

Janet Packer

VIOLINIST, TEACHER, LOVED MUSICIAN



MS. CHLOE'S MAIN VIOLIN
TEACHER, AND WHO OUR
PERFORMANCE HALL IS
DEDICATED TO.

Janet Packer was a creative and intellectually adventurous musician commissioning, premiering and recording contemporary violin music, and performing and recording neglected repertoire for the violin. Janet was the **Strings Department Director at the Longy School of Music**, in Cambridge, Mass., for 12 years, and was well-known in the Boston music community as well as internationally, as a promoter of new works. Janet was also devoted to studying baroque music and preserving older performance styles and lent out her many baroque bows to her students to enjoy!

Janet was 1970 graduate of Wellesley College, where she won awards for her playing. After earning a master's degree in history from Brandeis, Janet spent some years as a freelance violinist in the Boston area, performing with the Pops, Banchetto Musicale, and Dinosaur Annex, of which she was a founding member. She then decided to concentrate on a career as a soloist with particular interest in promoting new works. She established the Pro Violino Foundation and began to commission works, which she premiered, from such composers as Gardner Read, Juan Orrego-Salas, William Thomas McKinley, and Edwin London. She recorded many of these works.

A beloved teacher of graduate, undergraduate and pre-college level students, Janet chaired the violin department at Longy School of Music in Cambridge Massachusetts for 12 years, and was named Studio Teacher of the Year by the Massachusetts chapter of the American String Teachers Association. Although professionally know as a contemporary music advocate, Janet was a proponent of historical performance practice, performing and teaching baroque and classical style with period instruments and bows. She was a founder of Rethinking Bach, at Queens College, an annual workshop in historical performance.

Janet's students consistently attained a high level of technical mastery, expressive individuality and musical insight. She was an expert on string teacher training and pedagogy, and a superb chamber musician and coach. Janet was a sought-after master class clinician and lecturer at major music schools and universities and maintained a tireless schedule of solo performing. She played all over the world, including appearances with the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra, the National Symphony of Panama, and a tour in 2006 in China with a master class at the Beijing National Conservatory.

Janet passed away in June of 2014 and is missed desperately by all she touched, taught, and all who heard her play.

It felt only fitting to dedicate this performance space to Janet. For all the studio recitals she hosted at her parent's Cambridge townhome, for all the memories we made there as her students over the years. I will always be thankful for my time with Janet and I will carry her legacy for all my students in the future.