

Downers Grove Music Club

Fostering a vibrant musical arts community through free public concerts, student education programs, and making investments that strengthen musical arts development in our schools and community.

Vol. 28 No. 1

Downers Grove Music Club Newsletter

September 2019

Welcome to a new concert season!

Thanks to the Shelby Bulut Memorial Fund, we are pleased to open our new season with the nationally acclaimed Alliance Brass, an exciting Chicago-based ensemble, which will present *Music of the Stage and Screen on Sunday, September 15, 2019 at 2:00 pm.* The free concert will be held at the Downers Grove Public Library (see program insert on page 5). Additional details can also be found on our website.



We are looking forward to another special treat just in time for Halloween that combines music and drama. With the generous support of the Shelby Bulut Memorial Fund and Downers Grove Public Library, we are pleased to bring to our series soprano Mary Elliott and actress Megan Wells to perform *The Canterville Ghost* on October 13th. Piano accompaniment will be provided *gratis* by music club member Chris Garofalo. The performance will be held at the Downers Grove Public Library and is free to the public.

2019-2020 Concert Schedule

A preliminary schedule for the 2019-2020 Concert Series co-hosted by DGMC and the DG Library is available (page 4 of this newsletter and online). The library has not yet finalized the dates and artists to be featured for the months of January, March and April in 2020. The schedule will be updated online as these become available.

The Music Club is responsible for the programs on February 9th and May 17th in 2020. The themes for these programs have not been finalized. If you are interested

in performing at either of these concerts, please contact Charlotte Ewing at charewing@aol.com or 630-985-8472. This will help us choose program themes for February and May.

Rising Stars and College Music Awards

This spring, two Downers North High School juniors (shown in photos below from left to right), Miles Teague



(French horn) and Emilija Irvin (bassoon), were awarded \$400 Rising Star Awards; the \$1,000 College Music Awards were awarded to Downers North High School seniors Lucie Boyd (viola) and Ameila Korbitz (violin); and Downers South seniors Carson Aldrich (trombone) and Kelly Jankowski (trumpet) were presented \$500 Honorable Mention awards.

Tom Ewing made the music club award presentations at Downers Grove South High School on May 7th, while Gloria Salazar handled the presentations at Downers Grove North High School on May 8th. Congratulations to all award recipients.

Private Lesson Awards

Downers Grove Music Club presented six Private Lesson Awards to students enrolled in District 58 elementary and middle schools in the Orchestra program. The awards are made to highly motivated students to expand their school string instruction with private lessons. The award recipients for the 2018-2019 season were:

- Abigail DeCicco – 5th grade, viola
- Lena Baker – 6th grade, violin
- Hunter Erickson – 7th grade, violin
- Samuel Brockway – 5th grade, cello
- Taylor Bakula – 5th grade, violin
- Vincent Iacovetti – 6th grade, viola

Generous support of these awards is made possible by the *Shelby Bulut Memorial Fund*.

Membership Reminder

Membership renewals are due now for the new club season. All our support for our free public concerts and music education programs comes from generous donations and membership dues, so please renew promptly and consider making an extra donation. Memberships are individuals \$30, family \$35, ensemble/org \$60, and student \$10. Member directories will be available on October 13th.

DGMC Board Election

An election was held at end of our concert on May 19, 2019 to elect our board. Many thanks for your commitment to serve! The DGMC board members for the new season are:

- President – Gloria Salazar (2019 - 2021)
- VP Artistic Development – Charlotte Ewing (2018 - 2020)
- VP Business Development – Chris Garofalo (2019 - 2021)
- Secretary – Tom Ewing (2019 - 2021)
- Treasurer – Janice Sleeter (2019 - 2020)
- Member-At-Large – Dan Moroz (2019 - 2021)
- Member-At-Large – Rich Penner (2019 - 2020)

2020 Piano Festival & Competition

Here are key dates for the 2020 Piano Festival & Competition:

Entry forms due: February 7, 2020 (no extensions!)

Festival and Competition (all students): Sunday, March 8, 2020, Community United Methodist Church, 20 Center Street, Naperville

Honors Recitals (selected students): Sunday, March 15, 2020 at 1:30 pm and 3:00 pm, Downers Grove Library

We owe a large debt of gratitude to Christine and Ron Paryl, who are stepping down as the official co-chairs of the Piano Festival & Competition. They have worked tirelessly in the past and have done much to streamline the work behind the scenes required to host the festival, notably by moving the entire application process online. Fortunately, they will still be involved to ensure the 2020 festival runs smoothly.

There have been a few changes in the rules effective for this and future festivals. A committee was formed to create a new “required” repertoire list that includes a variety of music while keeping the level of difficulty consistent within each level. Both selections performed by a student must now be chosen from this required repertoire list; special requests for alternate selections will no longer be considered. In addition, there will now be two judges hearing each student at the Competition Level. Finally, the age limit for the Junior Competition has been removed; students in this level may be any age level up to a senior in high school. Complete Entry Requirements and the new *List of Required Compositions* are posted online.

Online registrations will be open November 15, 2019 through February 7, 2020. At the end of July, an email announcing the 2020 Piano Festival and Competition was sent to piano teachers who have participated in this event during the last two years. Those teachers received the new repertoire list.

Many thanks to Christine Paryl, Glen Osness, Donna Kovarik and Gloria Salazar for all their effort putting together this new, expanded list.

Rising Stars Concert showcases talented student performers

The Rising Stars recital concert held earlier this year on April 2nd was well-attended and provided a wonderful evening of music. It was exciting to hear so many talented young people.

All three 2018 Rising Star award winners performed (see photos at right): Amelia Korbitz (violin), top right, Kelly Jankowski (trumpet), middle right, and Lucie Boyd (viola), bottom right, showcased strong performances.

In addition, four recipients of other DGMC awards performed: two student recipients of Private Lesson Awards in 2018, Jack Sifuentes (viola) and Pallavi Fisher (violin), and the first-place winners of both the Junior and Senior levels of the 2019 Piano Competition, Abigail Gillham and Kelly Yi, respectively.



Dickerman on piano, Emily Fallert on flute, and Glen Osness on piano.



Top, left to right: Will Thomen and Dennis Smith. Bottom, left to right: Pat Smith with Bryan Shilander on piano, and Bella Kelly.

Dennis Smith (clarinet) and Pat Smith (vocal), with piano accompaniment by Bryan Shilander, gave a fine farewell performance in advance of their retirement move to a warmer climate. DGMC wishes Pat and Dennis a happy and healthy retirement and thanks them for many years of service and support to the music club.

Bella and Louise Kelly closed the program with a powerful performance of Franck's *Sonata in A major for Violin and Piano*. We wish Bella well as she leaves for college to complete her music degree.

The well-attended program ended our DGMC concert season and was followed by a short business meeting for the election of officers. Many thanks to all the performers, DGMC officers, members, and our many supporters that made 2018-2019 another great year for Downers Grove Music Club.



O'Neill Middle School Chamber Strings.

Other outstanding young people in our community who performed were the O'Neill Middle School Chamber Strings and Mackenzie McGuire (voice), the winner of the 2019 IHSA Solo and Ensemble Contest Perfect Score and Best of Room Awards.

Spring Celebration concert

The DGMC Spring Concert provided welcome relief from the late arrival of the spring season, with wonderful performances from tenor Will Thomen, Barbara

New member welcomed

DGMC welcomes our newest member, the West Towns Chorus. This chorus is well-known in our area as a premier men's a cappella chorus. The chorus has presented a program in the library's Concert Series for many years and individual members have joyfully participated in our annual DGMC's holiday programs. This year will be their 28th year of presenting a grand Christmas Show. Their Christmas Shows will be held on December 7th and 14th at Living Water Community Church in Bolingbrook.

2019-2020 CONCERT SERIES

Downers Grove Public Library, 1050 Curtiss Street, DG 60515

Sunday, September 15, 2019 — 2:00 p.m. — *Music of the Stage and Screen*

The nationally acclaimed **Alliance Brass Quintet**, an exciting ensemble based in the Chicago area, opens the 2019-2020 Concert Series with an hour-long program of movie and stage classics sure to please everyone.

Sunday, October 13, 2019 — 2:00 p.m. — *The Canterville Ghost*

Join us for a Halloween treat, filled with humor, music and a bit of vaudeville. Jeff Award-winning actress Megan Wells tells the story of Oscar Wilde's *The Canterville Ghost*, enhanced by music of the period performed by pianist Chris Garofalo and soprano Mary Elliott.

Sunday, November 17, 2019 — 2:00 p.m. — *West Towns Chorus*

One of Chicago area's premier men's choruses performs a cappella barbershop favorites.

Sunday, December 1, 2019 — 2:00 p.m. — *Holiday Treasures*

Adults and children will enjoy a delightful hour as Downers Grove Music Club musicians and friends perform lively seasonal music, concluding with a sing-along of holiday favorites.

January, 2020 — 2:00 p.m. — DGPL - TBD

Sunday, February 9, 2020 — 2:00 p.m. — DGMC

March, 2020 — 2:00 p.m. — DGPL — TBD

April, 2020 — 2:00 p.m. — DGPL — TBD

Sunday, May 17, 2020 — 2:00 p.m. — DGMC

SPECIAL EVENTS

Fall House Concert

Friday, November 15, 2019 — 7:30 p.m.

The first of two fundraising events featuring a Benefit Concert and Dessert Reception at a private home. All proceeds are used to fund the Rising Star and College Music Awards given to talented local high school music students. This is a ticketed event with limited seating. Tickets are \$35.

Spring House Concert

Friday, March 20, 2020 — 7:30 p.m.

Our second fundraising event for the season features a Benefit Concert and Dessert Reception at a private home. All proceeds are used to fund the Rising Star and College Music Awards given to talented local high school music students. This is a ticketed event with limited seating. Tickets are \$35.

2020 Piano Festival & Competition

Sunday, March 8, 2020

Community United Methodist Church, 20 Center Street, Naperville

Well-established, adjudicated event open to piano students in Downers Grove and its surrounding communities.

Piano Festival Honors Recitals

Sunday, March 15, 2020 — 1:30 & 3:00 p.m.

Downers Grove Public Library, 1050 Curtiss Street, DG

Recitals featuring the piano students who excelled at the 2020 Piano Festival and Competition.

Rising Stars Concert

Wednesday, April 8, 2020 — 7:00 p.m.

Downers Grove Public Library, 1050 Curtiss Street, DG

An exciting concert featuring the 2019 Rising Star recipients, 2020 Piano Competition winners and other talented young musicians in the Downers Grove community.

Student thank you notes

Thank you notes were recently received from (below, left to right) Rising Star Award recipient Emilija Irvin, and Private Lesson Award recipients Claire Foster, Vincent Lacovetti, and Sam Brockway. See full-size notes [here](#).



Presented by the Downers Grove Public Library / Downers Grove Music Club Concert Series

ALLIANCE BRASS



Amy Nelson, trumpet, Chris O'hara, trumpet, James Langenberg, tuba,
Steven Duncan, trombone and Kelly Langenberg, horn

Music of the Stage and Screen

Sunday, September 15, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

Downers Grove Public Library

1050 Curtiss Street, Downers Grove

The nationally acclaimed Alliance Brass, an exciting ensemble based in the Chicago area, opens the 2019 – 2020 Concert Series with selections from

- ♪ *West Side Story* ... Leonard Bernstein
- ♪ *Star Wars* ... John Williams
- ♪ *Russian Sailor's Dance* ... Rheinhold Gliere
- ♪ *Simple Gifts* ... Aaron Copland
- ♪ *Bohemian Rhapsody* ... Freddie Mercury
- ♪ *76 Trombones* ... Meredith Wilson
- ♪ *Bare Necessities* ... Terry Gilkyson
- ♪ *20th Century Fox Fanfare* ... Alfred Newman
- ♪ *Moon River* ... Henry Mancini
- ♪ *Fistful of Dollars* ... Ennio Morricone
- ♪ *Somewhere over the Rainbow* ... Harold Arlen

The concert is free, but reservations are recommended. You may register on the Events Page of the library website <http://dglibrary.org/events> or by calling the library at 630-960-1200.

ORGANIZATIONS and EVENTS

Downers Grove Choral Society begins its 61st season. For more information, visit www.dgcs.org.

Grant Street String Quartet: This quartet was formed in 2010 by four professional musicians in the western suburban area of Chicago. For more info, visit <http://www.grantstreetstringquartet.weebly.com>.

PianoForte Studios: **Thomas Zoells**, Director, and Owner of the PianoForte Chicago piano store. Visit <https://pianofortechicago.com/concerts-events/> for information on upcoming piano concerts at the PianoForte Studios, 1335 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago. You can also call for information at (312) 291-0000.

Sinfonietta Bel Canto: with Dan Pasquale D'Andrea, Artistic Director/Conductor, presents Beethoven's *Symphony No. 1* and talented contestants from the latest SBC Voice Competition at 3 p.m. on Sunday, September 29, 2019. Concert will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 5211 Carpenter St., Downers Grove. For more info & advance tickets, visit www.SinfoniettaBelCanto.org or call 630-384-5007.

West Towns Chorus: Chartered in 1948, the group is one of the premier men's a cappella choruses in the Chicago area. For more information, please visit www.westtowns.org.

*Downers Grove
Music Club*

P.O. Box 551, Downers Grove, IL 60515

DGMC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit musical arts organization.