

The DSOL

Dubuque Symphony Orchestra League

2022 • 2023 SEASON



The DSOL develops and administers projects and programs that provide educational outreach and financial support to the DSO.

ANNUAL STATE OF THE LEAGUE REPORT FOR 2022-2023

By Joan Harvieux, President



The 2022-2023 season was a busy one for the DSOL. Three successful fundraisers were held: the bridge tournament, fall fashion show and our plant sale. Our Board also focused on generating additional ideas for “I Love the Symphony” fundraisers, which proved to be successful as well. Among these, we sponsored a Nothing Bundt Cakes Day and an Indian Dinner, both of which exceeded expectations. More “I Love the Symphony” plans are on tap for next year. But, no matter how successful our fundraisers are, it is through your continued support of our events, as well as through your membership, that we are able to continue to provide financial support to the DSO for its educational outreach in the community. Because of you, we remain a financially strong organization.

This season we also welcomed new members to our Board: Carrie Bleile, Angie Jordan, Kristen Kemp-Hodges, Theresa Thielen and Amy Weber. They join a hard-working, dedicated Board and League members who collectively donated over 3250 hours to the efforts of the DSOL this season.

Administration

Joanne Gebauer, Chair

There are multiple committees that dedicate their time to ensure that DSOL projects and events run smoothly. Joanne oversaw this, which included keeping you updated on our activities through our Spring and Fall newsletters.

Concert Greeters. *Marilynne Field, Chair.*

Greeters are again acting as the Welcoming Committee in the theater. Marilynne contacted volunteers and scheduled them for all five classics concerts. And this year, we recruited Music Education Students from Clarke University as junior volunteers to assist in greeting patrons and distributing programs. This enables them to not only volunteer and support our symphony, but also assists them in meeting curriculum requirements.

Guest Artist Baskets. *Fusako Sato, Chair*

Gift baskets and/or gift cards were presented to all musicians commissioned to perform with the symphony this season. Fusako assembled the baskets herself and arranged for delivery to their hotel room.

Membership

Joyce Johnson, Kathe Richardson, Co-Chairs

Total membership for the 2022-2023 season was over 130, an increase over the previous two years – covid years - where we saw a decrease. Additional good news is that we also have new members in addition to renewals.

Education

Yvonne Mallory, Chair

The DSOL supported multiple programs promoting the education of classical music from age eight to senior citizens.

The **Adopt-a-Musician** program provides for DSO musicians to be adopted by local fourth graders. The professional musicians visited 17 area schools several times throughout the school year as an introduction to classical music as well as their individual instruments.

The DSOL financially supported the **Dubuque Symphony Youth Ensembles** by providing tuition assistance, a scholarship fund, financial assistance for marketing and recruitment, and discretionary assistance for instrument or tuxedo rental.

The **Concerto Competition** was sponsored by the DSOL and was held on April 1st at Clarke University. First place was awarded to a Euphonium player, second and third place to violin players and Honorable mentions to students playing the Clarinet and Bassoon.

Arts Trek

Cindy Mueller, Chair

Arts Trek performances were held on October 13th for Fifth graders where 1681 students from 37 area schools participated, and on November 15th for Third graders in which 2554 students from 46 schools attended. In addition to the performances by the DSO Symphony, last year's Concerto competition winner, Tuba player Bret Tomkins, a junior from Hempstead High School, performed. Fifteen DSOL volunteers assisted students in finding their seats prior to the concert and making their way back to the school buses at the end of the concert.

Arts Trek Luncheon

Ruth Hartig and Carrie Bleile, Co-Chairs

This luncheon is provided to the DSO orchestra, DSO staff and Five Flags staff in conjunction with the Third Grade Arts Trek. Because of the number of schools participating, there are shorter breaks, so an all-day buffet is set up with individually wrapped snacks.

String Camp Dinner

Marilynne Fields and Yvonne Mallory

This year's string camp had an enrollment of approximately 30 students. The DSOL provides a 'box lunch' dinner for the students and their five instructors.

Senior Classics

Yvonne Mallory, Chair

Two performances were sponsored by the DSOL this year and were held on March 31 at two Dubuque senior centers, Oak Park Place and Sunset Park Place. A small ensemble of DSO musicians performed which were free to the residents. These concerts represented a return to the homes following a hiatus due to covid. Plans for next year call for at least five concerts.

Sound Bites

Ruth Hartig, Chair

Each Friday prior to the DSO Classics concerts the League sponsors Sound Bites at Dubuque Golf & Country Club. This season we returned to the full five Sound Bites events following covid. Dr. William Intriligator provided insight into the music selections for the upcoming concert, along with a discussion and performances with the guest artists. DSO administrative assistant, Deanne Reinert, assisted by handling reservations through the DSO office and website, while League volunteers greeted attendees and collected payment. This year we began the transition to on-line registration and payment, which will continue for all events next year. 450 attended Sound Bites this season.

Fundraising

Sudha Koneru, Chair

There were three very successful fundraising events held in 2022-2023. Additionally, the Board held a special strategy session to brainstorm new ideas to generate additional funds for the coming years. The direction we determined best is to continue with our major fundraisers and roll out additional "I Love the Symphony" events. I Love the Symphony events are sponsored by individual Board members, require fewer volunteer hours, and generate significant funds. This season Richelle Gentile coordinated a "Nothing Bundt Cakes" day in Dubuque, and Sudha Koneru hosted two Indian dinners at her home.

Play for the Symphony Bridge Party

Bernita Gilbertson and Carolyn Collins, Co-Chairs

Forty bridge players gathered at Dubuque Golf and Country Club to play bridge and raise funds for the League and their support of the DSO's education priorities. Prizes were awarded which included a variety of concert ticket packages for the coming season.

"A Day in the Life of Fashion" Fall Fashion Show

Pati Gallogly, Chair

After several postponements due to the pandemic, the fall fashion show was once again held live and in person at Dubuque Golf and Country Club on Sunday September 11th. Champagne and a dessert bar were provided for attendees, while ten local stores and boutiques from Dubuque and Galena modeled morning, afternoon, and evening styles... something for everyone. Our participating stores provided items for door prizes and James Martin Jewelers donated a pair of diamond stud earrings, valued at over \$2000, for our raffle. More than 120 were in attendance to make this a memorable and successful event.

Geranium Plus Flower Sale

Deb Burton, Vickie LaGrotta, Kathe Richardson, Co-Chairs

The Geranium Plus flower sale continues to be a very popular and successful fundraising event. The committee worked with Amish/Miner Town Greenhouse and Cushman's Nursery to provide the flowers and Kathleen Hoeper, Director of Marketing for DSO, assisted with the updated form and plant description form (complete with pictures), and promoted the sale on the DSO website. Deb Burton collected the orders, and along with her co-chairs, audited totals and placed the orders with the nurseries. Flower delivery took place at Westminster Presbyterian Church on May 8th, the Monday before Mother's Day. Under Kathe Richardson's guidance, volunteers unloaded flowers, checked them in and sorted by variety. This was followed by assembling flowers by order and assisting with customer pick-up in the afternoon. Most of our Board members and several league

members volunteered on this day to fulfill plant orders. 160 orders were completed this year, which included 46 first time customers and over 1,400 plants.

This was our biggest fundraiser, both in terms of funds raised and volunteer hours, and as you can see, it takes a huge amount of effort on the part of the chairs and entire Board to make this the success that it is year after year!

Looking Ahead to 2023-2024

We are already hard at work planning events for the coming 2023-2024 season. And it begins right now at the Annual Meeting, which kicks off our membership drive. Increasing our membership is not only a key fundraiser, but it also allows us to increase support through DSOL volunteers and Symphony concert goers.

Planning for our annual Play for the Symphony Bridge Party is underway, the Geranium Plus Flower Sale has been scheduled for next spring with order forms being available on March 4th, and Flower pick-up planned for Monday May 6th. The Tea Event is also back this year, as are the various "I Love the Symphony" projects which our Board members have committed to for the coming season.

Our plans also include automating our orders, registrations and payments by transitioning to the DSO Website, a process which we began this year with Sound Bites. Our focus is to make it easier for you 'to do business with us' and eliminate overhead associated with printing and mailing costs. This then enables us to direct most, if not all, of our revenue for the financial support of the DSO and its' educational outreach programs. For those who are not ready to register and pay on-line – we will not leave you behind.

DSOL Executive Committee for the 2023-2024 Season

President: Joan Harvieux

Vice President: Vickie LaGrotta

Treasurer: Marilynne Field

Assistant Treasurer: Angie Jordan

Recording Secretary: Joanne Gebauer

Correspondence Secretary: Gail Appel

Administration: Kristen Kemp-Hodges

Education: Cindy Mueller

Fundraising: Amy Weber

Nominations: Jacquie Roth

Past President: Richelle Gentile

It has been a real honor and privilege to serve as your President this past year, which thanks to you, has been very productive. I look forward to working with our leaders for the coming year, and the ongoing dedication of our Board and members. Thank you for your continued membership, your attendance at our events, and your willingness to step up and volunteer when needed. We could not do this without you.

Thank you,
Joan Harvieux