

Dear Marlow friends and music aficionados,

Over the past two years, I have had more than enough time to reflect on the covid pandemic and how it has affected the Marlow mission, our accomplishments, and our future.

Despite the unprecedented level of strain that the covid pandemic has brought to all our lives, I still remain faithfully excited about our future and in the human spirit. If anything, our experience from these two years has reinforced my outlook that it is the ARTS that strengthens the beauty of life and feeds our souls. And perhaps in some measure, the arts have defined for you a moment of peace and comfort from the pandemic.

Like many of you, I was incredibly moved by images from early in the pandemic lockdown of musicians performing from their home balconies, rooftops and in the streets across Europe. And closer to home, here in Washington, even our own local musicians played outside their homes in the hope of spreading some beauty in a sea of silence and darkness.

At Marlow, we've endeavored to connect with our community with what we do best – sharing our music. Guitar music. We did that with our widely-recognized John E. Marlow Guitar Series and the renowned Myrna Sislen Youth Guitar Competition, albeit in virtual mode, for most of last year. And more importantly, we launched the Regis Ferruzza Guitars for Veterans program to provide lessons to disabled military veterans. We also forged a relationship with the NIH Children's Inn that began with a guitar performance in tandem with a reading of the children's story book, "Ferdinand the Bull" – all live-virtual. In the post-covid to come, we hope to provide performances and lessons to these children in residence in a live setting.

For now, it's exhilarating to have launched this season's concert series which started last October. And it is "live" and in-person, and with safety protocols with video-streaming for subsequent viewing.

We're back! We've adapted! And we have returned with live music to the stage! Plans are underway for our 2022 youth guitar competition! We've continued to teach our disabled military veterans and will strive to safely bring music to children at the NIH Children's Inn.

The 2021-2022 Marlow Guitar International season is bright and alive with music! The Board of Directors and Staff continue to search for new ways to reinvent ourselves after 25 years of existence. Embrace the moment! The Marlow guitar family and I hope to see you soon at one of our concert performances!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clifford W. Moy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Clifford W. Moy

President, Board of Directors