

NISOM Northeast Iowa School of Music

Quarternotes

Northeast Iowa School of Music

March 2017

Making an Impact

Your support of NISOM has always made an impact. Now we have an award for it.

NISOM and our own Tracey Rush are honored to be chosen as the 2017 recipient of the 365ink Impact Award for Music. On February 28 we attended the Impact Awards to accept the statuette, designed by Gail Chavenelle, and were inspired by all the good work our fellow honorees are doing. We extend a big thank you to Dubuque365 for recognizing the many great organizations in Dubuque and the Tri-States!

This award shows that your support of NISOM makes a significant and lasting impact on the community. For even more evidence, see the numerous stories throughout this newsletter that demonstrate the impact you have!



© Robert Felderman

Photo from 365ink Impact Awards by Bob Felderman, General Bob Photography

Jenkins Wins American Prize



Congratulations to NISOM alumnus Derek Jenkins on winning the student division of The American Prize in Composition! His composition *We Seven* for wind ensemble took first place and a cash award. The American Prize is a series of national performing arts competitions.

Derek studied composition at NISOM with Tracey Rush. Rush recalls, "In 2002 when we opened our midi lab with the music notation software Finale, our composition class had two 16-year-old students in it: Derek Jenkins and Jonathan Tschiggfrie. Derek is now finishing his doctorate in composition from UMKC, and Jonathan works for the company that makes Finale. It's wonderful to know that even back in our 2nd year of operation, NISOM was making an impact."

Since his time at NISOM, Derek's music has been performed throughout the United States, Europe, and Canada. He has received recognition from the National Band Association, ASCAP, and others, and his works have been commissioned by various ensembles.

Says Jenkins, "**If it wasn't for NISOM and the variety of lessons offered there, I doubt I would have become a composer.** I remember reading that Tracey Rush offered composition lessons, and I insisted that my parents let me take them. Those first composition lessons helped establish the foundation of my future musical pursuits." Your support makes an impact on students like Derek!

ChamberFest Dubuque 2017

This June you have the opportunity to experience an intimate concert with world-class performers that is not available anywhere else in the world – and you support music right here at home at the same time!

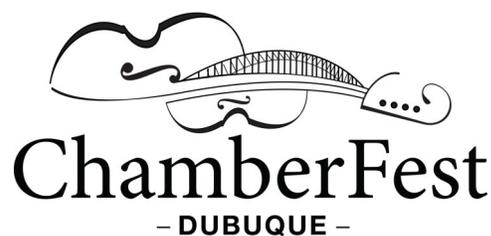
NISOM's ChamberFest Dubuque is the highlight of our concert season and one unlike anything else you can see in Dubuque. Each year NISOM alumnus Michael Gilbertson hand-picks a small ensemble of fellow rising stars of the international music scene for a benefit concert for NISOM. Gilbertson is a Dubuque native who studied at the prestigious Juilliard and Yale Schools of Music and is now a successful composer.

This summer, ChamberFest Dubuque will present our ninth season of events. In addition to Gilbertson, this year's festival features another Dubuque native who studied at Juilliard: cellist Bridget Pasker. Other returning favorites include percussionist Mari Yoshinaga, violinist Elizabeth Fayette, and pianist Sean Chen. Chen came to international prominence when he took the crystal award in the 2013 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. Joining them is distinguished guitarist Jiji Kim, who is new to our festival and recently won the highly-coveted first prize in the 2016 Concert Artists Guild International Competition.

Each year features a unique set of performers that only come together during NISOM's ChamberFest Dubuque. The performers are world-class, but this concert is only available in Dubuque! Proceeds from ChamberFest Dubuque support NISOM's music programs in our community.

Michael Gilbertson got his start at NISOM and knows the impact of a music school in Dubuque. While he was still a Juilliard student, he first approached NISOM in 2009 about a benefit concert because he wanted to give back to our school. Now, he returns year after year to bring this amazing musical performance to our community and help NISOM continue its mission, all because he deeply believes in the importance of our work.

For 2017 we have honed the focus of ChamberFest Dubuque to one concert to make the Gala Performance, Gilbertson's original Juilliard in June, a thorough success and for ChamberFest Dubuque to be the exemplary fundraiser he envisioned. The festival also includes an educational student workshop, which is free and open to all.



Gabe Lefkowitz, Carlos Avila, and Andrew Lowy at the 2015 ChamberFest Workshop

Where Are They Now?

The many guest artists who have performed during ChamberFest over the years continue to gain wide recognition in the music world. Most recently, percussionist Sean Connors, who performed at ChamberFest Dubuque in 2014, won a **Grammy Award** with his quartet Third Coast Percussion.

Clarinetist Andrew Lowy performed in 2015's ChamberFest Dubuque and was recently granted a tenured chair as a member of one of the world's greatest orchestras — the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Gabe Lefkowitz, our featured violinist in 2015 and 2016, became concertmaster of the Louisville Orchestra this past season.

ChamberFest Gala (The Original Juilliard in June)

Thursday, June 15, 7PM
Clarke University, Jansen Hall
Sponsored by US Bank

You can experience Gilbertson and friends in concert one night only at the ChamberFest Dubuque Gala Concert on Thursday, June 15 at Clarke University, sponsored by US Bank. Originally known as Juilliard in June, the Gala is the premier event on which ChamberFest was built. With limited seating, this concert boasts six exceptional young professional musicians performing solos and small ensembles in an intimate setting. Musical styles range from classical to modern, with selections highlighting piano, violin, cello, guitar, and percussion. Following the concert, join us for a champagne and dessert reception hosted by the ChamberFest Dubuque Committee for the opportunity to mix and mingle with the guest artists.



ChamberFest 2016 guest artists at the Gala Performance

Tickets go on sale April 17. Take advantage of a special early-bird price to save \$10 when you purchase adult tickets by May 31 for only \$40. Beginning June 1, adult tickets are \$50. Student tickets are available for \$25.

With your ticket purchase, in addition to hearing a phenomenal concert, you will have an impact on the community. Proceeds from ChamberFest Dubuque support NISOM's mission to provide quality, affordable music education and enrichment in the Tri-State Area. You provide music instruction 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.



ChamberFest Workshop

Wednesday, June 14, 5:30PM

Loras Collage

Sponsored by the Iowa Arts Council, a division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, and the National Endowment for the Arts, and by the McDonough Foundation

As part of our mission of education, ChamberFest Dubuque includes a student workshop on Wednesday, June 14, where local musicians can learn from our ChamberFest guest artists. Because we have musicians of this caliber coming to Dubuque, the Iowa Arts Council and the McDonough Foundation partnered with us through grant awards to make sure everyone has the opportunity to learn from them. Thanks to grant support, the workshop is free and open to all!

Michael Gilbertson and friends will lead a combined session and then break into small groups for each instrument. Children through adults are encouraged to participate. Pictured left, Mari Yoshinaga worked with students at the 2016 percussion workshop. Mari returns in June.

Sounds of the Silver Screen

Free Spring Concert
Sunday, April 23, 2PM
Westminster Presbyterian Church

Featuring DCSO, Encore Chorale,
and New Horizons Band

Roll out the red carpet! NISOM's three performance ensembles just for adults will join forces to present a free spring concert of music from the movies. Join us for "Sounds of the Silver Screen" on Sunday, April 23, 2017, at 2PM at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

The concert features NISOM's Dubuque Community String Orchestra, directed by Tracey Rush; New Horizons Band, directed by Glenn Pohland; and Encore Chorale, directed by Matt Gaunitz.

Enjoy selections from *Les Miserables*, *Frozen*, classic movies, and more, including hits from Bernstein, Copland, and Gershwin. The grand finale features all three groups for a George M. Cohan medley, arranged by NISOM Instructor and New Horizons Band Member Mike Jozefowicz. The public is invited to attend this concert with free admission. Goodwill offerings will be accepted and help support the ensembles that provide music opportunities to adults and free performances throughout the community. Dress is casual.



We have reached many children and families with this season of **Lollipops & Music for Our Preschoolers**. At February's L&MOP concert, Dancers in Company taught us how to warm up our bodies (pictured left) with shoulder shrugs, head rolls, and more fun moves!

L&MOP is a free monthly concert series that exposes children to a variety of musical styles and instruments. Thanks to our sponsors Drs. Mark Niemer & Yasyn Lee, L&MOP is free!

We have two concerts left this season. Join us on April 8 for the Dubuque Chorale Children's Choir and May 13 for UD Theatre featuring *James and the Giant Peach*. All concerts are 10-10:30AM at Carnegie-Stout Public Library.



Music Accelerates Kids' Brain Development, New Study Finds

There is now even more scientific evidence about music's lasting impact on students! Neuroscientists at The Brain and Creativity Institute of the University of Southern California concluded a new study about the effects of music instruction on children's brains. They found that learning music appears to increase the rate of brain development for young children, especially in language development, sound processing, speech perception, and reading skills.

For the study, scientists compared a group of children who learned a musical instrument to a group involved in soccer and a group with no specific after-school activity. The study spanned five years, beginning when the children were ages 6-7. "Within two years of the study, the neuroscientists found the auditory systems of children in the music program were maturing faster in them than in the other children" (Gersema, 2016).

Read more at USC News:

<http://news.usc.edu/102681/childrens-brains-develop-faster-with-music-training/>

NISOM Summer Registration

Summer is the perfect time to try a new instrument or dust off an old one!

Programs for Children and Adults
No Experience Necessary

Private Lessons in Piano, Voice, Guitar,
Ukulele, Composition, and
Band & Orchestra Instruments

Fun Small Group Classes in Select Instruments

Registration begins for current students May 1
and opens to new & former students May 15.

Summer Begins June 12

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TOP 10 SKILLS CHILDREN LEARN FROM THE ARTS

NISOM
NORTHWEST ISLAND SCHOOL OF MUSIC

- 1 CREATIVITY
- 2 CONFIDENCE
- 3 PROBLEM SOLVING
- 4 PERSEVERANCE
- 5 FOCUS
- 6 NON-VERBAL COMMUNICATION
- 7 RECEIVING CONSTRUCTIVE FEEDBACK
- 8 COLLABORATION
- 9 DEDICATION
- 10 ACCOUNTABILITY

Source: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2013/01/22/top-10-skills-children-learn-from-the-arts>



Have an Even Bigger Impact on Great Give Day!

24-hour Online Giving Event

Thursday, May 11, 2017

12 midnight to 11:59PM

Easy as 1-2-3

1. Visit greatgiveday.org.
2. Search for Northeast Iowa School of Music and make your contribution.
3. Congratulations! You just supported music education! You rock!

On May 11, from 12AM (midnight) to 11:59PM, every gift of \$10 or more will be stretched further when you donate to Northeast Iowa School of Music through GreatGiveDay.org. This is an opportunity to amplify your support through prize hours, match dollars, and bonus funds!

Dubuque's Great Give Day is sponsored by the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque as part of a nationwide day of giving.

NISOM gratefully accepts donations to our organization at any time. If you are unable to participate on May 11, visit nisom.com to place your donation at your convenience. To donate offline, mail your contribution to 2728 Asbury Rd, Ste 200, Dubuque, IA 52001. Only donations made on GreatGiveDay.org on May 11 will count toward our Great Give Day total or qualify for prizes, but all contributions support our programming and make an impact in the community.



**Your gift goes further
with match dollars
& bonus funds!**

*Watch for details about the
best time to give to maximize
your gift through prize hours.*

We Love Our Donors!



We spread lots of love this February! In honor of Valentine's Day we asked you to say "I Love Music" and help spread the love. Meanwhile, our walls were covered in hearts with all our donors names to thank you for your support. NISOM loves our donors!

If you love music in our community, it's not too late to "get engaged" with us and help more people learn about music!

Try these easy ways:

1. Like NISOM on Facebook
2. Follow @NISOMdbq on Twitter
3. Join our email list at nisom.com
4. Like, comment, share, and retweet

I ❤️ MUSIC

Noteworthy news

Spotlights



NISOM student **Elizabeth Graber** is in 8th grade at Drexler Middle School. She has taken guitar lessons from Bill Encke for 3.5 years this spring. Her mom says, "she really enjoys guitar and has learned so much." Mr. Encke works with Elizabeth on acoustic guitar and electric, which she currently plays in her middle school jazz band.

The multi-talented Elizabeth also plays flute in marching band and oboe in concert band and is in girl's choir, mixed choir, and Drexler Middle School's first show choir. This spring she will attend Sinsinawa Honor Choir for her third year, and in December she participated in NEIBA in Olwein, IA. Elizabeth just finished starring as Snow White in her school play, *What Happened After Once Upon a Time*. She is currently preparing for a role in the school's musical.

Elizabeth, pictured above at NISOM's Playathon in December, plans to play guitar in the school's spring talent show.

Kennedy Honors Orchestra

Two of NISOM's own teachers, **Andrew Geysens** and **Tracey Rush**, were chosen as guest conductors for the Kennedy High School Honors Orchestra in Cedar Rapids on March 4.

In its 27th year, this day-long event involves over 200 middle school students from 35 schools in three different string orchestras. The third ensemble was led by Dr. Michelle Blair, who directs the Dubuque Symphony Youth Orchestra.

NISOM student **Jacob Brimeyer** was chosen as the principal bass player of one of the orchestras!



Congratulations to
NISOM Faculty Member
Beth Wirtanen
who was named February's
Teacher of the Month
by Anderson Weber Toyota!

Beth is the band director at
Jefferson Middle School and
teaches woodwinds at NISOM.

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Spring 2017 Events:

- April 8: L&MOP: Dubuque Chorale Children's Choir
- April 23: Sounds of the Silver Screen, spring concert
Featuring DCSO, New Horizons Band & Encore
- May 13: L&MOP: UD Theatre, *James & the Giant Peach*
- May 20: Student Recitals
- May 22: New Horizons Band Concert in Bellevue
- June 14: ChamberFest Dubuque Workshop
- June 15: ChamberFest Dubuque Gala Performance
Formerly Juilliard in June

ChamberFest Dubuque with Michael Gilbertson & Friends returns in June! See inside for details.



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

THE CITY OF
DUBUQUE
Masterpiece on the Mississippi

Visit nisom.com for all the latest NISOM news and event information.



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