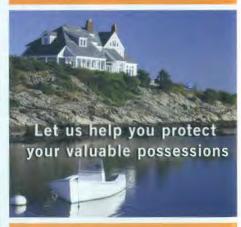




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Why Music?

By Katie Steedly

have been thinking about the world of hard edges, steep climbs, and too many clenched fists. I have been thinking about connection, escape, and roots. I have been thinking about rhythm, harmony, and tone.

When I was a child, music was my refuge. I would sit for hours listening to my bright yellow 8-track tape player and sing at the top of my lungs. I did not mind that no one was listening. Joy needs no audience. Simple freedom wrapped in a melody was all that mattered. What I knew for sure was nothing could quiet my soul when I connected with music. I was fully alive.

Music changes hearts, and changed hearts change the world.

Can you recall your first memories inspired by music? Your first dance, your first vinyl record, your college fight song, your national anthem, your favorite hymn? Music locates memories in a particular time and space. Music transports with the force of a tidal wave and the finesse of a bird's wing. Music has the power to situate, evoke, and inspire.

There is something simultaneously individual and communal about music. Music is the intersection of personal memories and shared experience. Music is where emotions stand side-by-side, and numbness and indifference are shed. Two plus two equals more than four when set to music. Music is the soil of common ground. Music changes hearts, and changed hearts change the world.

Caramoor was founded on the belief that music matters.

Walter and Lucie Rosen understood music matters in profound, vital, and



life-affirming ways. They celebrated innovation by sponsoring new music. They connected music to story and culture to keep history alive. They embraced travel and curated global consciousness through music. In founding Caramoor, they created a place that fosters artistic excellence across generations by sponsoring music residencies and mentoring opportunities. Caramoor bears witness to both their love for each other and music.

Walter and Lucie's story resonates on many levels. I can picture Lucie performing on the Theremin. I can picture Walter playing the piano as a child. I can picture Lucie introducing concerts at Caramoor later in her life, and hosting grand parties with music wafting through the Caramoor estate. Music was in their hearts and they brought music to the world. Walter and Lucie knew the same thing I know. Music matters because it speaks to the human spirit. Music says, "In darkness, may you find light. In despair, may you find hope. In weakness, may you find strength. In listening, may you find understanding. In celebration, may you find connection. In appreciation, may you find joy."

Katie Steedly is the creator of The Wide-Awakeness Project, and author of The Stage is on Fire. She holds a Ph.D. in Education, and her work has been featured in such publications as Washingtonian Magazine. Learn more at www.katiesteedly.com.

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