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# Music to His Ears UNH Student Wins \$26,000 Scholarship

By [Tracy Manforte](#)  
UNH News Bureau

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DURHAM, N.H. -- Music student Peter Lamothe's education has been anything but one-note. The University of New Hampshire alumnus has studied music theory, history and education and credits his multi-dimensional UNH experience for helping him earn a prestigious Pew Graduate Fellowship.

Lamothe, of Londonderry, earned his B.A. in 1996 and his M.A. in 1999, both from the UNH Department of Music. He has applied to Ph.D. programs at six institutions, including Harvard, Yale and Columbia universities. The \$26,000 Pew award will help him pay tuition.

"At UNH I had the perspective of both a student and teacher," Lamothe says, referring to his teaching assistant role, in which he was responsible for his own class of undergraduates. "At the time I didn't think it was any big deal, but as I've interviewed at other schools, I've realized how unusual that is, to teach your own class. It was also valuable to confirm my interest in teaching at the college level."

Peggy Vagts, chair of the music department, says the opportunity for graduate students to teach their own courses is offered to only the top scholars, "so this experience is certainly a credit to him." In addition to his studies, Lamothe also was a member of the UNH Chamber Singers and concert choir.

Lamothe is among 10 students in North America to be named a Pew Fellow. More than 100 students competed for the awards, which are portable to top-ranked Ph.D. programs in the humanities and social sciences.

The Pew Younger Scholars Program supports the next generation of Christian scholars by encouraging talented students to pursue scholarly vocations. The

program was established in 1994 by The Pew Charitable Trusts of Philadelphia, which support non-profit activities in the areas of culture, education, the environment, health and human services, public policy and religion.

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