

Dear Festival Musicians:

It has been a whirlwind three months for me since taking on the role as Executive Director of the New Hampshire Music Festival! I have learned a great deal and have much more to learn as we progress together through the upcoming Festival season. But most importantly, I want you to know how very honored I am to be the Executive Director of this Organization and promise you I will work hard to provide you all with things you most need from us to make beautiful music for our audiences.

I ask that you all please take the time to review the welcome packet pages as there have been some significant changes this year. Most importantly I need to draw your attention to:

1. The PSU contract this year does not allow for pets. Service Dogs with appropriate paperwork are of course allowed by ADA law. But pets can no longer stay on campus. This is not an action directed by PSU solely to NHMF. The College insurance carrier now mandates this for anyone residing in the campus housing. I know this will be a serious blow to many of you. So I did research where you may board your pets. Ebony Kennels, owned and operated by Sarah and Mike Robertson, and located right near PSU on Tenney Mountain Highway has been given exceptionally high marks for their wonderful care of animals. I have given Sarah and Mike a heads up that some of you may be contacting them.
2. Let me first state that during months of negotiations with PSU for our contract this year, I have learned that PSU has in fact been a tremendous partner to NHMF. For years, PSU has charged us only \$11 a night for the dorm rooms. There is absolutely no where that we could house you all for that amount. Also, PSU operational staff for all of our events has been provided free of charge. In today's economy, PSU can no longer afford to step to the plate in this fashion. So this year, the Festival is looking at charges over twice that of last year. Housing alone has gone from \$11 per night to \$35. Given that, we ask that if you do NOT need your campus housing for full weeks at a time, please let us know. We may be able to accommodate you elsewhere. IE: if you live in Boston and only stay up here Thursday nights after the concert, we could get a hotel for that night and save on the cost of booking an apartment for the week.
3. This year, check in and checkout will be at the "HUB" not Merrill Place. Complete check in and check out instructions are on the musician information pages through the website.
4. Thursday After Parties are an annual fun time for all and we want to make sure you have a place to do that. This year, PSU will be moving picnic tables and Adirondack chairs behind the main living quarters in the apartments. Feel free to use that beautiful grassy area to have get togethers. Some of the campus areas you have been used to using, such as Merrill Place, are totally off line this year. Please look to the HUB for your laundry needs, a place to get inside and "hang," etc.
5. Annual Meeting: For those of you who have been joining us for years, you are used to seeing the Annual meeting take place during the Festival. This year, the Board has decided to hold the Annual meeting more towards the end of the fiscal year so that a total recap can be given to its stakeholders. Since the stakeholders of the Organization include YOU the Festival Musicians, I promise that all materials will be sent to you about where we stand at the end of the year.

Certainly, we hope that some of you can attend the Annual Meeting when the date is officially announced.

6. As many of you may know, Eric Anderson has been named the Festival's full-time Personnel Manager. Throughout the Festival summer, please rely on Eric for your specific personnel questions or needs such as items related to payroll and housing. We are so excited to have Eric work in this official capacity for us.
7. Finally, very soon you will be receiving a link where you can go to book practice rooms ahead of the Festival start on-line. We are very excited about this new feature! Be watching for the email from Eric with this important tool that will hopefully make practicing more efficient for you all!

Cannot wait to meet and see you all very soon!

Lucinda Williams

Executive Director