

Spring break is special this year

All season long we have been streaming quality music performances to the public from our DGMC website, with a new virtual concert introduced each Sunday. In addition to our regular concert activities, spring has traditionally been a time for our DGMC-supported student recitals, such as the Piano Festival and Competition Honors Recital and the Rising Stars Concert. As with our concert season, all student events needed to be held virtually this year due to the Covid pandemic.

Frankly, after reviewing the numerous student video performances submitted for judging in the 2021 piano festival and competition, compiling these into a virtual recital caused a bit of an epiphany – **we were wowed, and we think you will be too when you view these amazing youth performances.** In fact, we were so impressed that it inspired us to take a spring break from our concert season to highlight these fantastic student musicians.

Starting with the 2021 Piano Festival & Competition recitals that we released March 21st, and continuing through all of April with performances from our 2020 Rising Stars, we think you will find these young performers very special. As we have mentioned in past newsletters, the Covid pandemic has created some silver linings, such as the wider audience we have been reaching with our virtual concerts. We think showcasing these incredible student performances to a broad public audience is another. You will not want to



miss these amazing events now streaming on our DGMC website! We will have more information about our student musicians later in this newsletter and on our website.

Of course, our student education programs would not be possible without the generous support of our music

club members and friends. We will hold the second of our fundraising events, the DGMC Spring Benefit Concert, on April 16th. We have detailed information about this benefit concert later in this issue as well as online. Please

generously support our benefit concert; 100% of your donations go to our student music education programs. We hope once you take a look at our streaming youth concerts, you'll understand why DGMC has always been so passionate about supporting student music education in our community.

As we approach the end of our 2020-2021 concert season, there is light at the end of the tunnel for some return to normalcy. While we have embraced technology to fully and successively conduct our usual scope of activities, we look forward to the time we can again meet face-to-face and share our passion for music together as a community. In the meantime, we encourage you to stay connected with us through membership, and please share what's on your mind via email, our website contact form, or through Facebook. We'd love to hear from you. 🎵

Piano Festival & Competition

Thanks to much hard work behind the scenes by the DGMC board and festival chairs, teachers and students, the 2021 Piano Festival and Competition was a great success! Particular credit needs to be given to Gloria Salazar and Christine and Ron Paryl for their enormous effort to organize this event.



Due to the pandemic, we were forced to adapt to a new, virtual environment, but with the difficulties came new opportunities. Seventy-five students participated in the event and the quality was overall very high. The best part is that everyone now has a chance to see the students who were selected for the Honors Recitals. If you haven't already done so, please check out these recitals, streaming now online. **They are AMAZING!**

The experience of conducting this festival and competition as a virtual event revealed some benefits. Without the usual time constraints of an in-person event, our judges had the luxury to take more time when needed to write constructive advice for each student. Ron and Christine Paryl, who moved to New Hampshire this fall, were still able to contribute their expert help in running

the festival remotely. Christine was also still able to judge and even enter her students who live in the Downers Grove area. Because all student music entries were submitted as recorded videos, one of our teachers was able to enter three students who live overseas – one in the UK and two brothers in Singapore!

During a live zoom awards presentation that preceded the virtual concert, we were able to watch Linda Camel make a video presentation of the \$300 1st Place Junior Competition award funded by the Beatrice L. Chiswick Memorial Fund. This fund was set up in honor of Lindy's mother and is continually funded by Bee's family. We also saw Dave Humphreys make a live zoom presentation of the \$500 1st Place Senior Competition award given by the Downers Grove Rotary Club.

Congratulations to the Competition award winners:

JUNIOR COMPETITION:

- Edie Park (1st Place)
- Callie Wu (2nd Place)
- Aleksandar Acimovic (3rd Place)

SENIOR COMPETITION:

- Karen Cai (1st Place)
- Ethan Weingust (2nd Place)

We recorded the zoom event, so you can catch highlights of the Zoom Awards Presentation as well as enjoy the honors recitals on the DGMC website at downersgrovemusicclub.org/festconcert.html. 🎵

Rising Stars Program

April is traditionally when we get to hear the Rising Star award winners from the previous year perform, along with other talented music students in the community. This year will be no different, EXCEPT that our Rising Star performances will be spread throughout the month of April and featured as streaming online events.

We are so pleased to announce that all four 2020 Rising Star award winners are participating in this year's streamed performances. Each Sunday during April we will feature a new Rising Stars performer. A schedule of

streamed performances appears on page 6 of this newsletter. Please be sure to watch all of these talented musicians. Their performances are exceptional.



As new events are posted, previous virtual performances remain available to watch at your leisure. You'll find the student performances and all other streamed events available for viewing from our website on the **Concerts & Events** webpage, which can be selected from the top menu bar of the DGMC website. 🎵

Spring Benefit Concert

Save the date: Friday, April 16th at 7:00pm! That's when DGMC will host its Spring Benefit Concert to raise funds for our student music awards. This will be a private online event available only to our supporters who purchase a "ticket" in advance. The benefit concert will not be released to the general public until sometime in May.

The program has not been finalized, but at this time scheduled performers include Carolyn May (flute), Goran Ivanovic (guitar), Kerry Leung (traditional Chinese instruments), Chris Garofalo (piano), as well as 2020 First Place DGMC Junior Competition winner, Mary Kish (piano). See the preliminary benefit program on page 5.

In pre-Covid days, our benefit concerts were always enjoyable events, with wonderful music and plenty of time to socialize over wine and a delicious array of savory and sweet treats. This spring we would like to recreate some of the intimate atmosphere of past in-person events with a live Zoom social hour – complete

with music trivia and a “zoom prize” (sort of like a door prize) – followed by the streamed benefit concert itself.

Whether ticket holders choose to participate in the live Zoom social event or not, they can still view the performance at their leisure after its release at 8 pm on April 16th. To purchase “tickets” (or make any level of donation) online, visit our web homepage at: downersgrovemusicclub.org, scroll down to *Upcoming Events* and click on the “ORDER TICKETS” button below the benefit concert description. Ticket holders will later be emailed the links to participate in the live Zoom pre-show social event and the benefit concert.



100% of the proceeds raised by our benefit concerts are used to fund the Rising Star and College Music Awards, which are competitively awarded each year to talented local high school music students. We hope the wonderful music of this benefit concert will inspire you to make a generous donation in support of student music education in our local community. 🎵

2021 Student Music Awards

The deadlines for applying for 2021 Student Music awards have passed. Now, our Music Education Chairperson, Gloria Salazar, is busy going through all the applications for the Private Lesson awards for string students in 5th - 7th grades, Rising Star awards for freshman - junior high students and College Music awards for high school seniors. The DGMC board will be working with Gloria to choose the recipients of the DGMC student music awards.

Each Year, DGMC provides over \$8,000 toward these awards, in combination with the cash awards presented for the Piano Festival and Competition. The Private Lesson awards are generously funded from the Shelby Bulut Memorial Fund, while the 1st place cash awards for the Piano Competition are generously funded by the Bee Chiswick Memorial Fund and the Downers Grove Rotary Club. We rely primarily on monies raised during our two annual benefit concerts to fund the balance of our student awards. Award winners will be posted at downersgrovemusicclub.org/awards.html and in the next newsletter issue. 🎵

Elections of officers for 2021-2022

The nominating committee (Chris Garofalo, chair, Tom Ewing and Rich Penner) has proposed a slate to fill the four open board positions (president, VP business development, secretary and member-at-large) for the 2021-2022 club year. Board members serve staggered, two year terms, so that approximately half of the board members are elected each year.

The election normally takes place during the last program of the season. However, as was done last year due to the pandemic, voting will be conducted via an electronic ballot that will be emailed to all members in May. The online ballot will provide an opportunity to either accept the Nominating Committee's recommended slate or write in a candidate of choice.

The proposed DGMC board for the new season is:

DGMC BOARD OF OFFICERS

President* – Tom Ewing
VP Artistic Development – Charlotte Ewing
VP Business Development* – Chris Garofalo
Secretary* – Gloria Salazar
Treasurer – Janice Sleeter
Member-At-Large – Rich Penner
Member-At-Large* – Angela Presutti Korbitz

*Slated open positions to be elected this year

ORGANIZATIONS and EVENTS

Many of the following organizations are offering streaming events. Check the indicated links for details.

Downers Grove Choral Society ~ Now in its 62nd 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 www.grantstreetstringquartet.weebly.com.

PianoForte Studios ~ Thomas Zoells, Director and Owner of the PianoForte Chicago piano store. Visit 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 ~ Dan Pasquale D'Andrea, Artistic Director/Conductor. For more information, please visit www.SinfoniettaBelCanto.org or call 630-384-5007.

Spirito! Singers ~ Offers young singers between 5th – 12th grades the opportunity to learn and grow through exceptional vocal and musicianship training, discipline and performance. For more info, visit www.spiritosingers.org.

West Towns Chorus ~ Chartered in 1948, the group is one of the premier men's a cappella choruses in the Chicago area. More information is available at www.westtowns.org. 🎵

Spring Benefit Video Concert Program

Carolyn May, flute

Vivace from the Flute Sonata in F

Georg Philipp Telemann

Adagio from the Flute Quartet

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Tambourin

François-Joseph Gossec

Carolyn has been the principal flutist in New Philharmonic, a professional orchestra that performs at the McAninch Art Center, since its inception in 1977. An accomplished pianist and accompanist, Carolyn is recently retired as a band director in LaGrange School District 102.

Mary Kish, piano

Prelude in D-flat (Raindrop) Op. 28, No. 15

Frédéric Chopin

Mary was the First Place DGMC Junior Competition winner in 2020. She is a high school junior at Chesterton Academy of the Holy Family where she enjoys art, music and math. In her free time she loves playing volleyball and doing outdoor activities.

Kerry Leung, Traditional Chinese Musical Instruments

Thunder Present in a Summer Drought

Bamboo Flute

A Perfect Evening

Hulusi Gourd Flute

Autumn Moon Shining on the Westlake

Erhu

The Moon Represents My Heart

Bamboo flute

Melody of the Yi Peoples

Pipa

Kerry Leung is a Chinese multiple instrumentalist. His self-taught musical studies began as a young child in China. He has been actively involved in performing and promoting Chinese music in the West since 1981 and is a member of the Chinese Music Society of North America as well as the Chinese Fine Arts Society in Chicago.

Chris Garofalo, piano

Canción

Manuel de Falla

Nostalgia

Jesús Guridi

Oriental from Danzas españolas

Enrique Granados

Goran Ivanovic, guitar

Americana

Goran Ivanovic

Harmonics

Goran Ivanovic

Morning Rain

Goran Ivanovic

Lulu

Goran Ivanovic

Considered "one of the most versatile, skilled, and curious musicians in Chicago," Goran was born and raised in Croatia. When a college student in the late 90's, his family was granted asylum in the US and settled in Chicago. Since then, Goran has been expanding his stylistic range well beyond European classical music and Balkan sounds to include jazz and flamenco.

UPCOMING 2020-2021 VIRTUAL EVENTS STREAMED FROM THE DGMC WEBSITE

Check the DGMC website for the latest event schedule developments and concert web links.



Sunday, April 4, 2021 — Lincoln Peckenpaugh performs Debussy — streamed event

We begin our month-long program of Rising Stars with Lincoln Peckenpaugh (senior at DGN) playing the “Prelude” from *Suite Bergamasque* by Claude Debussy. In addition to hearing lovely piano music, we think you’ll enjoy the creative way Lincoln recorded his video.

Sunday, April 11, 2021 — Diana Kwak performs "Faites-lui mes aveux" by Charles Gounod — streamed event

Diana Kwak (senior at DGS) presents an exquisite aria from the opera *Faust*. Unable to work with a live accompanist at this time, Diana used the program Appcompanionist for this performance. A global team of collaborative pianists works together to record the pieces found in Appcompanionist's library.

Friday, April 16, 2021 — Spring Benefit Concert — ticketed event

7:00 pm — ZOOM social hour with music trivia and more; 8:00 pm — Release of the VIDEO BENEFIT

CONCERT featuring a recital with something for everyone - guitar, flute, traditional Chinese instruments, piano, DGMC Piano Competition winner and more!

Sunday, April 18, 2021 — Isaac Hsu performs “Élégie” by Gabriel Fauré — streamed event

Isaac Hsu (junior at DGN) beautifully performs the emotional “Élégie,” which was written after the death of Fauré’s wife. Isaac’s accompanist is his mother, Maggie Chen.

Sunday, April 25, 2021 — Jonah Sprandel performs “White Field~a bird sings an epilogue” by Tsutomu Narita — streamed event

Jonah Sprandel (senior at DGS) is accompanied by Belford Hernandez. Tsutomu Narita is a Japanese composer and arranger known for video game music works. Narita makes regular use of syncopation and extended techniques such as the altissimo range and glissandos throughout the piece, making this a fun but challenging piece to play. 🎵