

You Made the Music Happen in 2025 — Thank You!



Julia Janowski, Kathryn Summersett, Maitri White, and Darrius Morton perform for a full audience at St. Paul's Episcopal in Marquette

Because of you, the 2025 Pine Mountain Music Festival brought live opera, chamber music, and music education to communities across the Upper Peninsula. Our audiences would have to travel many hours to experience this kind of performance without your support.

The season opened with *Three Sopranos (and a Tenor)*, performed in three communities for more than 200 people. This was our largest audience for a single event since before Covid! Your generosity made it possible for us to share the music with returning audience members and welcome many new ones.

This year we also returned to the Iron Mountain area after several years away. We celebrated that return with an UPstarts! concert at the Braumart Theater during its 100th anniversary. The UPstarts! program gives young professional musicians valuable performance opportunities while bringing new energy to the festival. Their concerts across four different communities were a highlight for both the artists and the audience.

The Bergonzi Trio performed in multiple communities again this year. In Iron Mountain, their concert was attended by PMMF founder Laura Jean Deming, marking a special moment in our history. The Trio's performances continue to be a cornerstone of our programming.

Your support also allowed us to reach into schools to introduce students to opera. Festival artists Maitri White and Darrius Morton, with pianist Jon Ensminger, visited Houghton Elementary,

Middle, and High School. They sang for more than 150 students and answered questions about life as professional singers. We also held free children's concerts in Houghton and Marquette, attended by about 75 children in total. For many, it was their first time hearing live classical music performed by professional musicians.



Laura Jean Deming and the Bergonzi Trio



Maitri White and Darrius Morton perform for Houghton Choir students



2025 UPstarts! Curt Rogan, Rachel Nulf, and Jane Fall-Lakatos

Because of you, in 2025 we:

- Presented three weeks of concerts in communities across the U.P.
- Reached over 225 students through school visits and free children's concerts
- Returned to the Iron Mountain area for the first time in several years
- Supported the growth of young professional artists through the UPstarts! program

To every donor, audience member, and supporter who made the 2025 season possible, thank you.

As we plan for 2026, your continued support will help us bring more performances and educational programs to the Upper Peninsula. It will also bring us closer to our goal of presenting a fully staged opera by 2027. If you are able, please consider making a gift toward the 2026 season. Your contribution will help secure artists, keep free children's concerts and educational outreach available, and inspire the next generation of music lovers.

With gratitude,

Lara Neves
Executive Director

P.S. Every gift makes a difference in keeping live music in the Upper Peninsula and in reaching our goal of staging a full opera by 2027.