Years ago Audrey Noall Peterson, MA ’61, made a gift in honor of two friends that will literally last forever.

In her will, she designated a portion of her estate to create a fund for music at Stanford. She named the fund in honor of Leland Smith, a longtime music professor at the university, and his wife, Edith, an artist and close friend of Peterson’s from college.

Peterson’s gift helped bring unparalleled vitality to the music department—even now, a generation later, she’s advancing the work of another music professor as he pushes the boundaries of the field.

Friends and Visionaries
The story of Leland and Edith Smith is one of lifelong companionship and artistic innovation. The couple met in 1936 when they were just 11 years old, growing up and riding bicycles together all over their hometown of Oakland, California. Both went on to study at the University of California, Berkeley, staying to earn master’s degrees—he in music, she in art. They married and traveled through Europe on mopeds before starting a family, eventually settling in Palo Alto to raise their three children when Leland joined the music faculty at Stanford in 1958.

A pioneering composer and computer programmer, Leland has been widely credited with leading music publishing into the digital age. He cofounded Stanford’s legendary Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics (CCRMA)—one of the foremost centers for computer music and related research—and developed the first music typography software of its kind, known as SCORE, which remains the quality standard today.
Leland taught music composition and theory at Stanford for more than 30 years until he retired in 1992. Edith—an early visionary in digital printmaking, as well as a prolific painter and engraver—taught art at colleges in the San Francisco Bay Area and lectured around the world.

Both passed away in recent years, after 65 years of marriage and a lifetime devoted to art and music. But countless future generations of students will benefit from the fund Peterson established in her friends’ honor.

Inspiring Future Generations

Today the Leland and Edith Smith Fund for Music supports the work of Mark Applebaum, a Stanford professor who—like Leland and Edith Smith before him—is a true pioneer in his field. A masterful jazz musician, Applebaum is better known for his idiosyncratic experimental compositions—for example, a chamber piece composed of obsessive page turns, an invented sign language choreographed to sound, and a concerto for florist and orchestra.

Women Who Left a Legacy

Jane Stanford made numerous gifts in her will to relatives and charities while leaving the bulk of her estate to the university. Many women have followed in her footsteps over the years, like Audrey Peterson, leaving a legacy at Stanford with bequests of all sizes.

Liliore Green Rains, a Beverly Hills recluse and the daughter of an oil magnate, made headlines when she left an astonishing $240 million to a small handful of institutions in 1985. Her $40 million gift to Stanford was completely unexpected—she had no previous connection to the university, and she left no specific instructions on how to spend it. Stanford used it to build a much-needed housing complex on campus, and today nearly 800 graduate students live in the Rains Houses.

Katharine McCormick was a biologist, suffragist, and philanthropist best known for funding most of the research leading to the development of the first birth control pill. She left a $5 million bequest to the School of Medicine in 1967. The fund she endowed sustains several initiatives supporting the advancement of women in medicine, including faculty awards that provide research funding, travel funds to attend professional development seminars, and an annual lecture.
(The symphony is accompanied by a performance artist creating a magnificent flower arrangement.)

Applebaum is also renowned for his handcrafted “sound sculptures,” electroacoustic instruments made of junk, hardware, and other unconventional materials. His 2012 TED talk (“The Mad Scientist of Music”) offers a spirited demonstration of one made with combs, doorstops, nails, squeaky wheels, and other unlikely objects that are plucked, scratched, bowed, and modified by a battery of live electronics; the online video has clocked more than 2.5 million views to date.

Often compared with legendary avant-garde musicians Frank Zappa and John Cage, Applebaum has performed and taught all over the world, inspiring legions of students over the years.

In honoring Leland Smith’s legacy at Stanford, Audrey Peterson left a lasting one of her own.

A Simple Way to Give

To make a bequest to Stanford, you can include language in your will or living trust leaving a portion of your estate to the university, or you can designate Stanford as a beneficiary of your retirement account or life insurance policy. You can make your bequest for a specific amount, for a percentage of your estate, or for all or a portion of what is left after you have made bequests to family or other loved ones.

You might choose how you would like your gift to be used—restricted to a specific school, for example, or unrestricted to allow the university to direct it toward its most pressing needs. Depending on the amount, you may also be able to choose whether you would like your gift to be “expendable”—fully spent when it is received—or an “endowed” fund, such as the one created by Audrey Peterson, to last in perpetuity.

You can leave a legacy at Stanford with a bequest or other planned gift, including gifts that provide income to you during your lifetime. Contact Stanford’s Office of Planned Giving for help designing a gift to best meet your charitable objectives, as well as your financial and tax goals.

Federal judge Pamela Ann Rymer, LLB ’64, served on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit for 22 years. Before she died of cancer in 2011 at age 70, she planned a generous gift to Stanford. Her bequest of $2.23 million endowed two funds in her name: one to provide graduate fellowships for law students, the other to provide scholarships for undergraduate athletes with financial need.

Nancy Ann Curran, ’43, earned a degree in economics at Stanford, where she was active in the Stanford Union Club, a women’s social club that organized weekly dances and other events on campus. A lifelong resident of San Francisco and an avid Giants fan, she left a $10,000 bequest to Stanford Athletics, among other charitable organizations close to her heart.

Major Hazel Bundy, MA ’48, earned her master’s in education at Stanford and worked as a teacher before beginning a 20-year career with the U.S. Army, where she served in World War II and the Korean War. Her assignments included tours in Occupied Japan and at the Pentagon, where she set up a program for the assignment of officers in the Women’s Army Corps (WAC) and Women in the Air Force (WAF). She died four years ago at age 101, leaving $10,000 to the Graduate School of Education for fellowships.
Remember Stanford

☐ Please send me information about:
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  ☐ Making a life income gift (e.g., charitable remainder unitrust, charitable gift annuity) to Stanford.
  ☐ Making a gift of real estate to Stanford.

☐ I have remembered Stanford in my estate plans as follows:
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  ☐ I/We have named Stanford University as a beneficiary in one or more of the following:
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☐ I have remembered Stanford in my estate plans as described above, and I wish to join the Founding Grant Society. I understand gifts to Stanford that are highly contingent in nature (i.e., where it is unlikely that the university will ever actually receive anything) do not qualify for membership in the Founding Grant Society.

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to all those who have chosen to include Stanford in their estate plans. Your gift will help sustain the university for generations to come.
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Recent Estate Gifts
Stanford is grateful to the generous alumni and friends who have remembered the university in their estate plans. The following is a sampling of recent estate gifts:

Audrey Aviss Aassen-Hull, MA ’46, left a percentage of the residue of her trust valued at nearly $80,000 to support Stanford Live, which presents a wide range of performing arts on campus.

Samuel Ayres, ’40, MD ’44, bequeathed $10,000 to the Stanford University School of Medicine and also designated the school as the beneficiary of his pension plan, which is valued at approximately $1 million.

Charles A. Clifford, ’46, MD ’49, left a portion of his charitable remainder trust valued at more than $550,000 to the Stanford University School of Medicine. Dennis Cunningham, ’49, MD ’50, named the university as the sole beneficiary of a brokerage account, which resulted in an unrestricted gift of more than $4.5 million.

Marion Ferri Dean, a friend of the university, left the residue of her trust to Stanford, resulting in a gift of more than $1 million. Of that amount, 60 percent will support the School of Engineering in memory of her first husband, Giuseppe Ferri, ’52, MS ’53, and 40 percent will support the Graduate School of Education in memory of Ray Bartlett Dean, EdD ’43.

Louis J. Fischl, ’48, MBA ’54, bequeathed a portion of his trust to Stanford, which resulted in an unrestricted gift of $1 million.

Merrill R. Francis, JD ’59, made a bequest of $10,000 to Stanford Law School.

HeLEN SCHRADER, who taught at Stanford for more than 50 years, bequeathed her Palo Alto home to the university, the proceeds of which were used to establish an undergraduate scholarship fund in memory of her parents, Elizabeth Wheatley Schrader and George A. Schrader.

Judith Douglas Speidel, MA ’62, PhD ’69, left $15,000 from her trust to support the acquisition fund of the Cantor Arts Center.

Dorothy Jean Stranton Vukota, ’46, designated the Hoover Institution to receive the residue of her trust, which resulted in a gift of $158,000.

Volunteer Appreciation
Thank you to the Planned Gift Chairs serving on these undergraduate reunion committees:

Class of 1946 Don Sweet
Class of 1951 Joseph L. Rodgers
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Class of 1961 Richard J. Guggenheim
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Volunteer Appreciation
Thank you to the Planned Gift Chairs serving on these undergraduate reunion committees: