of us? If so, what does it take for us to lead?

One day in the summer of 2004, I sat in the audience for a lecture by the South African minister Peter Story, who spoke about his experience in the historic struggle for justice and healing in South Africa. At the time, I was searching for inspiration and an organizing concept for my next recording. His stories of compassion, honesty, and courage in the face of unspeakable pain would become the inspiration for my 2007 album, *Truth and Reconciliation* (Origin Records). His talk also galvanized my own vision to use music as a tool for positive change. Shortly after that lecture I wrote the following personal mission statement:

I choose to believe in the power of humans to change the world. Art is the substance of our dreams and the medium through which resonates our most fervent hopes, highest aspirations, deepest truths, and most profound experiences. Those who create art possess a consequent extraordinary power to communicate, inspire, provoke, inform, and to move others to transform society and themselves, and we bear the responsibility to use this power to affect positive change in our communities and the world.

Linking my artistic practice to a mission challenges me to integrate my artistic choices and my personal values. In a culture in which economic bottom lines are often seen as the most significant measure of success, it provides a different barometer.

A few years ago, I created a course at Portland State entitled Artistry in Action. It provides an opportunity for students of all artistic disciplines to explore the ideas of mission and purpose in their artistic practices. In a section of the class focusing on community engagement, we do a game in which I hand out sections of the local newspaper and challenge the students to come up with an artistic project that addresses something they read there. The "game" is really an exercise in asking the most basic question: How can I help?

Today, the doors to engagement—by which I mean the opportunities to connect art with the issues affecting people's lives, and confronting the thorniest challenges facing our society—have never been as wide open.

And every action, however small, counts. •

This essay is adapted from "The Path to Change" in "Art in Action: Social Change through Music," the fall 2016 special edition of Chamber Music magazine. Reprinted with permission.

In the News



Hoffman (Moka) Lantum



Lynne Davidson

'Leading Global Thinkers' Advance Maternal Health Care

Hoffman (Moka) Lantum '03M (PhD) and **Lynne Davidson** '01 (PhD) were named to *Foreign Policy* magazine's list of the 100 Leading Global Thinkers for 2016.

Lantum, an executive and consultant in health care delivery and management, and Davidson, a political scientist with expertise on poverty and microfinance, are the founder and executive director, respectively, of 2020 MicroClinic Initiative. The initiative, which Lantum founded in Rochester in 2011, works to improve maternal and newborn health care in underserved areas of the globe. Its program, Operation Karibu, has provided clothes, emergency transportation, birth preparation, training in infant care, and safe deliveries to thousands of mothers in rural Kenya.

Prior to their work on the initiative, Lantum and Davidson played multiple roles in the University and Greater Rochester communities. In addition to serving as director of medical services at Excellus BlueCross BlueShield, Lantum, a native of Cameroon, founded the Baobab Cultural Center in Rochester's Neighborhood of the Arts. Davidson is a former assistant professor of health services research at Rochester, as well as former deputy to the University president and vice provost for faculty development and diversity.

Two other members of the University community have made Foreign Policy's list in the past few years. Brian Grimberg '96, an assistant professor of international health at Case Western Reserve University, was named to the list in 2014 in recognition of his work on rapid malaria detection devices; and Narayana Kocherlakota, who joined Rochester's faculty as the Lionel W. McKenzie Professor of Economics in January 2016, was named to the list in 2012. Kocherlakota, former president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, is a leading scholar and public intellectual on monetary and financial economics.

Grammy Nomination Roundup

The 59th Grammy Awards will take place on February 12 at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. Nominees, who were announced in early December, include several Eastman School of Music alumni:

Steve Gadd '68E, Steve Gadd Band, *Way Back Home: Live from Rochester, NY* (BFM Jazz): Best Contemporary Instrumental Album.

Geoff Saunders '09E, bassist, as part of the O'Connor Band with Mark O'Connor, *Coming Home* (Rounder Records): Best Bluegrass Album.

Bob Ludwig '66E, '01E (MM), mastering engineer for Andrew Bird. Are You Serious

(Loma Vista Recordings): Best Engineered Album, Non-Classical.

Sean Connors '04E, percussionist with Third Coast Percussion, *Steve Reich* (Cedille Records): Best Chamber Music Performance.

Kristian Bezuidenhout '01E, '04E (MM), Mozart Keyboard Music, Vols. 8 & 9 (Harmonia Mundi): Best Classical Instrumental Solo.

Gene Scheer '81E, '82E (MM), librettist for the opera *Cold Mountain* (Pentatone Music) and **Christopher Theofanidis** '92E (MM), *Theofanidis: Bassoon Concerto* (Estonian Record Production): Best Contemporary Classical Composition.