

The DSOL

Dubuque Symphony Orchestra League

2023 • 2024 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 2023-2024

By Joan Harvieux, President



The 2023-2024 season was a busy and successful one for the DSOL. Three successful fundraisers were held: the bridge tournament, the No Tea Tea and our beloved plant sale. Board members also followed through on several of the ideas for “I Love the Symphony” events, which proved to be successful as well. Among these were two ‘Nothing Bundt Cakes Days’ and a fall fur fashion show. More fundraisers 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 a new Board member – Lisa Fackleman. She joins a hard-working, dedicated Board and League members who collectively donated over 3709 hours to the efforts of the DSOL this season!

ADMINISTRATION

Kristen Kemp-Hodges, Chair

There are multiple committees that dedicate their time to ensure that DSOL projects and events run smoothly. This includes keeping you updated on our activities through our Spring and Fall newsletters, which was coordinated by Joanne Gebauer.

Concert Greeters

Sudha Koneru, Gail Appel, Chair.

Greeters were again the Welcoming Committee in the theater and were recruited from not only the League, but from Clarke University music department. The students participating earned credits towards their studies. This concert season we were successful in filling the needs of six-to-eight greeters for each Saturday and Sunday concert. Being a concert greeter is a fun and easy way to become involved and support the DSO!

Guest Artist Baskets

Sandy Bertsch, Chair

This year, DSO guest artists participating in Sound Bites received gift bags of Caramels, hand made by the Trappistine nuns in Dubuque. Sandy coordinated the purchase and packaging in a nice gift bag, which were given to the musicians at Sound Bites, versus delivering to their hotel rooms, as in previous years.

Membership

Joyce Johnson, Kathe Richardson, Co-Chairs

Total membership for the 2023-2024 season was over 130, which saw a growth in new members. Membership registration fees and patron donations made this our second largest revenue source.

Nominations

Jacquie Roth, Chair

The nominating committee, chaired by Jacquie, is responsible for recruiting candidates from the League membership for positions on the Board. We are happy to welcome our newest Board member, Lisa Fackleman, and thank her for joining. If you are interested in joining our Board, we encourage you to volunteer at any one of our events, and let Jacquie know of your interest.

EDUCATION

Cindy Mueller, 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 and is now available in all Dubuque County School District schools – both public and parochial. The musicians visit area schools several times throughout the school year as an introduction to classical music as well as their individual instruments. This program is supported, in part, by the League, with some of the musicians now being sponsored by individual donors.

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

The **Concerto Competition** was sponsored by the DSOL and was held on April 6th at Clarke University. Fourteen students competed, including violins, flute, oboe, bassoon, tenor sax, clarinets and tubas. Brett Tomkins took first place with his tuba, violinist Alec Bowman won second, and third place was awarded to Bassoonist Addilyn Dolan. Scholarship money and fees for the DSO judges are paid for by the League.

Arts Trek
Cindy Mueller, Chair

Arts Trek performances were held on October 12th for Fifth graders where 1650 students from 34 area schools participated, and on November 2nd for Third graders in which 2590 students from 47 schools attended. 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 a variety of individually wrapped snacks. Shopping, set-up, and take down is handled by League volunteers.

Bus Tour 2024

The DYSO went on a tour to Kansas City to participate in a 'sight-reading' clinic on Beethoven's 8th Symphony with the Kansas City Reading Repertory Orchestra. The tour highlight was attending the Kansas City Symphony Orchestra's performance of Beethoven's 8th Symphony. The League helped subsidize cost of the trip.

Senior Classics

This year DSO musicians Kara Tann and Philip Bergman prepared a program of violin/cello duets that were performed at five area nursing homes during the month of May. This program was supported by the League.

Sound Bites
Ruth Hartig, Kristen Kemp-Hodges, Co-Chairs

Each Friday prior to the DSO Classics concerts the League sponsors Sound Bites at Dubuque Golf & Country Club. Dr. William Intriligator provides 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. 546 guests attended Sound Bites this season, an increase of almost 100 over last season.

FUNDRAISING
Amy Weber, Chair

The 2023-2024 season was highlighted by three successful and fun-filled fundraising drives. These were complemented by several "I Love the Symphony" events organized/hosted by individual Board members.

Play for the Symphony Bridge Party
Yvonne Mallory and Carolyn Collins, Co-Chairs

Forty + bridge players gathered at Dubuque Golf and Country Club on September 28th to play bridge and raise funds for the League in their support of the DSO's education priorities. Prizes were awarded to the first, second, and third place winners, which included a variety of concert ticket packages for the coming season. Bridge tallies were provided as door prizes.

No Tea Tea
Marilynne Field, Chairperson

This event/non-event turned into our biggest fundraiser of the 2023-2024 season. The no tea tea happens every other year, and instead of attending an 'in-person' event, gathering a table of friends, dressing up, driving to the club, you simply respond to a letter solicitation for a gift to the league. Thank you to all who participated and donated to this cause. This was our biggest fundraiser.

I Love the Symphony - Fortissimo - Fall Fur Fling and Bling

Marilynne Field – Chair

In November, Marilynne organized a fur fashion show at Dubuque Golf & Country Club featuring beautiful furs and outerwear from Rhomberg's Fur and Leather Gallery. The event was well attended, and members of the DSO staff and League modeled. The furs were stunning, and the attendees had a wonderful time.

I Love the Symphony - Nothing Bundt Cakes Day
Richelle Gentile

Through Richelle's arrangement, Nothing Bundt Cakes set aside two days to support the League and the DSO by donating 20% of all proceeds to us. The first sponsored day was November 16th – the week before Thanksgiving, and the second day was March 27th – the Wednesday before Easter.

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 Hooper, 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 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. Over 160 orders were completed this year, with both new and returning customers.

This is always one of our biggest fundraiser in terms of volunteer hours and funds raised. As you can see, it takes a huge amount of effort on the part of the chairs and the league to make this the success that it is year after year! And while we are at it, we have a good time.

Looking Ahead to 2024-2025

We are already hard at work planning events for the coming 2024-2025 season. And it begins right now with the start of 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 fall Symphony' Bridge Party is underway, the Geranium Plus Flower Sale has been scheduled for next spring with order forms being available on March 3rd, and Flower pick-up planned for Monday May 5th. The League Fall Fashion Show is also back this year in November, as are the various "I Love the Symphony" projects which our Board members have committed to for the coming season.

DSOL Executive Committee for the 2024-2025 Season

President: Vickie LaGrotta
Vice President: Gail Appel
Treasurer: Marilynne Field
Assistant Treasurer: Angie Jordan
Recording Secretary: Joanne Gebauer
Correspondence Secretary: Carrie Bleile
Administration: Kristen Kemp-Hodges
Education: Cindy Mueller
Fundraising: Amy Weber
Nominations: Jacquie Roth
Past President: Joan Harvieux

It has been a real honor and privilege to serve as your President for the past two years. Working with the DSOL members and the Board of Directors has been a wonderful and rewarding experience. I look forward to our upcoming season under Vickie's leadership and hope to see you at our events during the 2024-2025 season. We could not do this without you.

And of course, the reason why we volunteer is to support our wonderful orchestra. Subscribe now!

Thank you,
Joan Harvieux