

APRIL 2015

**AN ANNOUNCEMENT
TO THE PASSIM COMMUNITY
FROM**

**Dan Hogan, Executive Director, Passim
Jerry Potts, Chair of the Board of Directors, Passim
Matt Smith, Managing Director, Passim**



passim



Dear Passim Board, Staff, Members, Donors, Artists, Instructors, Volunteers, Consultants, Family, Friends and All Our Passim and Harvard Square Community:

After 11 years of wonderful involvement with Passim – the last 7 as Executive Director – I am retiring on June 30 – the end of our fiscal year. As I move toward my mid-70s, I realize the need to devote more time to my family and friends. In particular, I'd like to be able to pursue some of my favorite interests more intensely – practicing guitar with the dream of playing open mic on the Passim stage, playing international tournament squash, and traveling while my legs still allow it – these are a few things that come to mind!

Retiring is something I've been considering for several years but needed to find a time when my departure would not interfere with any major project or key strategic initiative at Passim. The past two years have been taken up with serious exploration of whether we could renovate the Club and also dealing with the closure of Veggie Planet, which had supplied us with food for more than a dozen years. Now that we have almost finished putting in place our fine new restaurant with Chef Brandon Arms at the helm, I feel the time is right.

I consider myself blessed to have been able to end my career with Passim. It truly is an “iconic and legendary” institution that has had and continues to have a national impact on the music scene. For the first ten years as “Club 47,” it played a key role in the folk revival of the '60s and was the home of Joan Baez, Tom Rush, the Charles River Valley Boys and a host of others. Beat poet Bob Donlin and his wife Rae Anne kept the venue going as “Passim” from 1969 to 1994. Then, on the Donlins' retirement, “Passim” became the nonprofit we are today. So this is now our 57th year – quite a record for a small performance arts organization in a small space.

While not the artist that merits a place on the Passim stage, music has always been a critical part of my life. I started playing guitar in 1958 when I was 14. All during high school and college, it was a way for me to deal with some of the trials and tribulations of becoming an adult and surviving the teenage years. It was the era of Joan Baez, Kingston Trio, Ian and Sylvia, Gordon Lightfoot and all the great folksingers of the '60s. I got my sustenance from them. Leonard Cohen was (and still is) my muse.

I came to Passim as a patron in the mid-60s, while attending Harvard Law School. After moving to Concord in the '80s to raise my children, I returned a little more than a decade ago and began taking guitar lessons from Janet Feld, one of Passim's longest serving instructors. My youngest daughter Haley is responsible for my deeper involvement with Passim. I took her into Daedalus at 47 Mt. Auburn Street to show her where the original Club was. The bartender knew nothing of the history but showed me a Club 47 flyer made by Byron Linardos from the '60s that someone had

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE >

brought in several weeks before. It bothered me that they had this piece of history so I returned to ask the owners, Laurence and Brendan Hopkins, if I could give it to Passim. The transfer took place at an event on the evening of the departure of the Director of Development. Several of the board members present asked if I would be interested in joining the board. After a number of interviews, the board offered me a position. I was honored and agreed. One thing led to another and three years later I became Executive Director. That was 2008, Passim's 50th year.

My hope is that I have helped to leave Passim in excellent shape in order to begin the next phase of its growth. Fully taking over the restaurant function in our Club will now allow us to provide more programming – lunch-time concerts at which younger artists can perform, weekday morning concerts for families with pre-school children and more matinees. We will soon be implementing a new consolidated platform for all our databases and developing a new mobile friendly website. With luck, our Club renovation, including making it fully accessible to all, will see the light of day. These are opportunities for our next Executive Director. In the meantime, I am extremely grateful for having had the opportunity to have led this incredible institution and for the friendships I have formed with the many good people who have helped along the way.

Below I have made a rather long list of those whose support has helped keep Passim a thriving institution. I am undyingly grateful for their contribution.

Our office staff today – Hannah Baker, Jon Dorn, Alex Eggleston, Courtney Gallagher, Kristina Latino, Lis Rhodes, Matt Smith – is a close-knit group of talented individuals who work together as a true team. I will sorely miss the laughter of our daily lunches together. They have done an outstanding job of fulfilling our mission to provide exceptional musical experiences, nurture artists at all stages of their development and build a vibrant musical community. Matt Smith, our Managing Director, deserves special mention for his unstinting work in booking and running our Club. His relationship with artists and his involvement and knowledge of the current music scene is unparalleled.

Our Board of Directors has provided superb leadership and oversight. Jerry Potts, now 15 years on the board and Chair since 2008, has been instrumental in helping our board develop into a strategically oriented and solidly functioning group. His wise counsel and unfailing support were absolutely critical to working through some of our toughest issues. Our roughly 1,000 members, donors, sponsors and volunteers contribute generously to help us balance our budget and to build our community. In this regard, Bob Davoli, Don Glazer, Dave Hogan, Barrie Landry, Brad Meyer, Jeanne Robertson, Rachael Solem, Jon Strymish, Dan & Kathy Tappan and a very philanthropic anonymous donor have all been especially generous over many years.

Of course, there are our artists – the lifeblood of Passim, many of whom consider Passim their home – artists who have donated performances, who have played campfire festival or BCMFest, or who have taught in our school. I've felt a special connection with a number of them, including Dinty Child, Laura Cortese, Janet Feld, Shannon Heaton, Bertrand Laurence, Kimber Ludiker, Leanne McNally, Alastair Moock, Ellis Paul, Annie Raines, Haley Reardon, Paul Rishell, Suz

Slezak, Sean Smith, Dietrich Strause, Lloyd Thayer (Gratitude!), and David Wax Without our artists it would be impossible to fulfill our mission. Thank you!

At Harvard University, I had the pleasure of working with Jim Gray and Lisa Hogarty. They and Harvard's senior management team helped us weather some very rough times through forgiveness of rent and providing us opportunities to use Sanders Theater for benefit concerts, to mention just a few of the ways in which the University has been of help. Executive Director Denise Jillson and Board President John DiGiovanni of the Harvard Square Business Association, along with so many of its members, have afforded ongoing and invaluable support. The City of Cambridge has provided great assistance through the help of Jason Weeks of the Arts Council, Elizabeth Lint of the License Commission and many other departments. At the state level, through the leadership of Anita Walker and Jay Paget, the Massachusetts Cultural Council has given us annual operating grants and special planning grants, which have been instrumental in shaping our future.

I am deeply indebted to the many consultants whose counsel has proven indispensable. Adam Klein's PR has raised our public profile immeasurably. Barry Horwitz led two teams of pro bono Harvard Business School consultants to help us with strategy, marketing and most crucial at the time – survival. Dick Boardman, Lynne Cavanaugh, Ilisa Hurowitz, Jim Kitendaugh, and Teil Silverstein provided invaluable fundraising assistance. Frank Barrett-Mills, Michael Bissanti, Julia Shanks and Michael Staub each made critical contributions to helping us start our restaurant. All have become dear friends.

Finally, I want to thank my family and personal friends for all their support and love during my years with Passim. My children, Haley, Sarah and Matt have been patient listeners and advisors. My sister Barrie and brother Dave have been generous donors and have offered sound counsel on many issues. The same is true for my cousins Julie Freedman and Mark Kennedy, as well as my close friends, especially Ann Coles, Nick Danforth, Bob Dickie, Ron Fleming, Dorsey Gardner, Chuck Gibson, Don Glazer, Russell Kramp, Renny Merritt, Kent Nelson, Frank & Jenny Phillips, Horace Seldon and Loring Stevens.

I have undoubtedly but inadvertently omitted significant contributors to Passim and the people I care about. Please forgive me for that but know that you are in my heart.

Building this rather long list of people and organizations to thank has deeply reinforced in me the crucial significance of the African saying that "It takes a village to raise a child." For Passim, it takes a whole community of caring people to make it the iconic and legendary institution that it is today and will be tomorrow. I am incredibly glad that we have that community.

With love and affection to all,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Hogan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dan" being more prominent than the last name "Hogan".

Dan Hogan, Executive Director, Passim



Dear Friends of Passim,

In my role as Board Chair, I have worked closely with Dan for over 7 years and as a fellow board member for an additional 4 years. It is fortunate when an organization is able to find the right person at the right time to lead it into the future. And it truly has been Passim's great fortune to have Dan Hogan as its Executive Director. When Dan told me he planned to retire, I suggested perhaps a 10-year transition plan would be best, but he countered with June 30th and I lost the negotiation.

I have been around organizations long enough to appreciate when you have something special. Under Dan's leadership, Passim went from an organization on the brink of bankruptcy—weeks if not days from going out of business in late 2008—to a solid one, operating in the black for 5 years with positive total net assets. Dan's leadership helped Passim cut expenses almost 25%, eliminate all debt, build a solid cash reserve, establish excellent relationships with virtually every constituency, and broaden our donor base. Of course, the business achievements are only relevant in relation to Passim's ability to deliver on our artistic mission and the results are outstanding here as well.

Thanks to Dan's leadership and the wonderful staff he has built, Passim is able to put on over 400 shows a year for thousands of patrons, teach hundreds of students how to play various stringed instruments, and provide support to many artists each year through grants from the Iguana Music program. If you enjoy having a glass of wine or beer while watching music, we have Dan to thank for bringing a liquor license to Passim and recently, with the launch of the Kitchen at Passim, you can experience an incredible meal while listening to music from the legendary Passim stage.

I will miss working with Dan. Few leaders are so open to feedback, seek counsel as willingly, and lead without ego. His humor, tireless energy, integrity, caring, judgment and passion will be hard to replace. I speak for the entire Passim Board when I offer my thanks and sincere appreciation for his dedication and remarkable leadership during tumultuous times and wish him the best for his retirement. Passim exists today because of Dan and its legacy is on solid footing thanks to his efforts.

While Passim has a solid foundation, it will continue to face challenges. We move forward with a commitment to build on the work Dan has done. In my 15 years on the Board, I can say we have never had such a strong, talented staff and a Board with such depth, vision and dedication and that is why I am optimistic about Passim's future.

Sincerely,

Jerry Potts, Chair, Passim Board of Directors



To Our Passim Community,

I've had the distinct pleasure of working with Dan Hogan for the past 11 years. When he joined the Passim Board of Directors in 2005, he brought a new style and energy to the organization that was needed and timely. When Dan became the Executive Director of Passim, he took an organization that was on the brink of bankruptcy and he breathed new life into it. He worked out a plan to put the organization on a path to long-term stability.

While Dan is a brilliant leader and savvy in business, he also brings an essential element to his work – passion. He believes in Passim and its mission to the core. He's let that mission be the driving force behind major decisions and initiatives that both bring in the necessary funds to survive and thrive, but also to improve and focus our work.

Working under Dan's tutelage, I've not only had a mentor to teach and guide me, but also an advocate to help me do my job better. Passim would not be the organization it is today without its years with Dan Hogan at the helm, and I will be forever grateful for that. While his retirement leaves big shoes to fill, he has provided the framework and guidance to the organization to be able to have a smooth transition to new leadership.

Dan Hogan is a big piece of the history of this organization. He came in at a crucial time and has done incredible and exemplary work. It's been an honor to have him as a part of Passim and he will be missed greatly. I'm certain that even in retirement, Dan will stay involved, and hopefully get to see some more music now that he won't be working extended hours in the office.

Cheers to you, Dan. It's been an honor and a privilege working for you and with you.

Matt Smith, Managing Director, Passim



passim

26 Church Street, Suite 300
Cambridge, MA 02138
passim.org

Executive Director

Dan Hogan

Board of Directors

Jerry Potts, Chair

Jim Kelly, Treasurer

Jim Wooster, Clerk

Dan Booth

Jaime D'Almeida

Nancy Darish

Gail Greenwald

Ralph Jaccodine

Patty Katsaros

Peter Kolovos

Charlie McDermott

Ronald Pastore

Brad Paul

OUR MISSION

Provide truly exceptional and interactive live musical experiences for both performers and audiences, to nurture artists at all stages of their career, and to build a vibrant music community.

OUR PROGRAMS

Club Passim

Passim School of Music

Iguana Music Fund

Passim Presents