

Vol. 33, No. 1 • August 2024

FANFARE



Director's Message By Sonja Zeithamel



Looking back over the year, it has been one of growth and development. As we prepare to turn the page to a particularly exciting year, we want to share the highlights of this past year by celebrating student accomplishments, recognizing faculty, staff, board and guild members who will be leaving their positions, and welcoming those who will be joining the school in 2024-25. In addition, we have included some of our initial plans to celebrate the school's 50th Anniversary with the community. As always, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to the faculty, staff, students, parents, volunteers and members of our Board of Directors and Preucil Guild for their continued support of the school and its mission.

50 Years and a Music School

In 1974, after Doris Preucil's trial Suzuki violin program was such a success, she had a dream to start a music school. She wanted a place where teachers could come and be trained in the Suzuki Method, that included a program with multiple instruments and a more complete musical experience. I first learned about Doris's dream in 1974 over lunch in the cafeteria at the American Suzuki Institute in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. I vividly remember this conversation. That fall, I received a phone call about a potential property she wanted me to see, and then the dream became a reality. Preucil School of Music opened on January 2, 1975. While perusing through the school archives, I ran across a newsletter from March 1975. Doris wrote:

"What an exciting new year, with the opening of our school! How satisfying it is to have the various musical activities all under one roof---I hope the children think of this as their musical center. I am so proud of our faculty---all fine musicians who are deeply concerned with doing their best for your children."

What happened in the following decades is now history, but it is important to note that everything started with a dream and a belief in establishing a community music school in Iowa City.

Preucil School will celebrate 50 years during the 2024-25 academic year, beginning August 1, 2024. Besides the normal student events that will take place, we are happy to announce several special recitals, featuring friends and alumni of our school. Our entire year will provide us with many opportunities to celebrate our amazing past, present and future with the community, reconnect with alumni, and thank those who have supported the school over the years. In the words of our founding director, Doris Preucil, "It is time to re-inspire the excitement of our beginnings and to remind our community that we are here for them."

A Commissioned Piece

In honor of the 50th Anniversary, the school commissioned Peter Bloesch (PSM'82) to compose a piece for the Preucil School String Orchestra, which will be premiered at the Annual String Concert at Hancher Auditorium on February 2, 2025. For this special anniversary performance, alumni and former faculty will be part of the orchestra. Please turn to page 22 for more information.

"Alumni and Friends" Concert Series

Another highlight of our 50th Anniversary celebration will be a special concert series featuring "Alumni and Friends." The fall concerts will include a chamber music recital with violinist Alexandra Preucil, violist Antoine Tamestit, and pianist Ksenia Nosikova. Works by Mozart, Martinů and Bartók will be performed on Monday, September 30 at 7:30pm in the Voxman Music Building Concert Hall. The second recital will feature a young, award-winning string quartet from Juilliard. The Dolphins Quartet will perform Tuesday, November 19 at 7:30pm at The Englert Theatre.

In the spring, along with our Annual String Concert, concert pianist Orion Weiss, friend and alumni of the school, will present a recital on Saturday, March 8 at 7:30pm at The Englert Theatre. Future concerts in this series are yet to be determined. All concerts are free and open to the public.

A special thank you to the University of Iowa School of Music for allowing Preucil School to use Voxman Concert Hall for the September 30th event. The University has been a wonderful friend of the school over the last 50 years and we greatly appreciate this collaboration.

To find out more information about the 50th Anniversary celebration events, please use the QR code on page 22 and read on in the Fanfare. There is a lot of planning still to do. If you are interested in serving on an anniversary committee or making a donation towards the anniversary, please contact me at szeithamel@preucil.org.





50TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERTS

FEATURING ALUMNI & FRIENDS

**ALEXANDRA PREUCIL, VIOLIN
& ANTOINE TAMESTIT, VIOLA**
WITH KSENIA NOSIKOVA, PIANO

Performing works by Mozart, Martinů and Bartók

**Monday, September 30, 2024
7:30 pm | Voxman Music Building**

VOX 2101 Concert Hall
93 East Burlington St, Iowa City

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!



THE DOLPHINS QUARTET

ISAAC PARK AND LUKE HENDERSON, VIOLINS; JAMES PREUCIL, VIOLA; IAN MALONEY, CELLO
A premier Juilliard string quartet committed to adventure, excellence, and accessibility

**Tuesday, November 19, 2024
7:30 pm | The Englert Theatre**

221 East Washington St, Iowa City

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!



To learn more about Preucil's 50th Anniversary events or make a donation, please see our website at www.preucil.org/50th-anniversary/





2023-24

Director

Sonja Zeithamel

Assistant Director

Lisa Guttenberg

Director Emeritus

Doris Preucil

Business Manager

Adam McLaughlin

Permanent Board Members

Doris Preucil, Secretary
William Preucil
Sonja Zeithamel
Lisa Guttenberg

Board of Trustees

Anjana Aggarwal
Jason Aird
Tim Evans
Ross George
Katie Kahler
Luis Martin-Estudillo
Robin Jackson Miller
John Ruppel
Saif Sami
Lyse Strnad
Madeline Windauer
Joe Yockey

Preucil Guild

Kiki Aanestad
Sarah Alward
Ruth Bentler
Linda Cretzmeyer
Holly Martin Huffman
Catherine McGarvey
Jon Ranard
Patricia Roberts
Eleanor Vaughn
Cheri Viner-Lynch
Sze Sze Yockey

Committee Members

Brian Hunt, Finance
Geri Kohlhaas, Financial Aid
Brad Langguth, Finance
Madeline Windauer, Finance

Board Member Changes

Preucil School of Music is a non-profit organization governed by the Board of Trustees (BOT). Its objective is to set policy and direction for the school and to support the administration in accomplishing the organization’s mission. The Preucil Guild, a subcommittee of the BOT, focuses on fundraising, marketing and special events. Members of both boards commit to serving a three-year term, which may be extended for a second three-year term.

The school appreciates the service by each of its board and guild members. The school could not operate and continue offering the quality music experience for its students without the support of both groups. Today’s economy presents special challenges to non-profit organizations, and these individuals with their vision, expertise and desire to make a difference have been an inspiration to the school’s leadership!

Farewell!

Each year several people complete their terms or resign their position for personal reasons. This year we say farewell to Board of Trustees members Anjana Aggarwal, Katie Kahler, Geri Kohlhaas, Saif Sami and Madeline Windauer.

Welcome!

As our 50th anniversary year begins, we are pleased to welcome John Ruppel (23-24) and Xavier Escandell (24-25) to the Board of Trustees. We also extend a warm welcome to new Guild members Ruth Bentler (23-24), Sarah Alward (23-24), Eleanor Vaughn (23-24) and Holly Martin Huffman (23-24).

How May I Serve?

If anyone would be interested in serving on the BOT or Preucil Guild in this very special volunteer capacity, please let Sonja Zeithamel know at 319-337-4156, x103; szeithamel@preucil.org.

Check out the Preucil School of Music Website for the latest news and updates:
www.preucil.org

- ◆ Ways to help Preucil School of Music: Stuff, etc., Goodshop.com, GoodSearch.com.
- ◆ A link to Preucil School, Preschool & Music Together® Facebook pages can be found on the school’s website above.
- ◆ Alumni link: Click “Alumni” tab on the website to go to a page where alumni information can be submitted. It is regularly monitored. Keep in touch!



Table of Contents

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|------------------------------|-------|--|-----------|
| Director’s Message | 1 | Harp Notes..... | 7 | Corporate Sponsorships | 16 |
| 50th Anniversary Fall Concerts | 2 | Chamber Music 2024..... | 8 | Graduation | 17-21 |
| Board Changes | 3 | Outreach..... | 9 | Alumni News | 21 |
| Preucil Website | 3 | Preschool Storytellers | 10 | Note to Alumni & Former Faculty | 22 |
| Faculty/Staff Farewells..... | 4 | Music Together® | 11 | Historical Recognition | 24-25 |
| New Faculty & Staff..... | 4-5 | Cello Department News | 12 | My Musical Summer | 26 |
| In Memoriam | 5 | Orchestra Festival..... | 13 | Upcoming Events | 27 |
| Piano News | 6 | We Congratulate | 14-15 | | |

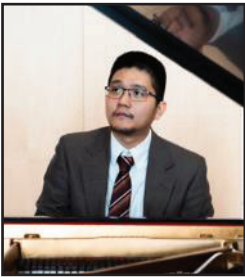
Faculty & Staff Farewells

It is always sad to say goodbye to people who have made an impact on your life or the lives of others. The following people have been wonderful colleagues and made major contributions to the programs at Preucil School. As they move on, we thank each person for their dedication and support and wish them the very best in the future.

Ruth Johnson, piano faculty
 Ana Maria Locke, ECE music
 Adam McLaughlin, business manager
 Stephen Mulvahill, piano faculty

New Faculty & Staff:

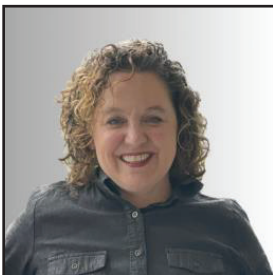
It is a privilege to welcome the following people into the Preucil “family.” To read more about our outstanding faculty and staff, visit our website at: www.preucil.org.



Paul Casiano, piano faculty, was born and raised in the Philippines. He started taking piano lessons at the age of 10. Immediately, he began accompanying choral groups and church congregations. Paul completed his bachelor’s degree in Piano Performance at the University of the Philippines College of Music in 2018 with Professor Richelle Rivera. In 2021, he obtained his Master of Music in Piano Performance at Western Illinois University with Dr. Jeffrey Brown, where he received a graduate assistantship award. Paul is in his fourth year of his Doctor of Musical Arts at the University of Iowa under the tutelage of Dr. Ksenia Nosikova. For the academic year 2024-2025, he will be serving as a piano instructor at Black Hawk College in Moline, Illinois, teaching individual and group piano as well as teaching ear training for music theory. Paul is working on his dissertation about the selected piano works of Filipino composer Lucrecia Kasilag.



Samuel Chen, orchestra conductor, will be joining the faculty to conduct Crescendo Strings. He is a first-year doctoral orchestral conducting student at the University of Iowa where he serves as Assistant Conductor of the University of Iowa Symphony Orchestra (UISO), Director of the Campus Symphony Orchestra (CSO), and assistant conductor for opera productions. Samuel is the Music Director of Sinfonietta Honolulu, an ensemble he co-founded that focuses on historically informed performance practice of the classical style. He also served as lecturer and sabbatical replacement at the University of Hawaii, where he taught and conducted the University of Hawaii Symphony Orchestra (UHSO). Samuel graduated with a Master of Music in Piano Performance from the University of Hawaii at Mānoa where he served as a graduate assistant, assistant conductor of the UHSO, and collaborative pianist for the UH Choirs.



Catherine Gartelos, Music Together® holds several degrees in education from the University of Iowa, UNI, and Edgewood College. Catharine is currently working as a special education preschool teacher in the ICCSD. She holds dear her love of teaching children through a music, movement, and arts lens, so it is very fitting that she received her initial Music Together certification before COVID. Catharine is excited to practice what she trained for as she joins the Music Together family. In her free time, Catherine enjoys spending time with her sons George and Alexander, and her Golden Retriever, Henry.





Craig Jordan, piano faculty, is from Ames, Iowa and currently pursuing his DMA in Piano Performance and Pedagogy at the University of Iowa. He is also the president of the collegiate chapter of MTNA. Craig completed his MM degree at the University of Miami and his BM from the Lawrence Conservatory of Music. He is also the staff pianist at the First Presbyterian Church of Marion. Interesting tidbits about Craig include having been featured in the *New York Times* while working at Madrugá Bakery in Miami, performing on a Christmas Cruise in Antarctica, and winning Grand Champion Goat at the Story County Fair two years in a row! Craig joined the piano faculty in fall of 2023.



Alyssa Ottmar, viola/violin faculty, grew up playing piano and viola at Preucil School of Music. She studied viola with William Preucil, Sr. and chamber music with Doris Preucil. Alyssa went on to graduate from the University of Northern Iowa in 2016 with a degree in Viola Performance from the studio of Dr. Julia Bullard. Her musical success earned her the Music Meritorious Award and Conspicuous Award upon graduation. Alyssa has performed across the state of Iowa, the Chicago Symphony Center, Severance Hall, throughout the United States and across Europe, performing with the Nueva Orchestra Transylvania in Cluj-Napoca, România and most recently in Great Britain. Currently, Alyssa plays with Orchestra Iowa and Waterloo Cedar Falls Symphony.



Emily Pritchard, preschool music, is a teacher, a songwriter, a potter, and a mother. She is thrilled to teach music at Preucil School of Music Preschool! She co-directs the Iowa City Youth Choir and directs a Madrigal singing group in Iowa City. Previously, she studied songwriting under Lin-Manuel Miranda, Craig Cornelia, and Lari White, directed a high school choral program, and taught ear training and music appreciation at Bradley University. Emily earned her Master of Music Education degree with a concentration in choral music from VanderCook College of Music and a Bachelor of Music in Commercial Music degree with a concentration in songwriting/vocal performance and a Minor in Theatre from Millikin University. She has recently reconnected with her long-lost love of pottery, and enjoys listening to the trees and the birds from her screened-in porch.

In Memoriam 2023-24

Craig Kletzing (2/3/1958-8/10/2023): Husband of PSM faculty Jeanette Welch.

Robert James Hegeman (8/19/1947-8/19/2023): Husband of former Board member Becky Hegeman; father of PSM alums John (2003) and Rachel (2012).

Addison Ault (7/3/1933-9/27/2023): Husband of PSM faculty Janet Ault.

Terry Hernstrom (died 11/4/2023): Brother of PSM faculty Deb Hernstrom.

Carl Garver (10/31/1936-1/16/2024): Father of PSM faculty Sasha Garver.

Eugene H. Schuchert (8/13/1940-2/11/2024): Father of PSM alum Jenny Hall (1996).

David Klemm (1947-3/24): Father of PSM alum Hannah Klemm (2000) and Stephen.

Joseph Walder (1951-2024): Father of former student Kathryn; provided funds for Walder Hall at NC.

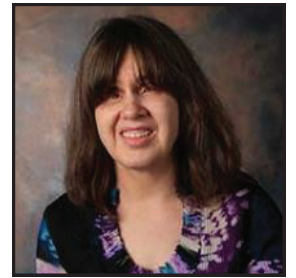
Alan B. Moy (4/1/1959-4/8/2024): Father of PSM alum Lisa Moy (2009).

Nancy Hitchon (10/12/1952-5/9/2024): Mother of PSM alums Jennifer (1998), Courtney (2004) and Joe.

Mace Braverman (4/4/1931-6/23/2024): Former Board member

Paul Schaefer (7/6/1939-7/5/2024): Former Board member 1995-2003; Guild member 1995-1997

Piano Highlights By Debra Hernstrom



A Plethora of Play-Ins

Our play-ins for September and October fill the weekends. The back-to-school play-ins brought students and teachers together again to begin the year of many events. A favorite, the Halloween play-in, is always attended to overflowing. Spooky decorations, costumes, and delightful scary minor pieces created the perfect atmosphere.

Piano Book 1-2 Workshop

The piano workshop took place on the weekend of February 23-25. This event is divided into two parts: a master class and a group class. Dr. Bret Serrin from the Dallas Suzuki Institute was the master class clinician for the third time. 65 students performed for him in this master class. Jay Broeker from Iowa City was the group clinician with 81 students participating. Dr. Serrin's fabulous musicality inspired students and teachers alike. Jay Broeker's quiet presence, particularly with the younger students gave the weekend a special quality. Drumming, poems, and rhythm instruments added to the fun.

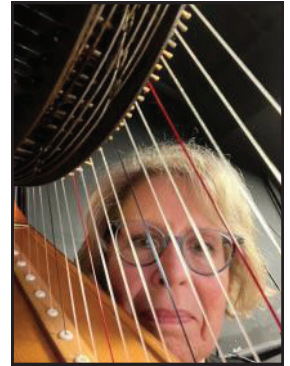
Concerto Day

On April 6, students in books 5 and up performed concerto movements by Bach, Haydn, Mozart and Clementi. A highlight was the Bach Concerto for four keyboards. Thanks also go to the string students for their orchestral accompaniments throughout the day. A special thanks to Carey Bostian who guided the students with his gentleness and expertise.

Be sure to ask your teachers about how to participate in these events in this coming year!



Harp Notes By Pam Weest-Carrasco



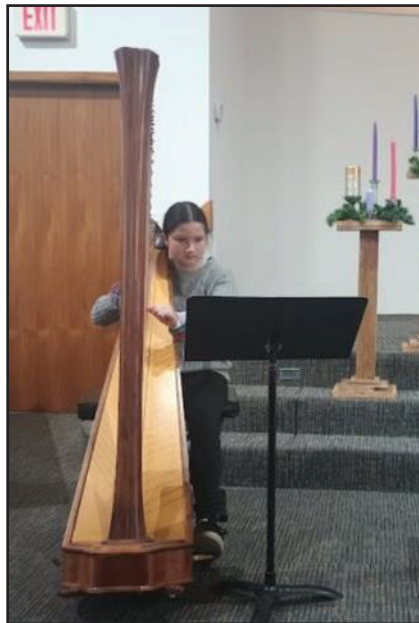
Charles Brungardt presented his annual recital at St. Mary's Catholic Church in November.



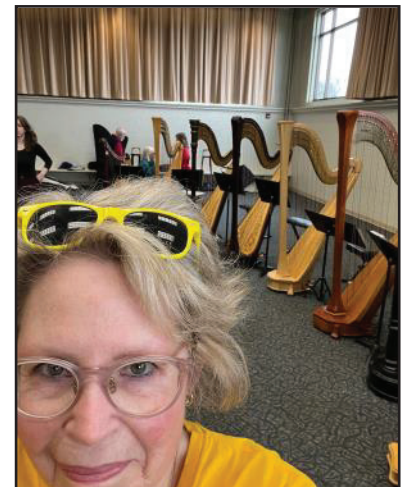
Right: Amelia Flaming performs at First Mennonite Church.

Far Right: Emmaline Flaming has her first lesson!

Below: Amelia & Emmaline Flaming performed on a recital in April.



In April, Preucil School hosted the Eastern Iowa Chapter of the American Harp Society. Performers from Preucil were Charles Brungardt, Amelia Flaming, Emmaline Flaming, Nona France and Pam Weest-Carrasco.



Chamber Music in 2024 By Lisa Guttenberg



Our chamber music season began with the Winter Chamber Program in January. Nine groups rehearsed weekly for 10 or 14 weeks. On April 7, Elizabeth Oakes, Director of the University of Iowa String Quartet Residency Program, came to give masterclasses for the groups. We concluded with a wonderful concert in Wilson Auditorium on April 21. Thank you to the coaches who helped make this possible: Carey Bostian, Lisa Guttenberg, Debra Hernstrom, Craig Jordan, Michael Klyce, Barbara Michaelson, and Amy Phelps.

On April 26, several of the Winter Chamber Program groups performed an informal concert in Walder Hall for the Thursday and Friday group classes.

On May 19, two seniors were recognized at graduation for their commitment to chamber music during their years at Preucil. Congratulations again to Jacob Newton and Sebastian Sauder.

Summer Chamber Fest was the grand finale of our chamber music cycle. Twenty-four students gathered at North Campus for a week of intensive study from June 23 – June 29. We welcomed Edmond Henning and Oriana Ross, Preucil alums, as fiddle class instructors and Sarah Fairfield as our world drumming instructor. Students participated and observed masterclasses led by Réne Lecuona. Erin Landsee led a yoga class which was enjoyed by both students and faculty. The daily schedule consisted of coachings, supervised practices, fiddle classes, orchestras, world drumming, and viola for violinists. The final concert was held on June 29 and featured all seven chamber groups, the orchestras led by Carey Bostian and Linda Judiesch, and the fiddle classes led by Edmond Henning and Oriana Ross. A huge thank you to all the faculty and clinicians who made the week such a success: Sarah Fairfield, Edmond Henning, Marit Hervig, Chiaki Kubota, Réne Lecuona, Linda Judiesch, Amy Phelps, Amy Redhage, Oriana Ross, Pam Weest-Carrasco, and Hannah Yang.

Our students gain so much musically and personally by participating in chamber music. Sebastian Sauder, a senior at Preucil, shared his thoughts with me about chamber music: “Chamber music at Preucil has been a part of my life since I was very young, and its lessons in collaboration, responsibility, and group musicality remain super important to my continual musical learning.”

Join us for the exciting chamber events planned in 2024-2025:

Winter Chamber Program: January – April

Masterclass on Sunday, April 6 – Guest Clinicians TBA

Final Concert on Sunday, April 13 at 7:00

Summer Chamber Fest: Sunday, June 22 – Saturday, June 28



*Oliver Mesenbrink, August Sander, Ben Sauder, Phoebe Morgan,
Maëlys Beachy
(Photo courtesy Kelly Morgan)*



Clinician Réne Lecuona works with Maya Chari & Sophia Nguyen



Preucil Outreach

Bringing music to the world . . .

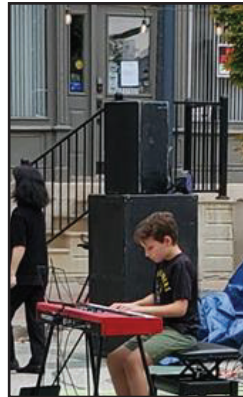
BrianFest was held on September 16, 2023. A violin group, and violin, piano and cello soloists performed.



Above: Violinists Emma Yockey, Abigail Chen, Cecily Collins, Laura Redhage, Paul Redhage, Sarah Niu, Emily Ding, Amy Redhage, Lisa Guttenberg; & Chiaki Kubota, piano



Above Right: Akiho Sugiyama



Right: Keira Cromwell, cello



Above: Emma Yockey, Eleanor Story, Sarah Niu, Emily Ding, Marit Hervig & Lisa Guttenberg perform at the Alzheimer's Walk on September 23.

Right: Violins perform with the University of Iowa Symphony Orchestra in October.



Preschool Storytellers By Tricia Windschitl

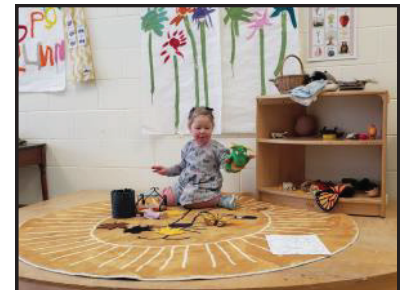
**"We are all storytellers. We all live in a network of stories.
There isn't a stronger connection between people than storytelling."**
--Jimmy Neil Smith, Director of the International Storytelling Center



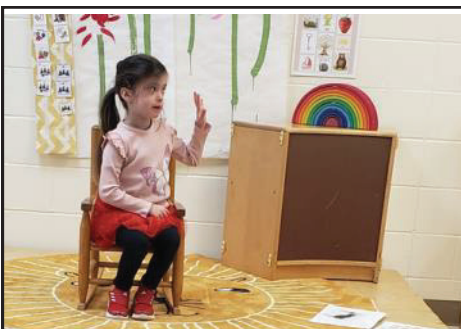
This year my class journeyed into stories, imagined and real, and discovered we all have stories to tell. The preschoolers' stories became a vehicle to self-expression—a way of explaining themselves, their world, their thoughts, their imaginations, and experiences. While it is so important to tell our own stories, it is equally important to listen to others' stories. And so, we practiced listening to one another, leaning in with curiosity and questions.

Many days children would enter school saying, "I have a story to tell." And some days not everyone got a turn because there were so many stories to tell. "There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you." — Maya Angelou. But they patiently waited for their turns and in the meantime listened to each other's stories. "Stories create community, enable us to see through the eyes of other people, and open us to the claims of others." —Peter Forbes.

Our storytelling routines provided excitement and comfort to our day. Storytelling brought us together in ways books and videos cannot. Storytelling is a shared experience. And when it is sustained over time, it becomes a character itself—The Story.



Real-Life-True Stories vs Imaginary Stories



The real events that children experience, the stories that make up their daily lives, hold deep significance. These events, often trivial to adults, shape their understanding and knowledge of the world. These are the stories that enter the classroom with, "Tricia, guess what happened!?" and I'm told about a fall on the way to school, a bug discovered at home, or an eventful night of thunder and lightning. Sometimes the events are more serious: "My dad is leaving our house and moving to a different house" or "my grandpa died." These stories came to be known as "true-life-real stories" in our classroom (think The Moth Story Hour for preschoolers). On the other end of the spectrum are the wonderfully creative stories that only children can imagine. Many great children's authors emulate the whims and fancy of childhood imaginings. While the adult storytellers' narrative construction is more sophisticated, children's stories are no less awe-inspiring, bringing wonder and joy to the audience. We called these stories "imaginary stories", and they often began with "Once upon an imagination..." These stories were revered in our classroom as much as the most prominent children's authors.

children's stories are no less awe-inspiring, bringing wonder and joy to the audience. We called these stories "imaginary stories", and they often began with "Once upon an imagination..." These stories were revered in our classroom as much as the most prominent children's authors.



In November as our storytelling was growing, I asked my friend Jennifer New if she would be interested in listening to children's real-life stories. Jennifer normally works with adults through her organization, Hypha. She helps individuals and organizations connect with their community through storytelling. I wanted to bring in an "expert story listener." Children feel valued and validated when their stories are heard. Their experiences take on shape and become meaningful parts of their personhood. Jennifer introduced herself to the preschoolers as a "story forager," a title that stuck with them. She visited often, collecting the preschoolers' stories of friendship, lost items, torn Stuffedies and Stuffedies stowed away in backpacks, new toys, adventures down a water slide, death of a beloved grandfather, a nightmare, a story created from a mess, and more.

Our stories won't end here—we all have stories and stories and stories to tell.

"We are, as a species, addicted to story. Even when the body goes to sleep, the mind stays up all night, telling itself stories." - Jonathan Gottschall, *The Storytelling Animal*



Music Together® By Catherine Gartelos

From the moment I walked into my first *Music Together* class with my own little ones over a decade ago, I've been captivated by the magic it creates for children and families. Now, I'm thrilled to be back at Preucil as a *Music Together* teacher, sharing that joy with a new generation of music makers.

My name is Catharine Gartelos, and I can't wait to fill our fall sessions with music, laughter, and unforgettable memories. I have had so much fun teaching during the summer session. As a former lead teacher at Preucil Preschool and a current preschool educator in the ICCSD, I'm passionate about nurturing young minds through music and movement, friendship, culture, and community. I'm also excited to embark on a Ph.D. journey in special education at the University of Iowa starting this fall.

Just this summer, I witnessed the pure magic of *Music Together* unfold before my eyes. One of my six-month-old students went from looking at me like I was an alien to bursting out in laughter in just two weeks! It's incredible how these little ones soak it all in, their minds like sponges. And then, boom! Their personalities shine through in the most adorable way. Watching their expressive language blossom is an absolute joy when they start with receptive language taking it all in as we sing and dance. I also love seeing the grown-ups let loose and be silly. Their playful spirits not only entertain the kids but also create a warm and inviting atmosphere that's perfect for learning and bonding.

Preucil is dedicated to igniting a lifelong love of music in the hearts of our youngest music makers. Our *Music Together* classes are a playful adventure where children and their grown-up buddies explore rhythm, song, culture, and community together. Imagine weekly gatherings filled with giggles, swaying bodies, and the simple joy of making music as a family. That's what you'll find in our 45-minute classes for newborns to five-year-olds. Over ten weeks, we built a vibrant community of music makers who grow and learn together. The fall session of *Music Together* will begin September 9. For more information, contact Molly Leefer at 319-248-1248.



Violin Workshop



Guess Clinician Ann Montzka Smelser presented a violin workshop in the fall.

All-State Violin Workshop



Preucil faculty Scott Conklin worked with students on their All-State excerpts in October



So happy to reconnect with my former student, Lerna May Frandsen (class of '82), her mother, Sadie May, and son, Dane. Lerna came last August to visit family and stopped by the school.



Cello Department News *By Laura Shaw*



The Preucil School cello department was very busy this year, with lots of unique and fun activities. We also welcomed Amy Phelps to the cello faculty. Amy is an alum of the Preucil School and has been teaching in the Iowa City area and at Coe College for numerous years. Amy is a wonderful teacher and cellist, and we are so happy to have her on our team!

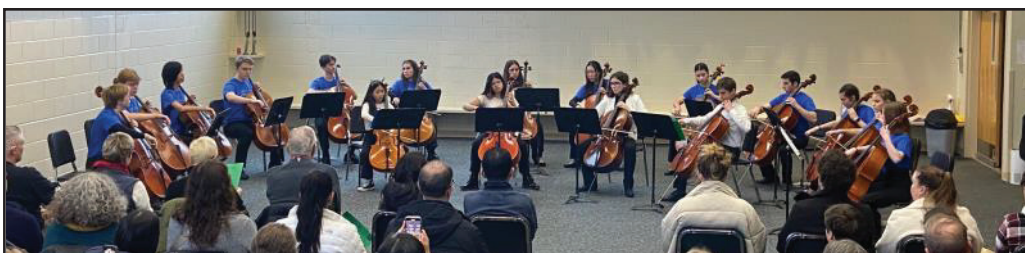
The group classes had their Halloween play-in in October, with lots of fun costumes and a spooky atmosphere. They also went to Melrose Meadows in December to share their music. The residents were so warm and welcoming, and the kids had a great time performing.

The cello department held a workshop this fall for our younger students. Abbey Hansen was the guest clinician, and we were all very inspired by her teaching. It was a great opportunity for our students to work with another teacher, and to build community within the cello department.

The Junior Cello Choir collaborated with the Preucil School Cello Choir on two concerts this year. They performed in December, sharing a variety of music and holiday tunes. They also performed in April for a spring concert. The Junior Cello choir was directed by Amy Phelps.

The Preucil School Cello Choir had a particularly exciting year. They were accepted to play as a Musical Showcase group at the SAA Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. In March, all 14 members of the Cello Choir travelled by coach to Louisville, where they performed for an audience of educators and musicians. This was such a wonderful performance opportunity for the group, and we were very appreciative to the Preucil School for their support in making it a reality.

We also had students compete in competitions around the state. We had 7 students participate in the All-State Festival, with 3 students as All-State alternates. Keira Cromwell also won two local concerto competitions, earning the opportunity to perform with both Central Iowa Symphony and with the Quad Cities Symphony as part of their Side by Side Concert.



Orchestra Festival Held March 5, 2024 at Iowa City High School



Crescendo Strings
Stephen Mulvahill, conductor



Vivace Orchestra
Linda Judiesch, conductor



Concert Orchestra
Sonja Zeithamel,
conductor



Espressivo & Con Brio
Lisa Guttenberg &
Linda Judiesch, directors



Philharmonia
Carey Bostian, conductor



Sinfonietta
Anthony Arnone, conductor

We Congratulate...

Preucil students and faculty received many honors at area events in 2023-24. Congratulations to all!

Iowa Music Teacher's Association (Piano)

District Winners who qualified for State: Isabelle Lu, Louise Gooblar-Perovic, Rongyu Jiang, Emily Ding, Iulia Fang-Kawamuro, Kaoru Heitzman, Milla Wiechert

Alternates: Sophia Nguyen, Matthew Lu, Victor Yao

Honorable Mention: Kaspar Zhao, Alma Bhandary-Narayanan, Alice Gooblar-Perovic, Richard Yang

State Audition Winners: Isabelle Lu, Kaoru Heitzman, Iulia Fang-Kawamuro

State Audition Honorable Mention: Louise Gooblar-Perovic, Rongyu Jiang, Milla Wiechert



Alec Bowman



Sebastian Sauder

Keira Cromwell

Photo courtesy Evans Sammons Photography



Iowa All-State Music Festival

Violin: Alec Bowman, Andrew Chen, Erin Chen, Shannon Chen, Andrew Dong, Lydia Evans, Tina Hong, Lucas Iverson, Anjali Lodh, Shanza Sami, Yuning Shao, Abigail Sigafoose, Anna Song, Cindy Wang, Grace Wolle

Viola: Henry Harris, Matthew Lu, Kobi Nott, Seth Zeithamel

Cello: Maddie Barnidge (alternate), Gemma Escandell-Tapias (alternate), Marina Escandell-Tapias, Winston Fan (alternate), Lucas Ralston, Tessera Rippentrop, Ellie Roetlin, Sebastian Sauder, Thomas Shey, Henry Smith, Ming Yang

Bass: Leo Burchett, Lucy Charis-Carlson (alternate)

Iowa Junior Honors String Orchestra Festival

Violin: Yuzuka Fujikawa, Norah Orhon

Viola: Jessica Wellington

Cello: Maddie Barnidge, Gemma Escandell-Tapias, Anna Platte, Talia Tungsiripat

Central Iowa Symphony Young Artists Competition Winner

Keira Cromwell, cello

Dubuque Symphony Orchestra Student Concerto

Competition-Third Place

Alec Bowman, violin

The Gazette Excellence in the Arts Award

Sebastian Sauder, cello

High School Honors Performance Series at Carnegie Hall

Anna Song, violin

Iowa Composers Forum Annual Competition 1st Place

Middle School Division: Peter Gavrushev Kortenkamp

Quad City Youth Ensemble Concerto Competition Winner

Keira Cromwell, cello





to the following students for completing the
100+ Days Practice Club
 during the 2023-2024 school year!!

Rocco Arnone
 Lachlan Barnes
 Laine Barnes
 Leni Barnes
 Aaron Bengtson
 Lydia Brown
 Charles Brungardt
 Tania Buchkina
 Anna Byersdorfer
 Ilse Byersdorfer
 Abigail Chen
 Sebastian Dilley-Curto
 Sienna Dilley-Curto
 Jason Dong
 Iulia Fang-Kawamuro
 Amelia Flaming

Elliot Fogt
 Luke Fogt
 Gracie Gibbs
 Amelia Harris
 Eliza Harris
 Craig Jordan (Faculty)
 Anika Klauke
 Isabelle Lu
 Matthew Lu
 Fiona McClellan
 Logan McClellan
 Huy Nguyen
 Sophia Nguyen
 Jack Niemitalo
 Lydia Niemitalo
 Madeleine Pai

Nicole Pai
 Laura Redhage
 Paul Redhage
 Jessica Ren
 Aimee Shao
 Anjali Strand
 Megumi Thompson
 Milla Wiechert
 Noah Wiechert
 Rosanna Yang
 Anya Zhao
 Ian Zhao
 Isaac Zhao
 Kaspar Zhao
 Khloe Zhao
 Li-te Zhu

Setting a goal and sticking to it is similar to making a New Year's Resolution. And deciding to practice 100 days in a row is putting the power of practice into action. Whether a beginner or an advanced player, what's important is the consistency of regular practice, thus building a habit and reinforcing one's skills on the instrument.

WAYS TO HELP PREUCIL SCHOOL OF MUSIC!

STUFF ETC.—ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF YOUR DONATED ITEMS GO TO THE STUDENT FINANCIAL AID FUND.

CONTACT US DIRECTLY — OUR GIVING PROGRAM INCLUDES A VARIETY OF OPTIONS THAT WILL MEET THE EVOLVING NEEDS OF PREUCIL SCHOOL OF MUSIC, NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE. YOU CAN MAKE AN IMPACT THROUGH ONE TIME GIFTS, ON-GOING GIFTS OR THROUGH FUTURE GIFTS. TO FURTHER EXPLORE GIVING OPTIONS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO OUR DIRECTOR, SONJA ZEITHAMEL, AT 319-337-4156 OR EMAIL SZEITHAMEL@PREUCIL.ORG.



**The Way Plants are Related with Music
by Colin Simpson**

**“You water the flower with practice and the plant blooms into beautiful music.
Flowers can’t grow without water and music can’t get better without practice.”**

12/11/23

**Faculty
Holiday
Luncheon**



Seated: Kitty Fink, Linda Judiesch, Janet Ault, Bill Preucil, Doris Preucil, Sonja Zeithamel, Lisa Guttenberg, Deb Hernstrom, Al Row 2: Stephen Mulvahill, Adam McLaughlin, Carey Bostian, Amy Phelps, Kate Vos, Laura Shaw, Molly Leefer, Pam Weest-Carrasco, Tabitha Rasmussen, Barb Michaelson, Amy Redhage, Ruth Johnson, Craig Jordan Row 3: Jenna Battleson, Mary Neumann, Chiaki Kubota, Marit Hervig, Lauree Christman, Sally Denison Not pictured: Tony Arnone, Scott Conklin, Hannah Howland Jacobs, Joshua Palazzolo, Jeanette Welch, Sasha Garver, Michael Klyce, Ramin Roshandel

THE PREUCIL SCHOOL OF MUSIC SINCERELY THANKS THE FOLLOWING CORPORATE SPONSORS:

Platinum Sponsors:
GreenState Credit Union
Hills Bank & Trust Company

Gold Sponsors:
First Community Trust, N.A.
Iowa Audiology & Hearing Aid Centers
Iowa City Landscaping & Garden
Center
Reck Violin Shop

Silver Sponsors:
Smith & Wood Construction
Dr. Suzanne Stock, Orthodontist

Graduation 2024



Senior graduation took place on Sunday evening, May 19, in Wilson Auditorium. The evening's speaker was Adam Zabner (PSM 2017). Rep. Adam Zabner was elected to the Iowa House in 2022. He grew up in Iowa City and studied viola for 15 years at Preucil with Gwen Ying and Marit Hervig. After graduating from City High, he majored in Neuroscience at the University of Chicago. Preucil inspired a love and appreciation of music; he often listens to IPR Classical on drives to and from the State Capitol in Des Moines. Following is Adam's message to the graduates.

Good evening. It is a joy to be here tonight to celebrate so many talented young musicians, and also some violists. I was a Preucil kid from age three to age 18, a period that still makes up the majority of my lifetime. Two years ago, I was elected to represent Iowa's 90th District in the Iowa House of Representatives. It is truly an honor to have Preucil in my district and to have the opportunity to speak to all of you today.

I can't give you much advice about how to be a better musician. Instead, I would like to tell you a bit about how my experience at Preucil has impacted my life and share some ideas about how you can learn from your experiences at Preucil.

I want to talk about the queasy feeling in the pit of your stomach. Every single time I performed on the viola, from three to 18, I felt my heart rate go up and my stomach turn. In fact, I kind of feel like that right now as I stand here speaking to this distinguished group.

Nothing at Preucil ever made me more anxious than playing for the First Lady of China. The summer before my freshman year of high school, I had the opportunity to travel to China with PSSO as the last chair violist. I sat so far back that I didn't even have a stand partner. At that time, Xi Jinping had recently become the President of China. While we now know him as a repressive leader, at that time he was seen as a potential reformer. Knowing that President Xi had spent time living in Muscatine, my dad suggested that I reach out and invite him to our concert.

The idea of reaching out to a foreign leader gave me that queasy feeling, but I did it. I wrote a letter and sent it to the American Embassy in China and the Chinese Embassy in the United States. To my surprise, I was soon on a Skype call with the Chinese Embassy. I'll add another piece of advice here: if you're going to invite the Chinese Premier to your concert, I'd recommend giving a heads-up to the folks at Preucil organizing the trip. It probably would have been helpful for them to know why the Chinese Embassy, which had all of our passports as we applied for our visas, was calling to ask questions about a 13-year-old named Adam Zabner.

This risk paid off with the opportunity for us, a group of young musicians from the fifth biggest city in Iowa, to play for the First Lady of China alongside the best Chinese youth orchestra. Before the concert, a group of us got to personally meet the First Lady. The group included Preucil Director Sonja Zeithamel, Conductor Anthony Arnone, the concertmaster, the soloists, and me, the last chair violist who sat so far back that I didn't even have a stand partner.

Many of you have practiced and performed enough that playing your instrument feels as natural as riding a bike. I'd guess that you still feel anxious before you perform. I think that you should look for experiences that make you feel that way. I am one of Iowa City's many Caitlin Clark megafans. What I most respect about Caitlin's game is her performance under pressure. With tens of thousands of screaming fans, at the end of a tight game, she wants the ball in her hands and she delivers. In a recent article, ESPN reporter Wright Thompson reported that the Iowa women's basketball team works with a sports psychologist. In one exercise, the psychologist had the team go around and share when they felt stressed and anxious and how they responded to those feelings. About Clark, Thompson writes, "Finally it was Caitlin's turn. She seemed a little embarrassed. 'I never am,' she said."

The rest of us are not Caitlin Clark. The only way for us to avoid feeling anxious would be to step off the court. Most of us feel that queasy feeling we need to perform. I hope that your experience at Preucil has taught you to practice, prepare, and face that feeling. My advice is to continue to put yourself in situations that challenge you. I can tell you firsthand that it is scary to put your name on a ballot. It is scary to knock on a stranger's door to talk about politics. It is scary, as a freshman member of the minority party, to stand up and express an opinion that you know most of your colleagues disagree with.

I think that that fear signifies that you are doing something important. I think that fear motivates you to prepare to do your best and to be your best. That very fear is what makes a successful performance feel so good. You would not feel anxious to perform music if you didn't care about the music that you were playing or the people that you were playing for.

You should find something you care about enough that the idea of failure makes you feel sick. You should do your best to prepare, and practice, and know what you're getting into, and if you fail you should try again. In the last two years, I've introduced 23 bills to try and solve problems that I hear about from Iowans. The idea of any of them not becoming law makes me sick. One out of the 23 has passed the House and the Senate, been signed by the Governor, and become law. Believe it or not, I find a 1/23 batting average so encouraging that I'm running for reelection.

One more note. Find a way to keep music in your life. Many of you are going off to colleges where there will be opportunities to continue playing music. I didn't after high school and I regret that. Whether or not you keep playing, find opportunities to appreciate music. When I was in college, I found out I could go to any Chicago Symphony performance with \$5 to \$15 student tickets. I found out that my University hosted free jazz shows almost every Friday night. I went as often as I could and it enriched my college experience, and not just because the symphony makes a great first date.

In Iowa City, we are incredibly lucky to have Hancher, the Englert, endless free concerts at Voxman, and countless other opportunities to listen to live music. Take advantage of your Preucil education and use it to appreciate that music. Invite your Preucil friends to join you. My best days in Des Moines are the days I drive in completely lost in whatever is playing on IPR Classical. When things go wrong, I often find myself listening to music. It almost always makes me feel better.

Congratulations on graduating from the wonderful Preucil School of Music. Now is the time to find something you care enough to make you queasy, ask your Preucil friends for help in whatever is next for you, and never stop appreciating music.

Thank you.



A Message from a Father

Good evening, everyone. My name is Dingwu Shao, and I am Yuning's dad.

I am so honored and humbled to stand before you tonight, as we gather to celebrate the remarkable talent and dedication of my daughter Yuning Shao. To all the families, friends, teachers, and mentors who have joined us tonight, thank you so much for being here to support her on this special occasion.

As I look back on Yuning's journey in music, I am filled with a flood of memories and emotions. From the first time she picked up her instrument to this senior recital, it has been a journey marked by passion, perseverance, and profound growth.

I remember the early days when she first expressed an interest in music. Watching her eagerly practice scales and melodies, I knew she had found something truly special. Over the years -about 14~15 - I have witnessed her dedication firsthand. She went to violin classes with Mom through hot summers and cold winters, thunderstorms and snowstorms, early morning practices and late-night rehearsals for countless hours, spending time perfecting her craft. Through every high note and every stumble, she has remained steadfast in her pursuit of excellence.

Tonight, as I listen to her perform, I am reminded not only of her musical talent but also of the remarkable young lady she has become. Yuning, your passion for music is matched only by your kindness, your inside beauty, and your unwavering determination to chase your dream. You have faced challenges with grace and emerged stronger and more resilient each time. Moreover, your music has always brought joy to my life whenever I am tired, sad, or down.

As you stand on the brink of a new chapter in your life, know that you carry with you the love, support, and endless pride of your family and all those gathered here tonight. Whatever path you choose to follow, I have no doubt that you will continue to inspire and uplift those around you with your incredible talent and spirit.

From tonight, Yuning, please never forget how lucky you are. Good luck always has good reasons - God gave you amazing music talent and two perfect teachers, Christie, and Lisa, and all the people sitting here who pray for you, encourage you, and support you year after year. Please let your thanksgiving flow from deep within your heart, go through your fingers and to every music note you play for all the people you love. Above all, give your thanksgiving and honor to our God.

Now, let's sit back, relax, and enjoy the beautiful music you have worked so hard to share with us.

Thank you!



*Seated: Yuning Shao, Thomas Shey, Henry Smith, Marina Escandell-Tapias, Sebastian Sauder, Tessera Rippentrop, Lucas Ralston, Cindy Wang
 Standing: Lucy Charis-Carlson, William Simpson, Isaac Simpson, Andrew Dong, Jacob Newton, Alec Bowman, Michael Comellas, Grace Wolle, Leo Burchett
 Not pictured: Oriana Bloom, Arabella Nelson, Preston Trinh*

Following is the list of graduating seniors:

Oriana Bloom (violin): PSM 10 years, Liberty HS

High School Highlights:

- Philharmonic Orchestra
- Varsity Tennis
- Show Band
- Black & Latino Student Union
- National Honor Society

Future plans: Attending Macalester College

Alec Bowman (violin): PSM 11 years, Dubuque Hempstead HS

High School Highlights:

- 4-year All-State Orchestra
- Competing at the Junior Olympics
- Varsity tennis
- National Honor Society
- 3rd place: 2023 Dubuque Symphony Concerto Competition

Future plans: Attending Bucknell University to study Software Engineering & play in a collegiate orchestra

Leo Burchett (bass): PSM 10 years, Iowa City HS

High School Highlights:

- Winning Best Soloist at SEIBA Jazz Festival 2023
- TA for City High's Concert & Philharmonic Orchestras/City High trip to England 2023
- Playing bass with City High Wind Ensemble (chosen to play at 2024 Iowa Bandmaster's Association Conference)
- Iowa All-State 2022 & 2023
- Attending summer workshop with Victor Wooten at Berkeley College of Music

Future plans: Attending University of Northern Iowa to study Music Education/Jazz Education

Lucy Charis-Carlson (bass): PSM 13 years, Iowa City HS

High School Highlights:

- Trip to Germany & Czech Republic with PSSO
 - Two years playing bass in All-State Orchestra
 - Two years of playing in Symphony at City High
- Future plans: Studying Psychology & Art at the University of Northern Iowa with hopes of becoming a therapist



Michael Comellas (piano): PSM 11 years, Iowa City West HS

High School Highlights:

- Tae-kwon do instructor
- Vice-President of Biology Club
- Domestic & international travel
- Laboratory internship
- National Hispanic Recognition

Future plans: Attending University of Illinois-Champaign to study Engineering

Andrew Dong (violin): PSM 12 years, Iowa City West HS

High School Highlights:

- All-State Orchestra
- 2024 Presidential Scholar

Future plans: Attending Harvard University to study Government

Marina Escandell-Tapias (cello): PSM 9 years, Iowa City HS

High School Highlights:

- Volunteering at The Center for Worker Justice
- Varsity soccer
- Latino Youth Summit
- Chicago Suzuki Institute
- Four years All-State Orchestra

Future plans: Attending Wellesley College

Jacob Newton (viola): PSM 3 years, Newton Academy of Science & Arts

High School Highlights:

- Performing in Carnegie Hall after winning an international music competition
- 36 on ACT
- Completing 2.5 years of college coursework
- PSSO Tour
- National Merit Semifinalist

Future plans: Serving a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, then double-majoring in Piano Performance and Neuroscience at Brigham Young University

Lucas Ralston (cello): PSM 6 years, Iowa City HS

High School Highlights:

- All-State Orchestra
- City High UK Orchestra trip
- Orchestra TA
- Being in pit for the musical
- Going on 18 college tours

Future plans: Attending University of Iowa and working at United Airlines

Tessera Rippentrop (cello & piano): PSM 13 years, Iowa City West HS

High School Highlights:

- Performing "La Boheme" with the Quad Cities Opera Co.
- All-State Orchestra
- Learning to play Baroque cello & bass viola da gamba
- Attending the Baroque Performance Institute at Oberlin Conservatory

• Learning art using graphite, colored pencils, & pens
Future plans: Studying to perform Opera & Cello

Sebastian Sauder (cello): PSM 13 years, Iowa City HS

High School Highlights:

- Volunteering with the Family Folk Machine, working with the kids
 - Spending time with my friends at orchestra, Cello Choir, All-State
 - Performing the Elgar Concerto with two Iowa orchestras
 - Learning & using languages (Spanish & German)
- Future plans: Continuing to pursue both Cello & academics at Bard College

Yuning Shao (violin): PSM 14 years, Iowa City West HS

High School Highlights:

- Honor Performance Series Carnegie Hall 2022
- Varsity Soccer
- All-State Orchestra
- Silver Cord Honor
- Preucil Work Study Student

Future plans: Attending the University of Michigan to double major in Neuroscience and Statistics

Thomas Shey (cello): PSM 1 year, Iowa City HS

High School Highlights:

- All-State Orchestra
- Iowa City Music Study Club Scholarship
- Mock Trial
- Quiz Bowl

Future plans: Attending Loyola University-Chicago to study Social Sciences

Isaac Simpson (viola & violin): PSM 2 years, Simpson Academy

High School Highlights:

- Woodworking
- Blacksmithing
- Graduating with A.S. degree from Hawkeye Community College

Future plans: Attending University of Northern Iowa to study Engineering

William Simpson (violin): PSM 2 years, Simpson Academy

High School Highlights:

- Woodworking
- Metalworking
- Graduating with an A.S. degree

Future plans: Attending Chicago School of Violin Making

Henry Smith (cello): PSM 1 year, Iowa City HS

High School Highlights:

- All-State Orchestra 2022 & 2023
 - Birch Creek Symphony section 2023
 - Arranging a piece for City high Concert Orchestra 2020
 - Teacher's Assistant in City High Concert Orchestra 2022, & Philharmonic Orchestra 2023
 - City High United Kingdom tour, 2023
- Future plans: Attending St. Olaf College to study Cello Performance and Linguistics

Preston Trinh (violin): PSM 2 years, Quincy (IL) Senior HS

High School Highlights:

- Three year All-State musician
 - Western Big 6 Tennis Champions
 - 2022 Young Artist Award Winner
 - 2023 Director's Award (QHS)
 - Concertmaster for Quincy Youth Orchestra (4 years)
- Future plans: Attending University of Iowa to study Music & Engineering

Cindy Wang (violin): PSM 12 years, Iowa City West HS

High School Highlights:

- Student Government
 - All-State 2023
 - 4-year Cross Country & Track
 - Period Club
 - Most Improved Runner!
- Future plans: Attending college to study Social Policy & Economics

Grace Wolle (violin): PSM 13 years, Cedar Rapids Washington HS

High School Highlights:

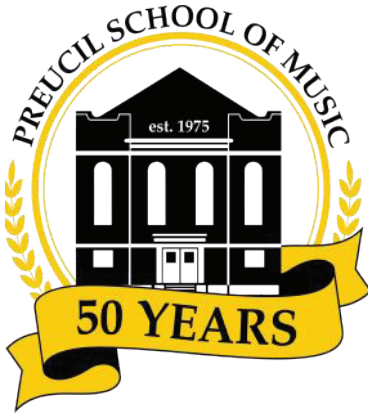
- Traveling to France with my school's French program
 - WHS Amnesty International President
 - WHS Green Team President
 - All-State (4 years)
 - Madrigal Singers & Slice of Jazz
- Future plans: Attending a 4-year liberal arts college

Also graduating: Arabella Nelson

News from Alumni

- **Amy Phelps** (1980) is a professional cellist & cello teacher in Iowa City, IA.
- **Ross Kerber** (1985) is a journalist.
- **Jeanne Preucil Rose** (1987) is a violinist in Shaker Heights, OH.
- **Beatrice Blanc** (1989) is on the Suzuki violin faculty at the MacPhail Center for Music in Minneapolis, MN.
- **April (Kirkpatrick) Charters** (1992) is the Circulation Administrator for *The Gazette* in Cedar Rapids, IA.

- **Heidi (Troyer) Baldwin** (1993) is an apparel designer. She lives in Apple Valley, MN with her husband and two children.
- **Amy (Bradbury) Redhage** (1994) is a violin teacher & mom in Lowden, IA.
- **Sarah (Dillard) Miller** (1994) is an at-home mom.
- **Genevra (Daniels) Williams** (1995) is an attorney in Dallas, TX.
- **Mira (Lutgendorf) Debs** (1995) is the Executive Director, Yale Education Studies & Lecturer, Yale Sociology. She lives in Hamden, CT.
- **Natalie Brown** (1996) is a sound therapist, music educator & musician in Iowa City.
- **Emily (Reck) Kahnert** (1996) is a physical therapist & Academic Clinician at the University of Minnesota.
- **Jenny (Schuchert) Hall** (1996) is a Stage Manager at Hancher Auditorium in Iowa City, IA.
- **Liz (Stefaniak) Huett** (1996) is a copy editor & String Sprouts Coordinator in Omaha, NE.
- **Torrii Yamada** (1997) is a clinical neuropsychologist in St. Paul, MN.
- **Lauren Stefaniak** (1998) is an Assistant Professor of Marine Science & lives in Myrtle Beach, SC.
- **Lynn (Bixler) Beier** (1999) is a secretary at the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics in Iowa City, IA.
- **Mary Larew** (2001) is the Executive Director of the Saint Paul Conservatory of Music and lives in St. Paul, MN.
- **Hee Won Lee** (2002) is an anesthesiologist in St. Paul, MN.
- **Molly (Stapleton) Calabria** (2002) is a Physician Assistant.
- **Elena Segre-Carlisle** (2009) is an Air Force physician (cardiology) in San Antonio, TX.
- **Kayla (Becker) Scholl** (2010) is a private violin/viola/piano teacher.
- **Celia Garner-Prouty** (2011) is an orchestra teacher in Muscatine, IA.
- **Elliott Soemadi** (2011) is a software engineer in Iowa City, IA.
- **Ed Henning** (2016) is in Ag Sales in Hartwick, IA.
- **Rehanna Rexroat** (2016) is a 5th-8th grade orchestra teacher.
- **Emily (Fillmore) Rapp** (2017) is a massage therapist & mom of two in Rexburg, ID.
- **Esme Rummelhart** (2017) works in childcare in Brooklyn, NY.
- **Ella Wolle** (2018) is a law student at the University of Wisconsin.
- **Rachel Aird** (2022) is studying Electrical Engineering & minoring in Spanish and Biomedical Engineering.
- **Ben Faden** (2022) is a student living in Iowa City, IA.



A Special Invitation to Alumni & Former Faculty

Dear Alumni and Former Faculty,

Preucil School of Music would like to invite you to join us at a special celebration of the school's 50th Anniversary on Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025, at Hancher Auditorium. The afternoon will consist of a concert followed by a reception.

In recognition of this milestone and to acknowledge the people who contributed to the school's legacy, you are invited to participate on stage with our current Preucil students. String players who have continued playing at an advanced level are invited to play with the Preucil School String Orchestra (PSSO) on a piece written for this special occasion by alum Peter Bloesch, class of '82, and commissioned by the Heistad Family. Those playing with PSSO should plan on a rehearsal the afternoon of Saturday, February 1, and a run-through prior to the concert. Specific details for the weekend will be sent out by December 1.

All Alumni and former Faculty are invited to join us on stage for the final Twinkle. Please bring your instrument if you wish to play along. The Twinkle performance will not require a rehearsal in advance.

Under the 50th Anniversary tab on the website, please let us know if you will be able to attend and how you would like to participate by filling out the response form by October 1. We hope the Hancher stage will be filled with performers as we celebrate the school, the Suzuki Method, and Doris Preucil's vision for a community music school in Iowa City. Your response will help us greatly in our planning.

To learn more about the 50th Anniversary events, please keep watching our website and social media. To donate to the 50th Anniversary, please go to the "Support" tab on our website and click "50th Anniversary Celebration" under where to direct your donation.

Please pass this invitation on to any of your friends from your years at Preucil. I look forward to hearing from you soon!

In the Suzuki Spirit,
Sonja Zeithamel, Director

Hancher Response:
Alumni & Former Faculty



50th Anniversary
Website



For up to date information about PSM follow us on social media.



@preucilschoolofmusic



Preucil School of Music



Attention PSM Alumni!

Join the NEW

Preucil Alumni Facebook Group

Please share and invite your PSM friends!



Join Here!

End of the Year Faculty Luncheon 2024



*Seated: Molly Leefers, Sonja Zeithamel, Linda Judiesch, Deb Hernstrom, Al
2nd Row: Mary Neumann, Laura Shaw, Kitty Fink, Chiaki Kubota, Ruth Johnson, Jeanette Welch
3rd Row: Amy Redhage, Marit Hervig, Amy Phelps, Kate Vos, Jenna Battleson, Pam Weest-Carrasco, Barb Michaelson, Lisa Guttenberg, Lauree Christman, Sally Denison, Adam McLaughlin, Craig Jordan*



Faculty Honorees included Jeanette Welch (bass, 25 years), Ruth Johnson (piano, retiring, 18 years), Director Sonja Zeithamel, Amy Redhage (violin, 5 years), Chiaki Kubota (piano, 10 years), Pam Weest-Carrasco (registrar/administrative assistant/harp, 15 years)



Al enjoys his lunch!

Faculty & Staff Historical Recognition

Following are the many, many people who have had a part in making Preucil School the success it is today. We appreciate all your dedication and service! ** Indicates current faculty or staff.

Administration

**Jenna Battleson
 Pati Beauchamp
 **Tom Birkenholz
 Brianne Boysen
 Karin Brunk
 Alison Burchett
 Henry Cardenas
 Skye Carrasco
 Kimberly Cassisa
 Celia Clark
 Mary Ann Clemons
 Dana Cook
 Patricia Courtney
 Jane Crawford
 **Sally Denison
 Bridget Donnelly
 Ann Dotson
 Carissa Eggers
 Christie Felsing
 Christopher Ferber
 Mary Fessler
 **Kitty Fink
 Lily Gaetgaeow
 Robert George
 Darci Graff
 **Lisa Guttenberg
 Hillary Hall
 Candelina Helmuth
 Mary Ann Hendrickson
 Tyler Hendrickson
 Jo Hiner
 Carol Horton
 Laura Hudson
 Joshua Johnson
 Jill Johnston
 Paula Kasper-Lundahl
 Lynn Kim
 Linda Krotz
 **Molly Leefers
 Alina Levin
 Erika Lord-Castillo
 Mary Lowenberg
 Marian MacLeod
 Elle Martin
 Kate Mascal
 Rachael May
 Adam McLaughlin
 Denise Merritt
 Dana Mietus
 Livia Monroe
 Kelsey Allen Morrison

**Doris Preucil
 Allison Reiter
 Magill Schumm
 Sue Schuster
 Linda Smith
 Whitney Smith
 Sharon Sonnleitner
 Theresa Sonnleitner
 Helene Soper
 Stacy Stephens
 Kalmia Strong
 Marion Sweat
 Nancy Weber
 **Pam Weest-Carrasco
 Rosie Wessinger
 Sarah West
 Barbara White
 Cheryl White
 **Sonja Zeithamel

Bass

Christopher Buddo
 Dennis Christians
 Gary Palmer
 Eugene Schweiger
 Brian Scoggin
 Paul Sharpe
 Craig Swygard
 **Jeanette Welch

Cello

Bernard Amrani
 **Anthony Arnone
 Frances Duff
 David Evenchick
 Whitney Allen Giller
 Joyce Geeting
 Adrián Gómez Hernandez
 Rowena Hammill
 Betsy Hawtrey
 Melissa Kraut
 Hsien-Liang Lien
 **Amy Phelps
 Glenda Piek
 Eugene Schweiger
 **Laura Shaw
 Kenneth Slavett
 Kathryn Langguth Swinbank
 Patti Tiemeyer
 **Kate Dykstra Vos
 Charles Wendt

Nan Zaffke

Certificate Program/Theory

Janet Bergman-Theory
 Robert Brownlow-Theory
 Christine Burke-CP
 Carla Colletti-CP
 Lydia Dempsey-CP
 John Hatmaker-Theory
 Daniel Hougnum-CP
 George Hufnagl-CP
 Kate Levy-Theory
 Joshua Marquez-CP
 Zachery Meier-CP
 Jim Mulac-Jazz Improv
 Dennis Pedde-Theory
 **Ramin Roshandel-CP
 Marc Weber-Theory
 Beth Zamzow-Theory

Dalcroze

Sarah Bobenhouse
 Rachel Schultz

ECE

Melissa Airy
 **Erin Anderson
 Bridget Baumhofer
 Betsy Boyd
 Jody Budde
 Julie Burgart
 Judy Carlson
 Amy Carpenter
 Linda Crist
 Elizabeth Cummings
 Amber de Kok-Mercado
 Nuha Elbadwai
 Mary Ann Estabrook
 **Lindsey Evans
 Lisa Frei
 Natalie Fry
 Catherine Gartelos
 Maggie Gibbs
 Siobhan Gordon
 Vicky Grube
 Lori Hagedorn
 Tara Hahn
 **Katelyn Halverson
 Willa Hamilton
 Sara Hanson
 Deanna Hanson-Abromeit

Susan Hartsock
 Debra Hatmaker
 Sloane Henry
 Rachel Hieronymus
 Jane Cadwallader Howe
 Jamie Hudrlik
 Abbey Junk
 Kirsten Klipp
 Tamara Knupp
 Soo-Jin Kwoun
 Ana Maria Locke
 Nancy Macfarlane
 Deniz Martinek
 Lisa McDonough
 Wendy Miller
 Sarah Neary
 Helen Neumann
 Jennifer Newman
 Kristin Clark Olivier
 Jennifer Olson
 Yvonne Ostein
 Julie Prestegard
 Julie Purwin
 **Jennifer Richman
 Shelly Ringgenberg
 Carole Ann Schreiber
 **Jessica Sears
 Chris Sharp
 Deb Pava Singer
 Kelly Soules
 Betty Southard
 Hope Spragg
 Wendy Stevenson
 Polly Sullivan
 Emily Taylor
 Rebecca Thompson
 Margaret Towers
 Krista VanDeVelle
 Janice Warren
 **Kirsten Williamson
 **Tricia Windshittl
 Jennifer Winegarden
 Sarah Woolever
 **Laurie Wyatt

Flute

**Sasha Garver
 Kyle Koshgarian
 Sue Sciarini
 Janet Stodd
 Deborah Strauss
 Kenichi Ueda
 Renee Veenstra
 Jennifer Wagaman

Guitar

Richard Stratton

Harp

**Pam Weest-Carrasco

Music Together®

Sara Bellizzi
 **Catherine Gartelos
 Whitney Allen Giller
 Brady G'Sell
 **Lauren Willberg

Orchestra Conductors

Bernard Amrani
 **Anthony Arnone
 **Carey Bostian
 Timothy Dixon
 Fredi Gerling

Orff

Caryl Becker
 Elizabeth Brown
 Lois Crane
 Debra Hatmaker
 Mary Lackman
 Yvonne Ostein

Piano

Cathy Coapstick Arthur
 Karen Bauman
 **Lauree Christman
 Ann DuHamel
 Martha Eckey
 Gail Gebhart
 Judith Green
 Tyler Hendrickson
 **Debra Hernstrom
 Ruth Johnson
 **Craig Jordan
 Jin Young Kim
 **Chiaki Kubota
 Barbara Kuller
 Carla Levy
 Diana Luke
 Karen Manning
 Mary Manulik
 Matthew Masko
 Lani McAuley
 **Barbara Michaelson
 Stephen Mulvahill
 Hikari Nakamura
 Mary Neil
 Janice Order
 Rachel Schultz
 Lynette Sheffield
 Joy Strausbaugh-group piano
 Aura Strohschein
 Rachel Taylor
 Catalina Teican
 Martha Thompson

Barbara White
 Forte Zhang

Violin/Viola

Martin Andersen
 Dominique Archambeau
 Tammy Asperheim
 **Janet Ault
 Mary Bellone
 Ute Brandenburg
 Andrew Carlson
 Perry Combs
 **Scott Conklin
 Diane Dahl-McCoy
 Christie Felsing
 Michelle Higa Ueda George
 Margaret Soper Gutierrez
 **Lisa Guttenberg
 **Marit Hervig
 Margret Heyl
 Beth Hoffman
 **Hannah Howland Jacobs
 Cameo Jong
 Olof Jonsdottir
 **Linda Judiesch
 Wanda King
 Mary Ann Kirsh
 Lucy Lewis
 Anthony Lucia
 Paul Manulik
 Kimberly Meier-Sims
 **Mary Neumann
 **Alyssa Ottmar
 **Joshua Palazzolo
 William Preucil
 **Tabitha Rasmussen
 **Amy Redhage
 Carrie Reuning
 Alexander Ross
 John Schultz
 Shinobu Saito
 Stephen Sims
 Marta Soderberg
 Elizabeth Stuen-Walker
 Rachel Turkiewicz
 Janse VanArnam Vincent
 Debbie Wegener
 Kenneth Wollberg
 Alicia Huang Yang
 Gwen Ying
 **Sonja Zeithamel

Voice

Gloria Galask

My Musical Summer Experience . . .



Cecily Collins, violin:
Interlochen, MI

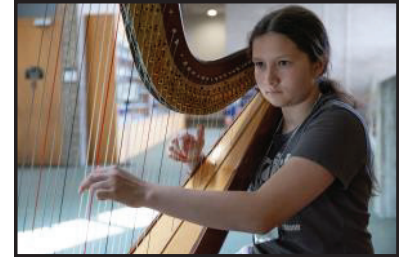


Harper Zeithamel, violin and Lucas Iverson, violin, attended the 2024 American Suzuki Institute in Stevens Point, WI.

This was Harper's first institute experience.

This was the 10th year for Lucas!

Both were selected to play on an ASI Informal Recital.



Amelia Flaming, harp: American Suzuki Institute, Stevens Point, WI Year 6!



Keira Cromwell, cello: International Cello Institute, St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN



Lydia Niemitalo, violin (center): American Suzuki Institute, Stevens Point, WI



Phoebe Morgan, violin: Cedar Valley Chamber Music Camp, Cedar Falls, IA

Jack Niemitalo, cello: 2024 American Suzuki Institute, Stevens Point, WI



Suzuki Summer Institutes

By Jean Littlejohn

I'm the mom of two Preucil students, and they have both enjoyed attending Suzuki summer institutes. At Suzuki camp, my kids had the opportunity to have private lessons, play in chamber music groups, take technique classes, and play in orchestras and group classes. Having the opportunity to interact with new teachers for a week or two can be so beneficial. Sometimes having a new teacher explain a technique to you makes it stick, even if (especially if?) it's something your home teacher has been telling you for months! It can be helpful for a student to realize that their home teacher is not the only one with a passion for bow holds or hand position.

From the perspective of a musician who didn't grow up with Suzuki instruction, I think the Suzuki institutes provide a powerful sense of connection. A student gets thrown in a class with a bunch of strangers from different places, but they all have something important in common, something that they all practice regularly. The message is, you belong! You are already fluent in the secret language: you know how to play *May Song* (or whatever the piece is) by heart! That feeling of belonging and confidence can take a student a long way.

Upcoming Events

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Sunday, August 25 | Lessons begin (37 weeks) |
| Monday, August 26 | Preschool Visit Day |
| Tuesday, August 27 | Preschool begins |
| Monday, September 9 | Music Together Fall Session begins (10 weeks) |
| Monday, September 30 | 50th Anniversary Fall Concert: Preucil/Tamestit/Nosikova, Voxman Music Building Concert Hall, 7:30pm |
| November 8-10 | String Retreat, location TBA |
| Tuesday, November 19 | 50th Anniversary Fall Concert: The Dolphins Quartet, The Englert Theatre, 7:30pm |
| November 21-23 | Iowa All-State Music Festival, Ames, IA |
| Friday, December 13 | String Group Holiday Play-Ins at Grand Living & Melrose Meadows |
| Sunday, December 15 | Multiple Piano Concert—location TBA |
| Monday, January 6 | Winter Chamber Program begins/Music Together Winter Session begins |
| Sunday, February 2 | Annual String Concert & 50th Celebration, Hancher Auditorium, 2pm |
| Weekend of February 28 | Piano Book 1&2 Workshop |
| Saturday, March 8 | 50th Anniversary Concert: Orion Weiss, piano, The Englert Theatre, 7:30pm |
| Tuesday, March 11 | Orchestra Festival, Opstad Auditorium, City HS, 7pm |
| Monday, March 24 | Music Together Spring Session begins |
| Saturday, April 12 | Cello Choirs Spring Concert |
| Sunday, April 13 | Winter Chamber Concert, Wilson Auditorium |
| Sunday, May 18 | Senior Graduation, Wilson Auditorium |
| Saturday, June 7 | Last day of lessons |
| Monday, June 9 | Music Together Summer Session begins (6 weeks) |
| Week of June 15 | Summer lessons begin (7 weeks) |
| June 22-28 | Summer Chamber Program |

Preucil School of Music *50th Anniversary Apparel*



Order Here:

Local Alumni, Former Faculty, & Friends of Preucil we will be offering 50th Anniversary Preucil apparel. Interested in ordering see details below.

Online store open:

September 15-30th

Shirts: Tote Bags:

\$18.25

\$14.00

Available for Pick Up Only:

Main Campus Office mid-late

October