

## History of the Aspen Music Festival and School



A former mine, estate, and restaurant resort, the pastoral 38-acre Campus of the Aspen Music Festival and School is a profoundly tangible example of the Aspen experience: a union of rigorous education, artistic expression, and natural beauty.

The AMFS has owned this land since 1964, when it was given to the organization by Robert O. Anderson, a close associate of Walter Paepcke's and one-time president of the Aspen Institute. Since that time, it has served as the home of the educational activities of the AMFS and as geographic counterpoint to the Festival's performance facilities in Aspen's West End. The nine buildings on the site include teaching studios, classrooms, and office space; they are shared with Aspen Country Day School.

Since 1951, the Aspen Music School has offered a select group of the world's finest pre-professional and early professional music students the opportunity for study at the highest levels. More than 600 attend each summer from approximately 40 states and 40 countries; the average age is 22; almost 70 percent receive some form of financial assistance.

The eight-week program provides a diverse combination of classroom and practical experiences designed to develop students' talents and skills to their fullest. A broad curriculum includes individual lessons, master classes, concerts, and recitals.

Most important, the master teacher/apprentice relationship, the foundation of music education, is completely realized at the School. As part of their training, Aspen students have the unusual opportunity to perform as fully participating orchestra members with some of the world's finest artists under the leadership of world-renowned conductors. Musicians of all ages learn from their instructors not only in classroom settings, but also as they perform side-by-side with them. This is one of the key elements that sets Aspen apart.