

MEGAN WELLS PERFORMS

The Life of Miep Gies

2024-2025 CONCERT SERIES SEASON OPENER



The Downers Grove Music Club and the Downers Grove Public Library are truly delighted to have Megan Wells perform her haunting portrayal of "The Life of Miep Gies" for our 2024-2025 Concert Series Season Opener.

Miep Gies was one of the Dutch citizens who hid Anne Frank, her family and four other Dutch Jews from the Nazis during World War II. She was also the woman who found and safeguarded Anne Frank's diary. Without Gies' intervention, the young writer's words—which "gave a child's face to the incomprehensible truths of the Holocaust,"—might never have reached the wider world.

Megan Wells is an extraordinary, nationally recognized storyteller and theater artist who has enthralled audiences for more than 40 years. She is

known for riveting character portrayals and an uncanny ability to transport you to another time and place for an unforgettable experience. Megan's passion and energy is bringing stories to life in front of your eyes.

"The Life of Miep Gies" also features the mesmerizing, three movement piano duet Divertimento composed during the time of the story by Dutch composer Leo Smit, who himself was killed during the Holocaust. The music is performed by Chris Garofalo and Charlotte Ewing.

The performance will be held on September 22, 2024 at 2 pm at the Downers Grove Public Library. We hope you will join us for what promises to be a memorable event. Seating is limited, so please [RSVP](#) to reserve a seat. 🎵

2025 Piano Festival & Competition

AT THE FOREFRONT OF STUDENT MUSIC EDUCATION FOR OVER 80 YEARS

The Downers Grove Music Club has a long-standing history of supporting student music education. We sponsored our first Student Piano Festival and Competition in 1943 to challenge and encourage local student musicians. Over the years, the Festival and Competition has become an established, prestigious event in the music community of west suburban Chicago, with over 100 students participating each year.

We invite area piano teachers to enter their students in the 2025 Piano Festival &

Competition, which is sponsored annually by the Downers Grove Music Club. Registrations are now being accepted online through February 1, 2025.



Piano teachers who have participated in this event in recent years will automatically be notified by an email announcement of the 2025 Piano Festival and Competition.

We continue to make this event open to in-person and remote students. The [required repertoire list](#) is the same as last year. The highest achieving students at each level will be invited to perform on the Honors Recital on Sunday, March 9, 2025. The top scoring student at each Festival Level will receive a trophy. The top scoring students at the Competition levels will receive a cash award. Participating students may be any age up through their senior year in high school. Here are the [in-person entry requirements](#).

Remote Participants

Given past successes, we will also continue to serve those teachers who give online lessons to out-of-area students. These students may be entered in any of the FIVE Festival Levels or the TWO Competition

Levels. A professional judge (two judges at the competition level) will evaluate the video entries. The

students will not, however, be eligible for cash prizes.

Based on recommendation of the judge(s), those students who submit an excellent performance will be

recommended to perform (virtually) at the Honors Recital. Here are the [entry requirements for remote participants](#). Selections for the video submissions must again be chosen from the required repertoire list.

The deadline for applications for remote participants is also February 1st; however, video submissions are due by 11:59 PM on Sunday, February 23, 2025. As noted, this option applies only to out-of-area students who receive online lessons. For all students, registrations must be submitted online, and no registrations will be accepted after the deadline (February 1, 2025) nor will any fees be refunded after this date.

For complete Entry Requirements, the List of Required Compositions, the Registration Form and for the latest updates, visit the festival webpage: downersgrovemusicclub.org/pianofest.html. Email any questions to: pianofest@downersgrovemusicclub.org. 🎵

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE FOR OUR

Fall House Benefit Concert

Experience a concert in the intimate setting of a private home for an enchanting evening of music.



The Fall Benefit House Concert is the first of two DGMC fundraising events held annually to fund the Rising Star and College Music Awards given to talented local high school music students.

This concert features the beautiful artistry of Evangeline Selking (flute), the 2023 Rising Stars Award recipient; Jue He & Xiaomin Liang (piano duet); Robert Gordon (oboe) and Chris Garofalo (piano). The event will be held on Saturday,

November 16, 2024 at 7 pm at a private home. After the concert, enjoy our wine/dessert reception.

Tickets are \$35 per person and are required to reserve your seat. If you are unable to attend, you may still use the online reservation form to donate toward DGMC student awards. Please help us support our talented music students!

Seating is limited. Reserve your seat now by visiting downersgrovemusicclub.org/#houseconcert. 🎵

Interested in performing?

Charlotte Ewing is looking for members interested in performing at our upcoming public concerts. Email Charlotte at vp-art@downersgrovemusicclub.org or call 630-251-0247 to inquire. DGMC is also looking for singers/performers for our annual holiday treasures concert, which will be held on Sunday, December 8, 2024, at 2pm at the DG Public Library. This popular event features holiday music presented in a fun, spirited way. Contact Joyce Tumea at joytumea@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Membership Renewal

Except for our fundraiser music events, our programs are open to the public and free of charge.

As part of our commitment to music education, DGMC holds an annual Piano Festival & Competition to encourage and challenge students.

DGMC also awards music scholarships to deserving students each year and makes investments in our schools and community that support musical arts development.

But we can't accomplish our work without you!

All our support comes from annual membership dues and generous donations. Please donate,

renew, or join today for the 2024-2025 club season!

Membership is open to both performing and non-performing individuals who share a passion for music. The following levels of membership are offered: Individual (\$30), Family (\$35), Student (\$10), Music Ensemble (\$60) or Organization (\$60). Directories will be distributed to active members in late October.

We are very grateful for our many members who have already renewed, as well as for the generous donations we have received. We simply could not accomplish our goals of providing free public concerts and music education programs without the help and involvement of our many committed supporters. Thank you so much for your generous help! 🎵

We're grateful
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

2024-2025 CONCERT SERIES

The Concert Series is sponsored by the Downers Grove Music Club and the Downers Grove Public Library. Concerts are free to the public and held at the Downers Grove Public Library on Sundays at 2 pm. Reservations are strongly recommended and can be made from our website or by calling the library.

Sunday, September 22, 2024 at 2 pm, DG Public Library

2024-2025 Season Opener: Megan Wells' *The Life of Miep Gies*

Storyteller Megan Wells' gives a riveting portrayal of *The Life of Miep Gies*, who hid Anne Frank, her family and others from the Nazis during World War II, and saved Anne Frank's diary. The program includes a three-movement piano duet *Divertimento* composed by Dutch composer Leo Smit and performed by DGMC musicians.

Sunday, October 27, 2024 at 2 pm, DG Public Library

Fall-o-rama

Enjoy a variety of classical music selections performed by members and friends of the Downers Grove Music Club.

Sunday, November 17, 2024 at 2 pm, DG Public Library

West Towns Chorus

One of the Chicago area's premier men's choruses performs a cappella barbershop favorites.

Sunday, December 8, 2024 at 2 pm, DG Public Library

Holiday Treasures



Enjoy a musical welcome to the holiday season with a delightful hour of holiday music, led by Joyce Tumea. This annual event features a

colorful cast of DGMC musicians and other guest performers and ends with a sing-along.

January 2025 at 2 pm at the DG Public Library

DG Library concert

Details TBD.

Sunday, February 9, 2025 at 2 pm, DG Public Library

DG Music Club Concert

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

March 2025 at 2 pm – DG Public Library

DG Library concert

Details TBD.

April 2025 at 2 pm at the DG Public Library

DG Library concert

Details TBD.

Sunday, May 4, 2025 at 2 pm – DG Public Library

DG Music Club Concert

Featuring DGMC musicians. Details TBD.

Special DGMC events

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

Fall Benefit House Concert

The first of two fundraising events featuring a Benefit Concert with all proceeds used to fund the Rising Star and College Music Awards.

Sunday, March 2, 2025, 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.

Sunday, March 9, 2025 – DG Public Library

2025 Piano Festival Honors Recitals

Recitals featuring the piano students who excelled at the 2025 Piano Festival & Competition.

Saturday, March 15, 2025 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.

Tuesday, April 8, 2025 – DG Public Library

Rising Stars Concert

Exciting concert featuring the 2024 Rising Star recipients and other talented young musicians in the Downers Grove community. 🎵



Meet the 2024-2025 DGMC Board

President – Tom Ewing
president@downersgrovemusicclub.org

VP Artistic Development – Charlotte Ewing*
vp-art@downersgrovemusicclub.org

VP Business Development – Chris Garofalo
vp-bus@downersgrovemusicclub.org

Secretary – Gloria Salazar
secretary@downersgrovemusicclub.org

Treasurer – Maureen Breau*
treasurer@downersgrovemusicclub.org

Member-At-Large – Rich Penner*
member1@downersgrovemusicclub.org

Member-At-Large – Angela Presutti Korbitz
member2@downersgrovemusicclub.org

*Officers elected to the DGMC Board during May 2024 elections

ORGANIZATIONS and EVENTS

Muriel Anderson's Saturday-After-Thanksgiving Concert, with special guests Steve Dawson & Diane Christiansen, Saturday, November 30 at 8pm, First Congregational UCC in Downers Grove. Website: <https://murielanderson.com/dg/>

Four Seasons Chamber Society – celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month presents “*Historia y Futuro*” featuring the Music of de Falla, Kilenyi, Lara, Piazzolla and Villa-Lobos. Sunday, October 20, 2024, at 6 pm, Mayslake Peabody Estate, 1717 31st Street, Oak Brook, IL 60523. Website: <https://www.fourseasonschambermusicsociety.com/>

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. Website: <https://www.danmoroz.com/>

Downers Grove Choral Society has been performing concerts in the western suburbs of Chicago since 1959. Join DGCS for George Frideric Handel’s Messiah, Sunday, November 24, 2024, 4 pm at First United Methodist Church, Downers Grove. Website: www.dgcs.org.

Grant Street String Quartet: This quartet was formed in 2010 by four professional musicians in the western suburban area of Chicago. Upcoming events: June 1st: JAZZ and STRINGS - Grant Street teams up with Jazz Pianist Ryan Cohan. Website: <http://www.grantstreetstringquartet.weebly.com>.

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

West Towns Chorus: Chartered in 1948, the group is one of the premier men’s a cappella choruses in the Chicago area. See their upcoming event in this newsletter on page 4. Website: www.westtowns.org

Sinfonietta Bel Canto: with Dan Pasquale D’Andrea, Artistic Director/Conductor. Don’t miss the Season Opener: *The SBC Annual Voice Invitational*, Sunday, September 29th at 3 pm at St. Paul’s United Church of Christ in Downers Grove. For information, call 630-384-5007 or visit www.SinfoniettaBelCanto.org. 🎵