

# HISTORY OF THE SITE

## EARLY HISTORY

For more than 800 years, the Ute Indians summered in the Aspen area, setting up several hunting camps among these peaks, which they named the “Shining Mountains.”

In 1879, silver prospectors began trekking over Independence Pass from Leadville to the Aspen area and founded the town. As word about the area’s rich silver veins spread, more and more prospectors arrived, and mining companies were formed.

In 1888, when Aspen was a thriving town of thousands of residents, with multiple daily newspapers, schools, and even an opera house on the way, George E. Newman founded the Newman Mine on what is today the Aspen Music Festival and School’s Matthew and Carolyn Bucksbaum Campus.

The Newman Mine was a modern marvel. It not only used the newest of mining techniques, but a spur of the Midland Railroad ran directly to the property and an on-site hydroelectric plant generated enough electricity to run the mine. It also furnished power for the electric light plant in town, making Aspen the first city in Colorado to be totally electrified.



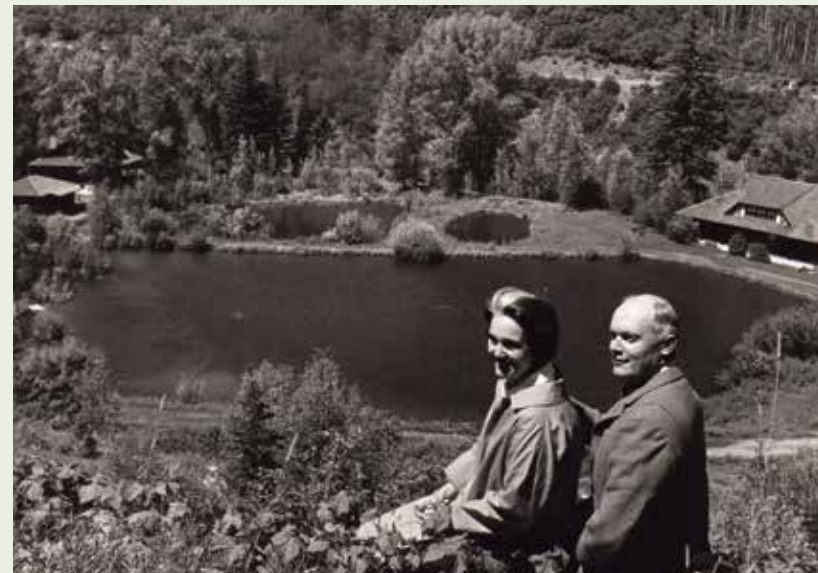
THE NEWMAN MINE OPERATED ON THIS SITE FROM 1888 TO 1920. THE BUILDINGS ON THE LEFT AND IN THE FRONT STILL STAND TODAY. *Photo: Courtesy of Aspen Historical Society*

## THE 1920S TO THE 1950S

Most of the silver mines in this area closed shortly after the United States went to the gold standard in the late 1800s. The Newman Mine, however, was an exception and remained in operation until 1920.

After its closure, the site took on a ghost-town appearance during the 1920s and 1930s. Aspen’s young people spent many a night carrying on in its empty main building, hitching horses to sleighs to get through the deep snow on the site—their parents and the town never being the wiser for their mischief.

In the 1940s and 1950s, various families lived on this property. The Four Seasons and the Copper Kettle restaurants both operated from this location and, at one point, the grounds even became a resort lodge. Many of the people involved in establishing Aspen as a ski resort stayed at the lodge or held ownership for a time, including Walter and Elizabeth Paepcke, who organized the 1949 Goethe Bicentennial Convocation and Music Festival that gave birth to the AMFS.



MR. AND MRS. ROBERT O. ANDERSON DONATED THE LAND. *Photo: Margaret Durrance*

## THE 1960S AND BEYOND

The property changed hands a few times mid-century until, in 1964, Mr. and Mrs. Robert O. Anderson generously donated the quiet grounds, then a twenty-three-acre site, to its final owner, the AMFS.

In 1969, the AMFS leased its facilities to Aspen Country Day School during the winter months, starting a relationship between the two entities that continues today.

In the summers, the Campus served as the center of activities for the Festival’s artist-faculty and students; buildings designed by the late Aspen architect Fritz Benedict provided basic studios, practice rooms, and rehearsal space. Beginning in the 1990s, the Campus also became home to offices for the AMFS’s year-round staff.

## PRESENT DAY

In 2003, the AMFS and ACDS began planning a joint campus that would allow both organizations to develop at the highest levels of excellence while efficiently sharing use. In June 2013 the first phase of the new Matthew and Carolyn Bucksbaum Campus was officially opened, featuring two new rehearsal halls, teaching studios, practice rooms, and a percussion building. Phase II of construction was completed in the summer of 2016 with an additional rehearsal hall, new administrative offices, a new cafeteria, an additional building with teaching studios and an assembly hall, restoration of the historic Gordon Hardy Building, new maintenance buildings, and a bike facility.



A MUSICIAN ON CAMPUS IN THE 1980S. *Photo: Charles Abbott*



Founded in 1949, the Aspen Music Festival and School is the country’s premier music festival and summer training ground for the next generation of musicians.

Each summer more than 600 exceptionally talented young musicians come from all over the world to study with top music artist-faculty. The average student age is twenty-two; the artist-faculty come from every major conservatory and music school—including The Juilliard School, the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University, the Curtis Institute of Music, the Colburn School, and New England Conservatory—as well as many major orchestras such as those of Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, St. Louis, and the Metropolitan Opera.

These students and professionals also perform, along with select guest artists, in hundreds of events over eight weeks—as part of five orchestras, chamber music groups, operas, recitals, children’s events, and more. They often play side by side with their teachers, a unique configuration that blends learning and the excitement of real-time performance.

Many of today’s leading classical performers studied in Aspen, including violinists Joshua Bell, Sarah Chang, Gil Shaham, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, and Robert McDuffie; pianists Orli Shaham, Joyce Yang, Wu Han, and Conrad Tao; cellist Alisa Weilerstein; conductors Marin Alsop, James Conlon, James Levine, and Leonard Slatkin; composers Philip Glass and Augusta Read Thomas; and bassist Edgar Meyer.



ASPEN MUSIC  
FESTIVAL  
AND SCHOOL

## SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF THE MATTHEW AND CAROLYN BUCKSBAUM CAMPUS

- Guided tours are offered during the Festival.
- Please respect the facilities and the music-making in progress and do not enter the buildings while on this self-guided tour.

# MATTHEW AND CAROLYN BUCKSBAUM CAMPUS

In 2016, the Aspen Music Festival and School completed a \$75 million redevelopment of its thirty-eight-acre Campus, named for Matthew and Carolyn (Kay) Bucksbaum, who gave the lead gift for the project.\* The 105,000-square-foot of meticulously designed spaces allows musicians the space, acoustics, and comfort to pursue the deep nuances of their art. They also reflect and connect to the spectacular natural surroundings.

Designed by Basalt-based Harry Teague Architects, the firm that also designed the Festival's two concert facilities, the redevelopment was finished in two rigorous nine-month phases, allowing the AMFS to complete the project without canceling a season.

The Campus is shared with Aspen Country Day School, a pre-K through eighth grade school that uses the Campus during the school year. With the Campus's highly efficient design, about eighty-five percent of spaces are shared use.

## 1 GORDON HARDY BUILDING AND ROBERT HARTH BUILDING

The Gordon Hardy Building, named in honor of Hardy, who was president and dean of the AMFS for twenty-eight years, is one of the oldest buildings in the county and one of the original buildings from the late 1800s when the Newman Mine occupied this site. This historic-designated building is where the miners slept and ate. In the 1950s, it was a restaurant named Four Seasons, and during the remodel of the building, construction workers found napkins in the walls with "Four Seasons" on them. Today, this building and the connected Robert Harth Building, which opened in 2016 and is named for Harth, who was president and CEO of the AMFS for twelve years, house the AMFS administrative offices and a sunny cafeteria for students.

## 2 THE POND CLUSTER

Completed in 2013, the three buildings that make up the Pond Cluster are for orchestra rehearsals, small ensemble rehearsals, and studio classes.

The buildings' exteriors reflect the four elements of their environment: mountains, air, earth, and water. The roof lines mirror the angles of the area's surrounding peaks and represent mountains; the translucent material at the top lets a soft filtered light into the buildings and represents air; the siding that looks like wood, actually made of a cementitious material for superior wear, represents earth; and the blue-tinted glass represents water.

### • STEFAN EDLIS AND GAELE NEESON HALL

This 7,100-square-foot hall is used for orchestral rehearsals and is home in the summer to the Aspen Conducting Academy

*\*Matthew Bucksbaum served as Board Chair twice and was a Life Trustee, and Carolyn (Kay) Bucksbaum served as Board Chair once and is a Life Trustee.*

Orchestra, a fifty-five-member orchestra that serves as the training "instrument" for the approximately fifteen young conductors that study in Aspen each summer. Inside are a variety of features that make this a versatile facility: the stage can be taken up and down for chamber music performances, stairs provide access to a balcony viewing area, and there is a small warm-up room for auditions and competitions. The building was designed with optimal sound in mind: additional height provides the necessary volume, a series of shaped panels hang on the walls to bounce sound properly, and the air conditioning unit is housed outside and across the road to eliminate any noise distractions. The unit moves air into the building at a very slow rate through underground, oversized ducts so that cooling and air circulation are soundless.

Attached is one of two music libraries where AMFS artist-faculty and students obtain the musical parts for the orchestral and chamber music they study and perform while at the Festival. (The other library is backstage at the Benedict Music Tent.) A total of six librarians is needed to handle the volume of music used each summer. The chamber music collection is named for Phyllis and Saul Lowitt.

### • HARRY TEAGUE PAVILION

Harry Teague is a locally based, international architect who designed these buildings as well as the AMFS's Harris Concert Hall (opened in 1993) and the Benedict Music Tent (opened in 2000).

This glass-enclosed studio room was named in honor of Teague by a generous donor and former Yale classmate of Teague's, Ed Bass. The building is used for meetings, events, and rehearsals. Cantilevered over the Great Pond via a truss system, the views from this structure are stunning. The large amount of glass in this building, however, can make the room quite live; custom acoustic blinds can be raised and lowered to modify the sound in the room depending on the desires of each group using it.

### • SCANLAN HALL

This structure is the larger of the two rehearsal halls; it can seat a large orchestra. Like the other Pond Cluster buildings, Scanlan Hall features extra height, acoustic blinds, and panels to optimize acoustics, as well as the specialized across-the-road cooling system. The hall is named for Mary and Patrick Scanlan.

### • PONDS

The ponds have been on site since the nineteenth-century mining days when they were used to cut ice blocks in the winter. Decades later, they were popular spots for ice skating. Today the Fire Pond is a reservoir for water to be used in the case of a fire emergency. All three are fed from a natural spring and run into Castle Creek.

## 3 PRACTICE ROOMS

The sixty-eight practice rooms on Campus are divided into four groups. When testing for sound isolation during building, the team used what they called "the scream test" to see if side-by-side rooms could be used without either disrupting the other. While it was technically possible to fully seal the rooms acoustically, the Festival felt this would diminish the vitality and energy of the Campus. The practice rooms were ultimately built with enough sound isolation for side-by-side practicing, but also with enough sound bleed to the outside to create a lively musical atmosphere for those walking by.

All the practice rooms are located around the perimeter of the Campus. Made of concrete, they have an ingenious design that helps them serve partly as retaining walls and avalanche barriers. (Slopes greater than thirty degrees require it.) Practice rooms along Castle Creek Road have living vegetation on their roofs so they blend in with the hillside when viewed from the road above.

## 4 CASTLE CREEK BUILDING

Built in 1993, the Castle Creek Building houses teaching studios, classrooms, and offices for summer activities. In the winter it has classrooms and offices for ACDS.

## 5 MARTIN AND MELVA BUCKSBAUM LOWER SCHOOL BUILDING

At 17,000 square feet, this is the largest building on Campus, and in the summer it houses AMFS teaching studios, offices, a computer lab, and a composition studio. During the academic year, the building is used by ACDS as pre-K through third grade classrooms. In the center of this building is the lovely Fonda and Charlie Paterson Commons, named for two great figures in the Festival's history—a Trustee and a Life Trustee, respectively—whose children also attended ACDS.

Since ACDS needs classrooms at 800 square feet and the Festival needs private teaching studios at 400 square feet, moveable room dividers were installed that can transform each classroom into two acoustically sound studios. The company that makes the dividers, Skyfold, created a new product specifically for this project, one with a greater degree of acoustic isolation than was previously available in its product line. The company now offers this product to other clients all over the world.

## 6 BETTY A. SCHERMER PERCUSSION BUILDING

Nestled next to Castle Creek, the Schermer Percussion Building is used for lessons and rehearsals. There are also double-sized practice rooms specially built for percussion. The south end of the building is nearly two stories high and its doors are oversized to accommodate the loading in and out of large percussion instruments.

## 7 THE FOREMAN'S HOUSE

Built in the late 1800s, this two-story structure was originally the silver mine foreman's home. It housed the AMFS's executive, communications, and development offices up through the 2015 season, after which those departments moved into the Robert Harth Building. While designated historic, it was allowed to be moved intact elsewhere on the site, which it was in 2016 to make room for the Upper Studio Building. This involved removing and numbering each stone along the bottom of the building so they could be replaced in their exact original order. The

masons even used historically accurate mortar techniques. The Foreman's House is now used for teaching and archives.

## 8 UPPER STUDIO BUILDING

This building, completed in 2016, is another shared-use space for the AMFS and ACDS. In the summer, it holds teaching studios and its Friedman Atrium hosts chamber music rehearsals; it also contains extra-soundproofed practice rooms, specifically for brass instruments, with walls made of filled-in cement blocks. During the school year, it serves as the ACDS middle school.

## 9 HURST HALL

Hurst Hall was completed in 2016 and, at 7,400 square feet, is the largest hall on the Bucksbaum Campus. In the summer, the AMFS uses Hurst Hall for orchestra rehearsals; during the school year, ACDS uses it as a gym (the acoustic panels are covered with grids to protect them from children's sports activities). From the outside, the building is another gorgeous addition to the Campus. Its siding reflects the silver found in the mountains surrounding the site. The building is named for Soledad and Robert Hurst.

