

Robert Frost Statue Captures the Heart of Dartmouth for 250th Celebration at the Hop

Maynard Wheeler '61 reported to Mike Murphy '61 who led the effort to place the Robert Frost statue on campus as a gift from the class on November 2, 2019

"A remarkable experience tonight with the D Wind Ensemble. For the 250th anniversary the HOP commissioned a work by Oliver Caplan '04: Symphony for Winds: "Dartmouth" - 4 movements on Dartmouth themes. The third was "Frost and the Lone Pine" during which a huge picture of the Frost statue against autumn leaves was projected above the orchestra for the duration of the movement. I wish I could have taken a picture of it for you. Here are the program notes which tell how Frost joined the Connecticut River, Mt Moosilauke and the Green as the top four themes or places on which to base the piece of music. All I could think of is how you would have enjoyed the event. The Hargraves and Bleyers were there as well."

Program Notes

"Symphony for Winds: "Dartmouth" (2019) Oliver Caplan'04

Dartmouth more than perhaps any institution I know, is imbued with a magnetic sense of place that permeates every corner of our hearts. For this musical celebration of Dartmouth's 250th anniversary, I invited students, alumni and community members to share their most beloved Dartmouth places, to be inspiration for the movements of this piece. You offered over 40 favorites including the iconic ("Baker Tower"), the scholarly {"Sanborn Library"}, the artsy ("The Hop"), the ethereal ("hill winds"), and the playful {"MattyG and Joe Wytze's dorm room"} if only I could compose musical portraits of them all.

Yet, there were four that rose to the top as emblematic of the Dartmouth spirit that runs through us all: the Connecticut river, for *who can forget the her sharp and misty mornings?*, Mt. Moosilauke, where over 90% of us commenced our Dartmouth journey; Bartlett Tower where Robert Frost's spirit writes evermore, as he overlooks the BEMA and its surrounding woodland, and of course, the Green at golden hour, when the clock strikes six and our hearts skip a beat as those clanging bells sound the alma mater.

The opening movement, "Misty Morning on the River" recalls daybreak on the water. Peace and tranquility give way to the overwhelming majesty of sunrise on the valley. The second movement, "Summiting Moosilauke" harkens to the adventurous ethos of the college and I obsession with that famous granite of New Hampshire. The third movement "Frost and the Lone Pine" envisions a gentle breeze (a hill you might say) through sun-dappled fine needles, and mystical homage to souls of Dartmouth's past. The piece closes with "The Green at 6:00 p.m. Finale," a grand ode for our Dear Old Dartmouth. There will be Bells!

Alma mater, on the occasion of your 250th, please accept this humble love letter from your children.

Oliver Caplan '04"