

The Downers Grove Music Club

Celebrating Music Arts Since 1927

Vol. 27, No. 4 Spring, 2019

Greetings, music lovers! The DGMC begins April with a special event on April 2nd - the **Rising Stars Concert**, Tuesday, April 2, 2019, 7:00 p.m. This will feature the 2018 Rising Star award recipients and other talented young musicians in the Downers Grove Community. It will include both 1st place 2019 Piano Competition winners, two winners of the 2018 Private Lessons Awards for elementary and middle school students, a vocalist who received a perfect score and the “Best of Room” designation at the recent IHSA Solo Competition, and the O’Neill Middle School Chamber Strings.

The participating students are: Rising Star Music Award Winners Amelia Korbitz, Lucie Boyd, and Kelly Jankowski, plus Pallavi Fisher and Jack Sifuentes, two of the Private String Award Winners, along with the 1st place winners from both the Junior and Senior Competitions of the DGMC Piano Festival, Kelly Yi and Abigail Gillham, vocalist Mackenzie McGuire for her perfect score and Best of Room award at the IHSA Solo and Ensemble State Contest, and the O’Neill Middle School Chamber Strings.

Library-Music Club Concert Series: All programs are held at the Downers Grove Public Library, 1050 Curtiss St., D.G., in the Main Meeting Room. Reservations are recommended. Register on the library website by clicking “RSVP” next to the concert date, or by calling the library at 630-960-1200. All co-sponsored programs at the library are free and open to the public. *Other DGMC programs are listed elsewhere in the newsletter.

April Program: **The Pharlis James Quartet**, on Sunday, April 7, 2019, at 2:00 p.m., will play Jazz from the American Songbook.

May Program: **Spring Celebration** – Sunday, May 19, 2019, 2:00 p.m. Downers Grove Music Club musicians perform a variety of classical music – solo piano, instrumentals and voice – that celebrates spring.

A Brief Review of the Season So Far:

October Program: **Autumn Tales**, Sunday, October 21, 2018. Downers Grove Music Club musicians presented a program featuring music and folk tales for Autumn. Stephanie Quigley shared Indian legends. Char Ewing, on piano, played two selections from Tchaikovsky’s “The Seasons,” then accompanied Patricia Brindle’s cello rendition of a Dvorak piece. Emily Fallert on flute presented Gottsche-Niessner’s “The Witches’ Dance,” followed by two original

Halloween songs sung by Joyce Tumea, Sharon West, and Marie Gillespie, all wearing witchy-attire. The program concluded with Jim Molina playing Beethoven's piano sonata, "The Tempest." The room was fairly full and the audience, appreciative.

November House Concert, Friday, November 16, 2018. This was the Music Club's 1st fundraising event for the season, and featured a Benefit Concert and a Dessert Reception at Chris Garofalo's home. Performers were Chris Garofalo (piano, harpsichord, clavichord), Dan Moroz (saxophone), Jie Chen (bassoon), and Rober Gordon (oboe). The Music Club raised \$2,430 at this concert. Proceeds fund the Rising Star and College Music Awards given to talented local high school music students.

December Program: Holiday Treasures, Sunday, December 2, 2018. All ages enjoyed Music Club musicians and guests, along with Santa, elves, etc., performing a mix of original and traditional tunes, followed by a sing-along of holiday favorites. William Kundert sang of the Ice King, and Dave Shepherd of "The Grump." Rusty Steiger sang an original, funny version of "We Wish You..." while John Sachanda sang Dean Martin's "Marshmallow World." Marie Gillespie presented "If You Think..."; "A Song of the Spirit of Christmas" by Joyce Tumea and Jann Mochelle, sung by Jann who accompanied herself on piano, had its premiere.

January Program: Suenos Latin-Jazz Quintet, Sunday, January 20, 2019. This program offered stylistic music encompassing Afro-Cuban, Brazilian, Flamenco, Fusion and more, led by Steve Hashimoto.

February Program: Oscar Season, Sunday, February 10, 2019. Downers Grove Music Club musicians performed music featured in past Oscar-winning movies, with works by Schubert and Mozart to Rodgers & Hart, and more. Performers were, on piano: Chris Garofalo Bryan Shilander, and Char Ewing, plus Dennis Smith on clarinet, soprano Pat Smith, the trio of Hannah Edgar, violin, Bob Alter, cello, and Tom Bachtell, piano, followed by the mother-daughter duo of Louise Kelly on piano and Bella Kelly, voice and violin.

March Program: Yvonne Faddis Stroud, Sunday, March 17, 2019. She performed a variety of piano pieces from jazz standards and Broadway musical numbers to patriotic tunes and audience favorites at their request, for a very enjoyable afternoon.

Piano Festival and Competition: This was held Sunday, March 3, 2019, with approximately 80 students participating, under 13 teachers.

2019 Piano Festival Honors Recitals, I and II, March 10, 2019. These recitals featured the 42 piano students who excelled in the 2019 Piano Festival & Competition. *Denotes Honors Award for highest total score at that level. They were:

Festival Level 1 -*Tyler Anderson, Victoria Klys, Libby Hatlen, Mina Kim

Festival Level 2 -*Emmy Zhai, Anisha Kannan, Lucy Higgins, Sophie Maquet

Festival Level 3- *Ryan Mohammadian, Mia Qin, Isaiah Shin, Olivia Norbut

Festival Level 4 - William Gray, Emilia Budas

Festival Level 5 - *Max Zheng, Shawn Chen, Kamran Razi

Junior Competition –Jacqueline Lopez, and Celeste Emery, the Bee Chiswick Memorial Fund \$150 Second Place Award winner. Senior Competition – Andre Emery, and Kelly Yi, winner, D.G. Rotary Club \$500 First Place Award, presented by Dave Humphreys.

Festival Level 1 - Smilte Baranauskaite, Ana Young, Austeja Masyte,

Festival Level 2 - *Ankita Senapati, James Xiao, Dhananjay Parthiban, Aryia Shah

Festival Level 3-*Henry Nyambat, Juliana Norman, Kasey Nguyen, Nicole Nyambat

Festival Level 4- *Angelo Nicholson, Vivian Chen, Izabella Blauzdys

Festival Level 5-Tiffany Tang, Aditya Prashanth

Junior Competition –Miira Dedhia, and Anushree Majumdar, the \$75 Third Place DGMC Fund Award Winner, plus Abigail Gillham, the \$300 First Place DGMC Fund Award winner

Senior Competition- Prarthana Prashanth, and Hanfei He, the Bee Chiswick Memorial Fund \$250 Second Place Award winner

Student Music Awards: Applications are currently being collected and reviewed for the annual Student Music Awards. In the Private String Lesson Music Awards category for 5th, 6th, and 7th graders in the District 58 Orchestra program, 27 students have applied. These students submit a written application indicating their interest in music. Approximately 6 students will be selected for this honor. They will receive a monetary award to pay for a dozen 30- minute lessons with a professional musician.

The Rising Star Music Awards for District 99 High School Juniors are given to recognize multiple District 99 High School Music students for excelling at a high level of achievement. The applicants submit both a written and video application to showcase the depth and breadth of their musicianship. The award recipients are required to perform the following year at the Downers Grove Music Club’s Rising Stars program scheduled annually in April. The award amount is \$400 each.

College Music Awards for District 99 High School Seniors are given to recognize multiple District 99 High School Music students for excelling at a high level of achievement. The applicants submit both a written and video application to showcase the depth and breadth of their musicianship. The award amount is \$1000 each. *All awards will be awarded this spring.

March House Concert: On Fri., March 22, 2019, attendees were treated to performances of: G.F. Handel’s “Air and Variations from Suite No. 5” and other pieces played by Chris Garofalo on Harpsichord or piano; J.S. Bach’s “Suite in B minor BWV 1067” with Francesca Korbitz on Flute, Mauro Giuliani’s “Sei Ariette” (Six Short Love Songs) sung by Angela Korbitz, Soprano, with Ron Korbitz on Guitar; Antonio Vivaldi’s “Violin Concerto in D, Op.3, No. 9,” with Amelia Korbitz, Violin (2018 Rising Star), and Ron Korbitz on Guitar, along with works

by Sibelius, Steven Lutvak, Andrew Lloyd Weber, Herbert Kingsley Flight, and others. Additional performers included soprano Mary Elliott, and countertenor Marty Matutis.

The evening was a great success. Proceeds from this concert were \$1,725. Char Ewing reports that “we have raised a total of \$4,155 from our two House Concerts this year, which will be used to fund Student Music Awards. There were no expenses incurred for these concerts. All performers donate their time, and all food and drink are donated by board members. We are very grateful to Chris Garofalo for opening his home for these events.”

Slate of DGMC Officers: The nominating committee is comprised of Chris Garofalo, chair, plus Dan Moroz and Jan Sleeter. The slate of officers is as follows:

Open Board Positions

President- **Gloria Salazar** (2019 - 2021)

VP Business Development - **Chris Garofalo** (2019 - 2021)

Secretary - **Tom Ewing** (2019 - 2021)

Treasurer - **Janice Sleeter** (2019 - 2020) appointed in 2018

Member-At-Large- **Dan Moroz** (2019 - 2021)

Member-At-Large -**Rich Penner** (2019 - 2020) position from Chris Garofalo. Rich is a new member who has enjoyed our House Concerts and would now like to get more involved..

***Elections** will be held during a short meeting at the May 19 program at the library.

Membership: To pay 2019-‘20 dues, go to: <http://downersgrovemusicclub.org/member.html>, or mail them to Downers Grove Music Club, P.O. Box 551, Downers Grove, IL 60515. Dues collected so far for the current year are \$1,435.

The club welcomes **new members Louise Kelly** and **Glen Osness**. **Louise** has an M.A. in Music Ed., has taught Chorus and General Music K-12, plays piano and accordion in various ensembles, accompanies students on piano, and is a songwriter/ composer/arranger/producer, currently building a private piano studio. **Glen** and his family own Bristol Grove Music Education Center in Plainfield which offers lessons on various instruments. Glen sings baritone/tenor in choir and fills in at the organ/piano as needed at St. Paul's UCC in Downers Grove. He will participate in the Rising Stars concert and the May program.

Six other new members were gained as a result of the DGMC offering membership privileges for the current year: they are **Darene Campbell, Jaina Carpenter, Vielza Concepcion, Dr. Lubov Laura De Valois, Patti Nyien and Rasa Valancius**.

In Memoriam: Audrey Haak: We were saddened to learn that a longtime member, Audrey Haak, passed away in February of 2018. Audrey was known for her lovely singing. She taught both voice and piano privately and both attended and performed at many DGMC programs until recent years. She was 79.

ORGANIZATIONS and EVENTS Calendar:

Acappellago presents: “Another Sentimental Journey,” May 11, 2019, 7:30 p.m. This concert will include a special farewell performance by Acappellago’s founding maestro, Dennis Smith. Check the website for locations and ticket prices: www.acappellago.org or call 708-484-3797.

The D.G. Choral Society will present “Recollections” on Sun., April 28, 2019. All concerts are held at the First United Methodist Church, 1032 Maple Ave., Downers Grove, with a pre-concert talk by Artistic Director Dr. John P. Rakes at 3:15 p.m., followed by the concert at 4:00 p.m. For more information, check the website, www.dgcs.org.

Benefit Piano Concert: Former DG Choral Society Director Robert Holst and his wife Gwen will play piano solos and duets Sunday, April 7, 2019, at 3:00 p.m. at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 23 W 080 Butterfield Rd., Glen Ellyn. The music includes works from Beethoven and Bolcom to Scarlatti and Shostakovich. Free will offerings to benefit St. Luke's will be accepted. A reception will follow. For more information, call 630-964-0651 or 630-854-1551.

Sinfonietta Bel Canto presents its next concert, Puccini Part 3: Gianni Schicchi and “O Mio Babbino Caro,” at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 5, 2019. The performance will take place at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 5211 Carpenter St., Downers Grove, with Dan Pasquale D’Andrea, Artistic Director/Conductor. For more information on this or other upcoming concerts, and to purchase advance tickets, see: www.SinfoniettaBelCanto.org or call 630-384-5007.

West Towns Chorus will present its Spring Concert, “#Harmony–Barbershop, Ever Changing,” at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, May 5, 2019, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Green Trails, 2701 Maple Ave., Lisle. Tickets ages 12 and under are \$11; students pay \$15; general admission is \$20. For information, call 630-201-5544 or visit www.westtowns.org/events/spring-show .

2019-'20 DGMC Program PREVIEW – SAVE the DATE!: Program Chair Char Ewing is *very excited* to announce that there will be a *special program* to open the DG Library/ DG Music Club Concert Series for the 2019 – 2020 season. ***The Alliance Brass Quintet*** will perform **Sunday, Sept. 15, 2019, at 2:00 p.m.** at the Downers Grove Public Library. This **exciting ensemble**, based in the Chicago area, performs all over the country “with a repertoire ranging from the early Renaissance to jazz and beyond.” This September, they will present a concert designed to please a wide audience – “some classics, some Broadway and some music from films. We are very thankful to the Shelby Bulut Memorial Fund for sponsoring this concert,” Ewing stated. **Mark your calendars now!**

Photos of DGMC events can be seen on the website, www.downersgrovemusicclub.org.

*Newsletter edited by Joyce Tumea, Char Ewing, and Gloria Salazar