

**Report from Artistic Director  
June 2020**

Looking back so far this year, as Artistic Director not even fully diving into our first Festival yet, it has been one unlike any other in my lifetime as a human being on this earth. One of the incredible things I have felt through this shifting time, as we went from the joy and excitement of celebrating Mark's last season with us to our time together now, processing and understanding how the climate around public gatherings is changing by the week to keep us all safe and healthy in the best way that we can, is resilience. We have been connecting with our musicians, audiences, and each other more than ever, as we develop ways to stay in tune and in touch with our mandate, our story, and our mission.

A few more words on the celebration of the incredible history of the Sweetwater Music Festival. It has been such an honour and amazing opportunity to be part of this festival for so many years. To play in different seasons, in the small orchestra, in chamber groups, supporting the younger generation, helping with the munchkins and the school visits locally. I feel coming into the program this year was in some ways very seamless. In others I enjoyed learning more, becoming familiar with the board, the process, the ways that we filter ideas and thoughts through the proper channels, and also just sometimes have a chance to discuss things as they formulate as well.

I am devastated at the possibility that this September Festival will not happen in the way we had planned, however with our team, I have so much faith in what we can accomplish and figure out and tackle no matter what happens. I also strongly believe that we all love and appreciate the beauty and magic of Sweetwater to the point that we will continue to find ways to make it something to look forward to for years to come.

I am so thankful and grateful for the festival, for Mark Fewer, for the Board, and our community as we move forward, and look ever forward to the future of sharing incredible music with you all.

Sincerely,  
Edwin Huizinga