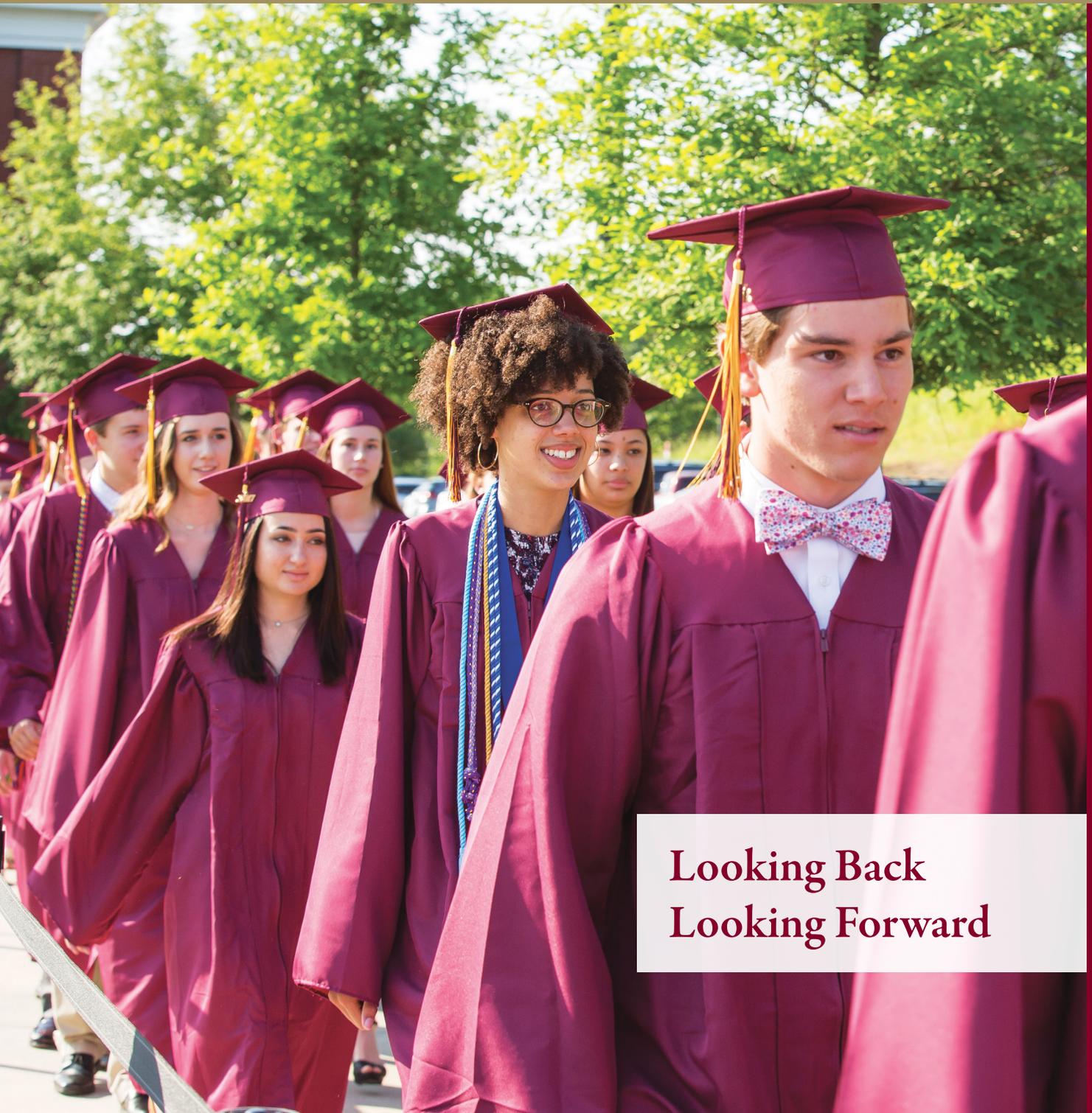


CANNON MAGAZINE

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Looking Back
Looking Forward



Residents at Taylor Glen and Activities Director April Weddington enjoy a hymn sing led by Head of Upper School Deb Otey.

Music, Memories, and Musings

Cannon shares a musical connection with The Gardens at Taylor Glen Retirement Community.

Mrs. April Weddington, Life Enrichment Program Coordinator and Activities Director at The Gardens at Taylor Glen Retirement Community in Concord, remembers when Mrs. Helen Morrison (great-grandmother of nine current students at Cannon) told her about Cannon’s Director of Music Arts Rob Burlington. “Helen told me about Rob and that I should contact him to maybe perform some music programs here. So I e-mailed Rob, and ever since then, he’s been bringing the Middle School Chorus every May and December.”

Mr. Burlington recalls, “Then about two years ago, April told us about Taylor Glen’s lifelong learning program, and we discussed having a few music classes in the evenings.”

Faculty members from Cannon’s Music Department jumped at the chance to meet the residents at Taylor Glen. Mr. Burlington taught about Romantic symphonic music, and Mrs. Lu Jones sang and taught about holiday songs around Christmas. Mr. Brad Davis offered a jazz class, and Mrs. Anne Marie Samuel brought student string quartets to perform with her. Mrs. Aimee Pfitzner has led several drum circles, and Head of Upper School Deb Otey has hosted regular hymn sings.

“I think it’s a really neat relationship,” said Mr. Burlington. “We get out in the community, and the teachers have really shared their time and their love of their topics.”

Mrs. Agnes Whitesell, a resident at Taylor Glen agreed. “Well, I love it when Debbie comes over and does the hymn sing.”

Mrs. Otey enjoys it too. “I love playing piano and singing old hymns. I started by just offering a one-time hymn sing. The sixty minutes flew by the first time, and now I go every month,” said Mrs. Otey. “I think the residents and I appreciate the experience for the same reasons. It reminds us of a special time and place in our lives.”

Mrs. Weddington shared, “Especially for our Memory Enhanced Unit, music awakens our brains and brings back memories. Some

residents who can’t tell you what they did this morning can tell you about a hymn or an old song.”

The drum circles led by Mrs. Aimee Pfitzner offer a unique and exciting experience to residents. “I facilitate drum circles every few months. Participants play drums or shakers to accompany and create music pieces,” explained Mrs. Pfitzner. “I love seeing the light in their eyes as they connect with their drums. I have seen non-verbal residents sing, and residents who do not interact with others join in playing with a group.”

And Taylor Glen resident Mrs. Joyce Newton reminded us about yet another meaningful aspect of their musical connection with Cannon—the students. “To me, anytime students sing, it’s special,” said Mrs. Newton. “I think with young people, you never hear anything good anymore. And then you get to see some of these kids who will spend time doing something over here with us, and who are so positive and happy, and I don’t know—it just makes you want to do things.”

That’s music to the ears of Molly Morrison ’21 (Mrs. Morrison’s great-granddaughter) who shared, “It means a lot to me to perform at Taylor Glen because I see how much my great-grandmother enjoys it. And it makes me happy to offer entertainment and bring a smile into the lives of the residents there.”



Mrs. Anne Marie Samuel leading a past student performance.