

My name is Jeremy Klein and I live on 20 Stearns St. I am 13 years old and I have studied violin and viola at Longy for 9 years. On March 4, the Board of Governors of the Longy School of Music of Bard College vote to discontinue all Preparatory and Continuing Studies program offerings, effective August 31, 2013, "in order to support the continuing growth of our conservatory and address our critical need for practice and teaching space." This move was entirely unnecessary, because Preparatory and Continuing Studies only take up a noticeable amount of space on Saturdays, when the conservatory is closed. Aside from being unnecessary, this move was harmful to many teachers and students, such as myself. Longy Preparatory and Continuing Studies enrolls almost 4x as many students as the conservatory. As a teacher put it at a rehearsal last week, "It's our school." As another teacher put it, "The Preparatory and Continuing Studies have been the heart of the Longy School of Music." As the center of my musical life for the past 9 years, I have such strong emotional attachments to the school, its programs and much of its faculty. All 8 courses that I am taking this year are at Longy and I have also taken many courses in previous years and am a member of the Young Performers' Program. The mission of Longy is to train all of its musicians to make a difference in the world using music, a mission few other music institutions share. And above everything else, can you believe, that Longy, with a building made possible by the creators of Curious George, would close its doors to children? Can you

believe that they would do it in such a way that left its teachers as individuals in an every man for himself situation, not as a unit that could stay together very easily? Can you believe that a school with such a distinguished reputation for music education for children would not even give the community the respectful engagement they are owed before making such a major change, as if the decision was made without a thought given to the vision of Georges Longy, founder of this community music school, and its donors who donated specifically to the Preparatory and Continuing Studies? With the loss of Longy, I, as will many others, will lose the center of my musical life. But having it done without being granted either dignity or respect from the school only makes that loss that much more painful. Thank you.