

NISOM Northeast Iowa School of Music

Quarternotes

Northeast Iowa School of Music

December 2016

Music for Our Preschoolers



NISOM is about making music accessible to all, including the youngest in the family. Each month (Oct-May) NISOM holds free Lollipops & Music for Our Preschoolers (L&MOP) concerts with Carnegie-Stout Public Library. Sponsored by Drs. Mark Niemer and Yasyn Lee, L&MOP exposes kids to a variety of styles and instruments to instill a life-long love of music. At the December concert (top left) our own Dubuque Community String Orchestra taught the young audience about string instruments, while the kids danced along with scarves. We have five concerts left this season, so you can join in the fun! See the schedule below and visit nisonom.com for details.

NISOM also teaches music basics to preschoolers in weekly small group classes. Pictured bottom left, instructor Rebecca Lansing demonstrates simple rhythms that the students repeat on wooden sticks and bells.



Saturdays, 10:00-10:30AM
Carnegie-Stout Public Library
Free! All Ages Welcome!

Jan. 14: Tapestry, Folk/Rock Band

Feb. 11: Dancers in Company

Mar. 11: Dubuque Senior HS Jazz Combo

Apr. 8: Dubuque Chorale Children's Choir

May 13: UD Theatre: James & the Giant Peach

Celebrating 15 Years of Music



On October 15 NISOM celebrated our 15th anniversary with a special concert featuring our Dubuque Community String Orchestra, Encore Chorale, and faculty soloists Rebecca Lansing (soprano) and Marcus DeJesus (guitar). Select voice students even had a special part in the grand finale! The celebration continued after the concert with a cake reception. In the weeks leading up to the concert, we celebrated with our students with games, prizes, selfie stations, and more cake. Thank you to all who celebrated with us and supported us over the last 15 years! Special thank you to our concert sponsor Premier Bank.

As a special surprise for our founder and executive director, October 15, 2016, was officially **Tracey Rush Day** in Dubuque by mayoral proclamation!



Don't Let the Kids Have all the Fun

School kids get to join band, orchestra, and choir, but what about adults? NISOM is devoted to music opportunities for all ages, so we have you covered!

If you play a band or orchestra instrument (or have an old one collecting dust in a closet), join New Horizons Band (NHB) or Dubuque Community String Orchestra (DCSO). New sessions begin in the new year! Never played or need to brush up your skills? Sign up today for lessons at NISOM, and join the ensembles when you are ready. No audition required.

Like to sing? Age 55 or up? Try Encore Chorale! All skill levels are welcome, and no experience is necessary.

When you're part of an ensemble, you get to make new friends, have a fun weekly outing, play or sing your favorite songs, and even promote health through making music! Learn more at nisom.com.

In December NHB (top right) gave a free holiday concert in the Roshek Building, and both NHB and Encore performed concerts in senior centers to bring music to those unable to travel. DCSO hit the other end of the spectrum with their performance for the next generation of musicians and music lovers at L&MOP (photo pg 1).



Open Rehearsals: Try It Free!

NHB: Monday, January 9
7PM, Loras College

Encore: Tuesday, January 10
2PM, Oak Park Place

DCSO: Monday, February 13
6:30PM, Emmaus Bible College

Joint Spring Concert Sunday, April 23

Save the date to join us for a free concert of movie music performed by all three of NISOM's adult ensembles!



Come Sing with Us!

Fun, Social Atmosphere

No Experience Necessary!

Encore Chorale

Everyone 55 & Up
Men & Women · All Skill Levels

Bringing Music to the Community



The fall session of Prescott Piano Program wrapped up with a special “show and tell” class for the students’ families (left). Taught by Prescott teacher Patti Millius, the program is part of our free and low-cost classes after-school in downtown Dubuque. Thanks to a grant from Dubuque Downtown Kiwanis, we had another full class of 15 students, the maximum possible in Prescott’s lab. Kiwanis’s support allows the cost to students to be nominal, and scholarships meant no student was turned away due to inability to pay.

We’re currently seeking a sponsor for this program for a Spring 2017 session. For \$1000 you can continue bringing music to students who are unable to attend lessons at NISOM due to lack of instruments, transportation, or funds. Contact us for sponsorship details.

Did you see Playathon in the TH? On December 11 NISOM students performed five hours of free music at Playathon (below) during A Roshek Christmas. In addition to the music, the audience enjoyed the festive atmosphere, free treats and prizes, kids activities, and more, all while our students showed off their skills. Sponsored in part by American Trust, Playathon is no ordinary recital. It’s also a fundraiser! It is similar to a walk-a-thon, except when our students raise money, they do what they do best: play music! Prior to the recital, students collected sponsorships to earn prizes donated by local businesses. Proceeds support lessons at NISOM. Part of our mission of music for all is to keep tuition affordable, so we charge students less than it costs to provide their lessons. Our students help make up some of the difference with fundraisers like Playathon.



Violinist Estella Brown



Voice and guitar student Anna Spahn

Join us in the Melody

Can you imagine your favorite holiday song without the melody? When teaching composition, we try to impress upon our students that a good melody is the heart and soul of a piece, and everything else is built around it.

You can have that same vital impact on music programs in our community as a Melody Maker! Join our Melody Club with your ongoing, monthly gift of any amount – a new way to give. Even \$5 a month makes a difference, and you spread your contribution over time to continue your support with no further action required. Simply select the monthly option in Donation Preferences with your online gift. Or, to give offline, please contact us with your monthly pledge to begin the process.



Thanks to a generous contribution from Sue & Jim Lindsay, we began the school year with a lovely new grand piano. Students like Ava Mai (above) are putting it to good use!

We also thank our landlords Tom and Julie Kane for a new directional street-front sign to make it easier to find us and Premier Bank for a gift of a used color laser printer.

There Is Still Time to Give Before the End of the Year

You can give the gift of music to the community today with your one-time or annual contribution! **Donate online now at nisom.com, or mail your gift today.** Choose the annual fund for the broadest impact to help make all NISOM's programs possible, or give to the scholarship fund to directly reach students in need. You can even give NISOM a special gift from our wish list!

You Change Lives!

Whether you choose a monthly or one-time gift, your support of NISOM makes a difference in our community. You provide music lessons and classes to students of all ages and economic backgrounds and give creative outlets to adult musicians in ensembles. You reach students in downtown Dubuque with free and low-cost programs and bring the community free concerts. **You change lives!** In fact, 100% of our former students who responded to a recent survey said NISOM improved their lives! We can't do it without donors like you. Please give online now at nisom.com or by mail to help change more lives.

**THANK YOU for
Making a Difference!**

Stand out as a Patron of the Arts by Sponsoring a NISOM Event or Program

We currently have the following opportunities:

Prescott Piano Program (Spring 2017 session)
Student Recitals (March and May 2017)
Adult Ensembles Concert (Spring 2017)
Summer Strings Concert (July 2017)

Sponsorships start at just \$150!

Wish List

Our wish list is shrinking! Thank you everyone who has already helped us purchase items from our list! We still need the following to help us serve the community:

- **"Wish list" fund gifts of any amount** to be applied toward the items below
- Microphone for vocalists - \$200
- NISOM table cloth - \$200
- NISOM telescoping banner - \$200
- New wireless network & file share - \$200
- Fix website error for iPads - \$300

The End of an Era

Officially they are called “Intermediate Adult Piano,” but around NISOM they are fondly known as The Piano Ladies — or, to their instructor Pam Crawford, The Chocolate Ladies. For years they have rolled in on Wednesday early afternoons for a small group class in our piano lab. You haven’t seen them in any NISOM recital, but they perform for each other – and for chocolate. Now, after 12.5 years, four teachers, and numerous students who have come and gone, it is the end of the era as they had their last class in November.

It all started in 2004 with one of NISOM’s adult piano classes, taught by Miriam Hoffman. Most of our group class students switch to private lessons after a few sessions if they continue, but these ladies liked the camaraderie of the class setting and kept going! Some of the original students are no longer with the group, and new ones were picked up along the way. A few teachers have moved on, too, but that didn’t stop the ladies.

They have long since passed all the lesson books, so under Pam Crawford, who taught them for the past 9 years, they focused on ensemble music, proficiency materials, and other fun ways to apply concepts. During the holidays in the past they have even played Christmas carols on handbells!



The ladies got in on the dress-up fun during our anniversary celebrations! Clockwise from top: the final members Julie Norby, Carla Klosterman, and Barbara Brown



Since their class is during the school day when our studios are not as busy, we have been able to be very flexible with their scheduling for extended breaks during the holidays or winter months. They pioneered the design your own class option before it was an option! The piano lab has four pianos, but at one point this class even had five members. It was not a problem since, due to their busy schedules and travel, on any given week someone was usually absent.

Bernie Gilbertson, one of the original members, said she continued for so long because, “If I’m not taking piano lessons, then I usually don’t go to the piano. It kept me practicing.”



Servin Wins Flint-Lindsay Scholarship



We are pleased to announce the recipient of NISOM's fourth-annual Flint-Lindsay scholarship is pianist Talia Servin. Talia received a full scholarship for NISOM’s 2016-2017 school year of her piano instruction with Laura Chase.

Talia Servin, a high school freshman, began studying piano at NISOM at age seven in a small group class. She is now in her 7th year of private lessons and her 3rd year under Mrs. Chase. Talia has been home schooled since kindergarten except for 7th grade when she went to Tri-State Christian School in Galena. She decided to go back to home schooling for 8th grade but returned to Tri-State this fall for high school. Talia is a talented artist; she enjoys photography and ballet and can often be found with her face in a good book! She has participated in many recitals and Playathons at NISOM and currently plays the keyboard for her youth group at Word of Life Church in Dubuque.

NISOM’s Flint-Lindsay Scholarship Fund was established in 2012 by James and Susan Lindsay through an endowed gift of \$25,000. In addition to the Flint-Lindsay fund, NISOM offers a need-based student scholarship program.



Spotlights

Congratulations to the following NISOM students who recently earned places in honors ensembles!

All-State

NISOM students **Isaac Johnson**, who studies string bass with Andrew Geysens, and **Lauren Schuelter**, a bassoon student of Dennis Williams, made All-State! They participated in the Iowa All-State Music Festival in Ames, Iowa on November 17-19, 2016.

NEISTA

Three NISOM students will perform in the Iowa String Teachers Association's Invitational Honors Orchestra in January 2017:

Cece Brown, cello student of Andrew Geysens
Anna Fassbinder, bass student of Mike Jozefowicz
Xander Sherman, violin student of Katie Sigwarth

NEIBA

In December five NISOM students participated in the Northeast Iowa Bandmaster Association's Honor Band.

Kate Muehring, bassoon student of Dennis Williams
Anna Ottavi, clarinet student of Beth Wirtanen
Brendan Stahl, trumpet student of Matt Gaunitz

Justin Nowack, trumpet student of Matt Gaunitz, who was also recently accepted to the Colts Drum & Bugle Corps for the Summer 2017 session.

Elizabeth Graber, guitar student, participated with oboe.

Middle School Honor Band Festival

Seven NISOM students participated in the Loras College Honor Band Festival in October. Our own New Horizons Band and voice teacher Rebecca Lansing also performed during this concert.

Ethan Lester, trumpet student of Mike Jozefowicz
Kate Muehring, bassoon student of Dennis Williams
Anna Ottavi, clarinet student of Beth Wirtanen

Piano student **Sam Durdin**, guitar student **Elizabeth Graber**, and voice students **Luke Heying** and **Sophie Kramer** participated with other instruments.



Congrats to NISOM student **Hendrik Schultz, M.D.**, the 2016 recipient of the Laureate Award from the American College of Physicians! Hendrik studies piano at NISOM with Holly Gaunitz and recently performed in Playathon.

Cece Brown, cello student of Andrew Geysens, participated in Junior All State on November 19 in Ames. She performed on her secondary instrument, bass. Her mom says, "NISOM is DIRECTLY to thank for her advancement and confidence. Private lessons with Mr. Geysens changed her world. She is passionate about her music, and her cello performance has skyrocketed since she began lessons at NISOM in August." Cece, who is a member of the Dubuque Youth Symphony Philharmonia and active in multiple school ensembles, will participate in the NIESTA honor band in January with her cello. "Thank you so much, NISOM, for supporting this young musician."



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Spring 2017 Events:

Jan 9: New Horizons Band Open Rehearsal
Jan 10: Encore Chorale Open Rehearsal
Jan 14: L&MOP: Tapestry Folk/Rock Band
Feb 11: L&MOP: Dancers in Company
Feb 13: DCSO Open Rehearsal
Feb 18: Student Recital
March 11: L&MOP: Senior HS Jazz Combo
April 8: L&MOP: Dubuque Chorale Children's Choir
April 23: Adult Ensembles' Spring Concert
May 13: L&MOP: UD Theatre, *James & the Giant Peach*
May 20: Student Recitals
June 14: ChamberFest Dubuque Workshop
June 15: ChamberFest Dubuque Gala Performance
Formerly Juilliard in June

Our thanks to the City of Dubuque for helping make all NISOM's programming possible through an Arts and Culture Commission Masterpiece on the Mississippi FY 2017 operating grant.



Don't Miss the Latest News!

Do you see our Facebook posts? Even if you have liked the NISOM page, you might not see our posts! If you do not interact with our page regularly, Facebook may think you are not interested. To make sure you see NISOM posts, like, comment, and share them frequently. **You do not want to miss when there is a mayoral proclamation!**

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