

## Comments about the Raphael Chamber Music Workshop

“Yet another incredible week at High Mowing! What would life be without it? Empty!”

“Thank you for an exhilarating two weeks. What a privilege to study such great music in such a lovely setting with good food and good people. I know how hard it is and how much you sweat the details. You really do make it all work and that work is very much appreciated. Lovely memories linger: making music with wonderful people, learning from spectacular coaches, camaraderie and great food. Once again, thank you so much for making this happen.”

“Thank you for a wonderful week. Playing that Schubert movement was the first time I have actually enjoyed performing. It's such a beautiful piece and I felt we were as well prepared as we could be. Already looking forward to next summer.”

“The Raphael Chamber Music Workshop has been the most special musical experience of my adult life. I look forward to it every summer. It is just the right blend of hard work, excellent food & good accommodations and surroundings. It has convenient access and superior coaching. The coaches are uniformly outstanding, extend every effort and leave just enough time for independent study. But most importantly, there is a warmth and welcoming for all new or old. The entire experience gives me the satisfaction of accomplishing the best I can. Thank you.”

“Thanks for such a fabulous week. You certainly have the knack for selecting coaches and infusing them with the spirit of the workshop! Each year I leave feeling encouraged and believing that I can still create neural connections in my brain and improve my skill level.”

“Just to let you know that we think of you often as we hum tunes from High Mowing - and recall our fond memories of our week at Camp. As I guess I told you one morning, I think you do an amazing job of creating a good constructive spirit for - where people from diverse backgrounds and experience can gather. We enjoyed our contact with all the faculty - musical and otherwise. And it was wonderful to hear you and other faculty play in the afternoon readings and we hope to hear more of your playing some day.”

“Having now attended the workshop for nearly ten years, well, it's part of my life. August, and the rest of the year, would not be the same without it. That's because the registration starts in February, then you apply and start anticipating. Then you get your assignments and start practicing (hopefully). Then you arrive and have this incredible week of wonderful music, food and companionship in the glorious New Hampshire surroundings. After that, it's back home with all the sweet memories to live with until the cycle begins again in February. Need I say more?”

“It was a FABULOUS week. I'm still thinking about exactly what to do with a two-measure sequence in the Archduke, so the week really got the 'musical neurons' activated!”

“What a wonderful week I had with you at High Mowing. Everything about the week was excellent – the coaching, the playing, the practicing, the listening, and the food. It was a joy for me to spend a whole week immersed in music surrounded by like-minded new friends. The coaching was excellent and enthusiastic.”

“I had a wonderful time at High Mowing: You, your coaches, the setting, the cook and the participants share musical passion and dedication while also and always nurturing friendship. What you have created is very special. I would love to return.”

"Thank you for the wonderful 2 weeks – the shared music, laughter, meals, jokes, stories. It is quite incredible to me how much, when this community of people gets together, it just seems to bring out the best in everyone - the amazing time for sharing and living together in so many ways, for so many a safe space away from hardships, tragedy – it's really a gift. The manner in which you do this and bring people together is quite extraordinary."

“Love you guys and what you do, it is unique. It is too bad that August doesn't have more weeks in it.”

“Thank you for such a great week at High Mowing. As a first timer, I felt welcome and so happy. You gave me great assignments and I loved all of the challenges. What a great program you run. Thanks again.”

“It was a fabulous two weeks – all of it, every group, every coach, every meal, the camaraderie, even the weather cooperated. And I know that it is all so great because of your unceasing attention to every detail before and during the workshop. So--once again--a heartfelt thanks for making it all possible.”

“I'm in "a new place" now with playing - calmer and more assured, willing to take chances, and do it for fun. You introduced me to an immense amount of music, and I am so thankful for that. I always felt non threatened, and accepted for whatever I could do when working at your workshop.”

“Thanks, Susan. I do love High Mowing – wonderful people and music, a beautiful setting, and the most amazing food!”

“Thanks again for a wonderful week of consistently outstanding coaching. It is a joy to have the opportunity to play beautiful music and to expand my musical knowledge base! So glad I found this program!”

“Thanks again for everything. It is soooooo great to play and work with you – and I love the program you have created and run. It is a magical experience and I think I laughed more these past two weeks than I have all year!”

"I hope you know how much we all appreciate the effort that you put into making the music workshop a success. Each year that I have gone has been better than the previous, and I always leave with enthusiasm to keep working on my technique and to set new goals. You can't ask for anything more!"

“First, warm thanks for all you did to make our chamber music congenial, fun, and stirring. I am still awakening in the morning, even after a post-High Mowing vacation that we had last week, thinking about Schubert, Brahms, and Op. 135 – not a bad consequence of the immersion. You and your other coaches did so well to make players of different levels and backgrounds aware of serious musical issues – couldn't ask for more.”

“Our week in NH with you (and your coaches) was certainly enjoyable in a number of ways, above all the quality of your coaching and, for us (I think I can say for both us) coming back to such intensive playing all day every day, as we have hardly done for a long time. And, Susan, speaking only for myself, there was a moment in the Brahms op. 60 rehearsing when your help to me in finding a way to surmount a difficult fingering problem was one of the best moments of its kind I've ever had - you told me as I hunted for a good fingering, to "just be fearless." That advice was so good in the moment that I'm going to quote it to any of my students in a graduate seminar I'm teaching this coming semester at Boston University on late Beethoven quartets. They will need it when they first encounter the deep complexities of Beethoven's handwriting in the score sketches for the second finale of op. 130. We all need it every day, in various ways.”

“I looked longingly at your workshop announcement that arrived this morning – High Mowing has been a wonderful experience for me over the years. I've loved the friends I've made, the wonderful coaching, the chance to delve deeply into the repertory, the exciting challenges of the recitals, and the addictive immersion in chamber music. Many, many, happy memories.”

“I have enjoyed your workshop immensely, and often talk about it to fellow chamber music players. I think I may have attended for 10 years, often going for 2 weeks. The information I learned from you and your coaches has stayed with me and helped me in my pursuit of learning my instrument. I've met amazing people that I would not have encountered anywhere else and am grateful for that. You provide a unique experience for musicians and I'm fortunate to have stumbled upon you.”

“Thanks again for a wonderful week of consistently outstanding coaching. It is a joy to have the opportunity to play beautiful music and to expand my musical knowledge base! So glad I found this program!”

“Please know that these weeks are the highlight of my year and much cherished. I know many others feel the same.”