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Bach to Stravinsky, styles that can be related to the visual arts, literary examples, social history and an acquaintance with at least four languages. To open the cultural door that wide for a child's perception of beauty and possibility is worth every obligation that the music profession demands of its practitioners. It is my hope that each of you will consider how you might share the obligation to preserve and advance Canada's rich and varied cultural scene.

The nation's cultural health can be judged by the participation of its amateurs. There are thousands of musicians across the country constantly active in choirs, community orchestras, church groups, youth groups, small ensembles, festivals and competitions. I know that many in this audience make music for pleasure (rather than for money) and in doing so contribute to the cultural strength of their community.

During the years my ensemble, the Purcell Quartet, toured BC under the aegis of Simon Fraser University. We met amateur musicians scattered throughout the hinterland. They were accustomed to driving long hours over their weekends in order to rehearse with like-minded enthusiasts.

Making music together is wonderfully democratic. Aptitude for music has no boundaries of race, gender or age. At our summer school we coached an ensemble lead by a twelve year old boy. The cellist was a very talented 80 year old lady who had taken up the instrument after her children had left the nest. That summer school was also attended for several years by members of a large family, all of whom are now contributing to the music profession. They put themselves through school by running a record store in Victoria. One of them became representative in Western Canada for a famous record label, another plays in the Vancouver Opera orchestra, two of them are teachers, one at the Vancouver Academy, another in Armstrong.

Simon Fraser University has long supported the arts in all their forms and it is my hope that this ethos will be part of what stays with you in the years to come. Music will always be part of our lives. It is my job-and yours- to ensure that our music making will remain rich and informed and not wither from ignorance or neglect.

Thank you.