

CIVIC MUSIC MILWAUKEE PRESENTS



# MUSICNOTES

SPRING 2023 EDITION VOLUME 42, ISSUE 2

## JOIN US!



**WHEN:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023, 6:30-9:30 PM

**WHERE:** The Ivy House  
906 South Barclay Street, 3rd Ward

**THE EVENING:**

- Live Music: UWM Jazz Combo and guests Led by Casimir Riley, 2019 High School Competition winner
- Silent and Live Auction
- Award presentations
- \$30 admission, with other activities to make you smile and support CIVIC MUSIC MKE!

**TICKETS AND SPONSORSHIP:**

SCAN:



WEB: [www.civictimusicmilwaukee.org](http://www.civictimusicmilwaukee.org)

CALL: 414.375.4875

**CELEBRATION OF HONOREES. LIVE MUSIC. GOOD FOOD. FUNDRAISING.**

**CITIZEN AWARDS**  
HONOREES

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Patrons of the Arts



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**Lifetime Achievement in Music**



**RICHARD AND MICHELLE HYNSON**

**Distinguished Citizen**  
Professional in the Arts



**CHARLES Q. SULLIVAN**

### 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.

### Board of Directors

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Veronica Thompson  
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### Administrative Staff

Nancy J. Herro  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Contact Us:

CIVIC MUSIC MKE  
1345 N. Jefferson Street, #170  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
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held on March 25 at the Bradley Symphony Center were an inspiration!

The **PRIVATE LESSON PROGRAM** Audition Day was just held where students auditioned, heard inspiring performances by **HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION** winners and created thank you notes for their recommending teachers. On May 13, students in this season's program will present their Final Recitals for friends and family. If you are available, come and cheer them on!

"WE CONTINUE TO BE SO GRATEFUL TO ALL THE DONORS WHO WALK THE WALK WITH US. YOU HAVE SHOWN YOUR GENEROSITY AND YOUR CONFIDENCE IN OUR ORGANIZATION."

Our final and crowning event of this season is **CAN'T STOP THE MUSIC**, a fun filled event where we will honor our **CITIZEN AWARD** recipients, enjoy live music, food and fun. Funds raised at this event will go toward our youth music programming.

We continue to be so grateful to all the donors who walk the walk with us. You have shown your generosity and your confidence in our organization. Thank you!

As always, we encourage you to attend some performances around Milwaukee this spring and summer. Support the many wonderful musicians and artists who make our community great.

*Wishing you a summer of joy and tons of music!*  
Nancy Herro, Executive Director  
nancyherro@civicmusicmilwaukee.org



Thousands of awards have been presented to music students since this program began in 1927. Students are nominated by their music directors in recognition of exceptional musicianship, scholarship, leadership and service to school. A gold lapel pin and certificate are ready for presentation at a final school concert or awards ceremony. If you are a school music teacher in the five-county area, employ this award to recognize an exceptional student in your program.



**NOMINATIONS DUE:** May 22, 2023  
Nomination forms can be found at [www.civicmusicmilwaukee.org](http://www.civicmusicmilwaukee.org).



# OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS

## HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION

Eleven talented musicians performed a stunningly beautiful Showcase Recital held this season at the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center.

### SHOWCASE RECITAL PERFORMERS

#### INSTRUMENTAL

**Maydine Bellot**, harp, Wauwatosa, is a senior attending Wauwatosa East High School. Maydine studies harp with Johanna Wienholts.

**Ethan Chen**, violin, New Berlin, is a sophomore attending New Berlin Eisenhower Middle/High School. Ethan studies violin with Pamela Simmons and his recital pianist was Stefanie Jacob.

**Zak Chen**, violin, New Berlin, is a senior attending New Berlin Eisenhower Middle/High School. Zak studies violin with Bernard Zinck and his recital pianist was Stefanie Jacob.

**Komei Okamoto**, piano, Brookfield, is a sophomore attending Brookfield East High School. Komei studies piano with Jeannie Yu.

**Collin Runnoe**, cello, Whitefish Bay, is a sophomore attending Whitefish Bay High School. Collin studies cello with Scott Cook and his recital pianist was Leslie Krueger.

**Ben Saudek**, piano, Elm Grove, is a junior attending Brookfield East High School. Ben studies piano with Mary Anne Harris.

#### VOCAL

**Ava Balistreri**, soprano, Muskego, is a junior attending Muskego High School. Ava studies voice with Shallece Saleen and her recital pianist was Ruby Lee.

**Arthur Christiansen**, tenor, Shorewood, is a senior attending Shorewood High School. Arthur studies voice with Roberta Ricci and his recital pianist was Martha Galvin.

**Alexa Crump**, mezzo soprano, Milwaukee, is a sophomore attending Milwaukee High School of the Arts. Alexa studies voice with Raymond Roberts who was also her recital pianist.

**Charley Vander Molen**, soprano, Milwaukee, is a senior attending Milwaukee High School of the Arts. Charley studies voice with Raymond Roberts who was also her recital pianist.

#### JAZZ

**Lucas LaBeau**, piano, Greendale, is a junior attending Greendale High School. Lucas studies piano with Mark Davis.

### SCHOLARSHIPS

Young Artist Scholarships:

INSTRUMENTAL: **Komei Okamoto (\$500)**  
**Zak Chen (\$250)**

VOCAL: **Arthur Christiansen (\$500)**  
**Alexa Crump (\$250)**

Lee and Joan Guse Memorial Jazz Scholarship: **Lucas LaBeau**

### Showcase Recital Performers and Scholarship Winners



All Young Artist Scholarship recipients were also awarded a 50% tuition scholarship to the Summer Institute and Festival at Brevard Music Center in North Carolina. Collin Runnoe, cello, was awarded a \$500 scholarship to the Summer Music Academy at Birch Creek Music Center in Door County.

### WE ARE GRATEFUL TO:

#### OUR JUDGES

Instrumental judges were **Paul Hauer**, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra musician and Private Lesson Program teacher, **Dr. James Ripley**, Carthage College Professor and Director of Instrumental Music Activities, Sakuyo Wind Orchestra (Japan) Principal Guest Conductor, Waukesha Area Symphonic Band Music Director; and **Johanna Brahm**, UW-Milwaukee Associate Lecturer, Piano. Vocal judges were **David Hoffman**, UW-Milwaukee teaching faculty, voice, and musical theatre voice liaison, and faculty member at the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University; and **Wendy Rowe**, UW-Milwaukee Lecturer, Voice. Jazz judges were CIVIC MUSIC board members **Robin Engl**, Youth Wind Orchestra of Wisconsin Executive Director and Conductor, and Fresh Coast Jazz Festival Education Chair; and **Pete Lange**, Director of Homebuilding Services for Tim O'Brien Homes, and performing and recording artist.

#### OUR WORKSHOP LEADERS

We are also grateful to our workshop leaders who provided these offerings:

**Korinthia Klein**, Repair and Maintenance for Your Stringed Instrument

**Wendy Rowe** and **David Hoffman**, 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

**Nina Johnston** and **Alexandra Kassouf**, Vocal Masterclass Leaders

**Rebecca Furdek**, Vocal Masterclass accompanist

#### OUR VOLUNTEERS

Many CIVIC MUSIC friends and board members helped to create a smooth-running event.

## PRIVATE LESSON PROGRAM LIFE LESSONS THROUGH MUSIC

### FINAL RECITALS

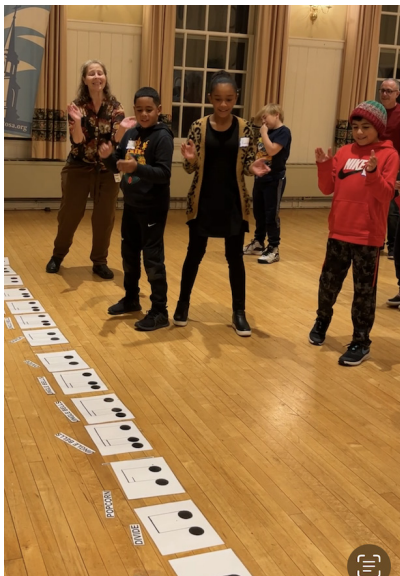
**Saturday, May 13, 12:00 PM and 3:00 PM**  
**First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa**

Students and teachers are busy preparing for recital performances. We invite you to attend. Encourage these young musicians as they show us the progress made this season. These recitals 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 has made. Here is what John, a high school sophomore told us:

*Here is what John, a high school sophomore told us: "I believe if you find something that you're good at and love it, that you should continue to strive to be the best you can be and be thankful for the opportunities... Outside of playing the saxophone, I enjoy the theater program and cross country. It's fun and challenging to balance all of them but I believe it's worth it because I am able to do all the things I love. I have been able to do all of this while maintaining good attendance and a 3.5 cumulative grade point average. I believe the program has taught me commitment and determination. I am thankful for the opportunities and love knowing that playing the saxophone is an option for a future career."*

*And from a sixth grader we heard, "... my attitude toward music has to be patient, because I'm very patient while I'm practicing my instrument... I have this dedication towards music because I want to/believe I can excel at it. Looking at my grades I do believe they improved because of the concentration I have learned while practicing. Playing my instrument has taught me how to focus more on everyday things and not only while practicing and because of that I believe it had a huge impact on my grades."*

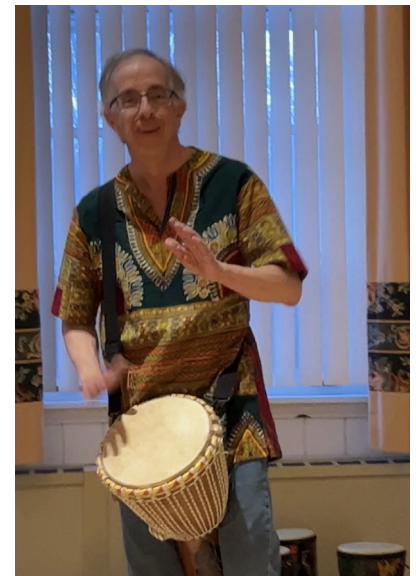
Recently, CIVIC MUSIC hosted another Musician Meet-Up for the students of the Private Lesson Program. Students and their families join us for dinner and conversation. After dinner, we have a musical activity for the students. At the November Meet-Up, Carmen Kitts led us in a rhythm activity. In April, Gary Huber led us in a drum circle.



In November, Carmen Kitts led the group in a rhythm activity that got brains and bodies moving.



In April, Gary Huber provided drums for everyone and led students, parents, teachers and even board members in a fun session of call and response patterns.





## EDUCATOR AWARDS 2023 RECIPIENTS

### Meet the 2023 Educator Awards recipients

Friends, family and admirers of the 2023 EDUCATOR AWARDS recipients assembled at the Bradley Symphony Center on March 25 to honor these inspiring educators. Several generations of teachers and students mixed, mingled and listened with admiration as each of the award recipients took the podium at our reception to thank important people in their lives and to lift up the importance of music in a student's education. In collaboration with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, we moved into the auditorium where Rebecca Whitney, MSO Director of Education, and Jonathan Winkle, CIVIC MUSIC Board President, made the awards presentation at the top of another fantastic performance by the MSO.

### 2023 MUSIC TEACHER OF THE YEAR

#### Randy Skowronski

Director of Instrumental Music Education, Marquette University High School

### 2023 MSO ACE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

#### Jessica Maxwell

K-5 Kindergarten Teacher, Milwaukee Parkside School of the Arts, Milwaukee Public Schools

### Certificates of Excellence:

#### INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC INSTRUCTION

##### Matt Mueller

Band Director, Muskego High School, Muskego-Norway School District

#### CHORAL MUSIC INSTRUCTION

##### Dennis Gephart

Choral Music Director, Port Washington High School, Port Washington-Sauville School District

#### GENERAL MUSIC INSTRUCTION

##### Karen Wysocky

Elementary Music Teacher, Green Tree Elementary School, West Bend School District

#### STUDIO MUSIC INSTRUCTION

##### Lindsay Patterson

Cello instructor, Waukesha County Conservatory of Music

#### EMERGING MUSIC EDUCATOR

Victor Montañez Cruz, General Music Teacher, Luther Burbank School, Milwaukee Public Schools



Cello students of Lindsay Patterson performed as people arrived.



Dennis Gephart's Port Washington High School A Cappella ensemble performed during the presentation.

Randy



Jessica



Matt



Dennis



Karen



Lindsay



Victor



We are grateful to the evening's sponsors:



# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## GRANT SUPPORT NURTURES YOUNG MUSICIANS

We are grateful to all our funders and supporters who make our work possible. We are pleased to announce new support to our Youth Music programs. **Aptar Charitable Foundation** is a new funder to our Youth Music programs, and the **Harri Hoffmann Family Foundation** is a new funder to the Private Lesson Program.

We are also thrilled this year to be an affiliate member of the United Performing Arts Fund and to receive funding from the Milwaukee County Cultural, Artistic and Musical Programming Advisory Council (CAMPAC).



## WELCOME OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER



**Rebecca Furdek** is a Senior Associate at Husch Blackwell LLP. She is also an accomplished pianist and has been an accompanist for the Private Lesson Program recitals and the High School Competition vocal masterclass. We are thrilled to welcome her to the CIVIC MUSIC board!

## CODA

We celebrate the lives of these friends of CIVIC MUSIC MKE who have passed away in the last year.

### COLLEEN ROSE

Colleen and her husband Leonhard were awarded the 2015 Lifetime Achievement in Music. Colleen was a busy accompanist and piano teacher throughout her life. Together they raised six children, all accomplished musicians themselves. But Colleen was also "mom" to all of her students and children's friends. Colleen passed away in April 2022.

### HAROLD ZIMDARS

Harold and his wife Valerie have been supporters of CIVIC MUSIC for a number of years. Harold was known in Milwaukee as the owner of Zimdars Motors, but he was also a lifelong musician. Harold relayed his gratitude to music and all his teachers in our Donor Spotlight article in the Spring 2021 MUSIC NOTES issue. As Harold said then and what we believe will always be true, "The moral of the story is early and good music lessons will serve you for the rest of your life." Harold passed away in September 2022.

### KATHY GROGAN

Kathy spent the past nine seasons as a CIVIC MUSIC board member. She was generous with her time and resources and as a member of the Woman's Club of Wisconsin, sponsored our organization in its grant applications to their foundation. Kathy was a retired Early Childhood and Reading Specialist Teacher in the Milwaukee Public Schools and loved to travel and see the world with her family and friends. Kathy passed away in December 2022.

# LEND YOUR SUPPORT

We are grateful for the generous support of our donors who provide exceptional opportunities to students and educators. Here are just a few examples of what your support can provide:

\$100...pays for one month of private lessons

\$250... supports one performance stipend for a performer on the High School Competition Showcase Recital

\$500... makes one High School Competition Young Artist Scholarship possible

\$750...provides a young musician with one season of private lessons

\$1,000...makes possible two Private Lesson Program Musician Meet-Ups

\$2,000...supports all of the Young Artist scholarships

## I would like to make a gift of:

☐ \$1000    ☐ \$500    ☐ \$250    ☐ \$100    ☐ \$50    ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Please direct my gift toward:

☐ Private Lesson Program    ☐ High School Competition and Showcase Recital  
☐ Educator Awards    ☐ Distinguished Citizen Awards    ☐ General Operating Support

Gifts of \$100 or more are recognized in our annual fall newsletter. Please print your name as you would like it to appear.

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- ☐ I wish to remain anonymous.  
☐ I have enclosed my employer's matching gift form.  
☐ I have remembered CIVIC MUSIC MKE in my estate planning.  
☐ Please contact me about including CIVIC MUSIC MKE in my planned giving.

My gift is:

☐ In memory of    ☐ In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

## Please notify the following individual of my gift:

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☐ My check is enclosed payable to CIVIC MUSIC MKE

Please send your gift to:

CIVIC MUSIC MKE  
1345 N. Jefferson Street, #170  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Please charge my: ☐ VISA    ☐ MasterCard

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Donations may also be made online at [www.civicmusicmilwaukee.org](http://www.civicmusicmilwaukee.org)  
CIVIC MUSIC MKE IS A 501(C)3 TAX DEDUCTIBLE ORGANIZATION.



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## UPCOMING EVENTS & DEADLINES

**PRIVATE LESSON PROGRAM Recitals**  
**Saturday, May 13, 2023**  
12:00 Noon and 3:00 PM  
First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa

**HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC COMPETITION**  
**Applications Due: December 15, 2023**

**EDUCATOR AWARDS**  
**Nominations Due: December 5, 2023**

**HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS**  
**Nominations Due: May 22, 2023**

**CAN'T STOP THE MUSIC**  
**Tuesday, May 16, 2023**  
6:30-9:30 PM  
Presentation of **CITIZEN AWARDS**  
**LIVE MUSIC. GOOD FOOD. FUNDRAISING**



Read more about the 2023 recipients here.

