting and audio equipment** for Weill Hall is fully funded and will be operational in the spring. These systems provide energy-efficient, customizable performance lighting options as well as sophisticated audio equipment to serve the various needs of future performances, including assisted-listening devices for the hearing-impaired.

Even the **restrooms** will leave visitors feeling pampered. The extraordinarily spacious facilities offer accommodations for many patrons, assuring shorter lines during intermission. Beautifully accented with maple wood and mirrors, the completion of these necessary services brings us one step closer to the grand opening.



honor roll

PHOTO: RANCH7

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RENDERING COURTESY OF SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

Inspired

by the soaring spaces of European churches, Schroeder's Recital Hall will feature seating for 250. The Brombaugh tracker organ, a rare and important find, will grace the stage-end wall from its own balcony.

With your help

this intimate venue, depicted in the artist's rendering at left, will be an ideal setting for choral, organ, chamber, and jazz concerts as well as community performances and lectures.

Contact University Development today to make your contribution to the Green Music Center at Sonoma State University: (707) 664-3203 or erik.greeny@sonoma.edu.

www.gmc.sonoma.edu