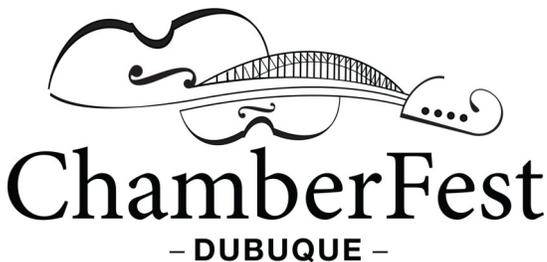


# **Quarternotes**

Northeast Iowa School of Music

March 2014

## Juilliard in June Now ChamberFest Dubuque



What started as one concert in 2009 has grown into a complete festival. This year NISOM's Juilliard in June with Michael Gilbertson and friends is debuting the new name **ChamberFest Gala** to better represent itself as a part of the multi-event ChamberFest Dubuque, which also includes a full orchestra concert. ChamberFest Gala is the same concert our audience has come to know and love, comprised of solos and small ensembles, while the **ChamberFest Orchestra**



Michael Gilbertson

concert is Juilliard in June if Juilliard in June were an orchestra concert. Attend both for the best of both worlds, with Gilbertson and other highly-trained guest artists performing entirely different selections at each.

NISOM and Juilliard alumnus and successful composer Michael Gilbertson is once again bringing a small ensemble of professional musicians home to Dubuque for our festival. Returning familiar faces include Dubuque-native Bridget Pasker, cello; Chelsea Knox, flute; and David Fung, piano. Joining the ensemble this year are virtuoso guitarist Jordon Dodson, who NPR's Performance Today calls "one of the top young guitarists of his generation," and percussionist Sean Connors, a member of the acclaimed Chicago-based percussion ensemble Third Coast Percussion.



Nicholas Palmer

All will be featured soloists at **ChamberFest Orchestra concert on Monday, June 16** to kick off the festival. Our guests are backed by the Dubuque Festival Orchestra comprised of local musicians. Nicholas Palmer, former conductor of the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra, returns to conduct this concert at the University of Dubuque's Heritage Center, sponsored by Tim and Christine Conlon.

Then on **Thursday, June 19**, Gilbertson and friends are back in action for the **ChamberFest Gala concert**, sponsored by US Bank. Held in Clarke University's Jansen Hall and Atrium, a champagne reception will follow this audience-favorite formerly known as Juilliard in June that sells out every year.

Tickets to both concerts go on sale at NISOM on April 14. Take advantage of discounts to get an adult ticket to both concerts for just \$60 total through May 16. Orchestra concert tickets are also available at the University of Dubuque box office.

The guest artists will also be giving a free **ChamberFest Workshop** with masterclasses on Wednesday, June 18 at Loras College. Interested participants should contact NISOM for more information.

### ChamberFest Dubuque

**ChamberFest Orchestra**  
 Monday, June 16, 7:00PM  
 UD Heritage Center

Tickets: \$20 adults; \$10 students  
*Combo: Save \$5 off adult tickets when you buy for both concerts.*

**ChamberFest Gala**  
 Thursday, June 19, 7:00PM  
 Clarke University

Tickets: \$50 adults; \$25 students  
*Early-bird discount: Save \$5 off adult tickets through May 16.*

Tickets go on sale April 14.

**Call NISOM at (563) 690-0151 for tickets or information.**

## Focus on the Future

NISOM's journey to a new strategic plan started last year with the generous donation from a former student. We were gifted with \$100,000 for future sustainment, which naturally begged the question, just what does our future hold? Our donor asked, "Where do you want NISOM to be in 5-10 years?" While NISOM had been doing 2-3 year planning, until this game-changing donation we had to be more concerned about paying the next month's rent than with planning 10 years down the road.

We embarked on a process that spanned more than a year, first meeting with several planning advisors and determining that the best approach for us would include holding a series of focus groups to gather input. NISOM's Board then formed a Strategic Planning Committee chaired by Donna Perkins, who guided us through the rest of the process. This fall we held a total of seven groups with facilitators Wally Brown, Greg Sandow, and Donna Perkins herself. There were focus groups for NISOM parents and adult students, non-NISOM music educators, community friends, and of course the NISOM faculty and NISOM staff. In addition to leading a group of community arts and culture leaders, Greg Sandow consulted with us and helped guide the discussion for our Board retreat. Every meeting was taped, and copious notes were taken. The administration and committee weighed every comment and suggestion—positive or negative—and put the new plan through numerous drafts, considering our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Our mission and vision statements were revised, and core values were added. On January 30, 2014, the new plan was unanimously approved by the Board of Directors.

We at NISOM are extremely grateful to all who played a role in this process and to each and every person who has supported us during the past thirteen years. We can't wait for you to see what we have in store for the next ten!

### Highlights of the next five years include:



- Establishing an off-site senior choir
- Adding a new off-site, after-school program for at-risk youth
- Continuing our L&MOP concert series, Jump Start summer program, and film composition partnership with JDIFF
- Expanding ChamberFest Dubuque to include ensemble performances in the community coordinated with other music organizations and schools
- Conducting a music education public-awareness campaign
- Featuring our faculty through faculty recitals and open houses
- Increasing lesson offerings, such as opera training and Suzuki classes
- Installing a new Board President
- Establishing "Friends of NISOM" opportunities
- Increasing our endowment fund and scholarship program
- Improving our technology and studio resources, including the purchase of a performance-level grand piano

*"What really impresses me about NISOM: The music is great with talented students and faculty, but I really love the other ways NISOM is involved in the community." —Focus Group Participant*

### Mission

The Northeast Iowa School of Music (NISOM) is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in the greater Tri-State area community by meeting the music education and enrichment needs of people of all ages and abilities through private lessons, group classes, music therapy, performance opportunities, ensembles, concerts, and out-reach programs.

### Vision

NISOM will be recognized as a comprehensive music center that provides programming to complement other local opportunities. Our reputation for affordable, high-quality lessons and services and our partnerships with other organizations will combine to make us a respected leader in the arts community.

### Core Values

To realize its vision, NISOM embraces and is guided by the following values:

- Personal integrity, discipline, and mutual trust enable students and faculty to achieve excellence and maximize potential.
- Life and health are enriched by life-long learning and appreciation of music. All people deserve this opportunity, regardless of financial obstacles.
- People are the source of our strength, reputation, and vitality.
- Service to and collaboration with the area community is crucial to our mutual success.
- Music is meant to be shared. A community of musicians is beneficial for all and fosters growth, collaboration, inspiration, and joy.

## New Horizons Band Gives Free Concert

NISOM's New Horizons Band (NHB) will give a free concert on **Monday, April 21, 2014**, in Bellevue, Iowa. The band will perform at the annual Night of Music presented by the Triangle Art Club at St. John's Lutheran Church at 7:00PM in Bellevue. The public is invited to attend.

Refreshments will be served following the concert, and good-will donations are welcome to cover expenses. Triangle Art Club of Bellevue was founded 93 year ago in 1921 by women interested in music, art and literature. There are currently 21 members.

The band, led by Glenn Pohland, also recently performed with the Loras College Band on March 15 and at NISOM's Lollipops & Music for Our Preschoolers concert on February 8 where the young audience walked among the members to learn about the band instruments.



New Horizons Band is a non-auditioned concert band for adult musicians. NISOM's NHB is part of the international organization New Horizons Music, which promotes music-making for adults age 50 and over. Studies have determined that this is the fastest growing segment of the population, and music and wellness in older adults is an increasingly popular area of study. Programs like NHB provide mental and social stimulation, stress relief, and a number of other potential health benefits and are living proof that, when it comes to playing a musical instrument, it truly is "never too late."

Dust off your instrument and join in! NHB welcomes new members each semester. The band rehearses Monday evenings at Loras College, and the membership fee is just \$25 per semester. Instruction is available at NISOM for those in need of beginner or refresher lessons, with NHB small groups available as interest dictates. Contact NISOM at (563) 690-0151 for more information.

## Burgers Raise Nearly \$500 for Music



Asbury Eagle's Club donated 100 percent of the profits of their February 20, 2014, Burger Night to NISOM. We raised \$400 in dinner sales to support music education, and an additional \$80 was collected in tips that evening for the excellent service NISOM students and parents provided as they volunteered both in the kitchen and serving guests in the dining room.

Pictured left, NISOM Board of Directors Parent Representative Kelly Fassbinder and her daughters Emma (left) and Anna Fassbinder (right), both NISOM students, graciously accept the check at Asbury Eagle's Club's presentation on March 19.

Our thanks to Asbury Eagle's Club, our students and parents, and all those who joined us for some delicious burgers!

## Strings Sing with Smith

NISOM's Dubuque Community String Orchestra gave a free spring concert *We Are Family* on March 9, 2014. Guest violist Yvonne Smith soloed on this concert that highlighted the instruments in the string family. Conducted by Tracey Rush, the orchestra also performed to a packed house at NISOM's March 8 Lollipops & Music for Our Preschoolers concert. Over 100 kids and family members learned about string instruments from Smith and the DCSSO through fun songs including "Linus and Lucy" and "The Elephant" from *Carnival of the Animals*.

NISOM also arranged for Yvonne Smith to visit Dubuque schools to speak to local students about music and her experience. She gave inspiring demonstrations, spoke about music and bullying, and was even joined by DCSSO Conductor and violist Tracey Rush for Bach's Brandenburg 6 when visiting Eleanor Roosevelt Middle School, where Mrs. Rush teaches orchestra. Ms. Smith, born in Ames, Iowa, is an accomplished solo and orchestral musician performing throughout the US and Canada and is currently a Master of Music candidate at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University; her time in Dubuque was sponsored by Norma Denlinger and family. More photos and video are available at [nisom.com/news](http://nisom.com/news).



## And the Award Goes To...

### Michael Banwarth!

Michael Banwarth of Dubuque is the winner of NISOM's Student Silent Film Score Contest, held in partnership with the Julien Dubuque International Film Festival, Loras College, and Runde Auto. Banwarth composed a score to the short film *Sojourn* by Matt Resnick and Thomas Graziano.

### Hear it live: April 25 during JDIFF

Banwarth's score will be performed live by members of the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra during

the Julien Dubuque International Film Festival's (JDIFF) Silent Film Showcase on April 25, 2014, at Five Flags Theater. The public is invited to attend this event where a behind-the-scenes video of NISOM's Composing for Film Workshop will also be premiered. Contact JDIFF for tickets and information.

Michael Banwarth (left), a freshman at Wahlert Catholic High School, has been composing music for many years and currently studies piano, organ, trumpet, French horn, and voice. He performs as an accompanist and is a member of the Dubuque Youth Philharmonia and Wahlert's concert band, jazz band, men's choir, and show choir.

Contest runner-up is NISOM student Justin Blum, with Nate Schatz and Ashley Kendrick receiving honorable mentions. Middle and high school students in Dubuque, Cedar Rapids, and even Chicago submitted scores for the contest, each composing scores for one of three short films, all of which were produced and directed by Loras College students. Scores were judged blind by a panel of three consisting of Dr. Thomas Taylor Dickey, UW-Platteville Director of Orchestral Activities; Dr. Amy Dunker, Clarke University composition and music professor; and Tim Rush, Bachelor of Cinema.



## NISOM Loves Our Supporters

This Valentine's Day our donors said, "I Love NISOM," with their gifts toward our \$50,000 match opportunity. At the beginning of February we were just \$5k away from our \$50K goal, and with this out-pouring of love, **we now have less than \$1,500 to raise!**

Donations made this year (up to a maximum of \$50,000) will be matched by an anonymous donor. As of mid-March we have raised over \$48,500 so far! You can still help us reach our goal and maximize the matching funds with your donation.

**Donate online now** at [nisom.com](http://nisom.com) or mail your contribution today.  
2728 Asbury Rd, Suite 200  
Dubuque, IA 52001

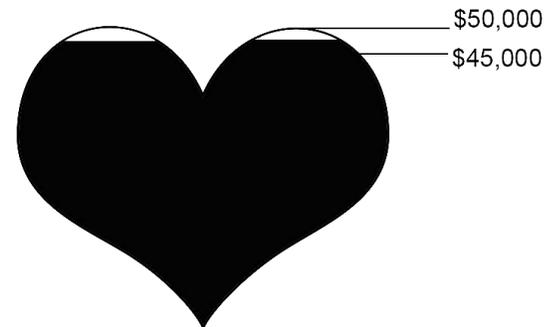
**During this opportunity, your donation will go twice as far toward helping make the music happen.**

To apply your donation to a specific fund, please indicate the fund in the memo line. Unspecified donations go toward operational support or greatest need.

For the donation that keeps giving, donate to our endowment fund. Send your contribution directly to the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque at 700 Locust St., Dubuque, IA 52001. Be sure to indicate the NISOM fund.



**Say, "I Love NISOM," and help us raise the last \$1,500 for our \$50,000 match!**



NISOM 's  
Our Supporters!

## RESCHEDULED: Rivers, by Red Cedar Trio: May 31

***Rivers*, A Red Cedar Trio Concert  
Featuring Gilbertson Premiere**

May 31, 2014, 7:00PM  
Dubuque Museum of Art

Tickets: \$20 adults, \$10 students  
*Available at NISOM while supplies last*



RED CEDAR  
CHAMBER  
MUSIC

Due to health reasons, Red Cedar Trio has postponed their concert *Rivers* to Saturday, May 31, 2014, from April 29. Time, location, and all other information remain the same.

A limited number of tickets are still available for this performance. The centerpiece of the concert, sponsored by Marilyn Field, is the co-premiere of "Three Rivers," a new work composed by Michael Gilbertson. The Cedar Rapids-based trio consists of Jan Boland, flute; John Dowdall, guitar; and Carey Bostian, cello.

## NISOM Student Recitals

**Saturday, May 17  
Free and Open to Public**

11:00AM: TownClock Plaza  
During DubuqueFest

1:00PM and 2:30PM  
Location TBD

See our students in action! NISOM will present our final student recitals of the 2013-14 school year on Saturday, May 17. Students will perform as a part of DubuqueFest in TownClock Plaza at 11:00AM and then give afternoon recitals at 1:00PM and 2:30PM, location TBD—check [nisom.com](http://nisom.com) for venue information. Each recital will last approximately one hour and feature students of a variety ages, skill levels, and instruments. The public is invited to attend with free admission; good-will donations will be accepted.

## The World's Smallest Violin?



One of NISOM's newest students is also our youngest! Meet Mira Gibbons, age 3. A regular at our Lollipops & Music for Our Preschoolers concert series, Mira started learning to play violin at NISOM in March—a few weeks before her third birthday!

Young string students like Mira can start learning early because unlike band instruments, violins and other string instruments come in sizes. Adults and high school students typically play on full (4/4) size instruments, while most elementary and middle school students start on 1/2 or 3/4 size. Mira's tiny violin is 1/32 size, and although it looks like a toy, it is a fully functioning instrument made the same way as the larger ones. It's not the oft-joked about world's smallest violin, though; they come as small as 1/64 size!

Mira is learning violin alongside her mother, Jennifer, from NISOM instructor Katie Sigwarth. She is just starting on her musical journey, pictured here plucking and reciting a simple melody, "Red Roses."

We look forward to seeing what big things are in this little one's future!

## Enrollment Up, Students Happy with Instruction

NISOM's enrollment is up! We are currently serving over 210 students of all ages in weekly, on-site lessons and classes, and an additional 50 participated in the spring semester of our adult ensembles. Our teachers' schedules are full or nearly full, with two or fewer openings to go around for the rest of the school year in most cases. New students may still sign up for the remainder of the spring session as space dictates. Teachers will have new schedules with more availability for new students during the summer session; NISOM will begin accepting new student registrations for summer on May 12. Choose private lessons in piano, voice, guitar, composition, or a band or orchestra instrument, and look for information about fun summer group classes coming soon.

In a recent student survey, 98 percent of respondents said they are very happy with both their instruction and with NISOM over all. Among parents with minor students, 100 percent indicated they are very happy with their child's teacher. One noted, "What a blessing NISOM is to Dubuque! As I wait [at NISOM during lessons] and hear all the different instruments and singing, I think of the instructors and the impact they are making in these young people's lives. They will have this the rest of their lives."

### Wish List

Help us serve our students by donating a resource item from our wish list or monetary funds toward wish list purchases. Contact us for amounts.

- iPads, for use in lessons and music therapy
- Desktop computer for MIDI resource station, for use during lessons with software below
- Finale 2014 composition software
- Alfred Essential of Music Theory software
- Camcorder, to record concerts and events

### 2014-2015 Scholarship Funds Needed

Give the gift of music with your donation to NISOM's scholarship fund. Scholarships provide financial assistance to students in need and make their music education possible. Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated and needed to fund our 2014-15 school year scholarships. Sponsorships for individual students start at just \$300.

- A donation of any amount supports students scholarships
- \$300 provides a trimester of private lessons to one student
- \$900 provides a school year of private lessons to one student
- \$25,000 establishes an endowed scholarship in your name to offer a full scholarship to one student, annually



## Spotlights

### Piano

**P**iano is a person  
Each song is unique in its own way  
This make each song special

**P**iano is lemon  
If you hit a wrong note it sounds sour  
One note can mess up a whole piece

**P**iano is a cookie  
The sweet sounds that comes out of  
A piano makes everyone smile

**P**iano is the 60's  
The black & white keys remind me of  
Black & white TV

**P**iano is **LIFE**

*Adeline Coenen, NISOM Student, age 11*

### Cellist Blum in Bloom

NISOM cello student **Justin Blum** participated in the 43rd Annual Dorian Orchestra Festival at Luther College on February 9-10. The festival culminated in a public concert, for which Justin was selected as first chair.

Justin Blum studies cello with Karen Geyer and also serves as NISOM's music librarian. He also placed as first runner-up in NISOM's Student Silent Film Score Contest.

### We Are Family Concert

Hauntingly similar to human voices  
strings respond to the discipline of nimble fingers  
to sing without words  
the deep stories  
of our shared humanity.

*Sister Corine Murray, DCSO audience member*

### Flourishing Flutists

NISOM flute instructor **Hannah Leffler** was recently selected by faculty nomination to be featured as an Outstanding Alumni of the University of Northern Iowa Graduate College.

Ms. Leffler's students have also been selected for honors ensembles this year:

**Mia Rampton:**

Northeast Iowa Bandmasters Association Honor Band

**Payton Zentz:**

Loras College Junior High Honor Band

**Delaney Kelly:**

St. Ambrose Honor Band, 2nd chair

Platteville Honor Band

Dubuque Youth Symphony, principal flute



Delaney Kelly, pictured above (at right) with ChamberFest Dubuque guest flutist Chelsea Knox at a past Juilliard in June master class, also recently joined NISOM's administrative team as a student intern.

NISOM flute student **Gabrielle Moran** has begun playing her instrument during some school masses at Resurrection Elementary School. She joins her older sister Kaitlin, a former NISOM student, who has been a violinist at Resurrection weekend masses for over a year. Gabrielle studies flute at NISOM with Shivhan Dohse, who joined our regular faculty in January after serving as a long-term sub in the fall.

### Dickey Awarded for Distinguished Service

NISOM instructor **Dr. Thomas Taylor Dickey** received an award for Distinguished Service to Music Education from the Minnesota Music Educators Association. In February he presented a session titled "Do You Speak Orchestra? What Band and Choir Directors Should Know" at the MMEA conference.

## NISOM Board of Directors

Tracey Rush, President  
*Instrumental Music Teacher, Dubuque Schools*

Craig Nowack, Vice President  
*Cable TV Coordinator, City of Dubuque*

Jill Heitzman, Secretary, Faculty Rep.  
*Voice & Flute Instructor, NISOM*

Danita Grant, Treasurer  
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Kelly Fassbinder, Parent Representative  
*Owner/Designer, Imagine That!*

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University of Wisconsin-Platteville*

Hillard Salas  
*Physician, Dubuque Internal Medicine*



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www.nisom.com



## Spring 2014 Calendar of Events:

- April 12: L&MOP: Pandemonium
- April 21: New Horizons Band concert
- April 25: JDIFF Silent Film Score Screening
- May 10: L&MOP: SENVOJA
- May 12: New student summer registration begins
- May 17: DubuqueFest recital
- May 17: Student recitals
- May 31: Red Cedar Trio concert
- June 16: ChamberFest Orchestra Concert
- June 18: ChamberFest Workshop
- June 19: ChamberFest Gala Concert

*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 2014 operating grant.*



**L&MOP 2013-2014**  
Saturdays, 10AM  
Carnegie-Stout Public Library  
Free! All Ages Welcome!

**L&MOP**  
Lollipops & Music for  
Our Preschoolers

**April 12: Pandemonium**  
*Steel Drum Ensemble*

**May 10: SENVOJA**  
*Senior High Jazz Choir*

*Sponsored by Drs. Mark Niemer and Yasyn Lee*

Visit [nisom.com](http://nisom.com) for all the latest  
NISOM news and event information.



Email [admin@nisom.com](mailto:admin@nisom.com) to  
be added to our email list.