

## Third Sundays: A Special Tour of 7 Cromwell Place

*Thematic Tours Attract Visitors Interested in Learning About the Grainger Family*

The Percy Grainger Home & Studio (PGH&S) continued its series of themed house tours on Sunday, July 16 with musician Rebecca Weissman presenting a house tour emphasizing Percy Grainger's influence on celebrated band conductor, Frederick Fennell.



*Rebecca Weissman, Grainger House Volunteer*

Fennell, an American conductor, founded the [Eastman Wind Ensemble](#) in 1952 and visited Grainger on several occasions at 7 Cromwell Place, White Plains. A video biography released after Fennell's passing in 2004 revealed that Grainger was the first of 450 composers to respond to Fennell's request for compositions for the new ensemble. In Fennell's 2004 obituary, colleague [Jerry F. Junkin](#) was quoted as saying "He was arguably the most famous band conductor since [John Philip Sousa](#)."

Hudson Valley resident Rebecca Weissman is a bass clarinetist and member of the board of directors for the Westchester Symphonic Winds ("WSW") an award-winning wind ensemble based in Westchester County, New York. She is a graduate of Ithaca College and the Eastman School of Music. "It would be impossible to attend Eastman and not be

aware of Fennell's work," Rebecca noted. "Fennell's recordings of Grainger's compositions and edition of Grainger's Lincolnshire Posy are revered for an authenticity only he could achieve through his personal connection to the composer." In addition to her musical interests, Rebecca is the founder of [Two Fourteen Design](#), a communications company directed toward digital marketing solutions. Since Fall, 2022 she has been the Community Outreach Consultant for the Percy Grainger Society.



*Visitors explore art and projects in the living room.*



*Discussing Grainger's innovative concepts in the dining room.*

PGH&S "Third Sunday" House Tours are part education, part interpretation, and a fun, informative alternative to the traditional historic house tour. While a room-by-room tour is included, the focus is on one idea, with the collection providing the backdrop to illustrate and explore that idea. Led by volunteers, this outreach initiative will continue on select Sundays throughout the year. If you would like to present a Third Sunday's Tour, please email us at [info@percygrainer.org](mailto:info@percygrainer.org)