Medfield High School – 2016 Hall of Excellence Nomination

Nominee: Matt Aucoin (MHS 2008), composer, conductor, writer, pianist, based on these criteria:

1) Excelled while at MHS
2) Achieve distinction in his/her profession
3) Give back to others in his/her community.

MHS excellence includes:

- Among the top of his class achieving high honors and distinction.
- Member of Student Council
- Was selected "senior speaker" at graduation.
- Seemingly born a poet/composer, Aucoin was awarded a $2,000 Medfield Public Library college scholarship in recognition of his talents.
- Earned outstanding soloist awards for piano as a member of the MHS Jazz Band that earned a spot at Essentially Ellington at Lincoln Center twice while Aucoin was a student.
- Accepted to Harvard College.

Distinction in his profession includes:

- Chosen as artist-in-residence for Los Angeles Opera for fall 2016. In this role, he will conduct the LA Opera. During the upcoming opera season, it is scheduled to perform one of Aucoin's existing pieces, and then premiere a new piece of work commissioned for the 2018-19 season. (One piece has been co-commissioned by Carnegie Hall, New York, and Wigmore Hall, London.)

- During the 2014-15 season, Aucoin conducted premieres of two of his operas: *Crossing* at American Repertory Theater (directed by Diane Paulus); and *Second Nature* at Lyric Opera of Chicago. He is also working on a new opera for the MET/Lincoln Center in New York.

- This season, Aucoin made conducting debuts with a number of orchestras, including Los Angeles Philharmonic, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Rome Opera Orchestra, and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago (featuring cellist Yo-Yo Ma).

- Aucoin is a 2012 graduate of Harvard College (*summa cum laude*); and a 2013 recipient of a graduate diploma in composition from The Juilliard School.

- Shortly before he graduated from Harvard, Aucoin was hired as the youngest Assistant Conductor in the history of the Metropolitan Opera.

- From 2013 to 2015, Aucoin was the Solti Conducting Apprentice at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

- Aucoin remains an active pianist, and regularly performs with many of the world's leading opera singers, including Renée Fleming, Paulo Szot, Rod Gilfry, and Anthony Roth Costanzo.

- An accomplished writer, Aucoin's essays and poetry have appeared in *The Yale Review*, *The Colorado Review*, *The Boston Globe*, and *The Harvard Advocate*.

- He has served as guest lecturer for the New York Shakespeare Society, and a guest host for New York's WQXR.

- Aucoin has been the subject of major profiles in *New York Times Magazine*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Boston Globe*, and *Chicago Tribune*. His music has been featured on radio programs including *This American Life*, *From the Top*, and *Studio 360*.

https://www.bostonglobe.com/arts/2015/05/09/aucoincrossing/Mobb0fijSOZEWyRgU7Q4yM/story.html

http://www.wsj.com/articles/is-matthew-aucoin-the-next-leonard-bernstein-1405626210

Examples of giving back to others in his community (and beyond) include:

- Despite a successful and busy music career that takes him around the world, Aucoin has carved out time to MHS music students, as well as students in the summer arts program at Charles River School in Dover (which includes many Medfield students and camp counselors).

- He is in regular contact with former teachers, and others close to the Medfield Music Program and in the local arts community (he is very accessible).

- He has provided the Medfield Music Program with an open invitation to invite him back anytime he is in town for student clinics, presentations, etc. and is eager to do anything he can to support music in Medfield and the arts overall.

- He is a member of the new Medfield Music Association Advisory Council comprised of music professionals with strong connections to Medfield.

http://www.wickedlocal.com/article/20130326/News/303269639

Recent with recognition of Medfield Music Program and Doug Olsen:
http://www.hometownweekly.net/medfield/medfield-native-matt-aucoin-joining-l-a-opera/

Nominators (comprised of MHS alumni, parents & community members):

David Baler (2015)
Maria Baler
Jeri Bergonzi
Jeffrey Bunce
Stephen Callahan
Lynne Clifford
Keith Curbow (2010)
Claudia M. Darmofal
Marie DeLuca
Maureen & Jeff Doctoroff
Tracy Fedak
Barbara FitzPatrick
Johanne Gervais
Sherri Goldman
Susan Gorog
Cynthia Greene
Janet Hajj
Kevin & Cynthia Hern
Susan Holbrook
Ann Hunter
Kellene Kiel
Kerrie Krah
Erica Kramer
C. Michelle Longeway
Nicole Loranger (2015)
Charlene Lorion Dalrymple
Diane Marsili
Chris McCue Potts & Jerry Potts
Kathleen McMahon
Katy Carrese Merrell
Jill Moran
Nancy Motley
Judy Myers
Bill Pope
Ryan Potts (2011)
Sean Potts (2015)
Kim Price
Luke Rosenfeld (2012)
Renee Rull
Andrea Stavrakas
Maria Thornton
Cheryl Treadway
Marybeth Wagenseller
Tricia Williams