

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.

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Downers Grove Music Club Newsletter

June 2021

Dear Music Club Members and Supporters:

I would like to thank all of you for being a part of the DGMC and for your support during my time as president. I have been proud to lead the Club for the past four years as my mother, Mary Jane Faulkner, had done in the past. I was lucky to have such an exceptional board that worked very cohesively together to carry out the mission and vision year after year. And I am very pleased that Tom Ewing has agreed and been elected to be the new president going forward.

My original goal as president was to simplify the operations of the Club. To that end, more and more technological tools have been implemented, thanks largely to the website design and maintenance work of Tom and Charlotte Ewing, to streamline the collection of information and project administration. When the Coronavirus stopped all in-person gatherings, this robust technological foundation helped the Club adapt to the virtual world. The creative team of board members and volunteers transitioned the DGMC seamlessly with weekly online concerts; a virtual Piano Festival & Competition; virtual Honors Recital, Rising Stars and House concerts; and an online election. With the success of these virtual events, the board is looking toward pursuing a hybrid model to supplement the return of the traditional in-person events and



programs with the continuation of occasional online concerts and other virtual programs.

Despite the restrictions of the past year, the Club continues to be in great shape. The financial position is very strong due to several past substantial gifts and the continued generosity of many repeat donors. The funding of the student scholarships, special concerts, the piano festival & competition, to name a few, is made possible through these generous gifts.

Again, I would like to thank everyone who has helped the DGMC in some way – the Board who keeps this Club running smoothly, the membership and volunteers who support the programs of the Club, the musicians who donate their performances for the enjoyment of others, the donors who generously contribute to the Club's finances, the community partners (Rotary Club of Downers Grove, School Districts 58 and 99) who help support music education programs, and of course the Downers Grove Public Library which co-sponsors the live concerts that we look forward to resuming as soon as possible. Thanks to everyone, the DGMC is thriving as it approaches the 100-year anniversary in 2027.

Musically yours,

Gloria Salazar

Spring Benefit Concert



A private showing of Downers Grove Music Club's Spring Benefit Web concert was debuted on Friday, April 16th to patrons that purchased tickets to raise funds for our student music awards. The concert was preceded by a live, Zoom Social Event with ticket holders that featured a music trivia game and a drawing for "Zoom" door prizes. The social event was meant to recapture some of the intimate atmosphere of past in-person house concerts. The Zoom social hour was followed by the streamed benefit concert itself.

The Spring Benefit Web concert is now available at <https://www.downersgrovemusicclub.org/benefit-01045.html> for free public viewing. The concert includes performances by Carolyn May (flute), Goran Ivanovic

(guitar), Kerry Leung (traditional Chinese instruments), Chris Garofalo (piano), as well as 2020 First Place DGMJ Junior Competition winner, Mary Kish (piano). The program is available online at https://www.downersgrovemusicclub.org/pdfs/VideoBenefitProgram_Spring2021.pdf.

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. Although the concert may now be viewed for free, we hope the wonderful music of this benefit concert will inspire you to make a generous online donation in support of student music education in our local community. 🎵

2021 Student Music Awards

Each Year, DGMC provides over \$8,000 toward student awards, in combination with the Piano Festival and Competition cash awards (which were previously announced in our April 2021 newsletter).

The Elementary and Middle School 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.

This year's recipients for the Rising Stars Awards, College Music Awards, and 5th and 6th Grade Private Lesson Awards are shown below. Congratulations to all our 2021 Student Music Award recipients! 🎵

2021 Student Music Award Recipients

RISING STARS

Penny Ham (flute), Downers Grove North High School Junior
Cameron Hejny (Clarinet), Downers Grove North High School Sophomore
Isaac Hsu (cello), Downers Grove North High School Junior
Francesca Korbitz (flute), Downers Grove North High School Junior
Philip Okunев (violin), Downers Grove South High School Junior
Melissa Parkinson (double bass), Downers Grove North High School Junior
Ethan Weingust (piano), Downers Grove North High School Freshman

COLLEGE MUSIC AWARDS

Carissa Blumka (flute), Downers Grove North High School Senior
Diana Kwak (Voice - Soprano/Mezzo Soprano), Downers Grove South High School Senior

ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL PRIVATE LESSON AWARDS

Laney Andrys (violin), El Sierra Elementary School 6th grade
Thomas Faber (violin), Hillcrest Elementary School (will attend Herrick) 6th grade
Beatrix Hawkins (violin), Pierce Downer Elementary School 6th grade
Sophia Nash (violin), Highland Elementary School 6th grade
Mackenzie Stenson (violin), Highland Elementary School 5th grade
Nathan Zabawski (cello), Hillcrest Elementary School (will attend O'Neill) 5th grade
Norah Zimolzak (cello), Fairmount Elementary School 5th grade

In Memoriam

We are sorry to report that former member Jane Amorosi died on January 6, 2021 at the age of 97. Jane was a longtime supporter of the music club, as well as the Downers Grove Choral Society and was very involved in environmental issues, especially land use and conservation. She and her husband, Al, raised four children; she is survived by three children, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. 🎵

Elections of officers for 2021-2022

Elections were held in May to fill four open DGMC board positions: President, VP of Business Development, Secretary and Member-at-Large. Board members serve staggered, two-year terms, so approximately half of the board members are elected each year. DGMC elections normally take place at the last concert of the season.

However, as was done last year due to the pandemic, the elections were conducted via an electronic ballot. The election was announced by email, along with a link to the

online ballot form, to all DGMC members on May 1, 2021. The deadline to complete voting was May 15, 2021. It provided the opportunity to either accept the Nominating Committee's recommended slate or write in a candidate of choice. Votes were accepted from May 1st through May 15th. The Nominating Committee's recommended slate was elected unanimously.

2021-2022 DGMC BOARD

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

*Open positions filled by the election.

Congratulations to our elected officers, and thanks for your commitment to serve on our board! 🎵

THIRTY PERFORMANCES FROM THE 2020 — 2021 CONCERT SERIES ARE AVAILABLE FREE FOR VIEWING ON OUR WEBSITE



Our concert series has concluded for the season. Stay tuned for information about our 2021-2022 concert season opening this September. In the meantime, check out all our wonderful web concerts from last season online at: downersgrovemusicclub.org/calendar.html

Musicians for Hire

If you are interested in being included in our online *Musicians for Hire* resource for performing musicians, visit our website to update your membership profile, or email Rich Penner at memberdir@downersgrovemusicclub.org with the following information: business name, business

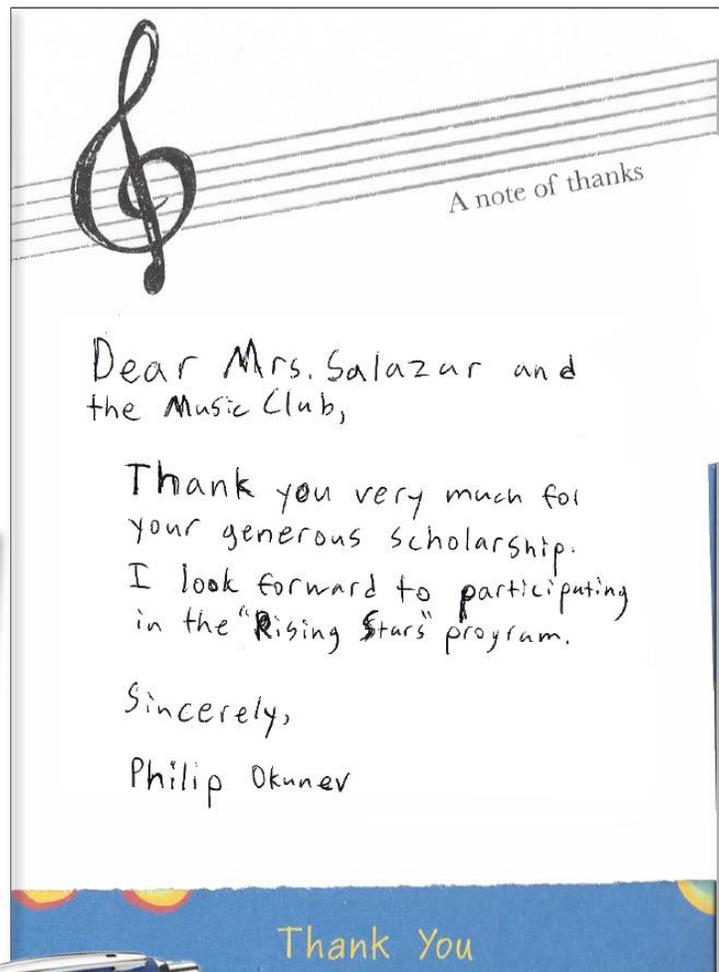
phone, business website address, description of your performance(s), and types of events for which you are available for hire (i.e., weddings, private parties, corporate events, etc.). 🎵

Student thank you notes

Thank you notes were recently received from (clockwise from top left) College Music Award recipient Diana Kwak, Rising Star Award recipient Philip Okunev, and College Music Award recipient Carissa Blumka. Thanks for writing!

Mrs. Salazar and members of the Downers Grove Music Club,
 From a place of immense respect and gratitude, thank you for selecting me to receive a 2021 College Music Award. I am beyond honored that you see talent and potential in me, and I hope to merit this scholarship through my study of music education and through using what I learn to give music back to our community. Best wishes for the 2021-2022 club year! I look forward to hearing of future DGMK endeavors!
 -Diana Kwak

Thank you so much! I am very excited to continue to pursue music in college next year! I really appreciate the scholarship, and I am excited to learn more as a member of the Music Club!
 Carissa Blumka



Membership renewals

Your support is vital to our continuing mission

We had a very busy 2020-2021 season -- offering 30 web concerts, as well as continued strong support for our student education programs.

Membership renewals are now due for the new club season. Our support for the free public concerts and music education all comes from generous donations and

member dues, so please renew promptly and consider making an extra donation. Memberships are: individual \$30, family \$35, ensemble/org \$60, and student \$10.

We are very appreciative of all who have sustained their paid memberships, as well those who have donated generously to DGMC. Your steadfast support during challenging times has enabled us to meet 100% of our student program support goals during the 2020-2021 season. 🎵

ORGANIZATIONS and EVENTS

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

22nd Annual Midwest Harp Festival is providing two FREE online concerts in July! The Solo Competition Winners' Recital will include the first and second place winners from each division and will be live Tuesday, July 20th, at 7PM CST. The Faculty Concert will feature Dr. Joanne King, Janelle Lake, Dr. Charles W. Lynch III, Elizabeth Richter, and Faye Seeman and will be available on YouTube starting Friday, July 23rd, at 2PM CST. Links will be posted here: www.midwestharpfestival.org/concerts.

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. 🎵