

NISOM Northeast Iowa School of Music

Quarternotes

Northeast Iowa School of Music

August 2016

Special Edition: Our First 15 Years

15 Years of NISOM



Do you remember what you were doing 15 years ago? In August 2001, NISOM was just opening our doors—and the construction wasn't even finished yet! We started with just 50 students, grew to over 300 at our maximum with two halls of teaching space, and now regularly serve approximately 200 each year in one hall and two sub-leased rooms. This year, for our 15th anniversary, we celebrate the ups and the downs and all the lives we have changed so far, with more to come!

Before NISOM opened there was no comprehensive music program available in the Tri-States. Parents looking to provide their children music lessons and adults wanting the benefits of music education often found it difficult to locate private teachers. Meanwhile, teachers struggled to make their services known and had to open their homes to students, parents, and siblings. NISOM provides a solution: a one-stop music center in a safe facility, with vetted, qualified instructors.



Members of the NISOM faculty, staff, and students accepted a Theisen's Golden Ticket prize on Great Give Day 2015.

Today, NISOM is a thriving community music school. Our organization continues to grow and expand our offerings to the Dubuque community, including lessons and classes for all ages, adult performance ensembles, after-school outreach to underserved populations, workshops and special events, public concerts, and more. We are thrilled to have been serving the community for 15 years and are extremely grateful to everyone who has played a role. We're looking forward to the next 15 years and beyond!

Take a trip down memory lane with us for this special edition of our Quarter Notes newsletter highlighting our first 15 years. We thoroughly enjoyed checking in with our former students, faculty, and board members who responded to our surveys, and we hope you will enjoy these blasts from the past, too. Then, please join us to celebrate with a special 15th anniversary concert and reception featuring music from the British Isles on October 15. (See back page for details.)



15 Years of Performances

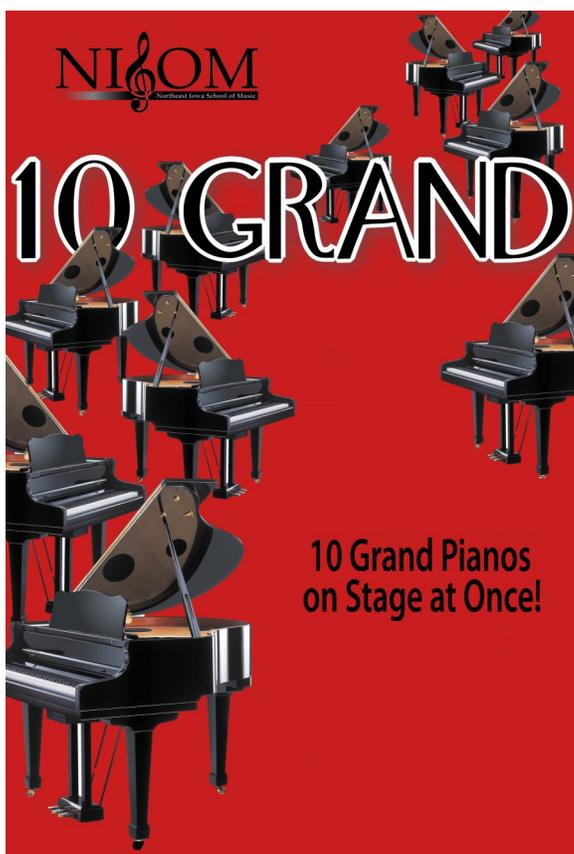
NISOM Core Value: Music is meant to be shared.

Concert Flashbacks: Remember These?

Opera You'll Love—Really!	A Piece of Cake
Is There a Doctor in the House?	Barrage
Music in the Rafters	10 Grand
Hooray for Hollywood	String Fever
One Enchanted Evening	Project Trio
Pirates of Penzance	Musical Mayhem
Masterworks series	Carnegie-Midwest
Music in the Gardens	Red Cedar Trio
Black & White and Read all Over	And More!

THANK YOU

To all our sponsors, venues, and performers!



Plus!

65+ Performances by our adult ensembles Encore Chorale, New Horizons Band, and Dubuque Community String Orchestra

85 Recitals

8 Years of Juilliard in June/ ChamberFest Dubuque

82 Lollipops & Music for Our Preschoolers concerts

13 Years of Summer Strings



Former NISOM performance ensembles include River Rhythm show choir and the Dubuque Chamber Winds



15 Years of Teaching

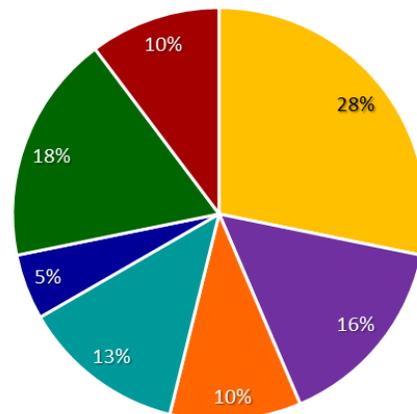
NISOM Core Value: A community of musicians is beneficial for all and fosters growth, collaboration, inspiration, and joy.



Faculty Flashback: Kaye (Hudson) Lehrman taught piano and voice with us from 2002 until she moved in 2006. Today, she lives in La Crosse, Wis., with her husband Wayne, plus cats, guinea pigs, and bunnies. She still performs and teaches. Kaye says, "Sometimes the guinea pigs are therapy pets at lessons!"

Faculty for 15 Years and Counting!
 Wendy Hinman: French Horn
 Mike Jozefowicz: Voice, Bass, Guitar & Trumpet
 Tracey Rush: Violin, Viola & Composition
 Dennis Williams: Voice & Woodwinds

What was your favorite thing about teaching at NISOM?



- The students
- The staff
- The studios/facility
- Fellow faculty/community of musicians
- The paid opportunity to teach
- I didn't have to build a studio on my own
- The office handled scheduling, finances, recitals, etc

What our Students Say about their Teachers*



My Favorite NISOM Memory Is...

The glow on my students' faces when they "got it." –*Edward Obermueller*

The level of commitment from my students that were determined to learn to play music –*Dean Mattoon*

As a student, the Tadeu Coelho master class and recital. –*Matthew Boleyn*

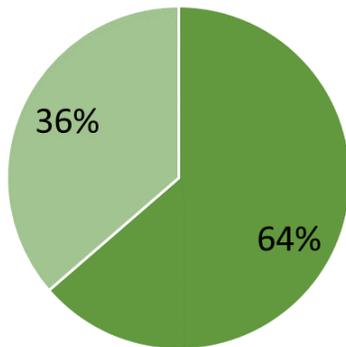
Performing in the "Ten Grand" concert for NISOM! –*Dan Knight*

*Source: Spring 2016 Faculty Report Cards

15 Years of Students

NISOM Core Value: Personal integrity, discipline, and mutual trust enable students and faculty to achieve excellence and maximize potential.

100% of Students Surveyed Say Music is Important in their Lives!



- Extremely Important
- Somewhat Important

We asked former students: How important would you say NISOM or making music has been in your life? 64% of respondents said *Extremely Important*, with the remaining 36% selecting *Somewhat Important*. 0% selected *Slightly Important* or *Not Important*.



Student Flashback: Young cellists Josiah Yowell (left front) and Sam Sykes (right front) participated in a masterclass with Rodney Farrar in 2006, a part of NISOM’s Masterworks series. Both boys started lessons at NISOM at age 3 using the Suzuki method with Karen Geyer. Today, both still play! Josiah was our Flint-Lindsay scholarship recipient in 2014-2015 and is now beginning his freshman year of college. Sam, age 15, played in the World Youth Symphony at Interlochen this summer. Sam says, “If I would not have started at NISOM, I’m not sure I would have started as early or even started at all.” Mrs. Geyer (not pictured) retired this spring after teaching with us for all our first 15 years.

“A music school is a place where everyone speaks the same language: Music.

It doesn't matter your age or your experience or your ability. If you love music, there is a place for you. Music adds so much to the quality of life in our community. . . . Music helps children grow in so many ways. They learn skills that will last a lifetime. Adults can come back and build upon the skills they learned in their youth or learn new ones. You are never too old to learn! NISOM is a true asset to our community.”

—Laura Roussell



“Dubuque is very fortunate to have such a school in a community of this size.

My time at NISOM both as a student and teacher played a pivotal role in where I ended up today.”

—Matthew Boleyn

“NISOM made me a better musician.

I think it is great that Dubuque has a music school like NISOM where music students of all ability levels and ages can improve their skill while having fun too.” —Jess Huff

“While I’ve studied music since I was very young, I began studying cello at NISOM for the first time as an adult. **I was so grateful to have the opportunity for affordable lessons with an exceptionally talented and patient teacher.**”

—Julie Arensdorf

15 Years of Changing Lives

NISOM Core Value: People are the source of our strength, reputation, and vitality.

When Nicole Merritt graduated from Clarke University, she didn't quite know what she wanted to do with her degree in music. She joined NISOM as both a faculty and staff member, teaching voice lessons and serving as our Operations Manager. "Having a place to come to where I could use my degree meant everything to me," she says.

Working at NISOM inspired her to pursue a master of arts management at Carnegie Mellon University, which helped her launch a career at IMG Artists in London and New York, followed by a management role at the International Society for the Performing Arts (ISPA).

Today, she lives in New York City where she is the producer and General Manager of globalFEST, a critically acclaimed world music festival and non-profit organization. Outside of work, she is the front-woman and singer for an electro fusion project called Charcole Federation (voice, sitar, moog, and beats). They actively perform in and around NYC and Brooklyn at festivals, clubs, and museums. She keeps up with her classical roots by singing with the Grace Choral Society, a volunteer semi-pro choir.

Nicole says, "I owe Tracey, Karen Geyer, and the great folks at NISOM everything. Their support and entrepreneurship inspired me to pursue my current career path as well as instilled in me the importance of community."



"Schools across the country are dropping their music education programs, slowly degrading the quality of education and culture in our country. The importance of quality music schools like NISOM cannot be overstated." —Nicole Merritt

"I think [studying music] made me a better student overall and also served as a great stress release."

—Jesse Huff



Jo deForest battles anxiety disorder and depression. When Jo was in 3rd grade, she took up piano at NISOM and later switched to French horn instruction with Wendy Hinman. Through her lessons, something amazing happened. She found that performing music is one of the few things that doesn't make her anxious! "[Music has] always been a refuge for me," she says, "and I think at least part of that comes from getting my start at NISOM." During her years with us, she performed in numerous NISOM student recitals, which she says played a significant role in why instrumental performance does not make her anxious when so many other things do.

Today, age 21, Jo is a visual arts student at East Stroudsburg University, and she's still making music. She plays at her church and in a local community band, with yearly gigs in their Christmas Cantata and musical. Plus, she was recently hired to provide background music for a Victorian house tour. She credits NISOM with helping her get where she is today. "I think my instruction there was a big part of why I kept playing. NISOM was a really positive influence at a formative time in my life."

15 Years of Changing Lives...and to 15 more!

NISOM Core Value: Life and health are enriched by life-long learning and appreciation of music. All people deserve this opportunity, regardless of financial obstacles.

Over the past 15 years NISOM has reached more than 2500 students! Some of those started with us as kids or teens and are all grown up now, making a difference themselves, like Laney Donohue (right).

Laney took violin lessons at NISOM with Tracey Rush and is now studying to be a music therapist. On one of her first days playing music in the cancer center, Laney’s patient, a burly 50-year-old man, confiscated her guitar. Despite giving what Laney described as a thoroughly impressive performance of Jim Croce, the man apologized. He claimed it was sloppy, explaining, “The chemo makes my fingers numb.” **Thankfully, he did not let the numbness, the chemo, or the cancer stop him. He knew the power of music.** His wife did not, but she was about to learn. She requested Laney play “Leaving on a Jet Plane.” During the song the woman cried softly, covering her face, while her husband held her hand. Laney learned this woman had lost both her mother and sister in the ICU that very morning. The emotions the music elicited were strong and raw in a way she had never experienced before. She finally understood the true power of music. “Darling,” she said to her husband, “After all your mucking around on that [guitar], this has forever changed how I will hear it.”

Laney’s story is a testament to the lasting impact NISOM has. **We may have changed this student’s life, and now she’s changing other lives.** When you give a gift to NISOM, you support students like Laney. You support students of every age through lessons and our numerous community programs and concerts.

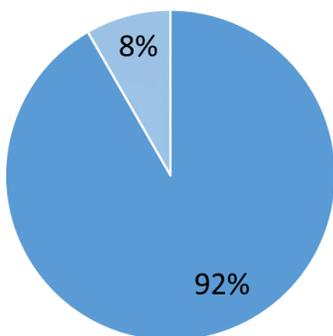
If you are in the position to give, **please consider helping us celebrate our anniversary with a birthday gift** to keep our programs going for the next 15 years. Choose an item from our wish list, or contribute to our Annual Fund, which is our greatest need and the best gift you can give to help further our mission of making music accessible to everyone.

Thank you for changing lives through music!



Wish List

- 4 Wall-mount guitar holders - \$15 each
- 2 Bass stands - \$60 each
- Fire-safe, waterproof file box - \$75
- Rolling cart/truck - \$85
- Portable CD player w/ USB & MP3 - \$100
- Bookshelf - \$150
- NISOM table cloth - \$200
- NISOM telescoping banner - \$200
- Microphone for vocalists - \$200
- New wireless network & file share - \$200
- Fix website error for iPads - \$300



■ Strongly Agree ■ Agree Somewhat

100% of Students Surveyed Say NISOM Improved their Lives!

We asked former students: NISOM is dedicated to improving the quality of life through music education and enrichment for people of all ages and abilities. How strongly do you agree or disagree that NISOM improved your quality of life in any way? 92% of respondents *Agree Strongly!* Only 8% selected *Agree Somewhat*, and 0% selected *Neither Agree nor Disagree*, *Disagree Somewhat*, or *Strongly Disagree*.

Please Give Today!

Donate online at nisom.com.

Mail your contribution to NISOM at 2728 Asbury Rd, Ste 200, Dubuque, IA 52001.

To apply your gift to our wish list or a specific fund, please indicate in the memo line or include a note.

15 Years of Service

NISOM Core Value: Service to and collaboration with the area community is crucial to our mutual success.

15 Years of Program Partners

Program	Partner(s)
Music Classes	Multicultural Family Center, Boys & Girls Club, St. Mark's, St. Mary's, Prescott Elem., Hillcrest Family Services, Central Alternative HS, NICC, UD for Kids
College Credit Lessons	Emmaus Bible College, NICC, University of Dubuque
Workshops	Loras, Clarke, Emmaus, Eleanor Roosevelt MS
Student Scholarships	Leisure Services of Dubuque, Rotary Club
Adult Ensembles	Emmaus, Loras, Oak Park Place
Jump Start	Dubuque Community School District
L&MOP Concert Series	Carnegie-Stout Public Library, City of Dubuque
Silent Film Score Contest	Julien Dubuque Film Festival
Arts Receptions	Carnegie-Stout Public Library

"[NISOM] adds class to the city. S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) is a huge push in the public schools. While those are excellent subjects to emphasize, music and art enhance our lives in ways we cannot measure. The ability to appreciate beauty is an innately human trait. Having a music school helps to cultivate and develop the appreciation of beauty and enhance the lives of many people. As an organization, NISOM can affect more people and be more apt to hold community functions than a single person." —Sarah Sutton



Program Flashback: 1st Senior Piano Class

Thanks to Club 602!

- Black Hills Corporation
- Butler Family Foundation
- Keith Cook & Sharon Kress
- Patrick & Carla Crahan
- Norma Denlinger
- Dubuque Community Strings
- Marilynne Field
- Jeanne Lauritsen
- Jim & Sue Lindsay
- Mark Niemer & Yasyn Lee
- NISOM Faculty
- Craig & Tracy Nowack
- Donna Perkins
- John & Tracey Rush
- Marion Ryan
- Hillard & Angie Salas
- Thomas & Christine Sinsky
- Dan & Karen Slagel
- Bill & Jan Stoffel
- John & Pat Sunseri
- Marsha Wilfong
- John & Nancy Woodin

Thanks to our Loyal Donors! (Given 10 or more years)

- Mark & Katherine Achtemeier
- Ed & Barbara Blinks
- City of Dubuque
- Stephen & Maren Coates
- Keith Cook & Sharon Kress
- Tom & Judy Edmonds
- Marilynne Field
- Jim & Bernie Gilbertson
- Dan & Cathy Harms
- Lois Harvey
- John & Jan Hess
- Tom & Julie Kane
- James & Nancy Klauer
- Jeanne Lauritsen
- Randall Lengeling
- Jim & Sue Lindsay
- Lu Nicholson
- Mark Niemer & Yasyn Lee
- Donna Perkins
- Premier Bank
- Juan & Sandy Rodriguez
- John & Tracey Rush
- John Steger
- John & Pat Sunseri
- Joe & Pat Terry
- Marsha Wilfong
- Dennis & Susan Williams

"Best idea since the music staff was invented!"
—Nancy Woodin



Our thanks to the City of Dubuque and Dubuque Racing Association, who have been instrumental in our mission through grant support!

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2728 Asbury Rd, Suite 200
Dubuque, IA 52001

(563) 690-0151
nisom.com



Celebrate 15 Years with Us!

You are cordially invited to celebrate NISOM's 15th Anniversary with us at a special concert on Saturday, October 15 at 7PM in Clarke University's Jansen Hall. Our Dubuque Community String Orchestra (DCSO) will present Music of the British Isles featuring soprano and NISOM vocal instructor Rebecca Lansing, plus Encore Chorale, guitarist Marcus DeJesus, and members of the Dubuque Fire Pipes and Drums.

Join us for music of Vaughan Williams, Parry, and McCartney, plus favorite Celtic folksongs! The celebration continues after the concert with a cake reception. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for students and are available now at NISOM.

DCSO and Encore Chorale are non-auditioned adult ensembles that welcome new members. Now sponsored by NISOM, DCSO was founded in 1998 by conductor Tracey Rush to give non-professional string players an outlet for ensemble performance. Encore, conducted by Matt Gaunitz, joined our ranks in 2014 and is part of the national organization Encore Creativity for Older Adults. Encore is dedicated to providing an excellent and accessible artistic environment for older adults, 55 and over, regardless of experience or ability, who seek arts education and performance opportunities under a professional artist.

Music of the British Isles NISOM's 15th Anniversary Concert

Saturday, October 15, 7PM
Clarke University, Jansen Hall
Cake Reception to Follow

\$15 Adults
\$5 Students

