



SOUVENIR

Spring 2014



Photo courtesy of The Recording Academy®

Maud Powell receives The Recording Academy's 2014 GRAMMY Award for Lifetime Achievement



Photo from Maud Powell Society Archive

Karen A. Shaffer, Maud Powell biographer and Founder and President of The Maud Powell Society for Music and Education accepting the award for Maud Powell.
January 25, 2014
The Wilshire Ebell Theater, Los Angeles

"She forged a path for others to follow."
— Karen A. Shaffer

This Special Merit Award is presented by vote of The Recording Academy's National Trustees to performers who, during their lifetimes, have made creative contributions of outstanding artistic significance to the field of recording.

A pioneer recording artist, Maud Powell (1867-1920) became the first instrumentalist to record for Victor's Celebrity Artist Series (Red Seal label) in 1904. She set a standard for violin playing that endures to this day and through her recordings, she continues to inspire musicians with her superb artistry, sound musicianship, and technical command. Behind her technique and musicianship loomed an imposing intellect, broad humanity, and deep spirituality, which formed the substratum of her character.

Maud Powell is the first woman instrumentalist to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award and only the fourth violinist since the GRAMMY Awards began in 1962. Twenty-three classical musicians have received this award, five of whom including Powell were women. Four were opera singers.

Powell was nominated for the Lifetime Achievement Award by internationally acclaimed violinist Rachel Barton Pine and the Maud Powell Society for Music and Education.



Photo courtesy of The Recording Academy®

Karen A. Shaffer with Rachel Barton Pine, who joined her in accepting the award, and Neil Portnow, President/CEO, The Recording Academy®

"This award recognizes those who have reached the 'pinnacle' of artistic achievement. Maud Powell richly deserves the award." — Neil Portnow



**Karen A. Shaffer's Acceptance Speech
at The Recording Academy's
56th Annual Special Merit Awards Ceremony
January 25, 2014**

MAUD POWELL, LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

On behalf of Maud Powell and The Maud Powell Society for Music and Education, I thank The Recording Academy for this great honor.

This pioneering American violinist's remarkable legacy was unknown when I founded The Maud Powell Society for Music and Education in 1986. We celebrate Maud Powell today thanks to those who have served on our board and supported us as Friends, the wonderful violinists who have honored her legacy and the young virtuosi, like Rachel Barton Pine, who are carrying forward her ideals.

The honor means a great deal to me personally, as I have devoted 35 years to writing Maud Powell's biography, (now working on the 2d edition), reissuing her recordings, publishing her transcriptions, leading the Maud Powell Society, and co-founding a music celebration in her name.

I am grateful to the distinguished members of the recording industry and Academy – the late John Pfeiffer, Ward Marston, and Klaus Heymann – who have enabled this Victor Immortal's recorded art to be heard once again – now on the Naxos label.

There was a time when Maud Powell's name was a household word.

Yet, as Powell's biographer, I have frequently been asked: Who is Maud Powell?
and . . . Why does she matter? Here is my reply:

At a time when women could not vote, Maud Powell set out to fulfill the gifts within her.

Despite the barriers she had to overcome, the naysayers who belittled her ambition, she forged a path for others to follow.

She dared to be herself, to fulfill the promise within her – to bring music to the world and speak the truth that was in her.

Nothing could stop her rise to fame – for once she lifted her bow to her violin, she played on the heartstrings of the universe and brought a new sound into the world – a woman's voice commanding the instrument of her choice – speaking to millions in tones they had never heard before.

Her own commanding presence brought forth the best in all who heard her.

She proved that anyone can achieve -- who dedicates themselves to the truthful service of their art.

Maud Powell brought a light into the world that can never be extinguished.

Even now she holds her lamp alight as the first female instrumentalist to receive The Recording Academy's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Why does Maud Powell matter?

She reminds us that the flame within us can be a beacon of light for all to follow.

Thank you for helping to make Maud Powell's name a household word once again.



**Rachel Barton Pine's Acceptance Speech
at The Recording Academy's
56th Annual Special Merit Awards Ceremony
January 25, 2014**

MAUD POWELL, LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

I'd like to express my gratitude to Karen Shaffer for her incredible dedication and efforts to preserve and promote the legacy of this extraordinary artist who, as I realized about an hour ago, is the only female being honored tonight.

Nearly 20 years ago, I discovered Maud Powell through the fascinating biography Karen had written. Maud Powell was recognized as America's greatest violinist and one of the pre-eminent musicians in the world at the turn of the last century.

In 1904, Maud became the first instrumentalist to record for the Victor Red Seal label (now RCA Red Seal), making more than 100 acoustic recordings before her untimely death in 1920. She was so popular that people throughout America bought the recently invented phonograph just to hear Maud's music. She was the first woman to dare to lead a quartet with men as the other members and the first white instrumentalist to champion works by composers of African descent.

I discovered that Maud Powell's legacy has left a profound impact on all of today's American classical artists. The leading industry publication of her time called her "long one of the most powerful forces for the advancement of music in America."

Maud Powell educated a nation that rarely had access to high quality concert performances. She famously said that popular music was familiar music, and that if classical became more familiar it would become more popular, and she definitely proved this to be true.

Maud Powell's story resonates powerfully for me and I've tried to model my career in music around Maud and the example she set:

- By performing music by deserving composers, both well-known and lesser known,
- By introducing classical music to new audiences across the country,
- By embracing the latest technology to spread great art to listeners everywhere,
- And by educating and encouraging the next generation of young artists.

Despite living long before the creation of the Recording Academy (and even before the introduction of the electric microphone), Maud Powell embodied the mission of the Recording Academy – to positively impact the lives of musicians, of industry members, and of our society at large.

Thank you very much for this great honor.

Lifetime Achievements — Preserving Maud's Legacy



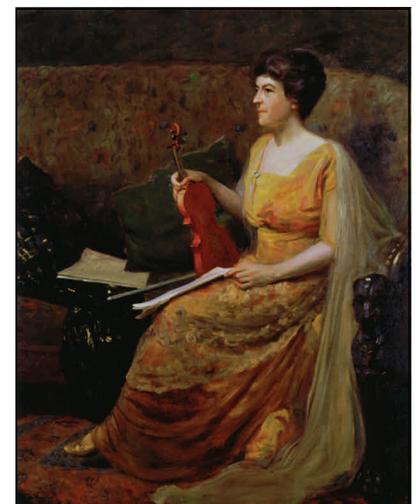
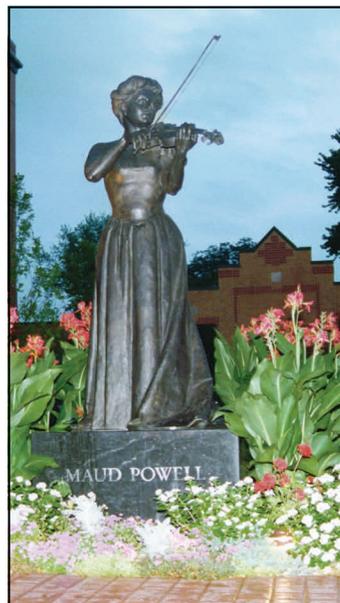
Karen Shaffer, Maud Powell biographer (1978-88) and founder-president of The Maud Powell Society (1986) initiated the reissue of Powell's recordings in 1988, then again with Naxos in 1999 and wrote the liner notes for all the CDs.



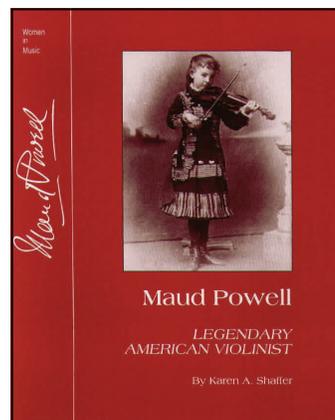
Ward Marston re-mastered Maud Powell's recordings in 1988-89 and again in 2000-04. The MP Society published the first reissue in 1989. Klaus Heymann published the second reissue on his Naxos label in 2001-04.



Karen spoke at the dedication of the Maud Powell statue in her birth city Peru, Illinois, in 1995, and with Willa Jean Dellinger, inaugurated the annual Maud Powell Arts Celebration that same year.

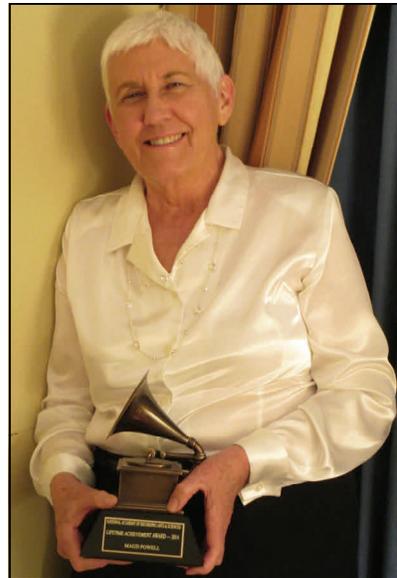
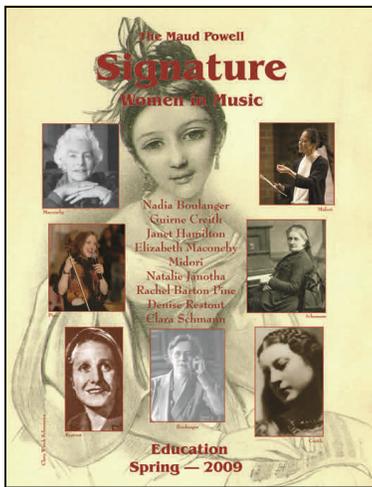
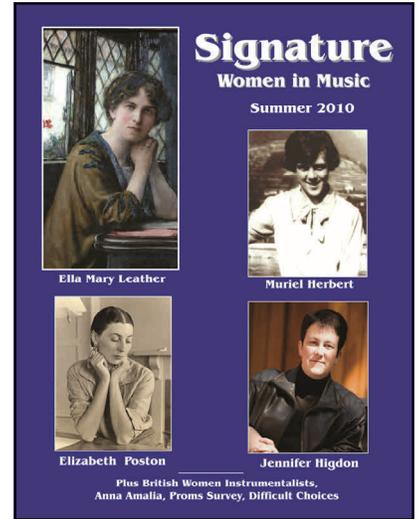
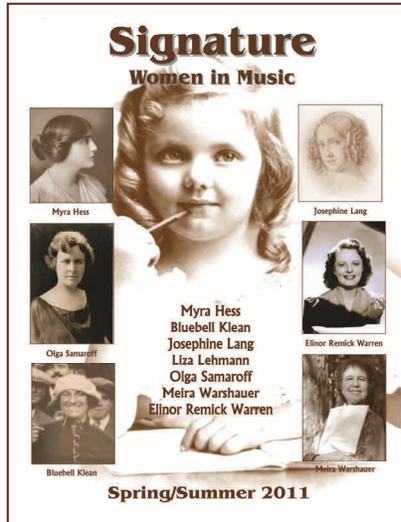
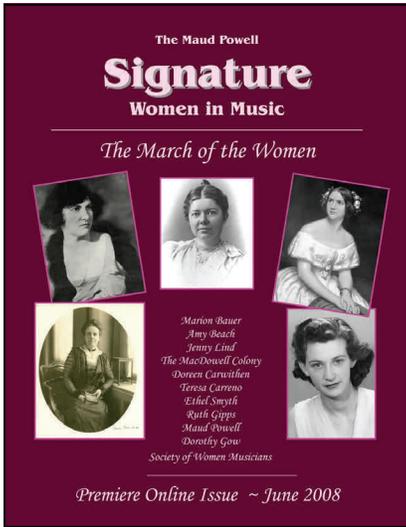


David Brewer helped Karen locate the long-lost oil portrait of Powell by Nicholas R. Brewer in 1994. With Joyce M. Dlugopolski's benefaction, the Maud Powell Society donated the portrait to the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery in Washington, DC in 2002.

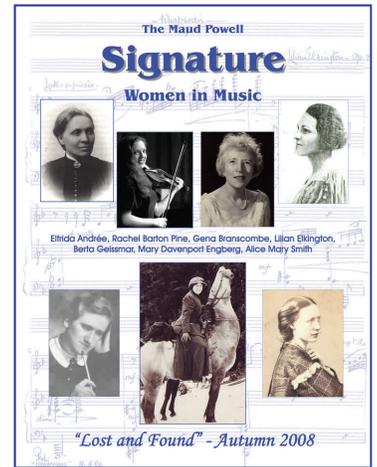


Karen collaborated with Pamela Blevins in writing *Maud Powell, Legendary American Violinist*, a popular book for young readers published by the MP Society in 1994.

And – Preserving More Legacies – Writing Women into Music History



Pamela Blevins, creator and editor of *Signature, Women in Music* magazine, the most beautiful and informative magazine on women in classical music, published by The Maud Powell Society, 1995-97, and online from 2008. Pam began presenting groundbreaking public programs on women composers in Boston in the 1970s, titled "Silent Destiny," a fate still shared by women composers, past and present.



Maud Powell's Legacy Continues . . .



Photo courtesy of The Recording Academy®

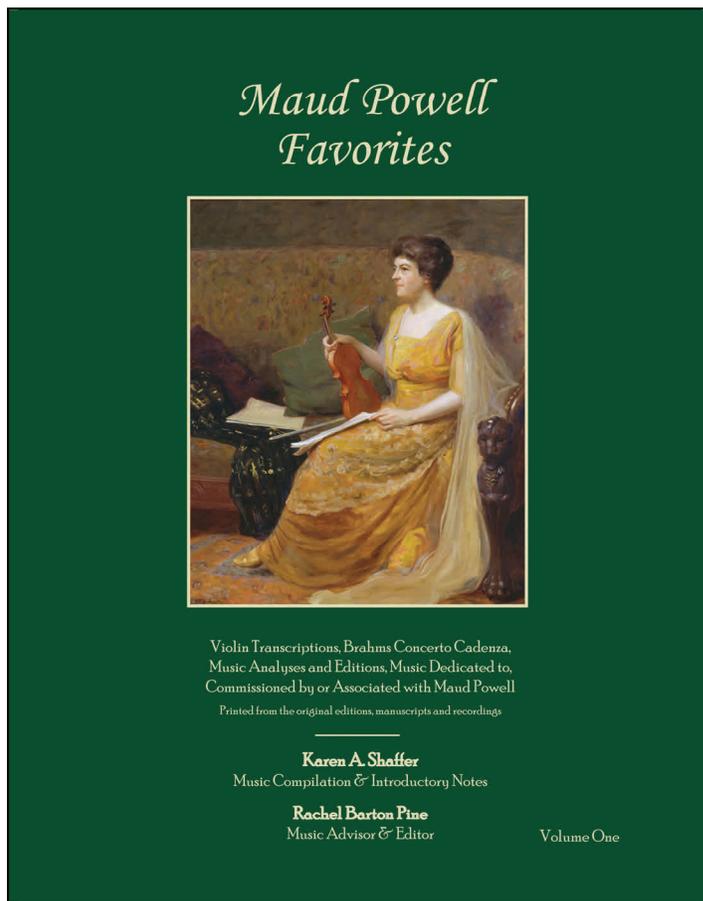
During the GRAMMY group shots, Ringo Starr shouted out: "Peace sign!" and we obliged. We shared the stage with The Beatles who also received Lifetime Achievement Awards. Maud Powell was the only woman honored during the ceremony.

Powell was not only America's first world-class violinist but also an avatar for the kind of artistic values that today's young musicians are discovering for themselves. Diversity? She championed the works of female and African-American composers. Contemporary music? She was a pioneer, giving the U.S. premieres of the Tchaikovsky, Dvořák, and Sibelius concertos. Outreach? She practically invented it, tirelessly playing concerts in small-town recital halls. Pine's program consists mainly of little nuggets Powell favored, like Amy Beach's "Romance," Chopin's "Minute" Waltz, and Dvořák's "Humoreske." But they are attractive ones, each an excellent vehicle for Pine's nimble, expressive, and articulate style.

— *The New Yorker*



Rachel's *American Virtuosa* (2007), drawn from *Maud Powell Favorites*, ranked among the top ten in Billboard's classical charts and remains a favorite among music lovers.

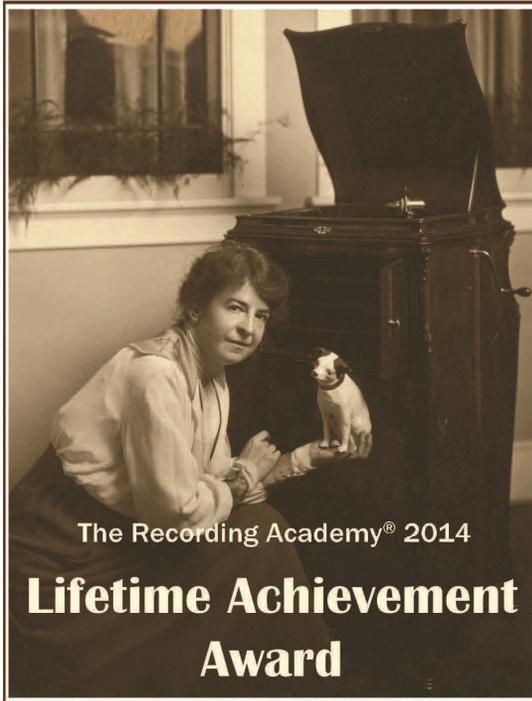


Maud Powell Favorites, published by the MP Society in 2009. Karen began work on this in 1999. Rachel's expertise was indispensable as music advisor and editor. Pam Blevins joined Karen for countless hours of photographic research at the Library of Congress. Karen searched for the music, wrote the historical introduction and annotations, designed the layout and typeset the volumes.



Photo courtesy of Pamela Blevins.

Internationally acclaimed violinist Rachel Barton Pine nominated Maud Powell for the Recording Academy's Lifetime Achievement Award and happily joined Karen in accepting the award in Los Angeles on January 25, 2014. Rachel's personal tribute to Maud Powell was published in the GRAMMY souvenir program book.



The Recording Academy® 2014
**Lifetime Achievement
 Award**

Violinist

Maud Powell

“A Victor Immortal”

The first instrumentalist to record for Victor's
 Celebrity Artist Series (Red Seal Label) 1904

“A supreme and unforgettable artist.”
 – Musical America

Join us in carrying on Maud Powell's legacy!

Live it ... Make it your own... Share the adventure!

— Visit us —

Maud Powell Society for Music & Education

Founded in 1986 by Karen A. Shaffer,
 Biographer of Maud Powell

www.maudpowell.org

a non-profit, Section 501 (C) (3) organization



The Maud Powell Society was given a unique opportunity to place this ad celebrating Maud Powell's Lifetime Achievement Award in the 56th Annual GRAMMY Awards souvenir program book. Maud posed with Nipper, the Victor Company's famous mascot, highlighting her alliance with Victor. Together, they made history, revolutionizing the art of violin playing and recording.



Photos from Maud Powell Society Archive



Help Celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Maud Powell's Birth in 2017

Help us celebrate **Maud Powell's sesquicentennial!** The time is now to begin planning what you will do — a commemorative program? A violin recital? A Trio or Quartet concert? Dedicate your performance of a concerto to her? Perform her Brahms violin concerto cadenza? Choose pieces from *Maud Powell Favorites*? Offer a presentation of her life and work with our Maud Powell powerpoint program? The possibilities are endless — so let us know what you want to do and we will do all we can to support your efforts through the resources of our Maud Powell Society Archive. You don't have to be a violinist to honor this legendary musician!

Peru Maud Powell Arts Celebration Shines

The **Maud Powell String Quartet** was featured in the annual **Maud Powell Arts Celebration** in Peru, Illinois on August 17. They performed Daniel Brewbaker's String Quartet No. 3 which is based on the life of Maud Powell. The Quartet, with new members chosen from the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra, in Elgin, Illinois, is in its seventh year. Chris Coughlin chairs the Peru Maud Powell Arts Celebration which highlights the talents of local students and professionals whose gifts enrich the Illinois Valley. The Maud Powell Arts Celebration will be held again in August 2014. Watch the MPS web site for details.

Enjoy GRAMMY Award News

Do you want to share in the excitement over Maud Powell's Lifetime Achievement Award? All the news and links to interviews, articles and photographs are on the **Maud Powell Society web site**. Check out the "Grammy Award" on the News and Events page on our web site: www.maudpowell.org



Karen and Rachel enjoy a moment with Robert Aubry Davis, (right) host of "Millennium of Music" a syndicated radio program, and Oliver Berliner, grandson of Emile Berliner, who was awarded a Technical Grammy for the invention of the Gramophone.

Noted in brief —

- **The Maud Powell Society web site** keeps you up to date on events and includes many of **Maud Powell's articles**, most of which can be found on the "For Young People" page. The web address remains www.maudpowell.org.
- **Marion Scott biographer and Signature editor Pamela Blevins' biography of Ivor Gurney and Marion Scott, Song of Pain and Beauty**, details the life and work of these two important figures in British music. To purchase: Contact Pamela Blevins at pblevins@erols.com or 828-884-8500 or use www.amazon.com.
- To obtain Maud Powell's recordings, order any of the four CDs, *Maud Powell, The Complete Recordings (1904-1917)*, Vols. 1-4 (Naxos 8.110961, 8.110962, 8.110963, 8.110993) online via The Maud Powell Society's web site, through the "Publications" page at www.maudpowell.org.
- *Maud Powell Favorites*, an edition of rare violin masterworks including Powell's transcriptions, and violinist Rachel Barton Pine's *American Virtuosa, Tribute to Maud Powell*, Cedille records (CDR 90000 097), can be ordered from The Maud Powell Society. The CD includes selections from *Maud Powell Favorites*. Visit the Publications page of our web site for more information: www.maudpowell.org.



Aurora Celebrates Maud's GRAMMY

The **Aurora Historical Society** hosted a GRAMMY celebration to honor their hometown girl on January 31. A group of admirers gathered just two blocks away from the Coulter Opera House where Maud Powell made some of her first appearances as a violinist. Powell's recognition is "long overdue," said John Jaros, the Society's executive director. "She belonged to all of America," mused the Society's president Mary Clark Ormond.

Souvenir is the Newsletter of the
**Friends of The Maud Powell Society
for Music and Education**

68 Grandview Avenue

Brevard, North Carolina 28712 U.S.A.

Phone: 828-884-8500 Fax: 828-884-8501

Email: kshaffer@erols.com

Web: www.maudpowell.org and
www.signaturewomeninmusic.org



A Message from the Maud Powell Society's President

Dear Friends,

It takes a lifetime to preserve a lifetime—or so it seems. Neva Greenwood started work on Maud Powell in her 70s. I was just entering my 30s. Looking back 36 years later, clearly we shared a common dream—to preserve the legacy of Maud Powell. But I was in a position to write the biography and go on to fulfill the dream that she had started to envision and research late in her life. Why? Because it takes a lifetime!

Whatever trajectory there is to our lives, it is, in the beginning, obscure. So it was for me and so it was for Maud Powell. Whatever trajectory a life might take, it becomes self-evident only upon looking back over its course. Who among us has not launched on a life journey without some trepidation? Who can know their own trajectory and stay the course to the very end?

So this issue of *Souvenir* reflects on the path I have pursued and the journey I have taken together with you, the Friends of The Maud Powell Society, and with Neva Greenwood, initially, then with Pamela Blevins and Rachel Barton Pine joining me as time went on. There is much more to the story, of course, than can be reflected in these few pages. And there are many, many more friends who have joined me along the way and created their own legacies honoring Maud Powell, especially in Peru and Aurora, Illinois, where Maud was born and grew up, and where they have involved the other communities along the Illinois and Fox Valleys.

The Recording Academy's Lifetime Achievement Award honors Maud Powell's extraordinary life and art. And yet for me it also recognizes my own lifetime achievement in preserving her legacy and bringing her inspiration once more into the world. It is an honor that we share—all of us who stayed the course, believing that the lamp of Maud Powell's legacy was worth holding alight for all to see.

All I knew when I started this journey was that this was the book I was born to write. I had to go from there. Where it might lead me, I did not know. I only knew that I was born to this task.

It might be difficult to remember how things were in the 1970s and 1980s when my work on the biography began. There were very few biographies of historical women at that time. The history of the violin tradition in America was little known and even the story of the development of classical music in America was not easily found. Maud Powell was a significant, pivotal figure in this history. But beyond that, why write about Maud Powell? I kept asking myself. It was only when I was far into the work that I could answer that question.

Most significantly, Maud Powell was a way-show-er, a shining example, for all people, especially women, inspiring them to seek self-fulfillment at a time when women could not vote or even play in professional orchestras.

Maud Powell forged a path for others to follow and opened the way to self-fulfillment for all women, not just musicians, by having the courage to proceed on the journey she knew she was born to travel. She knew not what trajectory her life might take, but she knew she had to go forward. And it is only now, by looking back on her life that we can marvel at her extraordinary achievements in her short lifetime.

So where are we in this journey to preserve Maud Powell's legacy? Well, I keep thinking that we are toward the end but there are still some things to accomplish—and they are big things that take *time*. Writing the biography took me eight years. Now, with much new information, it is almost like writing it again, although it is a different and delicate challenge to revise the tale while keeping the flow and momentum of the story.

Essentially, the story remains the same but surely you do want to know what Maud wrote to Sibelius leading up to and after her American premiere of his violin concerto. And you probably would like to know her opinion of Mahler. And maybe how she met her husband Godfrey Turner, at least, his memory of it. And then there is the Guadagnini and how it almost got stolen. Well, there is much more to tell, and I need to get back to writing it.

With all the GRAMMY excitement, more talk is circulating about a documentary. It is something I would love to see happen. I have not pursued this vigorously, as my attention is on finishing the second edition of the biography. Without any staff, my time and energies can only be stretched so far but I am still open to the possibilities if anyone wants to help take it on.

The Special Merit Awards Ceremony, held in the intimate art-deco Ebell theater, was a lovely experience—the heart and soul of the GRAMMYS. Participating with me were MPS board members Pamela Blevins, and Rachel and Greg Pine. As a member of the Recording Academy, Rachel initiated Maud Powell's nomination for the Lifetime Achievement Award. Happily, she joined me in accepting the award in behalf of Maud on stage. It was a wonderful moment that will ever be a shining memory.

My heartfelt thanks goes to all of you who shared the excitement and sent notes of congratulations to us. Your warm wishes and enthusiasm buoyed us along. Your support, dear Friends, is vital to the completion of our journey to restore Maud Powell's legacy. *It does matter!* After the GRAMMY ceremony, one woman came up to me and said: "Thank you for changing our lives." We have come a long way in bringing Maud Powell's inspiration to people everywhere with your encouragement, belief in our work, and your financial support upon which we rely exclusively. Tax-deductible donations of \$10, \$25, \$50 help keep us going while larger contributions sustain the MP Society's existence. Won't you help us complete this most amazing journey?

With warmest good wishes,

Karen A. Shaffer



Your tax-deductible contributions make all of our work possible.

You can Donate via Paypal at www.maudpowell.org

Dear Karen:

Congratulations on Maud Powell's Lifetime Achievement Award, returning this extraordinary artist and "Victor Immortal" to even greater international recognition! I am proud of the achievements of the Maud Powell Society for Music and Education and pleased to support its work! Here is my contribution in support of all the good work you are doing in reaching more people than ever before with the inspiring message of Maud Powell's life and legacy.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution. I have made my check payable to The Maud Powell Society. **Please be sure to send me the next Friends' newsletter.** **YOU CAN DONATE via PAYPAL at www.maudpowell.org.**

Trustee \$2,500 annual donation _____

A position of honor, trust and service held by one who is committed to the purpose of The Maud Powell Society and willing to lend their name, financial resources and advice to forward its mission.

Friend \$1,000 _____ \$500 _____ \$250 _____ \$100 _____

\$75 _____ \$50 _____ \$35 _____ \$25 _____ other \$ _____

_____ I have set forth names and addresses of friends you can place on the Society's mailing list.

_____ I would like to volunteer my help with your projects.

_____ I would like to connect you with potential major individual or corporate donors.

_____ Please send me information on the Maud Powell children's book or _____.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please return to **The Maud Powell Society, 68 Grandview Ave., Brevard, NC 28712**



The Maud Powell Society's purpose is to educate the general public about the life and art of Maud Powell and her contributions to American musical life as well as to the art of violin playing. In addition, the Society is established to further Maud Powell's musical ideals by sponsoring educational projects and programs to promote music in education and public awareness of the contributions and achievements of women in music. Founded in 1986, The Maud Powell Society is a tax-exempt, non-profit corporation, operated exclusively for charitable and literary purposes. Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.