

Welcome back!

A message from the DGMC president

In the 2015-2016 season, the Downers Grove Music Club Board of Directors focused on the club's monthly programs. The intent was to increase awareness of our programs and attendance for these events. We successfully achieved this goal by scheduling the majority of the programs at the Downers Grove Public Library and purchasing and donating a concert grand piano to the library for use by DGMC and the community at large.

In the past, programs were attended by the performers and a handful of DGMC members. Last year, the programs held at the library--which were coordinated by 2016-17 Vice President of Artistic Development Mike Surratt--were attended by 30 to 70 people in addition to the performers and regular members.

As a non-profit organization, part of the DGMC's work is investing in arts programs in the community. Last fall, the club purchased a new 7-foot-2-inch Feurich Model 218 Concert I Grand Piano and donated the instrument, artist bench, duet bench, cover, dolly and music stands to the library. Our board had been looking for a venue in central Downers Grove to host the club's monthly performance programs and decided that donating the piano to the library would be a great investment not only for DGMC, but for the Library Music Series and the community at large. Beginning with the 2016-2017 season, DGMC programs will be integrated and publicized as part of the Library Music Series, with the goal of further increasing attendance at all programs. We believe the partnership will enrich the musical life of our community for years to come.

In November 2015, the third annual DGMC benefit concert, auction and reception fundraiser, *A Notable Celebration of the Arts*, was well attended. As part of our education process, students continue to be admitted to this event for free. The net proceeds increased to over \$5,000, which fully funded the Rising Stars and College Music Awards in advance of the March 2016 application process, with funds left over to help support next year's awards.

The evening was charmingly hosted by **Elissa Metropoulos**. All of the musicians donated their time to perform: **Renée Gauthier**, violin; **Angela Presutti Korbitz**, soprano; **Ron Korbitz**, guitar; Rising Star **Amelia Smerz**, cello, and **Chris Garofalo**, piano. **Gloria Salazar** again chaired the exceptionally bountiful auction with eye-catching displays. **Cynthia Jensen** and **Charlotte and Tom Ewing**, along with their extended family, arranged the beautiful reception. Tom's artful photos of the event are posted [on the DGMC website](#).

Also in Fall 2015, the family of Downers Grove resident **Shelby Bullut** donated \$27,000 to the DGMC as a memorial gift in honor of their mother. Mrs. Bullut was a local musician, and her family felt that DGMC's free monthly programs, student music awards and donations to the high schools and the library reflect their mother's interests and spirit. This level of donation from a family previously not associated with the club is a testament to the success of the DGMC programs and outreach over the past three years.

For 2015-2016, the DGMC provided an extraordinary total of \$30,800 in support of music programs in the Downers Grove community.

In other news, **Cynthia Jensen** completed her final year as club treasurer in advance of a planned out-of-town move. As a bank senior vice president, she maintained meticulous financial records and filed federal and state paper work to fulfill the club's 501 (c)3 responsibilities. The records continue to be reviewed annually by a certified public account without correction. **Kristina Phelps**, an accountant, was elected as the new club treasurer in May.

Charlotte and Tom Ewing continue to maintain the club's engaging website. For 2016-2017, **the Ewings** are working on creating a way to store the historical records online. In addition, Charlotte continues as membership chair and webmaster and added a new role as Vice President of Artistic Development after the spring elections. We are all grateful for her and her family's dedication to DGMC.

Elaine Cook did a terrific job as the Newsletter Editor this year, updating the process for creating and distributing the letter through the Mail Chimp email service.

Membership increased last year and the club continues to operate on a balanced budget. **Cathy Lou Pearson**, a new DGMC member, was appointed club Secretary.

Elissa Metropoulos administered the Piano Festival very successfully in her third and final year as festival chair. Enrollment and teacher submissions increased again, with the festival serving 129 students. Elissa will be missed as she is moving out of town. **Christine and Ron Paryl** will co-chair the 2017 festival.

Gloria Salazar, as Education Chair, seamlessly administered the Rising Stars and College Music Awards' application process, awards presentations and concert. This program and the piano festival concerts are always well attended.

Last year, the DGMC chose eight students to receive \$4,600 in music awards: Four \$400 Rising Stars Awards, two \$1,000 College Music Awards, and two \$500 College Award honorable mentions. In addition, the piano festival awards from the DGMC totaled \$705, plus the **Downers Grove Rotary Club's** donation of \$450 which funded the first place Senior Festival Award. Two community ensembles that performed at the Rising Stars program, the O'Neill Chamber Strings and the Eisenhower Jazz Band, each received \$100 donations from the club.

The club bylaws were revised in the spring, with the changes approved unanimously by the membership in attendance. The changes included adding financial control procedures and clarifying outdated language.

Sarah Flanagan chaired the 2015-16 nominating committee and the Board elections went smoothly, with all of the candidates elected unanimously. One At-Large position remains unfilled. This summer, there were several changes on the board level, as Sarah moved out of town and **Jen Leckie** was unable to continue as Secretary. Their dedication and contributions will be missed. Per the bylaws, two positions have now been appointed, with **Cathy Lou Pearson** as Secretary and **Jen Leckie** as the At-Large member. One At-Large position remains open; please contact Charlotte Ewing, chair of the 2016-17 nominating committee, to recommend members to serve on the board.

The focus of DGMC for 2016-2017 will be on **volunteers!** Among the Board positions that still need to be filled are the At Large position and Social, Membership, and Education Chairs. There also is a possibility of expanding the Rising Stars and College Awards process to other schools--but we need volunteers to administer that program. We also need a member, ideally whoever fills the At-Large board position, to look into the DGMC sponsoring a concert at the Fishel Band Shell next summer. Sponsoring this program was of interest to the Bullet family.

The DGMC's dedicated board members achieved many goals over the past year and with your help will continue to work for growth in programming, visibility, educational music awards and community events in 2016-2017.

Best regards,

Chris Garofalo
President

Composer and sax teacher is newest DGMC member

Welcome to new member Dan Moroz of Westmont, a published composer, active performer and saxophone teacher with more than 13 years of experience. Dan holds a B.A. in Music Theory and Composition from Elmhurst College and an M.M. in Saxophone Performance from DePaul.

DGMC monthly programs to be integrated into DG Public Library Concert Series

A year after the Downers Grove Music Club and the Downers Grove Public Library forged a partnership to enhance community musical offerings, the DGMC's monthly programs are being incorporated into the library's longstanding Concert Series. The series kicks off with a concert of patriotic music at 2 p.m., Sunday, September 11. For a complete list of Concert Series programs, visit www.downersgrovelibrary.org.

During the 2016-17 season, four of the club's regular programs will appear as part of the DGPL/DGMC Concert Series, including three on Sunday afternoons. Themes and dates for the DGMC concerts are:

- "Music Fest" at 7 p.m., Tuesday, October 11
- Winter Wonderland--Concert and Sing-Along" at 2 p.m., Sunday, December 4, featuring seasonal favorites.
- "Love is in the Air" at 2 p.m., Sunday, February 12, featuring classical love songs and instrumentals.
- "A Pairing of the Arts" at 2 p.m., Sunday, May 7, featuring songs inspired by book characters, settings and time periods.

All Concert Series programs will be held in the first floor meeting room. Additional DGMC programs will include:

- the annual fundraiser "A Notable Celebration of the Arts" on November 5
- the Piano Festival Honors Recitals on March 19
- the Rising Stars concert on April 4.

Club musicians interested in performing in any of the programs can contact Charlotte Ewing, Vice President of Artistic Development, at charewing@aol.com or 630-251-0945.

'Notable Celebration of the Arts' set for Nov. 5

The fourth annual *Notable Celebration of the Arts* will be held November 5 at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 1047 Curtiss St., Downers Grove. The event, which features a benefit concert, dessert reception catered by J. Fleming's Absolutely Delicious and silent auction, is the DGMC's main fundraiser.

Featured musicians will include Angela Presutti Korbitz, Amelia Korbitz, Jim Molina, Chris Garofalo and 2016 Rising Star Scholarship recipient Brianna Imgruet.

As in previous years, the club expects the *Notable Celebration of the Arts* to fully fund the \$4,400 earmarked by the club for its annual College Music Awards and Rising Star Scholarships. Tickets will be \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. Tickets may be purchased on the DGMC website beginning in October.

DGMC presents College Music Awards, Rising Star Scholarships to 8 students

Eight Downers Grove high school juniors and seniors received Rising Star Scholarships and College Music Awards in ceremonies at their schools in May.

Two North High seniors were named College Music Award winners, with each receiving a \$1,000 scholarship. They are Timothy Edwards, cello, and Amelia Smerz, cello and trombone. DGN seniors Megan Hung, clarinet and piano, and Liam Morgan, cello, both received \$500 Honorable Mention awards.

Rising Star winners each received a \$400 scholarship to attend a summer camp or other musical program. They are DGN students Elise Cismesia, soprano, and Maria D'Ambrose, oboe and piano, and DGS students Brianna Imgruet, trumpet, and Kristina Mucha, clarinet and tenor saxophone.

May 3, 2016

photos by Tom Ewing



To view the complete set of photos taken at our program on May 3rd, please visit the Photo Archives on www.downersgrovemusicclub.org

Organizations and Events

Acappellago: Dennis Smith, director. Visit www.Acappellago.org or phone (708)484-3797 ext 2.

Cantores Community Choir: This non-audition group is open to anyone high school age and older who enjoys singing, wants to learn more about music and wants to perform a wide range of musical styles and genres. Under the direction of Belford Hernandez, this choir performs a wide variety of four-part musical literature and styles. Cantores Community Choir is a member of DGMC. For more information, call (630)999-1190 or visit www.cantorescc.org.

Downers Grove Choral Society: 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. It is based in Downers Grove and is a member of DGMC. For more information, please visit www.grantstreetstringquartet.weebly.com.

Pianoforte Foundation: Thomas Zoells, executive director, and owner of the PianoForte Chicago piano store. Visit www.pianofortefoundation.org for information on upcoming piano concerts. At noon on the first Friday of every month, listen to the Pianoforte Salon Series Live on WFMT 98.7 FM or enjoy the live performance at the new home of PianoForte Studios, 1335 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago.

Sinfonietta Bel Canto: Dan Pasquale D'Andrea, director. Concerts are held at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 5211 Carpenter St., DG. Individual tickets are available at the door. Single tickets are \$22 adults, \$19 seniors and \$7 students under 21, children six and under free (\$2 discount for advanced purchases). For more details, visit www.SinfoniettaBelCanto.org or call 630-384-5007.

"Hidden Gems" will be presented at **3 p.m. Sunday, October 2**. The concert will feature Beethoven's "Fidelio," Lalo's "Le Roi d'Ys Overture," Rossini's "Barber of Seville" and opera vocal selections by Mozart, Puccini, Verdi, Lehar, Gounod, Donizetti and Cilea. Angela Presutti Korbitz, Celeste Martino and Renee Roscoe Morrison, soprano; Carolyn Stark, mezzo; Edward Brennan, tenor; and Randolph Montijo, baritone, will perform.

Village Voices: This group was founded in 2006 by Director Marilyn Wilgocki. It includes 32 singers. Their music includes spirituals, gospel tunes, jazz, Broadway show songs, folk music and other lighthearted choral music. For further information contact Marilyn at 630-971-1594 or visit www.villagevoicesdg.org.

The Downers Grove Music Club is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization.

Our mailing address is:
P.O. Box 551, Downers Grove, IL 60515

www.downersgrovemusicclub.org