


UPCOMING CONCERTS

Love is in the Air Concert

Sunday, February 8, 2026 - 2:00 pm, DG Library

Join Downers Grove Music Club musicians for an hour of music chosen to themes of love. We cannot ignore Valentine's Day!

Chris Garofalo will accompany Soprano, Olga Saad Karam, in pieces by Fauré and love songs from the Broadway stage. Molin Wang will perform solo piano pieces by Dvořák, Listz, and more! With so many beautiful songs about love, this is an event you won't want to miss! 



Spring House Benefit Concert | March 21, 2026

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.

Our 2026 Spring Benefit House Concert will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2026 at 7:00 pm.

The Downers Grove Music Club includes a number of professional musicians who regularly perform around the Chicago area! Our talented musicians not only give an amazing 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 downersgrovemusicclub.org/#houseconcert to purchase tickets and/or make a donation in support of our music awards. 

Holiday Treasures Concert & Sing-along 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 7, 2025, at 2 pm at the Downers Grove Public Library. A large crowd was on hand to enjoy both traditional holiday favorites and new, original tunes. This year the performance included piano and vocals by Robyn Vitson.

The concert was presented by members of the Downers Grove Music Club, the PriMerry Players, West Towns Chorus and other guests. The concert included an

audience sing-along that was enjoyed by all!

A big thanks to Joyce, Robyn, 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: downersgrovemusicclub.org/#holiday2026. 🎵

2026 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.

EVENT SCHEDULE

February 1, 2026
Registration deadline

February 28, 2026
Video Submissions Due 11:59 PM
REMOTE PARTICIPANTS ONLY

March 7, 2026 – SATURDAY
Festival and Competition (All Students)
Community United Methodist Church,
Naperville

March 14, 2026 – SATURDAY
Honors Recitals (Selected Students)
Afternoon times TBD, DG Public Library

March 22, 2026
Rising Stars Concert (Competition 1st
place Winners), 7:00 pm, DG Public
Library

This year's Festival and Competition will be held on March 7th 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. Please see the **updated repertoire list** here: [DGMC 2026-2028 Repertoire List.pdf](#).

Participating students receive invaluable experience, including constructive critiques from experienced judges. Top-ranked participants are invited to perform at the annual DGMC Honors Recital at the Downers Grove Public Library. First, second, and third 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 schools and DG 58 schools.



DGMC high school music awards are funded through our annual fall and spring ben-

efit 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.

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.

Applications for the Rising Star, College Music and Elementary and Middle School (Private Lesson) awards are now open for the 2026 season and must be completed online by March 15th. The registration forms for all available student awards may be found on the DGMC website under the *Education* top menu tab. 🎵

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM SCAMS

Unfortunately, scams targeting nonprofit organizations and their members are becoming more common, and music clubs like ours are no exception. Scammers may pose as a club president, board member, or trusted volunteer and attempt to create urgency—asking for quick payments or “confidential” help. These messages can look convincing, but they are designed to pressure you into sending money before you have time to verify the request.

To keep our members and friends safe, please remember this important rule: **Downers Grove Music Club only accepts membership dues, Event Registrations (Piano Festival & Competition), Ticketed Events, and donations through our official website or by checks made payable to the club and mailed to our P.O. Box.** We will **never** ask for gift cards, Venmo, wire transfers, cryptocurrency, or any other unusual or nontraditional payment methods. We also will not request money through unexpected emails or messages claiming to be from our president or other board members.

If you ever receive a message that seems unusual or makes you uncomfortable, pause before responding. Do not send money, and do not click links. Instead, verify the request by contacting the club directly through our official website at downersgrovemusicclub.org. When in doubt, please reach out—your caution helps protect not only you, but our entire music community. 🎵

DGMC Membership directories

DGMC directories have been sent out to current members. If you are a DGMC member and have not received 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. 🎵

Election of officers for the 2025-2026 term

Want to get more involved in the DGMC? We invite you to consider joining the board. The offices up for election this year are VP Artistic Development, Treasurer and one of the two Member-at-large positions. We also have numerous committees needing volunteers.

The nominating committee will begin putting together a slate of candidates to fill the positions up for election this year. This slate will be presented to the Board for approval in April. The election will take place in May. Don't hesitate to speak up to have your name be one of those candidates.

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



Membership Renewal

Except for our fundraising concerts, all DGMC programs are free and open to the public. Additionally, as part of our commitment to music education, we host an annual Piano

DGMC BOARD & OPEN POSITIONS

President – Gloria Salazar

VP Artistic Development* – Chris Tang

VP Business Development – Chris Garofalo

Secretary – Molin Wang

Treasurer* – Maureen Breau

Member-At-Large* – Rich Penner

Member-At-Large – Nicolette Cheaure

**Positions open for election*

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 downersgrovemusicclub.org/contact.html. If you are on the fence about serving on the board, there are many ways to help out!

Please contact Gloria Salazar at president@downersgrovemusicclub.org to learn more.

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. 🎵

Festival & Competition to inspire and challenge students. We also award scholarships each year and invest in schools and community programs that nurture the musical arts.

But we can't do this without your help!

Our work is made possible through annual memberships and generous donations. Please renew or become a member for the 2025–2026 club season. Active members receive a directory in late October. Membership is open to both performing and non-performing individuals who share a passion for music. Options include Individual – \$30, Family – \$35, Student – \$10, Music Ensemble – \$60 and Organization – \$60.

We are deeply grateful to those who have already renewed their membership or donated to DGMC. Your support makes free public concerts and music education programs possible—and we truly couldn't do it without you. Thank you for generously supporting our work!

Visit downersgrovemusicclub.org/member.html for more details on club membership. 🎵

2025-2026 CONCERT SERIES

The 2025–2026 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, January 25, 2026 at 2pm at DG Public Library

Suenos Latin Jazz

Some of Chicago's finest jazz and Latin musicians perform.

Sunday, February 8, 2026 at 2 pm, DG Public Library

Love is in the Air Concert

Plan to join Downers Grove Music Club musicians and friends for an hour of delightful music. Details above.

Sunday, March 22, 2026 time TBD – DG Public Library

Rising Stars Concert

Exciting concert featuring the Rising Star recipients and other talented young musicians in the Downers Grove community.



Special DGMC events

Saturday, March 7, 2026, Community United Methodist Church, 20 Center Street, Naperville

2025 Piano Festival & Competition

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

Saturday, March 14, 2026 – DG Public Library

2026 Piano Festival Honors Recitals

Recitals featuring the piano students who excelled at the 2026 Piano Festival & Competition.

Saturday, March 21, 2026 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. 🎵



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/>.

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. 🎵