

NJIO

Backstage Pass!

Faith Feuerman

When **Faith Feuerman**'s son first joined NJIO as a high school freshman, she had no idea it would spark a 10-year journey of involvement. She started as a concert volunteer, manning bake sale tables in the lobby, but soon found herself deeply embedded in the organization. Now, as a board member and our grants manager, she helps secure funding to keep NJIO thriving.

Faith's passion for NJIO stems from our mission of joyful musical making: **"I fell in love with NJIO because my son could play in an orchestra just for the joy of it."** Faith also understands firsthand the barriers to classical music, recalling her initial fear of clapping at the wrong time during concerts. Now, she's proud of NJIO's efforts to create a welcoming atmosphere, from advertising "relaxed concerts" to launching a concert comfort station for sensory-sensitive attendees.

Outside of NJIO, Faith spends her "95% retired" life digitizing old family photos and diving into fascinating musical rabbit holes. Lately, she's been captivated by the hurdy-gurdy, inspired by videos from the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. Though she never learned to read music or play an instrument (though it's never too late, Faith!), she remains a champion for NJIO's mission, reminding us all that the love of music doesn't require a seat in the orchestra—just a willingness to listen, support, and be part of the community.

Faith encourages anyone who enjoys NJIO's concerts or supports our mission to help support the organization. **"NJIO has much more talent than money! We operate on a shockingly small budget. With the current anxiety about possible changes in the arts funding world, we need donations more than ever."**

Thank you Faith, for all you do to keep NJIO running smoothly!