



The

**RUTH ANN HELLER
MUSIC FOUNDATION**

Post Office Box 298, Old Lyme, CT 06371 • Phone: 860-434-2671

A Gift of Music

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Dear Music Supporters,

January 31, 2022

The Ruth Ann Heller Music Foundation has had the privilege of supporting the musical development of Avery Wyman throughout his career at Lyme-Old Lyme High School.

Avery recalls his middle school days, when Jay Wilson presciently extended to Avery the privilege of practicing in the spectacular LOLHS music suite. During his high school years, Avery consistently earned a seat in the Eastern Region Band; in fact, he often won seats for jazz drums, jazz vibes, snare drums and pitched percussion. Avery has also been selected for the All-State Band each year.

For a small town, Old Lyme has more than a few gigs to offer a budding jazz percussionist. You can catch him opening for Dan Stevens at the Nightingale. Local jazz flutist Colin Hallahan (another RAHMF beneficiary) has invited Avery to join his band. Further afield, Avery plays in the New York Youth Symphony Jazz Band, and has spent two summers at Ithaca College at the jazz camp hosted there.

Due to graduate from LOLHS in the spring, Avery is preparing for a jazz percussion career in college. As of this writing, Avery has passed the preliminary audition rounds at Manhattan School of Music and Ithaca College.

While great opportunities await Avery as he prepares to spread his wings, he credits RAHMF for making it possible for him to study with Grammy winner Joe McCarthy, Jonathan Barber and Steve Petersen.

Established in 1999, The Ruth Ann Heller Music Foundation honors Ruth Ann (King) Heller, who was an exceptional band director. The Foundation awards instrumental music lesson scholarships to selected students in the LOLMS and LOLHS band programs. Since 2001 more than 400 scholarships have been awarded.

You may donate to the Foundation with the enclosed form or through *Paypal*; visit our Website at rahmf.org for more information. Please note that 100% of your donation will go directly to the scholarships as the Trustees cover all expenses. If you are a customer at the Essex Savings Bank, **please vote for RAHMF** during their annual *Community Investment Program* in February. In addition, we would be honored to be included in your estate planning.

Sincerely,

Meredith Huntley

LYME-OLD LYME MIDDLE SCHOOL 2021-2022 RAHMF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



LYME-OLD LYME HIGH SCHOOL 2021-2022 RAHMF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

