An eloquent speaker, Percussion & Steel Band faculty Vicki Peterson Jenks inspires Birch Creek concertgoers with her remarkable wisdom. Vicki applauds our audiences, telling them of how valuable they are to the success of Birch Creek. “We are moved by your generosity.”
Decades ago, while on a plane with my husband heading to South America to adopt our second child, we looked at each other, thinking of our first child at home with my mother, and a deeper realization came over us. “We don’t have a will!” The risks when separated from a dependent child didn’t truly come to light until we were cruising at 30,000 feet over the Caribbean Sea. That needed to change. Our lawyer, over the years, has helped us plan for our family’s needs while also considering the meaning of our lives in our greater community. Did we have any plans for estate giving; plans that would celebrate the lives and values we espoused? It was a remarkable question for a couple focused on raising young children. But it was an important question.

“What do you plan to leave behind?” “Would you like to designate a portion of your estate to an organization that supports your values and celebrates your life interests?”

Birch Creek has been incredibly blessed by people, some of whom are pictured below, who have included us in their annual giving and their final estate plans. All of our supporters, in some way, donated to Birch Creek: they are audiences for our live concerts, support our fundraising events, make gifts of time and talent, and believe in our music education program. Gifts of all sizes support our students, the historical campus and the new buildings allowing us to thrive in idyllic Door County. Much of our support comes through planned giving.

The impact of planned giving is profound. The investment to the organization has stabilizing and sustaining effects. It can level out the ebb and flow of a monthly organizational budget, and dollars invested for the long term last in perpetuity, designated to exactly what the donors value most.

In this edition of Birch Notes, we share many of the ways you can help Birch Creek meet organizational goals while building a lifelong legacy. I would love to talk with you about all the various ways your gift can support Birch Creek…forever.
Charlotte Lukes is a leader in the conservation field in Door County. She has promoted conservation education on our fragile peninsula that inspires leadership.

With the same resolve, wisdom and tireless effort, Charlotte serves Birch Creek as a member of the BOARD OF TRUSTEES, the volunteer ASSOCIATES and The Birch Creek LEGACY CIRCLE.

Understanding the importance of planned giving, Charlotte has established a sub-fund in the BIRCH CREEK ENDOWMENT to accept annual gifts. As a member of the LEGACY CIRCLE, she has taken the steps necessary to include Birch Creek in her will.

IN CHARLOTTE’S OWN WORDS

The highly professional faculty and gifted students make this a truly special summer music academy. It is rewarding to see former students return as teaching assistants and eventually become faculty members.

I want to know that this terrific music performance center will continue to inspire talented young musicians and their audiences for a long time. That is why I have joined The Legacy Circle and included Birch Creek Music Performance Center in my will.
Tools for Giving

Ways to Give

ANNUAL GIFTS, especially multi-year pledges (Tempo Partners), provide immediate support for top priorities.

ENDOWMENT FUNDS establish permanent investments and provide a continuing source of support.

CAPITAL GIFTS support infrastructure and technology improvements.

BEQUESTS AND OTHER PLANNED GIVING can provide lasting legacies for donors while assuring Birch Creek of future sustaining support.

MEMORIALS AND TRIBUTES are given in honor of family and friends or may recognize lifetime achievements.

Annual Funds

- Play It Forward Annual Fund
- Scholarship Fund
- Endowment Funds
- Concert Sponsorships
- Naming Opportunities

Planned Giving

TEMPO PARTNERS make ANNUAL AND MULTI-YEAR PLEDGES that they automatically pay from their bank accounts or credit/debit cards. By spreading payments over a period of time, pledges allow donors to make larger commitments and fulfill them at a comfortable pace.

LEGACY CIRCLE members have included Birch Creek in their estate plans.

ENDOWMENT sub-funds can be established during one’s lifetime or as a bequest.