# NEW AMSTERDAM SINGERS 2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT



### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**



Donna W. Zalichin

This is not the kind of Annual Report you are used to reading. Then again, this is not the world we are used to living in. On March 11, the Board made the painful but necessary decision to cancel the March 20 premiere of the fabulous piece we'd commissioned from Rob Paterson—the last in a series of works commissioned in honor of our 50th Anniversary season. The following day, Carnegie Hall, the NY Philharmonic, and all of Broadway also cancelled their performances. Before the extent of the virulence and devastation of Covid-19 was fully known, and before we'd all read dozens of articles about the spread of aerosols through singing, we had hoped we'd be singing again this fall, but this was not to be.

Though the raison d'être of NAS is to perform choral music, it is also a community of friends. We miss singing together most of all, but we also miss the many other joys being in the chorus provides. How have we coped? We've recorded several virtual choir performances, with each singer preparing their own part and then an editor managing some delicate engineering work to put all the voices together. (Huge thanks to Clara Schuhmacher and her husband Dan Edinberg.) And we've started a wonderful Tuesday evening series called Music in Place, to which our friends and supporters are invited. Programs include recitals, Zoom "rehearsals" of 4-part music led by Assistant Conductor David Recca, voice lessons and body work, and some surprise guests. (You can find a calendar of these events on our website.) On alternate Tuesdays, we have a drop-in Zoom "rehearsal break." It's BYO snacks and drinks, but it's fun to catch up and hosting.) Singing on Zoom is clearly not as rewarding as singing and performing together, but for now it's what we've got, and at least we get to see little squares with faces of our friends singing silently into cyberspace.

During this unusual time, the Board has been working hard. We made (and re-made) contingency plans, we transferred to a new database system, we completed the project of refreshing our visual identity—the result of which you see in this Annual Report. Despite a looming deficit for the coming year, during which we are not yet certain when (or if) we'll be able to rehearse and perform, we've made the commitment to pay our accompanist and Assistant Conductor. In solidarity with heads of much larger arts organizations, Clara has declined her salary for the coming year, which has reduced the financial burden we face. We appreciate that years of prudent financial management, coupled with Clara's strong artistic leadership and the generosity of many friends, have ensured that we can weather this period of uncertainty.

My thanks to our amazingly committed and talented Board of Directors, to the many volunteers who keep New Amsterdam Singers humming (if not, at the moment, singing), and to our energetic and upbeat manager, Will Maitland Weiss. Most especially, of course, my thanks to Clara, for the leadership and artistic vision that have made NAS the vibrant and wonderful community that it is.

We so look forward to singing together again!

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**



### Orren Alperstein

There is no question that Fiscal Year 2019-2020 will go down in world history as one of the worst on record. The loss of life and livelihoods of many in our local, national, and international communities is almost impossible to contemplate, and still harder to bear. The arts community, in particular, has been decimated. Yet I am relieved to be able to report on a tiny silver lining: in spite of the loss of two of our three concerts, New Amsterdam Singers has nonetheless managed to break even.

How did this happen? First of all, ticket sales, membership dues, concert costs, and promotion/ development costs were all on track with our budget for the partial (one concert) year. Secondly, when the Board made the decision to cancel

	2018-2019	2019-2020
General Operating Revenue:		
Ticket Sales and Performances	\$27,960	\$11,353
Dues; CD Sales	\$18,232	\$14,369
Contributions:		
Events	\$12,182	1,465
Individual, Corporate, and Foundation Contributions	\$56,662	\$66,163
Total General Operating Income:	\$115,036	\$93,350
General Operating Expenses:		
Personnel	\$62,788	\$64,516
Concert, Rehearsal, and Music	\$29,563	\$15,660
Promotion & Development	\$12,883	\$7,474
Other Operating Expenses	\$9,330	\$10,369
Total General Operating Expenses:	\$114,564	\$98,019
NET from General Operations:	\$472	(\$4,669)
Special Activity Income: 50th Anniversary Campaign Donations	\$21,900	13,050
Special Activities Expenses:		
Commissioned Works	\$2,500	\$8,161
Guest Artists	\$29,036	\$1,000
Board Retreat		\$1,772
Total Special Activities Expenses:	\$31,536	\$10,933
NET from Special Activities:	(\$9,636)	\$2,117
Endowment Earnings	\$9,312	\$9,300
NET TOTAL (DECREASE)/INCREASE:	\$148	\$6,748

the March and May concerts, the revenue from ticket sales plummeted, but so did the expenses associated with those concerts, leaving us in a strong position to continue to compensate our musical and administrative staff through the end of the fiscal year, in spite of not receiving a PPP grant to offset some of those costs. By the end of the year, contributions exceeded budget, even during the pandemic, further balancing out ongoing expenses.

Although not apparent in these FY20 operating budget figures, we are also tremendously grateful to have received an anonymous planned gift of over \$30,000 from long-time New Amsterdam Singers audience members, which will be used for future projects, including commissioning new works and hiring guest artists.

It seems clear that with ongoing support from our donor base we are well-positioned to weather what we know will be an extremely difficult FY2020-2021, and likely some seasons thereafter.

#### Assets as of June 30, 2020

Total Assets	\$399,429
Endowment	\$248,201
Board-Restricted Fund from Planned Gift	\$32,395
50th Anniversary Campaign Fund	\$71,742
General Operating Funds	\$46,911

# MUSIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### Clara Longstreth



The 2019-2020 season has been marked by highs and lows. We spent the fall in a happy return to Frank Martin's superb a cappella *Mass for Double Chorus*. Eriks Esenwald's charming *Only in Sleep* was a highlight of the Chamber Chorus presentation. The two December concerts were beautifully sung and enthusiastically received by large audiences.

Winter rehearsals were going well and we had all enjoyed singing Rob Paterson's justcommissioned and about-to-be premiered *I Go Among Trees* when the pandemic struck, ten days before our scheduled concerts on March 20 and 22. We cancelled the concerts on very short notice, and hoped they could be postponed until May. With the virus holding NYC in its grip throughout April and May, we postponed again, this time to December, but by midsummer that, too, seemed unsafe. I spent April and May juggling the possibilities: what could we sing and when could we sing it?

The NAS board has been fully energized and engaged in future planning as well. A special contribution made it possible to plan for another commission, this one from Dale Trumbore, a young American composer who has enjoyed huge popularity in recent years.

In June, as the country was galvanized and outraged at the death of Black Americans at the hands of police, my focus turned to the question of how NAS could respond to the Black Lives Matter movement. The board has joined me in deep thinking about how our organization can play a positive role through including more works by Black composers and working towards greater diversity by recruiting more singers of color.

During the summer and continuing into the 2020-2021 season we have devised a program to tide us over until we can sing together. **Music in Place** is a Zoom series on alternate Tuesdays with a variety of events such as group voice lessons, recitals, interviews, and singalongs. Our friends are invited to join singers for these activities. The series is produced with help from Andy James, Paul Parsekian, David Recca, and Bob Pietrzak.

All this forward planning has kept me energized and optimistic even in these uncertain days, and Bevis and I feel lucky to be healthy and able to isolate together in Garrison.



I thank the Board, and Donna Zalichin in particular, for wise counsel as we negotiate our way through the thickets of an unpredictable virus and conflicting medical advice. Will Maitland Weiss has been a constant source of wisdom on how a not-forprofit can be sustained through a difficult time. As always, we could not be the organization we are without David Recca, our Assistant Conductor, and Pen Ying Fang, our long time accompanist.

### 2019-2020 PERFORMANCES



**A Century of A Cappella Gems** Friday, December 13, 2019, and Saturday, December 14, 2019

Only in Sleep Benedicamus Ave Maria Adam Lay Ybounden Peace upon You, Jerusalem O Gloriosa Four Carols Mass for Double Chorus Ēriks Ešenvalds Urmas Sisask Per Gunnar Petersson Colin Mawby Arvo Pärt György Orbán Halsey Stevens Frank Martin



### **Virtual Choir Recordings**

After the suspension of concerts due to Covid-19, we prepared and offered four virtual choir recordings on YouTube. As of November 2020, they have gathered over 2,000 views from around the world.

Spring, the Sweet Spring Hope and Love O Mistress Mine Tell Me Where Is Fancy Bred E. J. Moeran Carson Cooman Matthew Harris Matthew Harris

### **LEADERSHIP 2019-2020**



### Clara Longstreth, Music Director

Clara Longstreth has conducted New Amsterdam Singers since its formation in 1968. She has served on the faculty of Rutgers University, where she conducted the Voorhees Choir of Douglass College. A student of G. Wallace Woodworth at Harvard, Ms. Longstreth trained for her Master's degree at the Juilliard School under Richard Westenburg. Further study included work with Amy Kaiser and Semyon Bychkov at the Mannes College of Music and with Helmuth Rilling at the Oregon Bach Festival.

In 1997, Ms. Longstreth guest-conducted the Limón Dance Company in performances with NAS and the Riverside Church Choir. In 2010, she again conducted the Limón Dance Company at the Skirball Center at NYU. She is a frequent guest conductor at the annual Messiah Sing-In at Avery Fisher Hall and at the summer sings of the West Village Chorale, the New York Choral Society, and other choruses. She has also served as adjudicator of choral festivals, conducted the Riverdale Country School choral groups and conducted the Juilliard Chorus and Orchestra at Alice Tully Hall. In 2006, she presented a lecturedemonstration on "Adventures in Programming" for the Eastern Division Convention of the American Choral Directors Association.

Of Ms. Longstreth's programs, Allan Kozinn wrote in the New York *Times*, "When a director takes up the challenge of building a cohesive program around a broad theme, we are reminded that programming can be an art." In June 2018, Times critic Anthony Tommasini wrote, "You think von Karajan's 35-year reign at the Berlin Philharmonic and Eugene Ormandy's 44-year association with the Philadelphia Orchestra were impressive runs? Well, at a concert on Wednesday night [May 30], Clara Longstreth concluded her **50th** season as music director of the 70-member New Amsterdam Singers... Ms. Longstreth conducted with undiminished energy and focus."

### David Recca, Assistant Music Director

David Recca is currently an Adjunct Professor of Music at the Conservatory of Music of Purchase College, SUNY. There he directs the Purchase College Chorus and Purchase Chamber Singers, conducts the Purchase Symphony Orchestra, and teaches a variety of undergraduate courses including music history, music theory, ear training, and conducting. He also directs the Southern Connecticut Camerata, a Norwalk-based early music ensemble celebrating its 64th season.

In 2018, Recca received his Doctorate of Musical Arts degree in Choral Conducting from the Yale School of Music. He holds a Master's degree in Choral Conducting from the Eastman School of Music and a Performer's Certificate in Vocal Coaching and a Bachelor of Music degree in Composition from Purchase College.

### Pen Ying Fang, Accompanist

Pen Ying Fang was born in Taipei, Taiwan, and began studying piano at age five. She attended an "experimental" music-focused grade school there until she moved to the United States to continue her education. Here she studied with Paul Hoffmann and Barbara Gonzalez-Palmer, earning a B.M. and M.M. in Piano at Rutgers University in New Jersey. She has performed around the New York metropolitan area, building up an extensive repertoire of solo and chamber works.

Ms. Fang has accompanied the master classes of many prominent artists, including Keith Underwood, Evelyn Glennie, Brian McIntosh and Christopher Arneson. Additionally, she has

### **LEADERSHIP 2019-2020**



toured domestically and overseas with various choirs in the New York area, and in 2007 she played at the "Florence Voice Seminar" in Florence, Italy. Currently she serves as a staff accompanist at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, and teaches piano students in the central New Jersey area.

### Will Maitland Weiss, Manager

Will Maitland Weiss joined the New Amsterdam Singers as its Manager at the start of the 2018-2019 season. He is an adjunct professor for St. Lawrence University, teaching a course on entrepreneurship and nonprofit management in their semester-in-New York City program; he has also had guest teaching positions with the Brooklyn College graduate program in arts administration, Brown, CUNY/ Baruch, NYU, Seton Hall, and the University of the Virgin Islands. Mr. Weiss is a former executive director of the American Stage Festival, CSC Repertory Theater, the Arts & Business Council of NY, and the Big Apple Circus.

### **Board of Directors**

Donna W. Zalichin, President Clara Inés Schuhmacher, Vice-President Orren Alperstein, Treasurer Bob Pietrzak, Secretary

Robin Beckhard Jayanthi Bunyan Brian Farrell Borbola Görög Andy James Katherine Leahy Robert H. Palmer Gwendolyn D. Simmons Ellen G. Stark

### Advisory Council

Amy Kaiser Richard Kessler Paul Alan Levi Allan Miler Albert K. Webster \*\*\* Brian Zeger

\*\*\* deceased

With this annual report we're excited to continue to introduce our new look. In November 2019, the Board met to strategize about the future of the New Amsterdam Singers. We decided the time was right to update our look to better reflect our mission, identity, and new ways of communicating with our audience and with each other.

Our new design is a bold, more modern take on our previous look. It retains a musical element. Its cleaner typeface allows for better readability in a variety of formats. And importantly, it has a classical elegance and refinement that speaks to our long history and tradition of excellence.

There are wonderful hidden features, too—like the double barline on the left side of our logo that ties musical staffs together and speaks to the unity and community of NAS. Normally it shows up at the end of a piece, but we use it in reverse to point to our continuing future.

Thanks to L/Bailey Design for helping us usher in our next half century!

## NEW AMSTERDAM SINGERS

### NEW AMSTERDAM SINGERS 2019-2020

#### Sopranos

Orren Alperstein Judith Ballan Robin Beckhard Martha Beckwith Jayanthi Bunyan\*\* Laura Cohen\*\* **Kim Corliss** Dana Crowell\* Susan Daum Lauren Goff\*\* Borbola Görög Rebecca Harris Laura Klein Abigail Kniffin Alyssa LaFosse Katherine Leahy\*\* Jamie Leifer\*\* Anne Leone Michelle Neary\* M. Tracey Ober Andrea Olejar\* Judith Pott\* Clara Inés Schuhmacher\* Bernardica Sculac Stern Elizabeth Stein Elspeth Strang Jennifer Trahan Denise Yankou

#### Altos

Gabi Barton\* Flizabeth Basile\*\* Cvnthia Brome Joanne Hubbard Cossa\*\* Isabella Creatura\*\* Rebecca Dee\* Jennifer Delson Alex Gaynor Stephanie Golob Elizabeth Hardin Sally Hoskins Hannah Kerwin Lucy Kraus Nava Mukherji Elisa Peimer Charlotte Rocker\*\* Leila Sesmero Ellen Stark\* Vera Sziklai Donna Zalichin Barbara Zucker-Pinchoff

#### Tenors

Paul Blanchard\* Ned Brose Nathaniel Granor\*\* James Gregory Tom Haller Robert Marlowe Nate Mickelson David Moroney\*\* Paul Parsekian\* Bob Pietrzak John Pinegar Frayda Pitkowsky Adam Poole Timothy H. Sachs\*\* William A. Simpson Hsin Wang Scott Wilson

#### Basses

Rick Abel Bendix Anderson Michael Berger James Crowell Walter Daum Timothy DeWerff\* Jethro Eisenstein Eli Enenbach\* Brian Farrell Philip Holmgren\*\* Steve Holtje\* Michael Landy\* John Leuenhagen Mike Nicholson David Ortiz\* Robert Palmer Mondy Raibon David Recca Ray Shattenkirk\* John Weidemann Jonathan Weinberger Michael Zimmerman\*\*\*

\* Chamber Chorus \*\* Chamber Chorus only \*\*\* deceased

### In Memoriam



Scott Gillam



Michael Zimmerman

Neil Jaffee

The New Amsterdam Singers mourns the loss of long-time members **Scott Gillam** and **Michael Zimmerman**, and alumnus **Neil Jaffee**, all stalwarts of the bass section. We are grateful to have enjoyed their musical gifts and their friendship for so many years.

### 2019-2020 ANNUAL FUND DONORS

### ARCHANGELS

(\$2,500 and greater)

The Sidley Austin Foundation BNGF J. Horowitz & E. Hardin Fund Bettina Murray Heidi Nitze Robert H. & Jessie Palmer A. Robert Pietrzak Turner Construction Company

### ANGELS

(\$1,000-\$2,499)

Orren Alperstein Ralph & Robin Arditi Gail Buyske & Rick Hibberd Michael & Dudley Del Balso Rae & Dan Emmett Anne & David Farber Hannelore & Jeremy Grantham Hannah Kerwin Clara & Bevis Longstreth Victoria Miller Judith Pott Mary Lea Johnson Richards Charitable Foundation, Michael Milton, Trustee Gwen Simmons Donna Zalichin & Barry Kramer Barbara Zucker-Pinchoff & **Barry Pinchoff** 

#### BENEFACTORS

(\$500-\$999)

Robin Beckhard Tom & Nancy Berner Susan & Steven Bloom Linda Bookheim & Steven Widerman Joseph Brooks Ari Brose Meridee Brust Margaret & Barry Bryan Peter Davoren & Stacey Farley Jethro M. Eisenstein Brian Farrell James Gregory Carol Hamilton Timothy & Virginia Millhiser Rudolph & Sheila Rauch Charlotte Rocker Christopher Rocker

Barbara & Charles Robinson John R. Scullin Jennifer Trahan Margot Viscusi

### PATRONS

(\$250-\$499) Elizabeth Basile Hans & Jutta Bertram-Nothnagel Gilman Burke Joanne Hubbard Cossa Paul Day-Lucore Thomas Emmons Paula Franklin Andy James Ann McKinnev Diane Mickelson Nate Mickelson Allan Miller Guna & Robert Mundheim Marilyn Nissenson Paul Parsekian & Katherine Philipp Richard W. Pendleton, Jr. Susan Perkins Jonathan & Diana Rose Clara Schuhmacher Elspeth Strang & Will Maitland Weiss John Weidemann Mark Weisdorf Michael Zimmerman

### SPONSORS

(\$150-\$249)

Lucy Adams Dana & James Crowell Susan & Walter Daum Jennifer Delson Timothy DeWerff Elizabeth Stark Dugan John & Gail Duncan Kate Leahv Harriet Levine Phyllis & Slade Mills Jayme Neary Penny & Xavier Pi-Sunyer Hugh Rosenbaum Fritz & Frederica Schwartz David Smalley Ellen Stark Suzanne Stewart Christine Thomas

FRIENDS

(up to \$149)

Judith Ballan Donna Barkman Carl & Nancy Brose Keith Butler Sam Bryan & Amy Scott Maryann Campbell Spencer Carr & Karla Allen Teri Cohen Nancy Gilston Bori Gorog Joan Graham Tamar Granor Matthew Harris Frieda & George Holober Dell Kendall Joanne Koch Lucy Kraus Betty Kulleseid Jamie Leifer & Tom Denniston Steven M. Lobel John MacKenzie Rob Marlowe Anne & Lawrence Martz Gerry Matusewitch Paul Naprstek Mary & Philip Oppenheimer Ronald Perera Frayda Pitkowsky Sarah Plimpton & Robert Paxton Hector & Erica Prud'homme Ann Ravenstein Eva H. Richter Ray & Janice Scheindlin Nidia Schuhmacher Sylvia Shepard Abigail Sloane & Michael Flack Jonathan & Nealie Small Charles Smeal Alex & Courtney Solomon Jane C. Stark Jeff Stockwell Vera Sziklai Donna Tapper Marcus Urioste Hsin Wang Scott Wilson & Mondy Raibon David Winkler

This donor list reflects contributions made between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2020. For any questions or corrections, or for information about supporting the New Amsterdam Singers, please contact <u>manager@nasingers.org</u>.



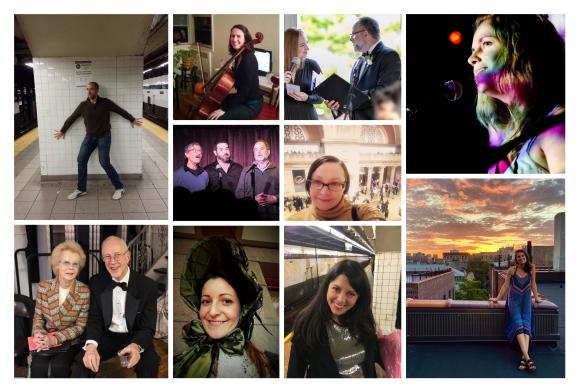
### **50TH ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN DONORS**



\$15,000 and greater					
Anonymous		Barbara	Zucker-	Pinchoff & Barry S. Pinchoff	
\$10,000 - \$14,999					
Robert H. & Jessie Palmer	A. Robert	A. Robert Pietrzak		na Zalichin & Barry Kramer	
\$5,000 - \$9,999					
The Sidley Austin Foundation Joseph Brooks Margarita Brose	Anke Dening-Volcke Ann McKinney Heidi Nitze	r		a & Charles Robinson olyn D. Simmons	
\$1,000 - \$4,999					
Orren Alperstein Ralph & Robin Arditi Robin Beckhard Margaret & Barry Bryan Jayanthi Bunyan Anke Dening John & Gail Duncan	Jethro M. Eisenstein Brian Farrell Dennis Goodenough James Gregory Jason & Pamela Hill William Hunter & J. ( Hannah Kerwin	h Victoria h Newcon Ronald I Ed Schu Christian Annalora John Sc		nb-Hargraves Foundation Perera Iltz	
\$500 - \$999					
Jamie DePeau & Don Delzio Timothy DeWerff Paula Franklin	Victor & Carol Gallo Harriet Levine Nathan Mickelson	Paul Parsekian & Katherine Philipp Judith Pott Hector & Erica Prud	'homme	Elspeth E. Strang & Will Maitland Weiss Jennifer Trahan Laura Walker & Bert Wells	
\$250 - \$499					
Kimberly Allan Nick & Hanay Angell Jutta & Hans Bertram-Nothnagel Linda Bookheim & Steven Widerman Ian Capps & Jeannette Johnson	Allan Miller Spencer Carr & Karla Allen Sylvain Demongeot & Emmanuelle Gresse Elizabeth Stark Dugan Thomas Emmons Helen C. Everts	Andy James Betty Kulleseid Carol & Lance Lieb Timothy & Virginia N Phyllis & Slade Mills Guna & Robert Mur Richard Pendleton	Millhiser	Susan Perkins Betty & Michael Rauch Hugh Rosenbaum Abigail Sloane & Michael Flack Scott Wilson & Mondy Raibon	
up to \$250 Richard Abel	Gregory Farrell	Jaime Leifer &		Ann Ravenstine	
Carol Barnett Elizabeth Basile Bebe Broadwater Carl & Nancy Brose Teri Cohen Joanne Hubbard Cossa James & Dana Crowell Susan & Walter Daum G. H. Denniston, Jr. & Christine Thomas	Rebecca Harris Priscilla & Edwin Holmgren Frieda & George Holober Juliette & Jeffrey Hyson Christopher Jones Leah & Herb Kaplan Dell Kendall Michael Landy	Tom Denniston Steven Lobel & Joanne Caring Allan Miller & Marie Tom Myers Mary & Philip Oppe Amy M. Palmer Frayda Pitkowsky Sarah Plimpton & Robert Paxton		Timothy Sachs Jonathan & Nealie Small David Smalley Vera Sziklai Hsin Wang Amy K. White Cecil & Gilda Wray Sally Zweibach Ann Ravenstine	

# #SINGERSPOTLIGHT

Soon after New Amsterdam Singers stopped singing together in person in March 2020, chorus members started sharing stories of their lives and love of music on Facebook and Instagram. These #SingerSpotlight profiles have been funny, touching—and revelatory!



Check out these highlights:

- Bass **Bob Palmer** considers his performance of "You Always Hurt The One You Love," on a canal barge during a chorus tour to Portugal, his most successful cabaret appearance ever.
- In college, alto **Alex Gaynor** wrote all her papers listening to Howard Shore's Lord of the Rings movie soundtracks.
- Soprano Clara Schuhmacher has sung back up on several hip hop records.
- Tenor **Paul Parsekian** and all his siblings can sing "A Capital Ship," a bit of doggerel about the buffoonish captain and crew of The Walloping Window Blind, from memory, thanks to his dad's frequent bedtime performances of the song.
- Soprano **Abigail Kniffin** has been studying Argentine tango for the past five years.
- Soprano **Bernardica Sculac Stern** joined her first choir only after an injury ended her varsity swimming career in college.

For more of this great content, be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram @NewAmsterdamSingers!

New logo bonus allusion to NYC: when you turn it on its side for occasional vertical use like this, the words become "buildings."

#### 2019-2020 Annual Report Team

Content Compilation Additional Content Copyediting Design and Layout Will Matiland Weiss Clara Schuhmacher and Ellen Stark Donna Zalichin Andy James

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