

Mission:

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

MusicNotes

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

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We are coming to the end of an extremely exciting and busy season! The premiere of **KIDS MUSICFEST** was a fun day for families to explore and experience music firsthand and meet and hear the organizations providing youth music programming in our area. We had 21 organizations for this first event! Kids were energized, parents were grateful, and organization representatives got a chance to have conversations with not only families but with each other. We hope

that some awesome collaborations will come from it. Look for the announcement of the 2025 date soon and mark it on your calendar!

The **PRIVATE LESSON PROGRAM** had a record 54 students apply to enter next season's program! This year's students wrapped up their season by performing in one of three recitals held on April 12. With almost 60 musicians in the program, we decided this year to spread them out into three recitals. We are grateful to the teachers for their great work and the families for supporting their children and giving them the opportunity of music! The **HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION** had a high enrollment as well with 49 students.

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT OF OUR DONORS WHO MAKE THESE PROGRAMS POSSIBLE...

The esteemed judges, workshop leaders, pianists and volunteers are all a worthy match to the work that the high school musicians put into their preparation! The October **LIVE AT THE IVY** was a fun evening of jazz from cellist and CIVIC MUSIC alumni Malik Johnson, Raymond Roberts and his amazing MHSA Vocal Jazz Ensemble and finished with a trio led by new board member Ben Piette. Next up is the May 7 **LIVE AT THE IVY** that will also host the **CITIZEN AWARDS**. Come and celebrate with us!

If you are a high school educator, it is that time of the season when we urge you to nominate an outstanding senior for a **HIGH SCHOOL AWARD**. The nomination form is on our website. Request a board member to make the presentation at your school event!

We are grateful for the support of our donors who make these programs possible, helping us realize our vision: "to be known as a catalyst to ensure every student in the greater Milwaukee area has access and opportunity to participate in music." While all donors and donations are special to us, the Heart of Canal Street presented by Potawatomi Hotel and Casino was definitely this season's most exciting! We were surprised and thrilled to be one of 30 recipients that each won \$22,164! I had asked Board VP Joe Hausch to join me at the event and to make sure to bring some good luck. Thanks, Joe! Mission accomplished!



Joe Hausch and Nancy Herro at the Heart of Canal Street event!

Support live music wherever you go. It is so important!

Nancy Herro, Executive Director
nancyherro@civicmusicmilwaukee.org

SUPPORT LIVE MUSIC

FIRST-EVER KIDS MUSICFEST STRIKES A CHORD

The first-ever KIDS MUSICFEST, created and produced by CIVIC MUSIC MKE, gave children from all over greater Milwaukee a rare opportunity to experience hands-on music-making, family fun, and energizing entertainment. It all happened Sunday, November 10, 2024 at the beautiful Milwaukee Youth Arts Center (MYAC), with more than 450 kids and adults in attendance. Enthusiastic board support, as well as the necessary funding from Bader Philanthropies to begin to build the event, made it all possible.



We're already planning KIDS MUSICFEST year two, but first – here are just a few highlights from our inaugural event!

- 465 kids and adults attended
- Seven performances brought two stages to life
- Six break-out rooms overflowed with hands-on music experiences
- 21 exhibitors enthusiastically shared music opportunities for kids
- And the generosity of seven fantastic sponsors, led by our generous Presenting Sponsor Landmark Credit Union, made it all possible

Here's what families had to say:

- "I loved the event. It's a beautiful thing for children. It gives them a chance to explore something they probably would never get a chance to touch."
- "I really like the fact they can explore music, not just see it as something big people do."
- "We loved the performances and the hands-on experiences with the instruments. This is an awesome experience, and we thank all the sponsors for this opportunity."
- "I learned how to do the violin and the xylophone AND the drums!"

And here's what we're planning for KIDS MUSICFEST 2025!

- EVEN BETTER hours: 12 to 4 pm
- ADDITIONAL stage times: More opportunities for participating music groups
- NEW floorplan: For a REALLY great exhibitor and attendee experience
- Resource Fair STAGE: A third, small stage in the exhibitor area - featuring participating organizations and pulling attendees into the area
- More PROMOTION! In our second year, we now have video and photos for excellent promotional opportunities!

Please plan to join us – follow us on Facebook for our KIDS MUSICFEST November 2025 date – to be announced in June!



Creating their own instrument mash-ups from random household objects and retired instruments - including some that actually made noise! – thoroughly enthralled kids at the **Creation Station**. Watch for an even bigger Creation Station in 2025.



Exhibitors like Festival City Symphony who played music for attendees were really appreciated. Harpist Ann Lobotzke played for young visitors' sheer delight.



What a hit! This was the **Drumming Den** with Julio Pabon, a Waukesha School District music educator and member of many bands including De La Buena. Come join the fun at KIDS MUSICFEST 2025.



We experienced again how much young children love small motor activities, even at a music-oriented event. Exhibitors often talked with parents or guardians about their musical offerings while the kids were happily occupied.



Pick up and try playing any instrument, along with basic instruction: That's the fascination and hands-on experience offered with more than 10 different instruments in the **Petting Zoo** sponsored by White House of Music.



Yaya Kambaye, a native of Senegal, West Africa, founded **Xalaat Africa Drum and Dance for Life** – an energizing favorite on the Star Stage at KIDS MUSICFEST.

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION

Open to high school vocal and instrumental students in grades 10-12 who live in Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Waukesha, Washington or Racine County performing at or above WSMA Class A.

2025 SHOWCASE RECITAL PERFORMERS

INSTRUMENTAL

Junho Chung, piano, is a senior at Brookfield Central High School. Junho studies piano with **Tatyana Smith**.

Benjamin Kim, violin, is a senior at Homestead High School. Benjamin studies violin with **Sanda Masic** and his collaborative pianist was **Elizabeth Green**

Ava Larsen, cello, is a home schooled senior. Ava studies cello with **Peter Thomas** and her collaborative pianist was **Stefanie Jacob**.

Salvador Stein, violin, is a sophomore at Homestead High School. Salvador studies violin with **Pamela Simmons** and his collaborative pianist was **Stefanie Jacob**.

Faith Weigand, bassoon, is a senior at Shoreland Lutheran High School. Faith studies bassoon with **Beth Giacobassi** and her collaborative pianist was **Stefanie Jacob**.

Lucy Wu, cello, is a junior at Whitefish Bay High School. Lucy studies cello with **Stefan Kartman** and her collaborative pianist was **Hikari Nakamura**.

VOCAL

Lex V Crump, soprano, is a senior at Milwaukee High School of the Arts. Lex studies voice with **Raymond J. Roberts** who was also her collaborative pianist.

Alani Eastman, soprano, is a senior at Milwaukee High School of the Arts. Alani studies voice with **Raymond J. Roberts** who was also her collaborative pianist.

Amiracle Evans, soprano, is a junior at Milwaukee High School of the Arts. Amiracle studies voice with **Raymond Roberts** who was also her collaborative pianist.

Eric Hanna, baritone, is a senior at Shorewood High School. Eric studies voice with **Roberta Ricci** and his collaborative pianist was **Jessi Kolberg**.

YOUNG ARTIST SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to this season's recipients:

INSTRUMENTAL: **Lucy Wu (\$500)**
Benjamin Kim (\$250)

VOCAL: **Amiracle Evans (\$500)**
Eric Hanna (\$250)

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO:

OUR JUDGES

Chelsea Betz, Mezzo Soprano, Private Voice Instructor

Johanna Brahm, Pianist, Lecturer, Piano, UW-Milwaukee Peck School of the Arts

Jun Kim, Director, Orchestral Activities, Symphony Orchestra, University Community Orchestra, UW-Milwaukee Peck School of the Arts

Matthew Markham, Professor of Voice, Voice Area Coordinator, UW-Stevens Point

James Ripley, Director of Instrumental Music Activities, Carthage College; Music Director, Waukesha Area Symphonic Band; Principal Guest Conductor, Sakuyo Wind Orchestra, Sakuyo University, Kurashiki, Japan

OUR WORKSHOP LEADERS

Victoria Benson Hora, Vocal Tune-Up: Self-Care for Singers

Mark Davis, Mindful Performances: Where Preparation and Confidence Intersect

Alexandra Kassouf, Lighten Up: The Alexander Technique for Musicians

Korinthia Klein, Repair and Maintenance for Your Stringed Instrument

OUR VOLUNTEERS!

So many CIVIC MUSIC friends and board members helped to present a smooth-running event!



EDUCATOR AWARDS 2025 RECIPIENTS CELEBRATED AT MSO PERFORMANCE

CIVIC MUSIC MKE was honored to return to the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra's Bradley Symphony Center for the celebration of the 2025 EDUCATOR AWARDS. Recipients were presented from the stage at the afternoon March 9 concert. Previously an evening event, we were thrilled to walk into the beautifully sun-drenched Atrium for our reception and presentation event. As with most CIVIC MUSIC events, the number of multi-generational teachers and students reconnecting was remarkable. Here is just one of those connections: We learned that Eric Rian, receiving the Educational Administrator of the Year award, had been a student of retired MPS music educator Dale Pforr, who was at our event to celebrate his son Andy Pforr who was receiving the Certificate of Excellence for Instrumental Music. Educators seizing the opportunity to pay it forward, and students showing genuine gratitude. Heartwarming!

Since 1991, CIVIC MUSIC has annually recognized inspiring teachers and administrators for their outstanding work in advancing music education. This celebration is held during the month of March, known as Music in Our Schools month.

2025 MUSIC TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Trinny Schumann, Choir Director, Nicolet Union High School, Nicolet Unified School District
Lonna Schickert, Band Director, North Middle School, School District of Menomonee Falls

2025 EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR

Eric Rian, Principal, Academy of Accelerated Learning, Milwaukee Public Schools

2025 EMERGING MUSIC EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Emma Milton, Choir Director, KM Middle School and KM School for Arts and Performance, Kettle Moraine School District

Certificates of Excellence:

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC INSTRUCTION

Andy Pforr, Band Director, Lincoln, Wilson/WSTEM and Washington Elementary Schools, Wauwatosa School District

CHORAL MUSIC INSTRUCTION

Sarah Milton, Choral Director, Muskego Lakes Middle School, Muskego-Norway School District

GENERAL MUSIC INSTRUCTION

Cassie Wilson, General Music Teacher, Thorson Elementary School, Cedarburg School District

STUDIO MUSIC INSTRUCTION

Clare Malinowski, Songbird Studio, Hartland



2025 EDUCATOR AWARDS recipients

(L-R): Sarah Milton, Lonna Schickert, Cassie Wilson, Andy Pforr, Trinny Schumann, Clare Malinowski, Eric Rian, Emma Milton

Learn more about these inspiring educators:



Or visit our website

We are grateful to the evening's sponsors:



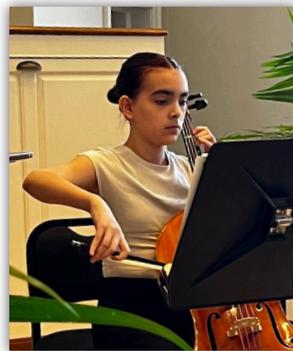
NAME: BLUES, ACROSTIC, BLUES AFFAIR, BLUES BLUES, ROCK, BLUES SHOOTER, BRITISH, BLUES CANADIAN, BLUES CHICAGO, BLUES CLASSIC, BLUES CLASSIC, FEMALE, BLUES CONTEMPORARY, R&B, COUNTRY, BLUES DELTA, BLUES DEPT. OF BLUES, ELECTRIC, BLUES FOLK, BLUES GOSPEL, BLUES HARMONICA, BLUES HILL, BLUES JAZZ, BLUES JUMP, BLUES KANSAS, CITY, BLUES LOUISIANA, BLUES MEMPHIS, JAZZ MODERN, BLUES NEW ORLEANS, BLUES NY, BLUES PIANO, BLUES PIEDMONT, BLUES SMOKE, BLUES SOUTHERN, BLUES SWAMP, BLUES TEXAS, BLUES URBAN, BLUES VANCOUVER, WEST COAST, BLUES, BLUES SHINE-A-LONG, STORIES, CLASSICAL, NINETEEN, FORTY, FIVE, MAJOR, CANADIAN, JAZZ, SPANISH, QUARTET, CHANT, CANON, CLASSICAL, CROSSOVER, CONCERTO, CONTEMPORARY, CLASSICAL, EARLY, JAZZ, EXPRESSIONIST, HARD, CLASSICAL, IMPRESSIONIST, JAZZ, REGIONAL, MEDIAN, MINIMAL, IMPRESSIONIST

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS

PRIVATE LESSON PROGRAM LIFE LESSONS THROUGH MUSIC

This season, 62 aspiring young musicians were part of the program receiving private lessons with 27 teachers. Designed for families in need of a financial helping hand to realize their child's music study, our teachers take special care with the students so that they can excel. Private lessons create an environment where students can learn faster and deeper. Our scholarships give our families the opportunity to stay in step with their classmates so they may enjoy the same opportunities to join ensembles or eventually enter solo competitions.

With a season of 25 lessons under their belt, 55 of those students performed in one of three recitals on April 12. These recitals allow the students to show their family and friends what they achieved throughout their season of 25 lessons. The audience provided encouragement to these young musicians, which helps them get more comfortable with performing in front of others. Performers of any kind know how that feeling of comfort can keep you in the moment and make a good performance become a great one.



These recital performances also serve as an audition for students recommended by their private teacher to apply for a Year 2 or Year 3 scholarship. Additional Scholarship applications ask students to tell us the impact their year of lessons have had. One eighth grader is already noticing the crossover results from her music study. She wrote in her application for Year 2, "... I feel better about performing and not as nervous. I am more comfortable now with volunteering in my National Junior Honor Society and presenting my presentations at school because of my playing."

The week prior, we welcomed a record 54 applicants to Audition Day! We are grateful to our judges who listen and work with these sometimes nervous, always earnest young musicians. This season's judges, **Kathy Melius** and **Ijoister Pyle-Harris** for the strings, and **Rob Engl** and **Pete Lange** for the winds, percussion and voice, took great care in making the young musicians feel comfortable and gave them some feedback that they can put into action right away. The judges review the family, child and teacher portions of the application and then listen to their audition. Here is an example of the astute insight of one auditioning 4th grader: "... I enjoy violin because when I play the world expands and I think it really is a big part of my learning journey..."

The April Musician Meet-Up was a fun evening for many Private Lesson Program families. At these events, we enjoy dinner and conversation together, and then get moving with a musical activity for the students and sometimes parents too. This time around, Board President **Pete Lange** took us through our paces in a session on singing, a little music theory, and definitely fun all mixed together!



