The DSOL

Dubuque Symphony Orchestra League

2026 • 2027 SEASON

FALL 2026 DSOL Prelude Newsletter ▪ Editor, Joanne Gebauer

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we begin the 60th year of the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra League I want to thank each of you for volunteering and supporting our many fundraising events. Your generous gifts of time, talent, and financial support advance the DSO's dedication to bringing symphony music to the tri-state area. In addition to raising funds for the youth orchestra, we are once again sponsoring the Classic's III weekend concerts and continuing our annual contribution to DSO's operating fund. Furthermore, your significant volunteer hours assist the DSO in securing key grant funding.

I would also like to welcome our new members. It is wonderful to see such a strong commitment to music, arts and education in our community, and I look forward to volunteering alongside you. To our returning members, thank you for your steadfast commitment over the years. Our Board is a working Board with zero overheads, ensuring every dollar raised goes directly to the DSO and the DSO Youth Orchestra.

We have a full calendar ahead for this milestone year—please see the details outlined in this newsletter by our committee chairpersons and board members. I hope to see you at our upcoming events.

Your support, expertise, and time make everything we do possible. Thank you for your continued membership and dedication.

Warm regards,

Kristen Kemp-Hodges
DSOL President

SOUND BITES by Pat Batka

We are so excited to offer our educational and entertaining Sound Bites luncheons for you again this year. This season Maestro Intriligator continues to bring world class musicians to Dubuque. You will hear personal insights from the maestro and his guest artists. We will also get a glimpse into the guest artists' lives, their biographies and their personalities and gain a better understanding of the music. Please join us the Friday before each classical concert at the Dubuque Golf & Country Club where they always serve a delicious buffet lunch for only $22. For reservations either call the DSO office at 563-556-1677 or register online at dubuquesymphony.org/sound-bites

SIXTY YEARS OF HARMONY CAMPAIGN

by John B. Donovan

To commemorate the DSOL's 60th year of supporting the DSO, we are launching the "Sixty Years of Harmony Campaign" with a goal to raise $60,000. We invite you to participate in this special initiative. Every dollar raised will directly benefit the Dubuque Symphony Youth Ensembles and other music appreciation programs. Our commitment remains: "No student will be denied the opportunity to participate because of financial circumstances." By now you should have received an invitation to participate in the campaign. We encourage you to be as generous as possible.

DSYE (DUBUQUE SYMPHONY YOUTH ENSEMBLES) by Cindy Mueller

The DSYE are organized and ready to go! Their first rehearsals were on Sunday, Sept. 13th. The Concert Schedule for the 2026 - 27 year is: November 15 - Fall Concert - Five Flags February 7- Winter Concert - University of Dubuque May 2 - Spring Concert - Five Flags. The DUBUQUE SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA will be going on tour on March 5-7, 2027 to Omaha, Nebraska. They have scheduled a clinic to improve their playing skills on Saturday morning and a performance with the Omaha Youth Symphony on Sunday. Students will also be attending a concert by the Omaha Symphony Orchestra. SUONARE, a string quartet composed of members of the DSYE, performed at Farmers Market this past summer in June and August and at Dubuque Fest on August 8. They are planning to schedule Senior Visits to nursing homes over the Christmas season.

ARTS TREK by Cindy Mueller

The DSO is once again planning Arts Trek Concerts for the 3rd and 5th graders of area schools to introduce them to symphonic music and the instruments of the orchestra. These free concerts are performed at Five Flags Theatre in Dubuque. This year the 5th grade concerts will be held on Wednesday, October 14, from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm. The 3rd grade concerts will be held on Thursday, November 19, from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm. DSOL provides 12-15 ushers to help make the days run smoothly. If you are interested in ushering for one or both of these concert days, please contact Cindy Mueller at bobncindymueller@gmail.com Please provide your email address and phone number. There is an organizational meeting for ushers on both days at 8:30 am in the lobby of Five Flags Theatre.

NOTHING BUNDT CAKES by Richelle Gentile

The League's Bundt Cake sale is now a regular event that takes place during each Thanksgiving and Easter week. This fall, "Nothing Bundt Cakes Day" will be on Tuesday November 24th, just in time for Thanksgiving. We thank Nothing Bundt Cakes for their support and sponsorship of what has become a profitable event for us. Eat more cake!!!

TRIVIA ON TAP by Joan Harvieux

This past July the DSOL and DSO sponsored its' second annual 'Trivia on Tap' held at Driftless Pizza, our co-sponsor. Bob's Trivia emceed four rounds of trivia for 10 teams of participants. 'Mulligans' were sold for teams to use in lieu of answers. Donations were made to "win" Maestro Intriligator as a team participant for a round. Winning teams took home tickets to the Rock Hits concert, Classics concert tickets, and Intriligator Bobbleheads.

We are in the planning stages for next summer's Music Trivia with the DSO, which is tentatively set for August 2027. The coming event will offer larger team size, lower price of entry and encourage family participation. Details will be available next spring. We hope to see you there!

CONCERT SPONSORSHIP by Joan Harvieux

For the second year in a row, the League is proud to be the concert sponsor for the Classics III performances, which will be held February 13th and 14th. The theme is 'Hearts in Harmony'. When our league was founded sixty years ago, the stated mission of the organization was 'to promote the DSO'. Our commitment to sponsor the Classics III concerts continues that legacy. Look for us on stage prior to the concert to learn how you can be a part of our efforts.

SUMMER MELODIES by Joan Harvieux

This past summer, 88 members of the Dubuque Symphony Youth Ensembles plus 11 staff members wrapped up their week at String Camp with a Sunday evening performance at the Alliant Energy Amphitheater. The league provided snack bags and water for these young performers to sustain them between the day's practice and their concert. Staff members were treated to Panera entrees as they transitioned from their roles at String Camp to the DSO concert. It was a long day for all involved with Summer Camp, and we are happy to help keep energy levels up.

GERANIUM SALES by Joan Harvieux

2027 Geranium Sales planning is underway. The nurseries purchase their seeds in September, requiring us to select our plants for sale in the early fall. We hope to repeat our 2026 sales success, which was one of our best ever – thanks to you! For the first time we offered on-line plant ordering, along with paper order forms. 55% of you submitted electronic orders, and we thank you – it eliminates manual data entry and potential errors. This coming season we will continue to offer both ways of placing orders. Please note that we are changing the day that flowers are available for pick up. It will be on the Wednesday before Mothers' Day, and not on a Monday as in previous years.

CLASSICS CONCERT GREETERS

by John B. Donovan

For those who have volunteered as greeters, we thank you. The greeters for Classics I & II have been filled. Volunteers for Classics III (February 13 & 14, 2027) and Classics IV (Sunday, March 21, 2027) still have openings. Please contact me at 253-961-4865 or JBedfordD@gmail.com if you would like to help.

PRELUDE TO THE SEASON by Richelle Gentile

Prelude to the Season was held on September 10, 2026, at Voices Studios in Dubuque, serving as both a celebration of the upcoming season and a fundraiser supporting the educational endeavors of the DSOL/DSO. The evening included a reception with live music by Sam Day, sponsor and donor recognition, a fashion show featuring apparel from local boutiques, and a presentation by Mark Wahlert highlighting the DSO's upcoming season.

Participating boutiques included Chain Vintage, Graham's Style Store, PJ Chapin's Boutique, and Zazou's Bridal Boutique & Tuxedos, with community members serving as models throughout the show. The event was made possible through the support of sponsors Honkamp, P.C., Hoffmann, Schneider & Kitchen Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Denlinger Herrig Insurance, and Plaid Swan, along with numerous in-kind donors who provided music, catering, venue enhancements, and desserts, including Fareway Meat & Grocery, Nothing Bundt Cakes, Inside Décor, and Sam Day.

PLAY BRIDGE FOR THE SYMPHONY

by Yvonne Mallory

Play Bridge for the Symphony was held for the 14th year at the Dubuque Golf and Country Club on Thursday, September 24, 2026. 48 of us played bridge to support the Dubuque Symphony's Youth Orchestra's activities, programming and expenses. We had lunch on a beautiful day with some guests commenting that this is the nicest event they go to all year.

Lunch was excellent as usual, and we played two rounds of bridge before lunch and another two rounds after lunch. Winners with the highest score of 4,950 were Mary Pat Knipper and Chris Tomas. They each won two tickets to a Classical Concert of their choice. Our second-place winners were Sylvia Kevton and Martha Schmid with 3,900 points; each winning two tickets to the Holiday Concert. Finally, Sharon Kress and Mary Kay Wood had 3,860 points, earning each of them four tickets to the Holiday Family Concert. All concert tickets were generously donated by the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra. Congratulations to our high points winners!

Additional prizes were awarded in a random drawing: Kay Posey's two sets of handmade tallies were won by Sharon Payne and Shirley Olberding and five gift cards to Roux and Lucia, Panera Bread, Charlotte's Coffee House (2), and Roses and Berries were won by Kathy Bodine, Donna Meyer, Nancy Wahlert, Mary Meyer, and Father Jim Miller.

Thank you to the DSOL for agreeing to go full-throttle "bridge crazy" for the 14th year, and please give a special round of applause for the staff at the DSO office for their immeasurable thoughtfulness and assistance.

Committee: Yvonne Mallory, Bernie Gilbertson, Ellen Gukeisen, Mary Lewis, Sandy Bertsch, Julie Johnson, Kay Posey, Linda Goldsmith, Gail Appel, Joan Harvieux, and Jeanne Lauritsen.

MEMBERSHIP by Kathé Richardson

We would like to thank you for your support as a member of the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra League for the 2026 – 2027 season. Your dedication, time, and generosity are instrumental in helping us champion music education, support our orchestra, and bring the joy of symphonic music to our community.

Each event you attend, volunteer hour you give, and dollar you contribute strengthens our mission and allows us to grow. Although our official membership drive for 2026-2027 has ended, as we are preparing for an exciting new season, we warmly invite you join the league and to renew your membership if you have not yet done so. For all of you who have sent your's in, THANK YOU!!! Your continued involvement ensures that we can keep the music playing for generations to come!

For more information contact:
Kathé Richardson at 563-581-0370 or katheerichardson@gmail.com

For more information about the DSOL and our activities, please visit
dubuquesymphony.org/
dubuque-symphony-orchestra-league