

# The DSOL

Dubuque Symphony Orchestra League

2025 • 2026 SEASON



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

**SPRING 2026 DSOL Prelude Newsletter** ■ Editor, Joanne Gebauer

## NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Now in our 59th year, we would not be here without you. Your support makes a difference, one recognized by the DSO. Let me share a letter received from Mark Wahlert and Kara Murphy to all League Members:

“The Dubuque Symphony Orchestra was pleased to receive and record your generous gift to become our Classics 3 Concert sponsor.

As we welcome musicians to the symphony’s stage to entertain and educate audiences young and old, we are grateful for your many decades of partnership. Your support makes it possible for the DSO board of directors, leaders, staff and musicians to create programs filled with heart, soul and incredible guest artists.

We are grateful for a community that not only cherishes the arts but also has quite a reputation for philanthropy. Much of our current success can be attributed to League members who recognize the need for a healthy and robust symphony orchestra.

Please know how incredibly grateful we are for your investment in our mission.”

We welcome our new members and thank our returning members. Your time and donations in support of our events is truly appreciated. Look for information on our Geranium Sales which is now underway. Your orders can now be placed online. Soon our Spring ‘Nothing Bundt Cake Sales’ will be here. Read more below.

Look us up by visiting our page on the DSO website at [dubuquesymphony.org/dubuque-symphony-orchestra-league](http://dubuquesymphony.org/dubuque-symphony-orchestra-league). We are very appreciative and thankful for your membership of the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra League.

Vickie LaGrotta  
President, DSOL

## MEMBERSHIP by Kathé Richardson

We would like to thank you for your 2025/2026 Dubuque Symphony Orchestra League membership. 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.

Your continued involvement ensures that we can keep the music playing for generations to come! For more information contact: Kathé Richardson at [katherichardson@gmail.com](mailto:katherichardson@gmail.com)

## SOUND BITES by Kristen Kemp-Hodges

At Sound Bites, the Friday before each classics concert we have a great and enjoyable opportunity to hear Maestro Dr. William Intriligator and his guest artists chat about that weekend’s concert. We get a glimpse into the guest artists’ lives, their biographies and their personalities and gain a better understanding of the music. All this, a buffet lunch, and easy parking for only \$22! You might want to invite a friend to come with you next time. It’s educational and fun!

## NOTHING BUNDT CAKES by Richelle Gentile

This spring our “Nothing Bundt Cakes Day” will be on Thursday, April 2nd, just in time for Easter. We thank you for supporting us with this fundraiser and we thank Nothing Bundt Cakes for their support and sponsorship of what has become a profitable event. Eat more cake!!!

## EDUCATION by Cindy Mueller



Congratulations to the DSYE (Dubuque Symphony Youth Ensembles) for their fine performances at the Winter Concerts held in February. Please mark your calendars for their Spring Concert on Sunday, May 3, at 5:30 pm at Five Flags Theatre. The Dubuque Symphony Youth Orchestra was involved in a [side-by-side performance with the DSO at the Classics 3 Concerts on Saturday, Feb. 28 and Sunday, March 1, at the Five Flags Theatre](#). The piece performed was “Finlandia” by Jean Sibelius.

In January, Ginny Luke, violin guest artist for the DSO Rock Concerts, provided a Master Class for 10 string players from the DYSE. The students learned beginning improv skills and how to read charts or lead sheets as opposed to written sheet music.

On Jan. 10 at the Dubuque Public Library DSO musicians Kara Tann (violin), Christina Mixemong (viola) & Mike White (bass) performed music accompaniment as Hannah Von Mulert (Education Director for DSO) read the stories “Harold & the Purple Crayon” and “Mr. Pusskins”. This was part of the L&MOP program by NISOM (Northeast Iowa School of Music) and had the highest attendance of their season so far!

**AUDITIONS** for this year’s **CONCERTO COMPETITION** will be held at **CLARKE UNIVERSITY** in **JANSEN HALL** on **SATURDAY, APRIL 11**. **REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 15**. Registration for this year’s Summer String Camp held at Clarke University opened on January 12 and is already filled to capacity!

A few openings remain for the Chamber Camp. More and more students are choosing the overnight option.

Thanks so much to all the members of the DSOL for your work and financial support that contributes to the success of all the education programs provided by the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra! Your efforts enrich the

musical lives of not only the students in the DSYE, but also all the many students that benefit from the outreach programs of the DSO, like the Adopt-A-Musician program for area schools 4th graders and the ARTS TREK concerts provided for area 5th and 3rd grade students each year at Five Flags Theatre. If you want to usher for the ARTS TREK concerts this fall (2026), please send your name, email, and phone number to Cindy Mueller at [bobncindymueller@gmail.com](mailto:bobncindymueller@gmail.com) The concerts for the 5th Grade will be on Wednesday, October 14, from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm and the concerts for the 3rd Grade will be on Thursday, November 19, from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm. Both concerts are held at Five Flags Theatre. You may volunteer for one or both concerts. If you volunteer, you will be contacted in September with all the details.

## TRIVIA ON TAP by Joan Harvieux



Last summer the DSOL and DSO sponsored their first Trivia on Tap, held at Driftless Pizza, our co-sponsor. Bob’s Trivia exceeded four rounds of music trivia for 84 participants. Teams bought ‘mulligans’ to use in lieu of answers and made donations to win Maestro Intriligator to join their team. Winning teams took home Rock Hits and Classics concert tickets.

Join us again this summer for an evening of brainy fun as we raise a glass and raise funds for the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra. Gather your sharpest friends and family members and test your musical knowledge. All ages are welcome. Our second annual Trivia Night will be held on Wednesday, July 15th at Driftless Pizza in Dubuque.

**GERANIUM PLUS SALE** by Joan Harvieux

Once again, our annual Geranium Plus Plant Sale has begun! We are happy to report that you may now order on-line, or as you have in the past, complete a form and mail it in. The flowers offered by Cushman's and the Amish Minertown are greenhouse quality. Not sure what to plant this year? \$20 gift certificates are available from both nurseries, with no expiration date. Both the plants and gift certificates make wonderful presents, especially with Mothers' Day around the corner. Order forms should have arrived via email the first week of March. You may also find the brochures and order forms at [DubuqueSymphony.org-geranium-plus-sale](http://DubuqueSymphony.org-geranium-plus-sale). If you have not received yours, please contact the DSO office at 563-557-1677, and notify them of any changes in your contact information so you may receive one. Orders must be submitted by Friday April 17th.

Please remember to pick up your flowers on Monday, May 4th at Bread of Life Church on the corner of University Avenue and Loras Boulevard between noon and 6:00 p.m (same location as previous years). All proceeds from this sale support the Dubuque Symphony Youth Ensembles and the educational endeavors of the DSO. Thank you for your continuing support.

**CLASSICS III "SYMPHONIC LANDSCAPES" SPONSORSHIP** by Joan Harvieux

This year, after years of style shows and teas, the League's annual fall fundraiser transitioned to a DSO Concert Sponsorship. We chose the Classics III "Symphonic Landscapes" concert because this program featured the Dubuque Symphony Youth

Orchestra performing 'side-by-side' with the DSO. In the League's early years, our founders underwrote the first Youth Orchestra, and our support for that initiative has continued for 59 years. Today, 81 musicians are enrolled in the DSO's music education program, 33 of them performed with the full orchestra. Because of your generosity, our appeal was successful enough to allow us to sponsor both days of the program – February 28th and March 1st. Congratulations to Irene Kaukaskie - her name was drawn as winner of the Paul Chase Treble Clef sculpture. Thank you to all for making this event a success.

**For more information about the DSOL and our activities, please visit**  
[dubuquesymphony.org/dubuque-symphony-orchestra-league](http://dubuquesymphony.org/dubuque-symphony-orchestra-league)