

# 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

September 2020

## Welcome to a new concert season!

We are pleased to open our new season with a series of *free virtual concerts* performed weekly online. The free performances will be streamed on our website (see preliminary program on pages 3-4). The concert schedule and updates will be maintained on the [DGMC website](#) as well.

Weekly online performances are currently scheduled during October through December of 2020, with a new concert posted every Sunday to our website, beginning October 4<sup>th</sup>. Our hope is to offer live in-person performances again in the new calendar year (2021), once it is safe to do so. However, we will continue with virtual concerts if necessary.

The library has not yet finalized the dates and artists to be featured starting in the new year due to Covid-19. The schedule will be updated as information becomes available. The Music Club is tentatively responsible for the programs on February 21<sup>st</sup> and May 16<sup>th</sup> 2021; however, due to uncertainties with the pandemic, the themes for these programs have not been finalized. If you are interested in performing at either of these concerts, please contact Charlotte Ewing at [charewing@aol.com](mailto:charewing@aol.com) or 630-985-8472.



## DGMC Board Election

Balloting for the 2020-2021 Downers Grove Music Club board election was conducted online this year to fill open board positions. The election normally takes place during the last program of the season, but due to the pandemic, the last program of the year had to be cancelled.

The election was announced by email, along with a link to the online ballot form, to all DGMC members on August 17, 2020. The deadline to complete voting was September 4, 2020.



The DGMC board has continued to meet virtually via Zoom during the pandemic to keep the club moving forward.

The board positions up for election this year were: VP-Artistic Development, Treasurer, and Member-at-Large. The nominating committee recommended reelecting the current incumbents to each position to serve for the next 2 years. The online ballot provided the opportunity to either accept the Nominating Committee's recommended slate or write in a candidate of choice.

The recommended slate was elected unanimously. Congratulations to our elected board members and thanks for your commitment to serve on our board! The DGMC board members for the new season are:

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

\*Open positions filled by the election

## Membership renewals due

*Your support is vital to our continuing mission*

Membership renewals are now due for the 2020-2021 club season. Your support for our free public concerts and music education programs is vital to our work.

Although our 2019-2020 season ended on a quiet note, there is nothing silent about our plans for the 2020-2021 season. Our commitment to the musical arts in our schools and community has not wavered. If you have not already renewed, please do so promptly and consider making an extra donation. Memberships are: individual \$30, family \$35, ensemble/org \$60, and student \$10. Member directories will be mailed in late October.

We are very grateful for our many members who have already renewed, as well as the generous donations we have received. Your steadfast support during these challenging times enabled us to meet 100% of our student program support goals during the 2019-2020 club year.

## 2021 Piano Festival & Competition

### KEY DATES

**Entry forms due:** February 7, 2021 (no extensions!)

**Festival and Competition** (all students): Sunday, March 7, 2021, Community United Methodist Church, 20 Center Street, Naperville

**Honors Recital** (selected students): Sunday, March 14, 2021 at 1:30 pm, Downers Grove Public Library

Note: Although our plans are to hold in-person events, the festival and recital may be moved to online venues based on Covid-19 developments.

Effective with last year's festival, a few changes were made to the festival's rules. These rules remain in effect and are summarized below.

The "required" repertoire list now includes a variety of music while keeping the level of difficulty consistent within each level. Both selections performed by a student must now be chosen from this required repertoire list; special requests for alternate selections will no longer be considered. There will be two judges hearing each

student at the Competition Level. The age limit for the Junior Competition was removed; students in this level may be any age level up to a senior in high school.

Complete Entry Requirements and the *List of Required Compositions* are posted on the club's [website](#).

Online registrations will be open between November 15, 2020 through February 7, 2021. An email announcing the 2021 Piano Festival and Competition has been sent to piano teachers who have participated in this event during the last two years.

Note: We are planning to hold the Piano Festival & Competition as an in-person event by strictly observing recommended safety protocols. However, the Covid-19 outbreak demands a fluid approach. We will monitor state and federal recommendations, and in the event the Covid-19 situation demands a more cautious approach, it may be necessary to move to an online event. Please check back to the DGMC website or Facebook page periodically for the latest developments.

## Welcome new members

DGMC welcomes Bill and Liz Chalberg, Peter Givens, and Scott Scherquist as new members. Bill and Liz have been attending many of our concerts since we began holding the Concert Series at the library. The Chalbergs strongly value the local musical arts, and joined to support our mission to bring live public concerts and music education programs to our local community. Peter enjoys playing trombone and has performed in church ensembles from time to time. He is interested in performing with other DGMC musicians. Scott is a classical pianist and an experienced band conductor. Scott studied in New York City (receiving both a BS and MS in Music Education), where he taught band and chorus as well as piano. He recently moved to Downers Grove and now teaches piano and theory privately. Scott is interested in accompanying and playing in small chamber ensembles, as well as getting involved with the Piano Festival and Competition.

Thanks for joining us; we look forward to accomplishing amazing things together to strengthen the musical arts in our community and schools!

## 2020-2021 CONCERT SERIES

Note: All concerts will be online venues (viewed from the DGMC website), at least through 2020. Check the DGMC website for the latest event schedule developments and concert web links.

### A note from Charlotte Ewing VP Artistic Development

We're actually pretty excited about this new way of providing music to our community — streaming our concerts online — because it allows us to include musicians who find it difficult to perform on our Sunday concert days, and it allows us to reach a new audience beyond our local region. We already have enough finished videos to last until early November and have confirmations from quite a few more musicians who are still working on videos for us.

On Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> our first video will be available on our website. Each week, always on Sunday, we will add another video from another performer. These videos will remain available on the website so you can choose a convenient time to view them. We hope you will enjoy our virtual concerts.

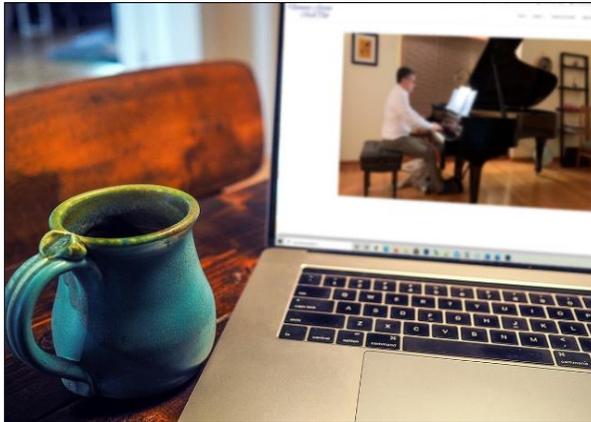
#### **Sunday, October 4, 2020 — Chris Garofalo performing Claude Debussy's *Clair de lune***

Five years ago, thanks to a bequest from the Estate of Donald and Mildred Drew, the DGMC donated a new Feurich Concert I grand piano to the Downers Grove Public Library. With this donation, the library and the music club

formed a partnership to co-host the Concert Series held at the library. On October 6, 2015, we dedicated the new piano with a concert intended to show off the new instrument. The first piece on that program was Debussy's *Clair de lune*, performed by Chris Garofalo. What a fitting way to begin our virtual concert series!

**Sunday, October 11, 2020 — Gabrielle Henderson performing her original song *Brighter***

While a high school freshman, Gabby was invited to perform her own composition at the 2013 Rising Stars program. The next year we heard her again, because she had won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Junior Competition of the Piano Festival & Competition. As a junior in 2015, Gabby received a Rising Stars Award. Last spring, she graduated from DePaul University with a BFA in Film and Television, with a concentration in Sound Design. She has been doing a great deal of composing, performing and creating music videos and has shared this video from a concert in December of 2019.



**Sunday, October 18, 2020 — Louise Kelly performing her original composition *What a Night, No Stars***

In August of this year, Louise released *Two Gardens*, a CD of original compositions celebrating the two paths of growth for parents and their children. Louise has shared a video recording of one of the pieces on this CD. We have saved another song for later.

**Sunday, October 25, 2020 — Chris Garofalo performing Ludwig van Beethoven's *Sonata, Op. 13, Adagio Cantabile***

This is the second movement of Beethoven's "Pathetique Sonata."

**Sunday, November 1, 2020 — Spirito! Singers featuring their Ragazze and Bravura Ensembles**

It's hard to assemble such a large group of young singers for one of our in-person concerts. But now we can share this clip from a Comcast recording of a concert that was shown on an Elmhurst local access station.

**Sunday, November 8, 2020 — TBD**

**Sunday, November 15, 2020 — TBD**

**Sunday, November 22, 2020 — TBD**

**Sunday, November 29, 2020 — TBD**

**Sunday, December 6, 2020 — TBD**

**Sunday, December 13, 2020 — TBD**

**Sunday, December 20, 2020 — TBD**

**Sunday, December 27, 2020 — TBD**

It is hoped that in-person events will resume during the 2021 calendar year. However, if an in-person venue is not possible due to the pandemic, concerts will continue to be an online event.

Check the DGMC website for the latest concert event schedule developments.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Fall House Concert

**November 2020 (date TBD) — streamed event**

The first of two 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.

### Spring House Concert

**March 2021 (date TBD)**

Our second fundraising event for the season. All proceeds are used to fund the Rising Star and College Music Awards given to talented local high school music students. This is a ticketed event with a recommended donation of \$35 per person. If an in-person venue is not possible due to the pandemic, this will be an online event.

### 2021 Piano Festival & Competition

**Sunday, March 7, 2021**

Community United Methodist Church, 20 Center Street, Naperville

Well-established, adjudicated event open to piano students in Downers Grove and its surrounding communities. If an in-person event is not possible, this will be an online event.

***Piano Festival Honors Recital*****Sunday, March 14, 2021 — 1:30 p.m.**

Downers Grove Public Library, 1050 Curtiss Street, DG

Recital featuring the piano students who excelled at the 2021 Piano Festival and Competition. If an in-person venue is not possible, this will be an online event.

***Rising Stars Concert*****Tuesday, April 6, 2021 — 7:00 p.m.**

Downers Grove Public Library, 1050 Curtiss Street, DG

An exciting concert featuring 2020 Rising Star recipients, 2021 Piano Competition winners and other talented young musicians in our Downers Grove community. If an in-person venue is not possible, this will be an online event.

## ORGANIZATIONS and EVENTS

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

**Downers Grove Choral Society** begins its 62<sup>nd</sup> season. For more information, visit [www.dgcs.org](http://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 <http://www.grantstreetstringquartet.weebly.com>.

**PianoForte Studios: Thomas Zoells**, Director, and Owner of the PianoForte Chicago piano store. Visit <https://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**: with Dan Pasquale D'Andrea, Artistic Director/Conductor. For more information, please visit [www.SinfoniettaBelCanto.org](http://www.SinfoniettaBelCanto.org) or call 630-384-5007.

**West Towns Chorus**: Chartered in 1948, the group is one of the premier men's a cappella choruses in the Chicago area. For more information is available at [www.westtowns.org](http://www.westtowns.org).

Stay safe and well; take care of yourself and each other! We look forward to a time we can see each other in person and share our passion for music together in our community.