



Barbara Schubert, Music Director and Conductor



ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

*Illinois Council of Orchestras
2021 Community Orchestra of the Year*

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of the DSO,

Through this unprecedented year, I am delighted to report that the state of the DuPage Symphony Orchestra remains strong and vibrant. Recent performances show that our musicians have not lost a step during our hiatus. They sustained their skills, devotion to the DSO, and love for performing beautiful music. Music Director Barbara Schubert led ensemble performances in several venues throughout the area, bringing the DSO to new audiences and keeping our spirits up during this trying time.

We continue to collaborate with music education specialists, enabling us to reach and teach the next generation of classical music fans. We plan to release the results of these endeavors on our website throughout the coming season. To celebrate the diversity in our community, we established a task force to develop ways we can remain welcoming and expand the power of music to our neighbors.

Volunteerism demonstrates to me the amazing power of community spirit that makes our area so special. Over ninety musician members freely devote their time to prepare, rehearse, and perform challenging repertoire for delighted audiences. Our newly expanded Board of Directors dedicates countless hours to ensure the stability of the organization. DSO deeply appreciates the additional support from our team of ushers, interns, and additional committee members.

DuPage Symphony Orchestra represents part of our collective path to normalcy. I spent the past thirty-six years in uniform traveling around the world. Other than singing Korean karaoke and listening to old Blues bands, I actually experienced very little music in my past. My family bought our permanent home around the corner from Wentz Concert Hall, and I so look forward to experiencing the engulfing sounds of the DuPage Symphony Orchestra in this world-class venue with you.

Sincerely,

Colonel Don Potoczny

Colonel Don Potoczny, Board President 2020-21 Season

DSO FOUNDATION

Mission

Provide inspiration and cultural enrichment through musical excellence, educational programs, and community outreach.

Vision

Transforming hearts, minds, and communities through music.

Objectives

- Inspire people of all ages to develop an appreciation for symphonic music.
- Provide accessible, real-life orchestral experiences for area children and students.
- Create an outlet for talented musicians to share their passion for music with the community.

Core Values

We honor our TEAM

We each CONTRIBUTE and COLLABORATE to advance the DSO.

We cherish our COMMUNITY

We are OPEN and WELCOMING, RESPECTING the full diverse range of backgrounds and experiences of those with whom we interact.

We are committed to EXCELLENCE

We CONTINUOUSLY STRIVE to be our best and act with INTEGRITY.

Strategic Plan 2021-2024

To help ensure our long-term growth and stability, our Strategic Plan focuses on:

- Building organizational strength
- Achieving artistic excellence
- Developing strong audience and donor relationships
- Engaging and educating the greater DuPage County area
- Ensuring long-term financial stability
- Increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives

INSPIRE A LOVE OF MUSIC

During the pandemic, it has been inspiring to see how music can bring people together, families in Italy singing from their balconies or Yo-Yo Ma and other musicians sharing #SongsofComfort on social media. Music has always had a healing power that unites communities in times of uncertainty, and we see that today.

Our 2020-2021 season, *Your Musical Journey*, would have taken you to Edwardian-era England, 19th-century France and Italy, as well as quintessential American destinations like California and New York. While we weren't able to perform our concerts live, we prepared virtual concert experiences for our 67th season that featured music from Elgar, Berlioz, Respighi, Tchaikovsky, Aaron Copland, Leonard Bernstein, Gershwin, Andrew Lloyd Webber, and more.

Luckily, as a small, flexible organization, we were able to pivot and modified our programming to provide virtual content and socially-distanced performances.

The power of music was well known even before science confirmed it. In these uncertain times when more and more people are suffering from the effects of long-term stress, music's healing abilities are needed more than ever.



The DSO String Ensemble performs a socially distanced concert that was livestreamed to patrons.

PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

Young Artists Auditions

The DSO strives to encourage serious study and musical excellence among young musicians through its annual Young Artists Auditions. The audition experience is designed to be both educational and rewarding for the participants. All entrants are evaluated by experienced judges and receive written comments and suggestions based on their individual performances.

Due to COVID-19, our 2021 Young Artists competition took place virtually and in a revised format; and eight talented musicians were awarded as competition winners.

2020-21 Competition Winners



Esme Arias-Kim, Violin



Caleb Kim, Piano



William Lewis, Trumpet



Sofia Radovic, Viola



Veronica Rokicki, Violin



Ella Saputra, Violin



Richelle Shi, Piano



Mia Wimbiscus, Cello

Connect with Music

Early in 2021, the DSO received grant funds to contract three highly accomplished Music Education Specialists to create distinctive music education materials for K-12 students and adult learners.

These materials utilize virtual and/or in-person instruction to teach students and adults about the different instruments in an orchestra, help them understand what to listen for in classical music, and encourage them to be comfortable and interested in attending future orchestral concerts. We plan to roll out this program in the 21-22 Season.

SHARE OUR PASSION FOR MUSIC

Two initiatives identified in our Strategic Plan are the need to get out of the concert hall and into the community while also expanding our footprint throughout DuPage County. We will accomplish this by

- Bringing music to more people in a variety of concert formats
- Offering greater diversity in programs and activities
- Improving educational offerings

In March, the DSO launched a Community Partnership Campaign. Members of the board and staff started meeting with community leaders and influencers in Downers Grove, Naperville, West Chicago, and Wheaton to identify how we can partner together to deliver the healing power of music to more communities as we emerge from the pandemic and return to normal. As a result of those meetings, we collaborated with the Wheaton Chamber and Wheaton Public Library to Celebrate Frida Kahlo and Mexican Heritage at Wheaton Plaza del Zócalo. We were selected as the September 2021 Non-Profit of the Month from the Downers Grove Public Library. After meeting with key leaders in West Chicago, we partnered with the Park District to perform at their Christmas in July festival. They are also helping us translate our Connect with Music program materials into Spanish, and we are continuing to meet with additional leaders to explore more partnership opportunities.



"During this terrible pandemic, it is very heartening to know that there are partners like the DSO willing to bring gifts to those we serve that lift their spirits and bring hope!"

Mark Angelini, President
Mercy Housing

THE DSO IN YOUR COMMUNITY

"It is from community that the arts developed and it is in serving communities that the arts will thrive... Communities do not exist to serve the arts; the arts exist to serve communities." **Building Communities, Not Audiences**
by Doug Borwick

25+

Virtual concerts, 'living room' performances, and/or educational videos added to our website.

17

Concerts performed during the pandemic.

7

Communities where we performed; Naperville, Wheaton, Carol Stream, Villa Park, Wayne, Geneva, and Seneca.

11,500+

Patrons reached virtually while live-streaming our performances.

1,500+

Patrons that attended our performances in-person.

900+

Patrons registered for our Sunday Serenade Series.

15

States AND Countries reached during our Sunday Serenade Series: Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, New York, North Carolina, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin AND Canada, United Kingdom, and Australia.

81

NEW donors that helped transform hearts, minds, and communities through music.

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INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Thank you to our donors who gave between 6/1/2020 - 5/31/21.

Ovation Circle (\$25,000+)

The Beatrice A. and Kenneth M. Schubert Family Trust

Maestra's Circle (\$10,000+)

Mattson Family Trust

Symphony (\$2,500+)

Kristin and Brian Chmiel

Ivan and Kathy Kane

Concerto (\$1,000+)

Anonymous

Denise Axtell

Shelley Campbell

Andrew Dogan and Julie Warren

Steven and Kathy Eschbach

Garth and Susan Kennedy

Larry Larson

Dale and Teresa Muir

Cherilyn Murer

Donald Potoczny and Didem Cal

Andrew Sharp

Rosalie Sheldon

Andy Struble

Larry and Penny Tomko

Theodore M. Utchen Trust

Suite (\$500+)

Anonymous (2)

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Timothy and Karen Bondy

Lisa and Steven Ciota

James and Ruth Fawley

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Overture (\$250)

Anonymous (2)

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Alfred Davis

Brett and Sue Goad

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Ida Lee

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James and Suzanne Simnick

Myron and Gail Sonkin

David Vener

Kathy and Rich Wilders

Patrons (\$100+)

Anonymous (2)

Linda Allison

Jeffrey Baker and Beth Zeiter

Beth Benck

Perry and Nancy Berke

Dan and Barbara Bilardello

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Steven and Cheri Pierson

Dawn and Eric Schubert

Maria and Andrew Smith

Aria Soha

Irene Spaetzel

Andy and Marie Strimaitis

James Stucker

Jean True

Dale and Ed Ward

Ramona Webb

Cathy Wigder

Bob and Mary Wright

Robert Zielinski

Encore Legacy Society

Larry C. Larson

Dale and Teresa Muir Charitable Fund

The Beatrice A. and Kenneth M. Schubert Family Trust

Theodore M. Utchen Trust

*Thank you to all our
donors, patrons, and volunteers!*

You are helping to transform hearts, minds,
and communities through music.

Our sincerest appreciation,
The DSO Board of Directors, Staff, and Musicians

If you notice an error in our listing, we sincerely apologize.

Please call us at 630.778.1003, and we will correct it.

CORPORATE & FOUNDATION DONORS

Prestissimo (\$5,500+)



ILLINOIS
ARTS
COUNCIL
AGENCY

*This program is partially supported by a grant from the
Illinois Arts Council Agency.*



DuPage
Foundation



U.S. Small Business
Administration

Allegro (\$1,000+)



NAPERVILLE
BANK & TRUST®

A WINTRUST COMMUNITY BANK



Andante Moderato (\$250)

Kagan & Gaines Music Co., Inc.

Andantino (\$125)

The Growing Place Garden Center
Judd Kendall VFW Post 3873

Matching Gift Companies

Allstate Foundation
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BP Foundation
IBM Matching Grant Program

2020-21 STAFF

Barbara Schubert, Music Director and Conductor
Kristin L. Chmiel, Executive Director
Krista DesBiens, Patron Services Manager

2020-21 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Don Potoczny, President	Steve Eschbach, Vice President
Rose Sheldon, Vice-President	Kirby Lee, Secretary
Andrew Sharp, Treasurer	William Allmart
Denise Axtell	Shelley Campbell
Tracer Chow	Lisa Ciota
Meg Goodman	Gary Greene
William Jastrow	Cherilyn Murer
Michael O'Neill	Glenn Sroka
Sharnell Weathersby	

FINANCIALS

Income

Performance Revenue	\$ 5,516	3%
Corporate	\$ 5,250	3%
Foundations	\$ 8,948	6%
Grants	\$ 67,735	43%
Individuals	\$ 40,388	26%
InKind	\$ 2,098	1%
Pre-Endowment	\$ 28,000	18%
Other Revenue	\$ 12	0%

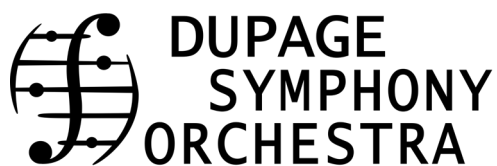
Income Total \$157,947

Expenses

Performance Expenses	\$ (60,518)	48%
Education/Outreach	\$ (14,446)	11%
Development	\$ (21,255)	17%
Marketing	\$ (4,957)	4%
Administration	\$ (24,881)	20%
Expenses Total	\$(126,057)	

NET INCOME \$ 31,890

Change in Board Reserve: \$ 19,982



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