

UPCOMING EVENTS

Winter Interlude Concert

Sunday, February 11, 2024 - 2:00 pm, DG Library

Join Downers Grove Music Club musicians for an hour of music chosen to celebrate some of the beautiful things of February. Two oboe soloists – Jacqueline Landis and Robert Gordon – provide a lovely break from dealing with winter. Chris Garofalo will accompany them as well as perform solo piano. We cannot ignore Valentine’s Day! Angela and Ron Korbitz will perform four jazz songs of love. Finally, the Cove Creek Brass Quintet will perform a set of familiar tunes of love, spanning from the Roaring Twenties to the Twenty-first century. With so many talented performers, this is an event you won’t want to miss! 🎵



Spring House Benefit Concert | March 16, 2024

One of our joys is to encourage area youth to discover and develop their musical talents. A major way we accomplish this is through our Rising Star and College Music Awards, which DGMC gives to talented local high school music students.

Last year DGMC presented a record number of awards plus increased the value of each award. We hope we can continue the high-level of student support this year.

Our 2024 Spring Benefit House Concert will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2024 at 7:00 pm and features the artistry of Carolyn May (flute), Julie Spring (harp) and Chris



Garofalo (piano). Our talented musicians not only give an awesome performance, but they also donate all their time and talent for this benefit so that 100% of the proceeds can be used to fund these awards.

After the wonderful evening of music, a wine and dessert reception will be held.

Tickets (\$35 per person) are required to reserve seats. Space is limited, so early registration is recommended.

Visit <https://downersgrovemusicclub.org/#houseconcert> to purchase tickets and/or make a donation in support of our music awards. 🎵

Fall House Concert

The DGMC Fall House Benefit Concert was held on Friday, November 10, 2023 at 7:30 pm to a houseful of appreciative music lovers and patrons, whose generous support funds our Rising Star and College Music Awards each year. We are pleased that these events are well attended and meet or exceed our fund-raising goals.

The November 10th program included soprano Mary Elliott singing musical theater selections, Leo Smit's very engaging three movement piano Duet Divertimento with pianists Charlotte Ewing & Chris Garafalo, solo works for piano and 2021 DGMC Rising



Star award winner and violinist Philip Okunev. After the concert, guests enjoyed our wine/dessert reception.

We are very grateful to the artists who donated their time and talent, as well as the donors who generously supported this event and make our student education awards program possible. Missed the concert? Watch it here online: <https://qr.link/aRrfil>. 🎵

Holiday Treasures Concert & Singalong delights a full house

Our *Holiday Treasures Concert & Singalong* led by Joyce Tumea has become a much-beloved tradition, bringing joy and high spirits to the start of the holiday season.

The event was held on December 3, 2023 at 2 pm at the Downers Grove Public Library. A capacity crowd was on hand to enjoy both traditional holiday favorites and new, original tunes.



The concert was presented by members of the Downers Grove Music Club, the PriMerry Players, West Towns Chorus and the Downers Grove Choral Society and other guests. A big thanks to Joyce and all the wonderful performers for making this a terrific event!

The full list of artists, music program, event photos and video of the concert may be viewed here <https://qr.link/T8sUMB>. 🎵

2024 Piano Festival and Competition

DGMC hosted its first Piano Festival and Competition 81 years ago to challenge and encourage local student musicians. This event has truly become an established part of the music community in west suburban Chicago, with 105 students participating this year.

EVENT SCHEDULE

February 1, 2024: Application Deadline

March 3, 2024: Festival and Competition
Community United Methodist Church,
Naperville

March 10, 2024: Honors Recitals
(Selected Students), Afternoon times
TBD, Downers Grove Public Library

April 2, 2024: Rising Stars Concert
(Competition First Place Winners), 7 pm,
Downers Grove Public Library

This year's Festival and Competition will be held on March 3rd at Community Methodist Church in Naperville. Teachers who give online lessons to out-of-area students via video entries will again be able to participate and have their students eligible to perform (virtually) at the Honors Recital.

Participating students receive invaluable experience, including constructive critiques from experienced judges. Top-ranked participants are invited to perform at the annual DGMC Honors Recital on March 10th at the Downers Grove Public Library. First and second place students who enter at the competition level are awarded cash prizes.

Get the latest information about our piano festival and competition at downersgrovemusicclub.org/pianofest.html. 🎵

Student Music Awards

One of our passions is encouraging youth to discover and develop their musical talents.

Each spring DGMC presents cash awards to deserving music students attending a District 99 high school.

DGMC high school music awards are funded through our annual fall and spring benefit house concerts, which are well supported by friends and members of DGMC who give generously to our education mission. All musicians who perform at our benefit events freely donate their time so that 100% of the proceeds from the benefit house concerts and donations go to funding student awards.

DGMC presents up to six Rising Star awards to underclassmen attending a District 99 high school. At least one \$1,000 College Music Award is given to a senior who is planning to attend college in the fall following graduation. Last year, an extra \$1000 College Award and two additional \$500 Rising Stars Student Awards were able to be given thanks to a generous donor (Golden Girls Award Fund). Moreover, we increased all Rising Stars awards from \$400 to \$500.



Thanks to the Shelby Bulut Memorial Fund, DGMC also presents multiple Private Lesson Awards to 5th–7th grade students enrolled in the orchestra program in District 58. These awards, which cover the cost of 12 lessons, are given to students who have never had private string lessons but are

judged to be motivated to benefit from the lessons. Eight students were selected last year to receive the Private Lesson Music Award.

Applications for the Rising Star, College Music and Elementary and Middle School (Private Lesson) awards are now open for the 2024 season and must be completed on-

line by April 1st. The registration forms for all the available student awards may be found on the DGMC website under the *Education* top menu tab. 🎵

Election of officers for the 2024-2026 term

Each year the club holds elections in the spring to fill open positions on the DGMC board of directors. Board members serve staggered, two year terms, so that approximately half of the board members are elected each year.

The positions open for election for the upcoming (2024-2026) term are VP artistic development, treasurer and member-at-large. Nominations for open positions are being sought. The current officers in the positions of VP artistic development (Charlotte Ewing) and member-at-large (Rich Penner) are willing to continue in some capacity; however, the treasurer position will be vacated after the present term. All positions are defined in the Club's bylaws, which are printed in our membership directory sent to current members each year.

It is truly a privilege to serve. Yes, it's a commitment and there is work involved, but it is very rewarding to have a positive impact in your community. If you are a DGMC member and potentially interested in serving on our board, or have questions about board positions, please contact any board member. Our contact information is at downersgrove-musicclub.org/contact.html. If you are on the fence about serving on the board, there are many ways to help out! Please reach out to Tom Ewing at president@downersgrove-musicclub.org to learn about other opportunities.

A nominating committee will be appointed at our next board meeting in February for the purpose of establishing a slate of candidates for election of open board positions. The approved slate of candidates will be presented to the membership in April by email. Voting will be conducted via an electronic ballot that will be emailed to all members in

May. Elected board members take office at the close of the club year's annual board meeting in May.

DGMC BOARD & OPEN POSITIONS

President – Tom Ewing

VP Artistic Development* – Charlotte Ewing

VP Business Development – Chris Garofalo

Secretary – Gloria Salazar

Treasurer* – Janis Sleeter; position will be vacated after present term

Member-At-Large* – Rich Penner

Member-At-Large – Angela Presutti Korbitz

*Positions open for election

The current board members are shown above, with open positions indicated by an asterisk (*). We are very grateful for the members that serve on our board, and contribute significant amounts of time, talent, and energy to advance the mission of the club.

DGMC Membership directories



DGMC directories have been sent out to current members. If you are a DGMC member and did not receive one, let us know!

Contact Rich Penner by email at:

member1@downersgrovemusicclub.org.

If you haven't renewed your club membership yet, please do so today! All our support comes from membership dues and generous donations from members and friends of the club. You can conveniently join, renew, or donate online. Or contact Rich at the email address above for more options. 🎵



Interested in performing?

Charlotte Ewing is always looking for club members interested in performing at our upcoming public concerts. Contact Charlotte at 630-985-8472 or by email at vp-art@downersgrovemusicclub.org.

2023-2024 CONCERT SERIES

The 2023–2024 Concert Series is sponsored by the Downers Grove Music Club and the Downers Grove Public Library. Concert Series programs are held at the Downers Grove Public Library, 1050 Curtiss Street, Downers Grove. Reservations are strongly recommended through the DG Public Library. You may register on the library website by clicking the RSVP link next to the concert date or by calling the library at 630-960-1200. Our music programs are open to the public. With the exception of our two fundraising House Concerts in November and March, all of our music programs are free of charge.

Sunday, February 11, 2024, at 2:00 pm – DG Public Library

Winter Interlude Concert



Plan to join Downers Grove Music Club musicians and friends for a break from winter with an hour of delightful music. We'll celebrate

some of the beautiful things of February – Valentine's Day, listening to classical music while watching it snow outside, and only 5 more weeks of winter! [RSVP](#)

Sunday, March 3, 2024 at 2:00 pm – DG Public Library

The Rust Riders

Inspired by the rambunctious twang of hand-me-down Americana, the Rust Riders crank out a hearty helping of raggy roots music, distilled from honkytonk, folk, and swing. [RSVP](#)

Sunday, April 14, 2024, at 2:00 pm – DG Public Library

Bounding Main

Maritime-themed vocal group sings richly harmonic versions of traditional songs. [RSVP](#)

Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 2:00 pm – DG Public Library

DG Music Club Concert

Cinco de Mayo is the perfect day to celebrate May with DGMC musicians and friends. [RSVP](#)

Special DGMC events

Sunday, March 3, 2024 – Community United Methodist Church, 20 Center Street, Naperville

2024 Piano Festival & Competition

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

Sunday, March 10, 2024 – DG Public Library

2024 Piano Festival Honors Recitals

Recitals featuring the piano students who excelled at the 2024 Piano Festival & Competition. [RSVP](#)

Saturday, March 16, 2024, at 7 pm – private home

Spring Benefit House Concert



The final of two annual fundraising events featuring a Benefit Concert with all proceeds used to fund the Rising Star and College Music Awards given to talented local high

school music students. It features the artistry of Carolyn May (flute), Julie Spring (harp) and Chris Garofalo (piano).

Tuesday, April 2, 2024 – DG Public Library

Rising Stars Concert

An exciting concert featuring the 2023 Rising Star recipients and other talented young musicians in the Downers Grove community. [RSVP](#) 🎵

ORGANIZATIONS and EVENTS

Dan Moroz is a Chicago saxophonist, composer, and music educator. Dan's original music can be found on all major streaming services, including Spotify, iTunes, and Amazon. For more information about his performances or private instruction opportunities, visit <https://www.danmoroz.com/>.

Downers Grove Choral Society has been performing concerts in the western suburbs of Chicago since 1959. For more information about the 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. Check their website for upcoming performances: <http://www.grantstreetstringquartet.weebly.com>.

PianoForte Studios with Thomas Zoells, director, and owner of the PianoForte Chicago piano store. For more information, call (312) 291-0000 or visit <https://pianofortechicago.com/>. PianoForte Studios, 1335 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago.

West Towns Chorus: Chartered in 1948, the group is one of the premier men's a cappella choruses in the Chicago area. See information about their second-place recognition at the Illinois barbershop competition on the previous page of this newsletter. For more information, visit: www.westtowns.org.

Sinfonietta Bel Canto: with Dan Pasquale D'Andrea, Artistic Director/Conductor. For more information visit www.SinfoniettaBelCanto.org or call 630-384-5007.

Solaris Concert Season: Nicolette Cheauré is the founder and director of the new Solaris Concert Series that is housed at Divine Savior Catholic Church in Downers Grove. Solaris will feature solo and chamber music from students and performers who either live in the immediate Western-Chicago suburbs or music majors who study at schools in the Chicago area. The initial concerts have been excellent and have featured a few of our past DGMC High School Music Award winners – many who are pursuing music degrees or careers. Please be sure to check their Facebook page @SolarisConcertSeries to get the latest information about this exciting new group.

Four Seasons Chamber Music Society was formed in May 2023 to bring resonant, opulent, and inspired chamber and contemporary music performed by some of the most experienced and talented singers and instrumentalists in western-suburban Chicago. Visit www.fourseasonschambermusicsociety.com for info. 🎵