
DGMC Newsletter

A WEST SUBURBAN NETWORK FOR MUSICIANS AND FRIENDS

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Welcome Back!

President's Message

The Downers Grove Music Club had another successful year last year, thanks to the extraordinary dedication of its members and, in particular, its Board of Directors. Before moving on to the exciting things already happening in our current club year, I would like to summarize our 2014 — 2015 year.

- In November 2014, we held the second annual DGMC fundraiser, **A Notable Celebration of the Arts**. It was well attended with about 90 guests and volunteers. As part of our education process, students were admitted free. The net proceeds increased this year to \$4,400 which fully funded the Rising Stars and College Music Awards in advance of the March 2015 application process.

The evening was charmingly hosted by Elissa Metropoulos. All of the musicians donated their time to perform: Mike Surratt, organ; Jen Leckie, violin; Angela Presutti-Korbitz, soprano, and Chris Garofalo, piano. The program also featured student cellist Tim Edwards accompanied by pianist Justin Sisul. Gloria Salazar chaired the exceptionally bountiful auction with perfect displays. Charlotte and Tom Ewing set up the beautiful reception. Tom's artful photos are posted on the DGMC website.

- Elissa Metropoulos, in her second year as festival chair, administered the Piano Festival & Competition very successfully. Student enrollment and teacher submissions increased to their previous peaks. Approximately 200 guests attended the honors recital. Piano festival awards totaled \$1,225—the Downers Grove Rotary Club's donation of \$450 which funded the first place Senior Festival Award plus \$775 from DGMC to fund the other awards.
- Gloria Salazar, as Education Chair, again seamlessly administered the Rising Stars and College Music Awards' application process, awards presentations and concert.

The Rising Stars concert in April was attended by about 150 guests. Two community ensembles (the Downers Grove Children's Choir Final Forte Choir and the Jefferson Junior High School Jazz Band) were invited to perform. Each group received a \$100 donation from the club.

Also in the spring, seven students were chosen to receive \$4,000 in music awards. Details are on page 3.

- In 2013, a bequest from the Estate of Mildred Drew established the DGMC Mildred and Donald Drew Fund. Part of the bequest was used this year to fund two major projects for the Downers Grove high schools. The balance of the fund is held in an FDIC-insured account.

Downers Grove South High: DGMC donated \$ 5,300 to replace the piano hammers and completely refurbish the key-

board of the school's Yamaha C7 concert piano, purchased a new concert bench and installed a Damp Chaser Humidifier System and cover to help with tuning stability.

Downers Grove North High: DGMC donated \$ 5,550 to purchase two new digital pianos and transport dollies. Through the bidding process, the school chose to purchase the keyboards through Hendricks Pianos—a long time sponsor of DGMC programs.

- Cynthia Jensen continues as club treasurer—maintaining meticulous financial records and filing the federal and state paper work for the club's 501 (c)(3) responsibilities. The records continue to be reviewed annually by a certified public account without correction.
 - Charlotte and Tom Ewing also continue to maintain the club's engaging website. Charlotte continued her multiple roles as the newsletter editor, membership chair and webmaster.
 - Barbara Dickerman chaired the nominating committee and the board elections went smoothly in April with all of the candidates voted in unanimously.
- Election highlights include Sarah Flanagan returning to the board as the new Member-at-Large and Michael Surratt assuming the position of Vice President of Artistic Development. Our full slate of officers is listed on page 2.
- Membership decreased slightly this year, but was higher than anticipated. The club continues to operate on a balanced budget.
 - DGMC members continue to provide engaging monthly performance programs. As in the past, attendance at these events consists mainly of the performers and a few other DGMC members.

For this coming year, the board will focus on increasing attendance at the monthly member programs. The plan for 2015-2016 is to find a venue that will help increase attendance from the community for these fine programs. More about that on page 2.

For 2014-2015, DGMC funded student music awards totaling \$4,975 and also provided \$10,850 in assistance to the Downers Grove high schools through the DGMC Mildred and Donald Drew Fund. This is a remarkable total of \$15,825 in support of music programs in the Downers Grove community this year.

The dedicated board of the Downers Grove Music Club has achieved many goals this year and will continue to work for growth in programming, visibility, educational music awards and community events in 2015-2016.

Chris Garofalo

An Exciting Start to the 2015–2016 Season!

DGMC has donated a new grand piano to the Downers Grove Public Library. We now have a permanent venue for meetings and the beginning of a partnership with the library to further enrich the musical life of our community.

The first program of our season will be held on **Tuesday, October 6 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Downers Grove Public Library, 1050 Curtiss St. There will be a short dedication ceremony for the new Feurich Concert I grand piano, which the DGMC is donating to the library, followed by a concert of music chosen especially to show off the new piano (see page 3 for details). Library Board members will join us in celebrating our grand new piano. We hope many of you will join us as well.

The decision to donate the piano came out of summer board discussions on how to improve attendance at our monthly club programs. The board felt it's important to host all regular club meetings at a central location that is available during evening meetings and likely to attract non-members to our programs. As a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, part of DGMC's work is investing in arts programs in the Downers Grove community.

With both these goals in mind, the board researched the possibility of using money from the DGMC Mildred and Donald Drew Fund to purchase and then donate a grand piano to the Downers Grove Public Library. After careful consideration and much discussion with the library board, the DGMC board voted to proceed with the donation, deciding that it would be a great investment not only for DGMC, but for the Library Concert Series and the community at large.

This donation provides a concert instrument for use in the library, a permanent location for DGMC concerts that seats an audience of 100 and offers ample parking. The library location also lends itself to community programs including concerts, student recitals, and the library's current concert series, which Library Director Rick Ashton indicated could be expanded with a good instrument in place.

As a 501(c)3 nonprofit, the DGMC has worked over the past two years to expand its donations beyond the Student Music Awards, which are now funded through proceeds from our annual benefit. The donations to the two high schools last year were the first major DGMC community donations. Donating a grand piano to the library provides a long-term benefit for the Downers Grove Music Club and the Downers Grove community at large by enriching the musical life of our community.

The search for a piano

Sarah Flanagan, Michael Surratt and Chris Garofalo formed a Piano Search Committee to determine the feasibility of purchasing a piano 6-feet, 6-inches or larger within a \$25,000 budget. They researched eight different pianos at several different dealers.

On August 24, the committee unanimously recommended the purchase of a new 7-foot, 2-inch Feurich Model 218 Concert I Grand Piano to donate to the library. The cost of the instrument is within budget at \$24,950 and includes a cover, dolly, artist bench and delivery, as well as a \$5,000 reduction off the original price of \$30,000 and a \$2,000

adjustment for the trade-in of the current library piano, a Yamaha U3 upright donated to the library by DGMC in 1982. The Feurich Grand comes with a 10-year warranty.

The Feurich Concert I piano was developed in France by Clair and Stephen Paulello and features stainless Paulello-string-wire, uniquely constructed hammer heads by Renner of Stuttgart and AA-rated quality felts from the Wurzen factory. The sound board is made by Tonewood in Austria. The piano is manufactured in China.

The Feurich Concert I also has a new invention, a fourth pedal on the right side, known as the Pédal Harmonique. When the pedal is pressed halfway all strings associated with un-played notes remain un-dampened, allowing the sympathetic harmonics from the un-dampened strings to resonate. When playing short notes, the effect is similar to the resonance of a concert hall. When fully depressed, the pedal functions like a standard damper pedal. The three pedals on the left are standard grand piano pedals: soft pedal, sostenuto pedal, and damper pedal.

FEURICH



Mod. 218 - Concert I

The DGMC 2015-2016 Board of Directors

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| President: | Chris Garofalo |
| VP of Artistic Development: | Michael Surratt |
| VP of Business Development: | Gloria Salazar |
| Treasurer: | Cynthia Jensen |
| Secretary: | Jennifer Leckie |
| Member-At-Large: | Charlotte Ewing |
| Member-At-Large: | Sarah Flanagan |

Note: Volunteers are still needed for Historian, Social and Education Chairs. If interested or for more information, please contact Chris Garofalo at president@downersgrovemusicclub.org or 630-968-7649.

Program

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

7:00 p.m.

Downers Grove Public Library

Parking is available in both the library parking lot and the commuter lot across Burlington Avenue. Concert is in the North Meeting Room, which is just inside the parking lot entrance.

Clair de Lune

Claude Debussy

Incitation to Desire

Chester Biscardi

Chris Garofalo, Piano

Sonata for Clarinet and Piano

Leonard Bernstein

Dennis Smith, Clarinet

Thomas Zoells, Piano

Prelude in B-flat Major Op. 28, No. 21

Frédéric Chopin

Novette No. 1 in C Major

Francis Poulenc

Sarah Flanagan, Piano

Though Love Be a Day

Gwyneth Walker

Thy Fingers Make Early Flowers (text) E.E. Cummings

Lily has a Rose E.E. Cummings

After All White Horses are in Bed E.E. Cummings

Maggie and Millie and Molly and May E.E. Cummings

Still Gwyneth Walker

Henry Pleas, Tenor

Chris Garofalo, Piano

Three Preludes

George Gershwin

1. Allegro ben ritmato e deciso

2. Andante con moto e poco rubato

3. Allegro ben ritmato e deciso

Alice Cummings, Piano

In Memoriam

Our condolences go out to the family of Ed Hendricks, 91, who died August 27 in Tennessee. Ed was the owner of Hendricks Pianos, which has provided DGMC with much support over the years. No date for a local memorial service has yet been set. In lieu of flowers, the family has asked for gifts to the Alzheimer's Association.

Thank You's

Thank you to Barbara Dickerman who has completed her tenure as Historian. Thank you, also, to Anthony Tumea, CPA, for once again taking the time to conduct a fiscal review of the club's records. He has given us (and especially our treasurer, Cindy Jensen) a very favorable review.

2015 Music Awards

Last spring, DGMC presented five \$400 Rising Stars Awards and two \$1,000 College Music Awards. All monies presented to these students were raised at the fall 2014 fundraiser.

Winners were announced at the 2015 Awards Assemblies held at Downers Grove South and Downers Grove North high schools.

The Rising Stars are DGS students Gabrielle Henderson, piano and voice; Tiffany Leung, piano and cello; Akila Shanmugham, piano and voice and DGN students Timothy Edwards, cello; Amelia Smerz, cello and trombone.

College Music Award recipients are DGS senior Samuel Tedeschi, tuba, acoustic and electric bass and DGN senior Allison Kirkegaard, piano, voice and cello

Congratulations to all winners! We look forward to hearing our Rising Stars on the DGMC program, April 5,

Dear Downers Grove Music Club,

Thank you for your generosity in awarding me a College Music Award. It has been a pleasure to play for the DGMC over the years through the annual piano festival. I look forward to continuing my musical studies at Pomona College in the fall with your support.

Thank you,

Allison Kirkegaard

DGMC Annual Membership Dues

With the start of a new season, it is time to collect annual membership dues. Dues are : \$30 (Individual), \$35 (Family), \$10 (Student) and \$60 (Ensemble or Organization).

Please bring your payment to the October program. Our dues are the main source of income for our operating costs. Upon payment of your annual dues, you will receive the DGMC Membership Directory, which includes the new password to the "members only" features of the website.

You may also renew your membership by completing the attached *Dues / Donor / Sponsor Form* and mailing it with payment to: DGMC, P.O. Box 551, Downers Grove, IL 60515. Checks should be made payable to the *Downers Grove Music Club*.

PERFORMERS are needed for programs on December 1, February 2, March 1 and May 3. If you are willing to play please email or call Michael Surratt at msurratt@sbcglobal.net or 630-209-0149.

A Notable Celebration of the Arts

It's not too early to reserve

Saturday, November 14, 2015

for

“A Notable Celebration of the Arts”



Dessert Reception ...

Catered by J. Fleming's *Absolutely Delicious*



What a bargain at \$30!

Proceeds support the Rising Stars and College Music awards

This year's concert will be hosted by

Elissa Metropoulos

and will feature performances by

Amelia Smerz, cello
(2015 Rising Star Award winner)

Angela Presutti Korbitz, soprano

Ron Korbitz, guitar

Jennifer Leckie, violin

Chris Garofalo, piano

Silent Auction...



Donate to the Silent Auction! Thanks to everyone who contributed to last year's auction. The concert tickets, CDs, hand made items, framed photography, lessons, performances, food, wine & beer and many more items were much appreciated and generated much of the profit. To donate items for this year's event contact Gloria Salazar at glsalazar@sbcglobal.net or 630-968-8997.

Tickets for “A Notable Celebration of the Arts” can be purchased online at www.downersgrovemusicclub.org. Click on the *Notable* icon on the left side of the screen or on the banner at the top of the home page to register.

Tickets also will be available for purchase at our October program or by calling Charlotte Ewing at 630-985-8472.

Tickets are \$30 if purchased in advance and \$35 if purchased after Nov. 10. Full-time college students will be admitted for just \$10 and youth 18 years or younger are free when accompanied by an adult.