



Our Shakespeare Community,

We hope you and your family have been well during this trying time. We value and thank you for the generous support you provide that makes it possible for us to serve thousands across Nebraska.

Having discussed the COVID-19 pandemic with members of our Board of Directors and staff, we don't see a way where we can serve our mission and put on the sort of *Shakespeare on The Green* (SOTG) production we think the community deserves. Even if the public health situation fundamentally changes soon, the lead time for producing these shows—securing actors, building sets, rehearsing, permits, et al-- means we have to make a decision about this year's SOTG now, when the future is particularly uncertain.

Accordingly, we have made the difficult decision to postpone our 2020 SOTG productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Shakespeare In Love*. We will produce both shows in Summer 2021 when we will celebrate the 35th season of admission-free *Shakespeare On The Green*.

So what will we do instead? Our mission "to make Shakespeare a part of our society beyond the literature and drama classrooms" means we will forego live performance for the next few months. Instead, our near-term focus is to expand our educational programming online so that all Nebraskans can experience Shakespeare. Our Camp Shakespeare will move forward as planned and potentially move to an online experience. The *Shakespeare On Tour* production—which puts on performances in towns across the state and region-- is looking at ways to significantly add performances this fall, when the situation may be very different. In this way we hope to maximize our impact under the unprecedented circumstances.

We want to keep vital members like you engaged and connected to our mission. With this in mind, we welcome getting your thoughts. Let us know your ideas at info@nebraskashakespeare.com. Look for additional news and announcements via our social media channels in the weeks to come.

Many have asked how to assist the organization. In this unprecedented year, we offer you options to redirect your gift. Those who have pledged during the 2020 membership drive will have their gift credited towards the 2021 *On The Green* productions and membership benefits. This will allow your gifts from 2020 and 2021 to be counted towards your *On The Green* membership benefits next summer! Additional donations are always appreciated and can be made online at www.nebraskashakespeare.com.

If you've already invested, wish to be refunded or would like to discuss options, please contact Mary Ann Bamber directly at mbamber@nebraskashakespeare.com

THANK YOU for making a difference! With your assistance we will continue to offer vibrant performances and programming throughout the state. We thank you for your continued support.

And in the words of the Bard, "Frame your mind to mirth and merriment, which bars a thousand harms and lengthens life." *Taming of the Shrew*

With gratitude and well wishes,

Mary Ann Bamber
Executive Director

Joseph & Jane Kavan
Co-Chairs of the Board