



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we approach Fall of 2020, we are indeed living in challenging times. The Covid-19 pandemic has been with us for the past six months and it has significantly altered our lives in so many ways in terms of limiting how we interact with one another without spreading the virus.

We all look forward to the time when the pandemic ends, economic equilibrium returns, and when we finally address and bring meaningful change to the racism issues that have haunted our country for decades head on. I believe that Lowell Mason would have taken great interest in the issues with which we are dealing in music education during the Fall of 2020. The pandemic limits our ability to perform live instrumental and choral music in our schools, which is a fundamental piece of music education. Contemporary issues of cultural relevance, selecting music for students to study, sing, play, and/or perform, have emerged. Music educators develop curricular programming of what to teach, being sensitive to cultural biases and not inadvertently contributing to the overall systemic racism. Music educators in 2020 need to work hard to address the challenging issues that we face, and Lowell Mason, I believe, would be right there with us, facilitating virtual performances, supporting evolving music education techniques, as well as supporting music education and other music organizations through a newly renovated facility that was birthplace.



The Fall 2020 season should be a dynamic time for the Lowell Mason House. During this time, the members of the Lowell Mason House developed a Mission Statement and a Strategic Plan that we believe will carry the organization through the next phase of our evolution. Central to the mission of the Lowell Mason House is connecting the work of music students with music educators in our schools to the greater community through outreach performances and programs. Along with our annual **Holiday Concert on December 5, 2020**, which will be presented in a virtual setting in conjunction with the Medfield TV channel, we are planning a virtual lesson plan competition for teachers and developing performances and programs that will be aligned with Lowell Mason's vision of bringing music to every child. Whether it be through our new website, our Facebook presence, or with our newsletter, we will try to keep you updated with the latest news and events regarding our Lowell Mason House program.

We hope that you will find these Lowell Mason House programs and events interesting and engaging. We are always looking for new ideas to keep the programs of the Lowell Mason House fresh and relevant. Soon we will be initiating our annual fund-raising appeal, and we appreciate the support and enthusiasm that so many people have given us over the past ten years. We hope that you'll be able to help us in this effort as well. For more information on our programs or how to donate, please find us on <http://www.lowellmasonhouse.net>.

Sincerely,  
Thomas Reynolds, President

# LOWELL MASON HOUSE BUILDING REPORT

We've made tremendous progress over the years since we first acquired the House. We've moved it to a new site on a new foundation, installed a new roof, new siding, new windows, new doors, and painted the outside. The before picture is featured here:

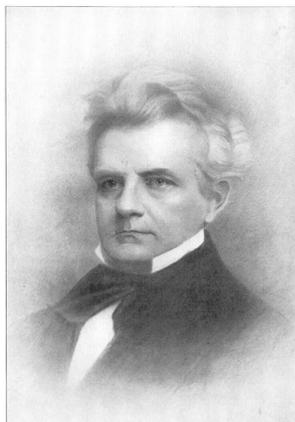


Our accomplishments to date would not have been possible without the tremendous response and support we've had, both from the local community and from music teachers around the country. These are people who understand the importance of music and music education in the fabric of our society, and they've helped us raise over \$400,000

There is still an enormous amount of work that needs to be done, including: connecting water, sewer, electric and gas lines; installing an ADA approved bathroom; and working inside the house to install new electric wiring, floors, walls, and handicapped access.

We thank all our donors for their support in the past, and hope we can continue to count on your support, as well as the support of our expanding list of donors, as we enter this new and exciting part of the development of the house.

---



## "CALL FOR VIRTUAL LESSON PLANS" Competition 2020

The Lowell Mason House is excited to sponsor a **competition for music educators** that recognizes excellence in teaching music in a virtual, online environment. We are calling for music educators to submit their very best lesson plan for teaching music in an online, virtual environment. The pandemic of 2020 has demonstrated the need for music teachers to be prepared to teach in virtual online sessions that are both engaging and enriching for students at all levels. Lowell Mason, who believed that it was important for every child to be taught music in order for them to reap the therapeutic health and wellness benefits of the power of music, would want to make sure that any instruction of music at all, no matter through what medium, should be of high quality and substance. Teaching music through the computer is just another vehicle for delivering quality music education.

The Lowell Mason House "**Call for Virtual Lesson Plans**" invites all music educators, whether presently working in the field, preparing as future music educators at the college level, or retired music educators to submit their very best lesson plan by emailing it to [manager.lowellmasonhouse@gmail.com](mailto:manager.lowellmasonhouse@gmail.com) between November 1 and December 1, 2020. Submissions will be reviewed by a panel of judges at the collegiate level in music educators and the top three winners will be announced on **January 8, 2021**, Lowell Mason's 229<sup>th</sup> birthday. All reviewed submissions will be placed on a special Google Drive where music educators may search for ideas for musical virtual lesson plans. The top three winners will each receive a \$2,000.00 prize for their work.

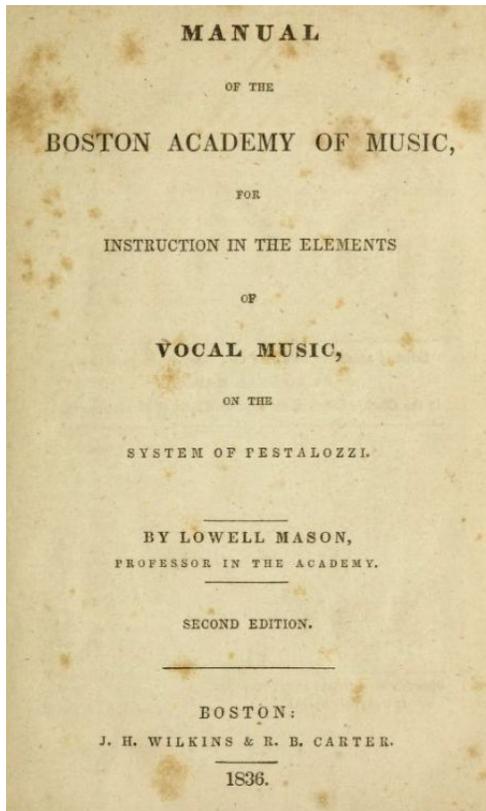
Each applicant should only send one of their very best virtual learning music lesson plans. The lesson plan must be completely original and NOT be based upon a commercially available lesson plan that may be copied/purchased online. Each lesson plan will be judged upon the following criteria: Originality/Creativity; Excitement; Student Engagement Potential; Potential for Successful, Measurable Learning; and Age-Appropriateness for the identified level of students for whom it was written: pre-school, elementary, middle, secondary, college, or adult learning. Each applicant agrees to allow the Lowell Mason House to place his/her lesson plan submission on the special Google Drive linked to its public website.

The Lowell Mason House "**Call for Virtual Lesson Plans**" promises to be an exciting program designed to engage music educators at all levels. We look forward to the incoming submissions as we do our part to facilitate the quality of music education for all even through this most difficult of pandemic times!

---

## AMAZING ARTIFACTS OF THE LOWELL MASON HOUSE

In each newsletter we will present a different “Amazing Artifact” in the Lowell Mason House Collection



### Artifact #1 – The Manual of the Boston Academy of Music in Vocal Instruction

The *Manual of the Boston Academy of Music for Instruction in the Elements of Vocal Music on the System of Pestalozzi*, was written by Lowell Mason in 1834 and published in 1836 in Boston by J. H. Wilkins and R. B. Carter. A book for teachers like this was novel at that time. After Lowell Mason founded the Boston Academy of Music in 1833 to teach classes of boys and girls in singing, he created a rigorous, thorough curriculum of musical instruction in the form of a vocal music instruction method book to facilitate high quality music learning among children. It was one of the most comprehensive manuals for teaching vocal music ever developed up to that time. In its 258 pages, one will find detailed instructions for music educators for teaching vocal music, facilities and equipment needs for music instruction, vocal production, voice ranges, and a comprehensive series of chapters of teaching all elements of music theory including note reading, rhythms, pitches, scales, melodies, harmonies, keys and modulation, dynamics, intonation, articulation, and diction. Certainly, this instruction manual was so thorough that it far exceeded any vocal method book that had ever been developed in the United States up to that point. His methodology was based around the teaching principles of the famed Swiss general educator Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi. Mason applied Pestalozzi's techniques directly to music education. The Boston Academy of Music was the main institution that used this manual until music was introduced into the public grammar schools of the city of Boston beginning in 1837 and formally in 1838.

A digital version of this book may be viewed at the following link:

[https://archive.org/details/manualofbostonac00maso\\_1/mode/2up](https://archive.org/details/manualofbostonac00maso_1/mode/2up)

---

## SUPPORT OF THE LOWELL MASON HOUSE

We believe that Lowell Mason (1792–1872), the father of American School Music Education and a pioneer in American Sacred Music, would be so proud to see his Medfield, MA birthplace supporting the cause that he loved so much! As you can see, there are very exciting things happening at the Lowell Mason House in 2020, and we have reported on some of these efforts in this newsletter. Our dream of creating programs and a functional facility that support music education gets closer to reality as every day passes. Will you help us to complete this dream by making a donation to the Lowell Mason House? Your gift, no matter how large or small, can become the gift of music to a child... to a senior citizen... or to a member of our community and beyond. We began this mission of saving Lowell Mason's birthplace close to ten years ago, and now, we would like to have this saved historical treasure of Medfield become a functional facility that could be opened to further promote music in our schools and music in our lives. You may make a donation via PayPal or a major credit card by going to our website at <https://www.lowellmasonhouse.net> and clicking on the yellow “Donate” button in the top right of the home page. Donations by mail may also be sent to:

The Lowell Mason House  
PO Box 913  
Medfield, MA 02052

*Thanks for your consideration and support giving others the gift of music!*

*“Children must be taught music as they are taught to read.” – Lowell Mason*