

CIVIC MUSIC MILWAUKEE PRESENTS



# MUSICNOTES

FALL 2026 EDITION VOLUME 46, ISSUE 1

## FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

**DREAM! DISCOVER! DO!  
MAKE MUSIC!  
CREATE ART!**



Join the creativity and fun that is  
**KIDS MUSICFEST** Sunday, Nov. 15  
from 1 to 5 pm at the Milwaukee  
Youth Arts Center. Admission is FREE!

The most hands-on fun music event of the year  
is almost here! Now in our third big year and  
once again brought to you by a growing list of  
generous sponsors, we invite you to enjoy fun-  
filled highlights...



**KIDS CREATE ART AND  
BUILD THEIR OWN  
INSTRUMENTS IN THE  
CREATION STATION.**



**LITTLE ONES AND  
THEIR GROWNUPS  
ENJOY STORYTIME  
AND SONGS ALL  
AFTERNOON IN  
THE MILWAUKEE  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOOK NOOK.**



**NEW THIS YEAR, KIDS GET  
KAZOOS, CASTANETS, AND  
TAMBOURINES TO TAKE PART  
IN THE ONE-AND-ONLY "MAKE  
MUSIC" PARADE THROUGHOUT  
THE HALLS OF MYAC!**



**KIDS GET THEIR OFFICIAL KIDS MUSICFEST  
PASSPORT STAMPED AT EVERY EXHIBITOR'S  
TABLE, THEN PROCEED TO THE "MAKE  
MUSIC" T-SHIRT DECORATING STATION! THE  
COOL T-SHIRT IS FREE TO TAKE HOME!**



**CAN YOU SAY "SUPER FUN PHOTO OPPS"?! WATCH  
FOR PETE THE CAT, CLIFFORD, AND CURIOUS GEORGE  
SIGHTINGS THROUGHOUT THE AFTERNOON.**



**AND - MEET 20+ WONDERFUL  
AREA ORGANIZATIONS IN THE  
RESOURCE FAIR - AND LEARN  
HOW KIDS CAN GET INVOLVED.**

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### Mission:

CIVIC MUSIC MKE supports music education and provides performance opportunities for young musicians in the greater Milwaukee area.

### Music Notes

Music Notes is published semiannually to provide ongoing information about our programs and events.

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FROM THE  
EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR:



Did you know that **CIVIC MUSIC MKE** is one of the oldest arts organizations in Milwaukee? **We are looking forward to our 108th season!**

This season our Youth Music programming venue is moving to Immanuel Presbyterian Church on Milwaukee's Lower East Side.

Full disclosure: This gorgeous venue has been my home church for a very long time.

When we held our High School Showcase

Recital there last February and I heard a spontaneous "Wow!" exclaimed by performers and audience members entering the building, I knew that this move was the right one. We extend our thanks to First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa for our years there and are grateful for an already warm welcome from Immanuel.

The **PRIVATE LESSON PROGRAM** has a record 70 students this season taking lessons with 30 great teachers. The **HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION** will take place on January 30. And on the same day, we will also host auditions for the **WOODY HERMAN | SISTER FABIAN SCHOLARSHIP** open to high school senior jazz musicians. We are pleased to present this scholarship with a generous donation from an anonymous donor. **LIVE AT THE IVY** returns on Sept. 23 and a lively line-up of fantastic musicians performing in a relaxed atmosphere. We have lined up **The Gathering** to provide food and to educate us about **Hunger Action Month**. This event has free admission, as well as ticketed table seating.

**"BEING A MUSICIAN CAN BE LIFE CHANGING."**

Planning is underway for the third annual **KIDS MUSICFEST**, on November 15 from 1 to 5 pm! Bring the kids in your life to this fun and free event at the beautiful Milwaukee Youth Arts Center.

As this school year begins, we ask you to begin thinking about an inspiring music educator you would like to nominate for this season's **EDUCATOR AWARDS**. Music educators are a special group of people who are helping to shape our next generation. Let's honor and celebrate their work!

Our programs and events are thriving through the generosity of our donors. The support that we receive is so important to the health of our organization. Being a musician can be life changing. This support makes it possible to pass on that opportunity to the next generation. Thank you!

The Milwaukee area is rich in music and art. It is one of our community's best assets! As always, I encourage you to continue to attend performances and **SUPPORT LIVE MUSIC**.

Wishing you an autumn filled with color and light and music!

Nancy Herro, Executive Director  
nancyherro@civictimusicmilwaukee.org

**WEAR YOUR  
SUPPORT ON  
YOUR SLEEVE!**



Support CIVIC MUSIC MKE and SUPPORT LIVE MUSIC at the same time!  
Order your T-Shirt today!



# RECOGNITION

## CITIZEN AWARDS

Since 1918, CIVIC MUSIC MKE has promoted music education and performance in the Milwaukee metropolitan area. In keeping with our mission, we recognize individuals for their outstanding work and support of music advancement in our community. There are three awards available on a biennial basis:

- Lifetime Achievement Award in Music
- Distinguished Citizen-Professional in the Arts
- Distinguished Citizen-Patron of the Arts

Nominations for the 2026-27 CITIZEN AWARDS are being reviewed by the CIVIC MUSIC Board and will be announced shortly. A celebration will be held during the 2026-27 season.

Start thinking now and take the opportunity to show your appreciation for an important person in Milwaukee's musical life by nominating them for one of these awards. Nominations are due June 1, 2028.

**2029 AWARD NOMINATIONS ARE DUE JUNE 1, 2028**

## HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS

This year we mark the 100th season of this award! This program has awarded thousands of outstanding music students over those years! We invite high school music educators in the five-county area to nominate graduating seniors displaying exceptional musicianship, scholarship, leadership, and service to school. Students receive a certificate and a gold lapel pin presented at a final school concert or awards ceremony. The application is available year-round on our website.

**2027 AWARD NOMINATIONS ARE DUE MAY 22, 2027**

**Brookfield Central High School**  
Sydney Boyung, Flute

**Cedarburg High School**  
Michaela Wolter, Alto

**Greendale High School**  
Annie Brylow, Alto Sax and Voice

**Milwaukee Lutheran High School**  
Donyae McNeal, Tenor  
Javana Mobley-Rogers, Percussion

**Mukwonago High School**  
Katharine Wilhelm, Trumpet

**Nathan Hale High School**  
Asialina Grootemaat, Soprano  
Ethan Pawlak, Viola  
Brynn Rowe, Percussion

**Nicolet High School**  
Silvia Graves, Soprano

**Oak Creek High School**  
Gabby Fuentes, Flute, Piccolo, Saxophone

**Rufus King High School**  
Cannon Bruner, Percussion  
Andrew Mlagan, Bass  
Ruth Ohlendorf, Mezzo Soprano

**Slinger High School**  
Shelby Brodzeller, Alto

**Wauwatosa East High School**  
Julia Bell, Violin  
Marsey Brown-Hobson, Viola,  
Saxophone, Oboe

**Wauwatosa West High School**  
Braeden Young, Trumpet

**West Allis Central High School**  
Story Buettner, Violin  
Tevin Danek, Tenor Sax  
Aspen Merritt, Tuba

**Whitefish Bay High School**  
Mikael Granstrom, Tenor  
Savhanna Gunville, Clarinet

**Wisconsin Lutheran High School**  
Rebecca Abramowski, Alto  
Riley Kubicki, Saxophone

## EDUCATOR AWARDS

Each season, CIVIC MUSIC MKE presents the EDUCATOR AWARDS, a wonderful show of appreciation for the work of inspiring music educators or administrators supportive of music. We believe that a solid music education taught by an amazing music educator can have such a positive influence in a child's life. Do you know an amazing music educator who should be honored for their work or an educational administrator who offers exceptional support to their school's music program? Let's give them the support and love that they deserve. Please nominate them today!

Nominations are now open for a total of nine awards:

- **Certificates of Excellence** Awards in Instrumental, Choral, General, Studio, and Youth Music
- **Educational Administrator of the Year**
- **Emerging Music Educator of the Year**
- **MSO ACE Teacher of the Year**
- **CIVIC MUSIC Teacher of the Year** (selected by the CIVIC MUSIC Board from the nominated candidates.)

**2027 AWARD NOMINATIONS ARE DUE DECEMBER 5, 2026**

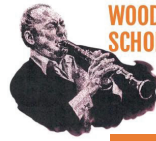


**2026 EDUCATOR AWARDS Recipients**

(L-R): Michael Hayden, Lisa Werner, Lynn Roginske,  
Krista Witak, Shaina O'Sullivan, Steven Ayers

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS

## HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION



WOODY HERMAN | SISTER FABIAN  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND



The CIVIC MUSIC MKE High School Competition is a well-regarded Milwaukee competition for accomplished high school musicians. Audition Day includes workshops and masterclasses geared toward advanced students.

Musicians compete for the opportunity to perform on the Showcase Recital and to be one of four classical musicians to receive a total of \$1,500 in Young Artist Scholarships.

### ELIGIBILITY:

Classical vocal and instrumental musicians in grades 10 - 12 who perform at or above the WSMA Class A level and live in the five-county greater Milwaukee area.

### COMPETITION AWARDS:

#### • Showcase Recital Performance

Up to 10 top musicians from Audition Day will perform on this recital. Each performer receives an honorarium of \$250.

#### • Young Artist Scholarships

A total of \$1,500 in scholarships will be distributed to four musicians selected by the judges on Audition Day.

### APPLICATIONS DUE: December 15, 2026

For more info, visit [CivicMusicMilwaukee.org/highschoolcompetition-1](https://CivicMusicMilwaukee.org/highschoolcompetition-1)



Jazz is back at the HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION! We are thrilled to once again be the presenter of the WOODY HERMAN | SISTER FABIAN SCHOLARSHIP. Auditions will be held on January 30 in conjunction with the HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION.

This scholarship is meant to fulfill Woody Herman's desire to recognize and assist local student jazz musicians. This Milwaukee native achieved worldwide fame as leader of the Thundering Herd, a big band best known for the 1939 million-seller "Woodchopper's Ball." But he might not have made it without the help of a St. John Cathedral High School teacher, Sister Fabian Reilly. Visit our website to learn the rest of the story!



In our inaugural year of presenting this award, senior **Ruth Flunker** carried two instruments to the Showcase Recital as she performed her winning classical euphonium solo as well as her jazz trombone solo that earned her the Woody Herman | Sister Fabian Scholarship. Ruth is now a freshman at the University of North Texas pursuing a double major of Euphonium Performance and Composition.

### ELIGIBILITY:

High school senior jazz musicians in the Greater Milwaukee area who plan to pursue a career in music or music education after graduation.

### COMPETITION AWARDS:

#### • Woody Herman | Sister Fabian Scholarship

- One \$1,500 scholarship will be distributed to the musician selected by the judges on Audition Day.
- The award also holds the opportunity to perform on the **Showcase Recital**.

For more info, visit [CivicMusicMilwaukee.org/woody-herman-scholarship](https://CivicMusicMilwaukee.org/woody-herman-scholarship)

## HERE ARE THE DETAILS FOR BOTH PROGRAMS:

**AUDITION DAY:** Saturday, January 30, 2027

**SHOWCASE RECITAL:** 3:00 pm, Sunday, February 21, 2027  
Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Milwaukee

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS



Enrollment in the PRIVATE LESSON PROGRAM has expanded to 70 young musicians this season! We have 37 musicians in Year 1, 17 in their Year 2, and 16 in their Year 3. Just 10 years ago, enrollment was 36 musicians receiving only one year of lessons. Arriving at enrollment for our 2026-27 season was not an easy task. Each year, we carefully weigh a family's financial need with their application answers and the student's performance. And each year we wish that we could offer scholarships to every student! Last season's Audition Day welcomed a record 67 applicants! Add to that group 37 of that season's musicians who were recommended by their teacher to apply for an additional year, and you've got 103 musicians to be considered for 60 spots! In the end, we increased the number of scholarships given to 70. Private lessons create an environment where students can accelerate and individualize their learning. Designed to give families in need of a financial helping hand a chance to realize their child's music study, our teachers take special care with the students so that they can excel. Our scholarships give our families the opportunity to stay in step with their classmates and enjoy the same opportunities to join ensembles or eventually enter solo competitions.

## ELIGIBILITY:

Instrumental musicians entering grades 4 through 11, and vocal musicians entering grades 8 through 12 whose family could use a financial helping hand, live in the five-county greater Milwaukee area, and are new to private lessons (25 hours or less) are eligible for this program. Students must be recommended by a teacher.

The opportunity for advancement to Year 2 and Year 3 is available to Year 1 students when they earn a recommendation from their private teacher at the end of their Year 1 lessons. Applications are sent to those recommended students in March.

Here are this season's details:

**YEAR 1 APPLICATION DUE:** March 15, 2027

**YEAR 1 AUDITION DAY:** Saturday, April 10, 2027

Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Milwaukee

For more info, visit [CivicMusicMilwaukee.org/elementary-and-middle-school-progra](https://CivicMusicMilwaukee.org/elementary-and-middle-school-progra)



**APPLICATIONS**  
All application forms can be found at  
[civictimilwaukee.org](https://civictimilwaukee.org)

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY IN OUR 2025

**These friends of CIVIC MUSIC contributed \$100 or more between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026.**

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Woman's Club of Wisconsin Foundation

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\* Indicates in-kind donation



# LEND YOUR SUPPORT!

We are grateful for the generous support of our donors who provide exceptional opportunities to students and educators.

You can make a difference with a gift of any dollar amount and direct where it should be used.

- PRIVATE LESSON PROGRAM
- HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION
- EDUCATOR AWARDS
- CITIZEN AWARDS
- KIDS MUSICFEST
- LIVE AT THE IVY
- General Operating Support

Pay it forward while honoring the past by making your gift in honor or in memory of someone who shaped your musical life.

Scan this QR code to visit the CIVIC MUSIC MKE donation page where you can learn more about what your gift can support. You might consider monthly donations or even remembering CIVIC MUSIC MKE in your estate planning. We would be happy to discuss the options with you.



With your generous support, students, educators, and musicians will benefit, enabling our musical community to remain vibrant!

## LET'S HEAR IT FOR KIDS MUSICFEST SPONSORS!

When **Landmark Credit Union** came on as lead sponsor of CIVIC MUSIC MKE'S brand-new event KIDS MUSICFEST in 2024, CIVIC MUSIC organizers were beyond thrilled. This very civic-minded, Milwaukee-based organization committed to two years of support and has now committed to two more – through the 2027 event.

Other cherished sponsors are making the same important commitment. Returning sponsors include:  
**Green Bay Packers GIVEBACK, Herb Kohl Philanthropies, Festival Foods,**

**Marjorie L. Christiansen Foundation, Evan and Marion Helfaer Foundation, and PPC Foundation.** And new this year is **Woman's Club of Wisconsin Foundation, Maihaugen Foundation, We Energies Foundation, and Harri Hoffmann Family Foundation.**

CIVIC MUSIC is beyond grateful for our corporate, foundation, and individual sponsors, without whom there could be no KIDS MUSICFEST. If you would like to join this group in support of KIDS MUSICFEST, please contact Nancy Herro at info@CivicMusicMilwaukee.org.

SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

PRESENTING

CIVIC MUSIC MKE

LIVE AT THE IVY

906 SOUTH BARCLAY, MILWAUKEE

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 23 6-9PM

WITH MILWAUKEE'S

LOS MITOTEROS



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1345 N. Jefferson Street, #170  
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[www.civictimusicmilwaukee.org](http://www.civictimusicmilwaukee.org)

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SHOEBAZE, STEAMPUNK, ANIME, BLUES, ACQUINT, BLUES, AFRICAN, BLUES, BLUES, ROCK, BLUES, SHOULDER, BRITISH, BLUES, CANADIAN, BLUES, CHICAGO, BLUES, CLASSIC, BLUES, CLASS  
COUNTRY, BLUES, HOKUM, BLUES, JAZZ, BLUES, JUMP, BLUES, KANSAS, CITY, BLUES, LOUISIANA, BLUES, MEMPHIS, BLUES, MODERN, BLUES, NEW ORLEANS, BLUES, NY, BLUES, PIANO, BLUES  
CHILDREN'S MUSIC, LULLABIES, SING-ALONG, STORIES, CLASSICAL, ADAPT, CHORE, BALLET, BAROQUE, CANON, CHAMBER MUSIC, STRING QUARTET, CHANT, CHORAL, CLASSICAL, CRO