



LOWELL MASON HOUSE REPORT
July, 2020

With the exterior of the house now mostly completed, the focus now is on the restoration and renovation of the interior of the Lowell Mason House. Several initiatives have been recently completed such as the development of new mission and vision statements, an update to the marketing plan of the house, and updates to the website at <http://www.lowellmasonhouse.net> . The Lowell Mason House has raised over \$400,000.00 up to this date to complete the restoration of the house, to turn it into a study museum and a meeting place. We are grateful to the 15 music educators associations around the United States that have made contributions towards its restoration, including the New England Music Festival Association.

We are at the point of bringing utilities into the house now including electricity, water, gas, and HVAC. Consultants and contractors are being brought in to tackle this next phase of the building development. We are working with a consultant from Old Sturbridge Village in Sturbridge, Massachusetts to help us with plans for floors, ceilings, plaster work, trim, and interior fixtures.

During our first **Music Education Advocacy Competition** in 2019, participants were asked to submit a video, song, presentation or paper that expresses their ideas on an important issue - the future of Music Education Advocacy in the 21st century. Awards were presented on January 8, 2020, on Lowell Mason's 232nd birthday! Grand prize went to Winston Schneider, a middle school student from Omaha, NE, Runner Up went to high school student Jacob Evarts of Locust Grove, GA; Honorable Mentions went to Jennifer Armstrong of East Greenwich, Rhode Island and Hanna Bratton of Marion, MA & Germany. Be watching here for any future similar initiatives that we will be sponsoring.

The Lowell Mason House also entered into a partnership with the Mason & Hamlin Piano Company. Mason & Hamlin pianos are being built by hand at its factory in Haverhill, Massachusetts. For more information about Mason & Hamlin, founded by Lowell Mason's son Henry and Emmons Hamlin, with financial support from Lowell Mason, please contact me directly. For that matter, if you are in need of a new piano, please contact me directly as well and I can get you linked up with Mason & Hamlin.

While Lowell Mason, known as the Father of Music Education in American public schools, might find today's COVID 19 experiences to be a true challenge, we believe that he would steadfastly support our efforts to continue to fulfill his dream that "Children must be taught music as they are taught to read." Thank you to all music educators for the adjustments that you are making in your instruction to keep music education vibrant in your schools!

Your continued interest and support in this project is very much appreciated. We continue to get closer to our goal towards the full restoration of the house. Donations are always welcomed. Thank you for considering making a tax deductible donation today. Please make checks payable to: The Lowell Mason House, P. O. Box 913 Medfield, MA 02052. If you prefer, you may also donate directly online by going to

our website at <http://www.lowellmasonhouse.net> . Your contribution is tax-deductible as a charitable contribution to the extent provided by U.S. tax law.

- Thomas E. Reynolds