This year has been a tale of two years, two strikingly different years! Last August, the School was looking forward to an exciting year filled with new learning experiences, beautiful music making and enriching community engagements. For the first 7 ½ months we were right on track to have this kind of year. This, however, did not play out the way we had envisioned.

On March 14th, the Preucil School closed its doors to the public. There would be no more face to face contact until further notice. The community was facing a national health and economic crisis that was unlike anything we had ever experienced in our lifetime. What we had hoped to be a short shut down, turned into an event that was to shape the rest of the school year and summer. How we responded to this crisis would also determine how we could return to learn in the fall.

Just as Dr. Suzuki advised so many times, “Never hurry, never rest,” our faculty and staff approached this challenge with determination and grit. Countless hours over spring break were spent setting up home studios, learning how to use internet platforms, researching best practices to teach virtual music lessons, as well as providing early childhood experiences to our youngest community. This summer, committees have been established to work on the School’s return to learn in the fall. They have been tasked with developing and improving the programs we could administer virtually, creating scenarios that would gradually bring our programs back face to face and establishing safety guidelines within the studios and buildings. If there is a silver lining to this experience, it is that our teachers have been able to continue reaching out to their students in positive ways – encouraging and supporting them to continue learning and challenging them to do their best.

Running parallel to the work being done by our faculty and staff, the Board of Trustees and Finance Committee worked tirelessly with the School’s administration to keep the doors open. After many projections and budgets, help from a PPP loan and donations, the School was able to keep all employees on payroll through the middle of June. For the 2020-21 school year, all salaries and tuition will be frozen, but the School will continue providing student financial aid.

Thank you ALL for your support and trust during these unprecedented times! This year will be one of adaptability and flexibility. The entire School will start the fall with Virtual learning, constantly assessing how and when to safely and carefully move to a hybrid format. Next year will not look anything like previous years, but we are committed to offer our students a quality experience. We hope by second semester that a few of our programs can begin to return and by fall 2021-22, there will be a vaccine allowing us to return to normal scheduling. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

I hope you can take a few minutes to read this COVID-19 edition of Fanfare where you will read about our year both pre pandemic and during the pandemic. What our faculty and students have accomplished through both parts of the year is inspiring and heartwarming. It is a reminder that through love and dedication much can be accomplished!

Please stay well! If we all work together, our music will once again fill our buildings and enrich our community!
Board Member Changes

The 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 Preucil School and to support the Preucil 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 Scott Finlayson, Lin Pierce and Miho Tanakamaru-Cromwell. Thank you for your service.

Welcome!

We welcome Tim Evans and Ross George to the Board of Trustees.

How May I Serve?

If anyone would be interested in serving on the Preucil School of Music BOT or 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:

www.preucil.org

- Ways to help the Preucil School of Music: Stuff, etc., Goodshop.com, GoodSearch.com, AmazonSmile.com
- A link to the Preucil School, Preschool & Music Together® Facebook Pages can be found on the Preucil School website.
- 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!
**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 made major contributions to the Preucil School and we wish them the very best in the future.

- **Lydia Dempsey**, Certificate Program Faculty
- **Lily Gaetgaeow**, Office Assistant at North Campus
- **Zachery Meier**, Certificate Program Faculty
- **Dana Mietus**, Office Assistant at North Campus & Group Class Faculty
- **Whitney Smith**, Office Assistant at North Campus
- **Kathryn Langguth Swinbank**, Cello 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](http://www.preucil.org).

- **Kim Cassisa**, Saturday Office Assistant at North Campus, completed her B.M. in Music Performance (Clarinet) at the University of Mississippi. She is now finishing her M.A. at The University of Iowa.

- **Ramin Roshandel**, Certificate Program Faculty, completed his Bachelor’s in Iranian Music Performance at the Tehran University of Art and his Master’s in Music Composition at the University of Tehran. He is in his third year of his PhD program in Composition at the University of Iowa.

- **Adrián Gómez**, Part-time Cello Faculty, completed his Bachelors’ in Music Education and Cello Performance in Spain and his Masters degree in Cello Performance at the University of Missouri-Columbia. He is in his second year of his DMA in Cello Performance at the University of Iowa.

**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.

**OFFICE DEPOT—** When you shop at Office Depot, ask the clerk at check-out to apply your purchase to Preucil School of Music. Office Depot will award Preucil School 5% of the qualifying purchases in merchandise credit that can be used towards FREE supplies!

**AMAZONSMILE—** When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate 5% of the purchase price to Preucil School.
The fall brought the September and October play-ins. September is always the time to bring together the pianists for the coming year, work on stage comportment, and preparing pieces to play at a polished level. The October play-in, featuring a Halloween theme, is a great favorite with the students. Dressing up, playing spooky-sounding pieces, and treats afterwards are quite special.

Preparation was also started for the first group concert for the students in books 1 and 2. Classes were formed, review lists and duet parts being prepared. There was also a high school group to play "Dance of the Tumblers" to inspire the younger groups onward.

November 9 was the Concerto Day for the book 3 and 4 students. Carey Bostian conducted the orchestra once again. 28 piano students participated, and 16 students in the orchestra. A special thanks to Carey and the orchestra for their wonderful work with the Concerto Day students. A special shout out goes to Tyler Hendrickson for arranging the book 2 Beethoven Sonatina as an addition to the Concerto Day repertoire.

The workshop for 2020 was a leap year event, taking place on February 28-29 and March 1. Our clinicians were Anna Salm on from Denver, and Jennifer Walschap from Norman, Oklahoma. Anna's teaching on practicing repetitions with dice games was fun and her one point objectives were so valuable to each student. Jennifer's kind and gentle manner and her own special games for the younger children that linked her teaching of groups were especially appreciated. 80 students participated in the group classes with Jennifer, including the Twinkle Plus group. 72 were in the master class sessions.

Spring break, and then ...

We look forward to the first book 1-2 group concert, Musical Achievement, the book 5 and up Concerto Day, and all the events that will bring us together again.

Meanwhile, see you in the cloud.

Halloween Play-In—October 2019
Concerto Day—November 2019
Piano Workshop—February/March 2020

AND THEN . . .

Staying connected to our students:
Hayes Noiseux shows Lauree Christman that he lost a tooth!
Maggie & Sophia Nguyen play for Lauree.
A Fortepiano Weekend

On Friday and Saturday, September 13 and 14, all interested musicians, adults and children, were invited to a recital/lecture and masterclass featuring Kenneth Drake of the University of Illinois and Jun-Hee Han from the University of Wisconsin. They performed on a fortepiano built by John Lyon, modeled after fortepianos by Anton Walter (1751-1826).
Fall Virtual Enrichment Courses

Start your fall off on the right note with these encore courses!

Preucil School of Music is offering two popular virtual music enrichment courses from our Summer offerings. Join Dr. Tyler Hendrickson on Tuesday evenings to explore music from a different and interesting perspective.

**Music & Culture—Grade 9-Adult**

Learn how musical history has been influenced by political and cultural history. Come explore the evolution of musical practices and why things are done the way they are in the 21st Century.

Days: Tuesdays, September 8, 15, 22, 29  
Time: 8:00 – 8:30pm  
Cost: $40  
Registration Deadline: Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2020  
Platform: Zoom

**Composers After Dark—Adults only**

Participants, go beyond the dates and periods composers lived in. Prepare to dive into the more colorful and scandalous parts of the lives of the great composers, often overlooked in music history courses.

Days: Tuesdays, October 6, 13, 20, 27  
Time: 8:00 – 8:30pm  
Cost: $ 40  
Registration Deadline: Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2020  
Platform: Zoom

**Registration Deadline: Tuesday, September 1**

To Register for a Virtual Enrichment Course, [Click Here](#).
The Windsor Trio, Taejune Yoon, Oliver Bostian, and Adam Zeithamel coached by William Preucil, had a spectacular pre-COVID-19 chamber season. On January 26, the trio won first place at the inaugural Sedrel Briggs Chamber Music Competition hosted by the Music Department at Drake University. The competition was open to any string ensemble (minimum three members, with or without piano) for all high school age students in Grades 9-12. In addition to receiving $1500, the first place winners would have performed at the Zenith Chamber Music Festival in June, sharing the stage with professional artists from the United States and around the world. The Festival was unfortunately cancelled due to COVID-19. The Windsor Trio also performed for Iowa City Music Study Club in January at Parkview Evangelical Free Church and played as a quartet (with Kent Zdan on viola) at our Bach and Roll fundraiser at Cedar Ridge Vineyards in October.

In February, Laura Shaw and Cello Choir welcomed Cellissimo, the senior performing cello ensemble of the joint programs of Western Springs School of Talent Education and Naperville Suzuki School led by Sally Gross and Alex Revoal. In the finale of their tour to Iowa City, Cellissimo performed with the Preucil Cello Choir in Voxman Hall at the University of Iowa.

In March, Preucil hosted the Chamber Music Mosh 2020 as part of the ACMP Worldwide Play-In Weekend. The event was coordinated by Patricia Addis, an avid chamber musician in Iowa City. One of our Winter Chamber Program groups participated and played the Mendelssohn Quartet in a minor, Op. 13. Quartet members Anna Ramsey, Caroline Mascardo, Mike Wu, and Matti Brandenburg were coached by Matthew Laughlin. Preucil faculty members Adrián Gómez, Chiaki Kubota and Lisa Guttenberg also participated.

The spring was challenging to say the least. For the safety of everyone involved, all chamber music programs and performances mid-March and on were cancelled due to COVID-19. At Preucil School of Music (PSM), however, we take challenge in stride and find ways to continue to share our music with families, friends, and the community. This article highlights some of the chamber music experiences that our students and faculty have embraced during these isolating times. I always begin this article with a quote from someone deeply committed to chamber music. This year I asked Liam Edberg, student of Sonja Zeithamel, for his thoughts on chamber music during the pandemic: “In this time of physical distancing I’ve learned just how powerful chamber music is in bringing people together, making connections, and creating something beautiful through music.”

Liam and fellow music students at West High were involved with a project called United in Isolation. In Liam’s words, “United in Isolation started out as an adaptation of our original plan to hold a Cadenza club concert at West High. Being a charity club we give all our proceeds to a worthy cause, and with the pandemic, we decided to give to the United Way of Johnson and Washington Counties’ Community Disaster Relief Fund (supporting vulnerable families in the time of COVID-19). We partnered with West High’s UNICEF uploading one performance a day from May 14th to June 3rd totaling 20 videos. We uploaded solo pieces, as well as ensembles, pieced together using video editing software and click tracks. From unknown contemporary composers to J.S. Bach we amassed over 2000 views! I really feel like this is what music is all about, that is, bringing people together, no matter what the circumstances!” Other Preucil students that assisted Liam with this project were Matti Brandenburg, Caroline Mascardo, Mike Wu, and Helen Zhang. Jonathan Chen, who accompanies our Book 2 Violin Class, is the founder of Cadenza. PSM is very proud of their dedication and support of the Eastern Iowa Community.

Laura Shaw and Cello Choir have been creatively collaborating from their homes. With much determination, they put together a performance of Shostakovich Waltz using the Acapella app. Please visit the PSM Facebook page to hear this collaboration.

Oliver Bostian, student of Joshua Palazzolo, and Adrian Bostian, student of Laura Shaw and Lauree Christman, performed in-home family chamber music concerts with their parents, Miera Kim and Carey Bostian of Red Cedar Chamber Music. The three series, Swiss Family Bostian, All in the Family, and Biber, Bach, and Beethoven had a wide variety of chamber selections including the world premiere of Michael Kimber’s, “Red Cedar Blues”. Please visit the Red Cedar Chamber Music YouTube channel to hear these performances.

As we listen to this music and navigate through these difficult times, we are reminded of the unifying and healing power of chamber music. We hope that in this next school year we can safely bring back our live chamber music programs and performances. Please stay tuned to our website and Facebook page for upcoming events.
Left: West High Cadenza Club members Caroline Mascaro & Liam Edberg prepare online performances.

Below Left: Red Cedar Chamber—Adrian Bostian, Oliver Bostian, Miera Kim & Carey Bostian

Below right: West High Cadenza Club members

Espressivo Strings with director Lisa Guttenberg pose backstage at the Paramount Theatre in December
The cello department at the Preucil School of Music had a wonderful and busy year. Even though we didn’t end the year quite the way we wanted, we were still able to continue making music together through the end of the spring.

Cello group classes had a Halloween play-in in October. The kids loved dressing up (and the teachers did too!) We played spooky games and had treats. The group classes also played at the Senior Center for our Holiday Play-In in December. The Senior Center is such a beautiful space, and they are always very welcoming to us. We love being able to get out in the community and share our music.

The cello choirs at Preucil also had a very busy year. The Junior Cello Choir, directed by Kate Vos, gave a concert along with the senior Cello Choir at the University of Iowa Hospitals. They played a mixture of classical and holiday music. The concert at the hospital is one of our favorite outreach concerts. Patients and visitors listen from the balconies above the atrium, or they stop and listen as they are walking by. We feel like we can brighten their day by playing for them.

The Preucil School Cello Choir, directed by Laura Shaw, had one of our most exciting years. In the fall, the Cello Choir performed at the Iowa Dance Festival. We collaborated with Shannon Hartle, a dancer who improvised to our piece “The Cello Song.” This was our second year collaborating with the Dance Festival, and it is such a treat to work with artists in other mediums.

The Cello Choir also participated in “Cello Daze” in November, which is a cello festival put on by Anthony Arnone at the University of Iowa. Amit Peled, professor at Peabody Conservatory, taught masterclasses and performed at the festival. Empire Wild also provided a jam session/clinic. The festival was a wonderful learning experience for the group, as well as a chance to perform in the beautiful Recital Hall at the University School of Music.

Our biggest performance in the spring was a collaboration concert between the Preucil School Cello Choir and Cellissimo. Cellissimo is a cello ensemble directed by Sally Gross and Alex Revoal from the Western Springs/Naperville Suzuki Program. Cellissimo joined us for a weekend of rehearsals and a concert at the University of Iowa School of Music. The students also socialized with a pool party at the hotel and an educational opportunity at the University. The students from the two programs really got to know each other, and the concert was high-energy and fun.

The Cello Choir was unable to give a spring concert due to the school closing after spring break, but we did finish a recording project that allowed us to collaborate with each other over a distance. We recorded “Waltz,” from Jazz Suite No. 2 by Shostakovich, a project which is available to watch on the Preucil School of Music website.

We also came together for virtual group classes and performance classes in the spring. Though the spring was challenging, we made sure the cello department stayed connected through technology! We know the coming year may be just as challenging, but we will look for innovative ways to reach out to the community and share our music even if it can’t be in person.
This has been a busy year for the flutes!

We added once monthly group classes, and expanded into two groups, a book one group and now a book 2+ group! There was a Fall Halloween recital at North Campus in costume, where we played our favorite Suzuki flute pieces and also some spooky tunes for flute ensemble, including Spooky Buns (aka minor Hot Cross Buns) and Funeral March for Toot, the flute version of a box violin!

This winter, we were asked back to Iowa City Public Library to play for Children’s Storytime in December. Our event was very well attended and we played Suzuki repertoire in play down order and Holiday flute choir music. In February, we were so excited to play for the Hancher Auditorium annual concert! We played mash up pieces of Suzuki flute repertoire plus other music, including Mary had a little lamb meet Dvorak’s 9th Symphony by Noelle Perrin. We were assisted by our wonderful accompanist, Chiaki Kubota and Max Kubota on flute. It was a thrill to play on stage for everyone!

Students were well prepared for going online, since they had all their lessons during Sasha’s maternity leave in February with a wonderful Suzuki flute teacher in Boulder, CO, Emma Shubin.

Linnea Celeste was born in February and is now a regular visitor at Skype lessons!

We had a fun Zoom recital in June with all of Sasha’s students in Iowa and her studio in CA.

The pandemic has been good for practicing— we’ve had many book recitals, where students play all of the book, from memory, including two book 1 recitals, one book 2 graduation, one book 3 graduation and two book 4 recitals! It’s been especially nice that grandparents, uncles, aunts and other friends from far away have been able to attend thanks to technology!
Voice Vibes  By Gloria Galask

The voice students had their last recital on December 15, 2019. It began with “A Million Dreams” from The Greatest Showman by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul. It is a hopeful song for the present as so much has changed.

In March all lessons were to be given online because of the pandemic. The Voice students rose to the challenge and even though we had to cancel our April Recital, they continued to sing. We have discovered a new way to continue to learn and communicate a Million Dreams in this changed World.
Harp Happenings  By Pam Weest-Carrasco

“Just do it.” - Nike
Share whatever you can, whenever you can, however you can!

Adult student Jen Yoder & husband Devon
perform at Oaknoll Retirement Residence in December 2019

Amelia Flaming, Jen Yoder, Charles Brungardt, Mara
Maas & Miriam Huerter perform in the Hancher
Lobby in February 2020

Adult student Charles Brungardt
performs for the Gifted &
Talented Program at Ark City
High School in Ark City, KS in September, 2019

Harp Happenings in a Pandemic
The music played on . . .

Left: Mara Maas at her zooming harp
lesson
Right: Faculty Pam Weest-Carrasco
performs a Mother’s Day concert for
Penny Davidsen in Tucson, AZ

A Zoom Harp Recital
First row: Guest, Pam Weest-Carrasco, Marian Andersen,
Jen Yoder, Amelia Flaming
Second row: Guest, Guest, Guest, Guest, Katherine Eberle
Third Row: Nona France, Charles Brungardt, Grace Malloy,
Mary Adamek, Guest
Fourth Row: Guest Lisa Guttenberg, Mara Maas, Guests
Fifth Row: Guests, Guest Deb Hernstrom, Guests, Miriam
Huerter
Preschool Reflections  By Tricia Windschitl

On March 23rd, we did the unimaginable. We recreated preschool and started teaching small children through our screens. I will always be full of gratitude to the children on the other end of the screen. While I could not see their faces, I knew they were there with me. And together, we continued learning and thinking about our world in the most basic of forms—shapes, colors, nature, our families. Many dropped off after the first few weeks while some stuck around a little longer. I understand. Preschool on a screen just isn’t the same. Those who were with me until the end, who sent me pictures and completed my assignments, will always have a most special and endearing place in my heart. I have always seen myself less as a “teacher,” and more as a human going on a journey with some miraculous little people. That has certainly been the case. Kids, parents, teachers—either by watching me every day or only occasionally, by doing our best on this thing called Zoom, by experimenting with virtual preschool—we did this together. But it was so much more than virtual preschool. We connected with one another at a time when connection with the outside world was (and still is) a rarity. We shared songs, art, and ideas. You told me about what you were doing, you showed me your new toys from Amazon, you shared your thoughts and I shared mine. You told me “this is weird” and asked “why.” And together, we tried to make sense of it all. Together, we created nearly 300 videos, visited our Youtube channel over 8,000 times for 480 hours of viewing, and participated in countless Zoom hours. But what we really did together was navigate this turning point in our world and entry into a new normal. I told you that time after time, I would be here. But the truth is, time after time, you were there for me with your smiles, rainbows, stories, and even sometimes your tears. And while I too ask “why,” one thing I know for certain is that the great human spirit is still alive in the children.

With much gratitude for those of you who supported, encouraged, and cheered me on during this time. With much love for the children who met me on the other side of the screen. —Tricia
Welcome to Music Together Online!

This year has brought many unknowns and taught many lessons. One of the things that this challenging year has taught me, is how important music and art are during difficult times. Music connects us, even when we cannot sing in the same room. Music regulates our hormones and helps us take care of our children and ourselves. Music lives in all of us, and we need music now, more than ever.

In response to the worldwide pandemic, Music Together launched a new online program, and within days of learning about the new format, I was shooting videos and singing through my screen to all my favorite little people. This was a major challenge. Those of you who know me, know that I am very social! Those of you who’ve been in class with me, know that I get caught in the moment by the children’s adorable antics. Many of you know my “most important rule” in the classroom... “the giggle rule” that states that no matter what we’re doing and how ridiculous we are being, if a child giggles... we do it again!

All of these things that I love about teaching Music Together, these things that prove that I have found my dream job and make me feel so lucky to do work that saves my soul every day, are a little bit different now. Now I sing through a screen. I can’t hear the giggles or the harmony. I can’t see smiling families walking through my door.

BUT... We still have music. We can still have Music Together, even when we’re only “together” in song and spirit. We can have Music Together any day or time now! My videos don’t expire, you can have Music Together whenever and wherever you need it! We have new song books and access codes. We can pay online! We can still share stories and pictures in emails and zoom chats. We are being safe. And we still have music. We still have Music Together. We still have each other.

I hope you will reach out if you have questions about our Music Together Online program, and I hope that you’ll join me, in song, this fall!

**2020 FALL MUSIC TOGETHER via Zoom**

Please join us for a fun and music filled Fall Music Together Session (via Zoom). The 10 week session begins on September 14, 2020. Please check out the Music Together website or contact Denise at dmerritt@preucil.org or 319-248-1248 for additional information.
Annual Orchestra Festival  Held March 10, 2020 at City High School

Crescendo
Janet Ault, conductor
(right)

Vivace
Linda Judiesch, conductor
(below)

Concert Orchestra
Sonja Zeithamel, conductor

Sinfonietta
Anthony Arnone, conductor
(below)

Philharmonia
Carey Bostian, conductor
(left)
We Congratulate…

Preucil students and faculty received many honors at area events in 2019-20. Congratulations to all!

Iowa Music Teacher’s Association (Piano)
District Winners who qualified for State: Victor Yao, Carolin Feng Liu, Shanza Sami
Alternates: Tai Chang Caputo, Andrew Chen
Honorable Mention: Iulia Feng, Alice Gooblar-Perovic, Maya Cheng
State Audition Runner-Up: Shanza Sami
State Audition Honorable Mention: Victor Yao

Suzuki Association of the Americas Conference 2020
Cello Choir: Keira Cromwell, Adam Zeithamel
Cello Master Class: Keira Cromwell, Adam Zeithamel
Flute Performing Ensemble: Keira Cromwell, Lillian Rantanen
Viola Master Class: Seth Zeithamel
Suzuki Young Artist Orchestra 1: Akiho Sugiyama, violin
Suzuki Young Artist Orchestra 2: Keira Cromwell, cello; Sophia Jin, violin; Seth Zeithamel, viola
Suzuki Young Artists String Ensemble: Marina Escandell, cello

Quad City Symphony Youth Ensembles Robert A. & Patricia Hanson Scholarship
McKenzie Lofgren, violin

Iowa All-State Music Festival
Violin: Amol Bhagavathi, Oliver Bostian, Liam Edberg, Jonathan Fan, Mohan Kumar, Caroline Mascardo, Emma Prostine, Yulong Shao, Julie Shian, Ike Taylor, Taejune Yoon
Viola: Wayne Joseph, Garrett Roggy, Emily Shian, Mike Wu, Kent Zdan, Xiaoyi Zhu
Cello: Adrian Bostian, Julien Cook, Daphne Knoop, Kevin Lu, Ruth Meehan, Jalen Peterson, Lee Prostine, Greta Stainer, Adam Zeithamel
Bass: Paras Bassuk, John Bounds
Alto Saxophone: Justine Reschly-Krasowski
Chorus: Alice Conroy, Michael Holt, Leah Kaminsky, Rachel Meehan, Jenna Wang
Cornet: Maryam Abuissa

Iowa Junior Honors String Orchestra Festival
Violin: Alec Bowman, Caitlyn Bowman, Tai Chang Caputo, Andrew Chen, Maya Chu, Andrew Dong, Sabrina Du, Tina Hong, Everett Levine, Anjali Lodh, Henry Lu, Juliana Mascardo, Wendy Meng, Yuning Shao, Anna Song, Cindy Wang, Grace Wolle
Viola: Vincent Scovill
Cello: Lucas Ralston, Tessera Rippentrop, Claire Sauder, Richard Yang
Bass: Kyle McElroy

Sedrel Briggs Chamber Music Competition-Drake University
First Prize: Windsor Trio—Taejune Yoon, violin; Oliver Bostian, viola; Adam Zeithamel, cello (pictured below with Coach William Preucil)
Director Sonja Zeithamel received the "National Guild Milestone Award" from the National Guild for Community Arts Education at their conference in Austin, TX in October 2019. The Milestone program recognizes art organization leaders who have demonstrated a commitment to supporting and advancing community arts education for more than 20 years. Seven community arts education leaders, including Sonja, were honored with the Milestone Award for their long-standing, exceptional service to the field.

Director Emerita Doris Preucil received the 2020 Marvin J. Rabin Community Service Award at the 2020 American String Teachers Association Conference in Kansas City in March 2020. She is pictured with Dr. William LaRue Jones, ASTA President, and Kristen Pellegrino, ASTA President-Elect. The Marvin J. Rabin Community Service Award is presented to an individual or organization who makes significant contributions to their community by their string/orchestra teaching and leadership.

We Congratulate... Our Directors!
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.

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<td>Alexander Cheng</td>
<td>Clara Meehan</td>
<td>Sullivan Stucky</td>
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<td>Maya Cheng</td>
<td>Christine Moeller</td>
<td>Nishvith Sudhakar</td>
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<td>Cecily Collins</td>
<td>Maggie Nguyen</td>
<td>Reyansh Sudhakar</td>
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<td>Keira Cromwell (cello/flute/piano)</td>
<td>Nora Nguyen</td>
<td>Simon Thompson</td>
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<td>Kalona Delgado (cello/piano)</td>
<td>Sophia Nguyen</td>
<td>Colin Tierney</td>
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<td>Suzanne Delgado</td>
<td>Jack Niemitalo</td>
<td>Anthony Vos</td>
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<td>Zoe Delgado (cello/piano)</td>
<td>Lydia Niemitalo</td>
<td>Holland Vos</td>
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<td>Lydia Evans</td>
<td>Isa Noellert</td>
<td>Lily Wells-Lu</td>
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<td>Iulia Fang</td>
<td>Braelyn Pham-Campbell</td>
<td>Milla Wiechert (cello/piano)</td>
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<td>Amelia Flaming</td>
<td>Alexander Pierce</td>
<td>Noah Wiechert</td>
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<td>Yuzuka Fujikawa (piano/violin)</td>
<td>Sylvia Plank</td>
<td>Liao Zhu</td>
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<td>Joanna Galluzzo</td>
<td>Eleanor Plank</td>
<td>Li-Te Zhu</td>
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Reaching Out in the Community: “Bringing Music to Life”

One of the programs we are most proud of at the Preucil School is our Outreach program. As a community music school we take pride in presenting programs and sharing our music with others. Students, with the support and influence of their teacher and parents, learn they possess a special gift that can bring comfort, happiness, a smile and sometimes tears to those that hear them play. No matter the age of the student, the level of music being played, or the type of ensemble, people are moved when they hear students playing from the heart. Dr. Suzuki would say they are growing a “beautiful heart and a beautiful soul!”

This year, students presented a variety of community performances. Several highlights included concerts at Ark City High School in Ark City, KS; Oaknoll Retirement Residence; and the Coralville Marriott.

The School welcomes inquiries about how you can have music at your next event. For more information contact Sonja Zeithamel at: szeithamel@preucil.org.

A special thank you to those who performed in an outreach event this past year.

In Memoriam 2019-20

Lillian Davis, 5/29/55-8/15/19: Mother of PSM alumni Robert & Clare; PSM Board & Guild member

Patrick “Pat” J. Robertson, 9/9/51-9/7/19: Father of current PSM students Callista & Sebastian

Hélène Jolas Soper, 1931-2019: Mother of PSM alumni Tim & Margaret

Joan Marie Wallace Hart, 1/22/41-10/7/19: Mother of PSM alumni Joe & Este

Susan O. Strauss, 4/8/42-1/10/2020: Mother of PSM alumni Michael & Deborah

Jeff Cox, d. 2/9/2020: Father of PSM alumna Flossie & former student David

Sebastian Surom, 6/14/95-5/5/20: PSM alum (2013); brother of current PSM student Sophia (Class of 2020) & former student Savannah

The Preucil School of Music sincerely thanks the following Corporate Sponsors:

Diamond Sponsors: GreenState Credit Union

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Espressive Strings performed at Oaknoll Retirement Residence in October 2019
Graduation 2020 By Doris Preucil

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Preucil School’s Graduation Celebration was canceled. However, graduates still received graduation certificates, awards and a memento from the School. In addition, Doris Preucil sent a graduation message to each graduate. Following are Doris’s bio and her graduation message.

Doris is the founder and Director Emeritus of the Preucil School of Music. An honors graduate of the Eastman School of Music, she was a violinist with the National Symphony and the Rochester Philharmonic. She has served on the faculties of Western Illinois University, the University of Northern Iowa, and Interlochen Arts Camp, and performed and presented workshops throughout the United States and in Canada, Europe, Australia, Japan, and Korea. A Suzuki teacher since 1963, she is the author of the Suzuki Viola School, and a Past President of the Suzuki Association of the Americas. She was named “Teacher of the Year” by the Iowa String Teachers Association in 2005, received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Eastman School in 2004 and was honored by the American String Teachers Association with the Marvin J. Rabin Community Service Award in 2020.

As Founding Director Emerita of the Preucil School of Music, I have the privilege of sending to you the congratulations and good wishes of the entire faculty and staff upon your graduation.

Graduation, by definition, represents the completion of a course of study. It is a time of looking back, recognizing accomplishments, and of cementing memories of “growing up” days with families and friends. The Preucil School traditionally holds a ceremony at this time to honor graduates. Since that is not possible this year, let us experience it virtually.

You are seated in Wilson Auditorium with your fellow graduates where you previously sat for your recitals. Parents, faculty, staff, and guests are in the audience. Director Sonja Zeithamel gives the welcome. A graduate string ensemble plays, followed by piano duets (just a bit of music, as music is always needed at the most important times in one’s life). Certificate Program and Chamber Music Awards are presented to participants. Next, a guest speaker, often an alumnus off to a good start in a career (sometimes music and sometimes not) addresses you.

Now is the important time. Your teachers line up in front, holding your diplomas. Sonja calls you up, one by one, and hands you a memento from the School. You then turn to your teacher, who presents you with your diploma, and neither of you can resist a hug. You all rise for a final bow, and then face the audience to applaud your parents for playing an important role in your music education. Finally, everyone crowds into the Assembly Room for a special party prepared by parents of the Junior Class. And with that, one more event in the myriad of happenings at this special time in your life is over.

For us at the School, it is an important time to celebrate you. We appreciate the depths of your accomplishments, having experienced them with you. We understand the frustrations of practice and the joys of suddenly being able to express what the music is saying. We know that the self-discipline, memory skills, facility, and creativity you developed through your music study is sending you out into the world as a special person, indeed. We are happy that you were able to grow up as a Suzuki student.

When you think of Suzuki, you probably picture the method books with his name on the front. He actually was a Japanese violinist, intrigued by how children learned their native language, speaking before learning to read. He started to teach children in this way by listening, imitation and repetition in a rich musical environment, including parents in the teaching, and nurturing with love. Music reading came after listening and technical skills were underway. Children learned by playing music written by time-honored composers. Each child could develop at his/her own rate, always with the belief that great potential for learning exists in everyone. Sequential learning and positive reinforcement was present throughout development into fine players. This method revolutionized music teaching. It is the way you learned. Shinichi Suzuki made learning and accomplishment fun. Called an educator, he really was a humanitarian, trying to create a better world one child at a time. He truly believed that learning to express the language of music, in a non-competitive atmosphere, would develop human beings with beautiful, loving hearts. I was fortunate to learn of Suzuki’s work early on, and started one of the first five Suzuki violin programs outside of Japan in 1963. Parents and children were anxious to study this method, and it grew to the point of establishing the Preucil School in 1975. Our pioneering work did much to spread the word in our country and abroad. Now highly regarded, the Suzuki Method is taught in forty-plus countries around the world.

Graduation is also defined in another way… Commencement, a beginning or start. You are now at the beginning of your adult life. Many vistas will open for you to explore. Ten years from now you will look back and be amazed at all that will have happened in that interim. We at the Preucil School know that you are well prepared, with musical souls, beautiful minds, and loving hearts, to do your part in making our world a better place. Remember us. Stay in touch through our website and Facebook page. Embrace your opportunities and go forth with pride and joy. Our good wishes go with you.
Following is the list of graduating seniors:

Maryam Abussa (piano): PSM 8 years, Iowa City HS
High School Highlights:
• All-State Band 2019
• Technical Theatre
• Silver Cord (200 hours volunteering)
• National Merit Semi-Finalist
• Participation in Youth Artist Pavillion 2019
Future plans: Attending Amherst College to study Math & still playing piano & trumpet recreationally

John Bounds (bass): PSM 14 years, Iowa City HS
High School Highlights:
• 3-year All-State Orchestra
• City High Math Team
• Chinese through the University of Iowa
• Band/Orchestra all 4 years
• 5 years of Spanish
Future plans: Attending the University of Minnesota to become a Chinese/Russian language specialist

Mary Bounds (cello): PSM 12 years, Iowa City HS
High School Highlights:
• State Cross Country 2019
• City High orchestra
• Summer Mission Trips
• City High Track & Field
• All-State Auditions
Future plans: Attending the University of Alabama to study Civil Engineering

Maria Brown (violin): PSM 12 years, Homeschool
High School Highlights:
• PSSO Tour to the Baltics
• 2019 Future Problem Solving International Competition
• Holiday Pops Concerts at Paramount with Espressivo
• Playing rec league softball
• Working part-time at Hy-Vee
Future plans: Attending Iowa State University to study Chemical Engineering

Claudia Chia (violin): PSM 5 years, Iowa City West HS
High School Highlights:
• Varsity Golf Team—3 years
• Orchestra—4 years
• 2018 ASTA National Orchestra Festival
• Leadership Committee for West High Dance Marathon
• Member of Joy Together Music Program
Future plans: Attending The University of Iowa

Sadie Fillmore (violin): PSM 13 years, Muscatine HS
High School Highlights:
• Varsity Show Choir—2 years
• Cross Country—3 years
• Spring Musicals—4 years
• Traveling to Europe with my high school orchestra
Future plans: Attending Brigham Young University to major in Biology & minor in Chinese
Anne Marie Garner (violin): PSM 9 years, Pleasant Valley HS
High School Highlights:
- AP Calculus, AP Chemistry, AP Literature & AP Physics 2
- Getting a job at Hy-Vee & getting my first paycheck
- Early morning religion class at 6am every day
- Espressivo & Sinfonietta
Future plans: Attending Brigham Young University to study Chemical Engineering

Michael Holt (violin & piano): PSM 14 years, Fairfield HS
High School Highlights:
- All-State Orchestra—2017
- All-State Chorus—2018, 2019
- National Honor Society
- Varsity Cross-Country & Tennis
- Iowa Ambassadors of Music Tour
Future plans: Attending Xavier University to study Computer Science

Natalie Katz (piano): PSM 14 years, Iowa City West HS
High School Highlights:
- Editor-in-Chief of school newspaper
- Varsity Cross Country Team
- Running a half marathon & training for a marathon
- Named a Top 10 Emerging Journalist in Iowa
- Playing bassoon in Wind Ensemble
Future plans: Attending Duke University to study Environmental Engineering

Daphne Knoop (cello): PSM 13 years, Iowa City HS
High School Highlights:
- City High Orchestra
- City High Art Club
- Preucil & All-State Orchestras
- Mock Trial
- Caucus Club
Future plans: Attending Vassar College

Caleb Kwok (violin): PSM 13 years, Iowa City West HS
High School Highlights:
- Theatre West
- Soccer (Club & High School)
- West High Orchestra
Future plans: Attending Illinois Institute of Technology to study Architecture

Oisin Leopold (cello): PSM 6 years, Iowa City HS
High School Highlights:
- IBA Jazz Band selection
- Running in the State Track Meet
- Chicago trips for jazz band
Future plans: Attending college for Music & to run track

McKenzie Lofgren (violin): PSM 7 years, Muscatine HS
High School Highlights:
- Jr. Honors Orchestra/OPUS/All-State Choir
- River City Rhythm Show Choir
- Quad City Youth Symphony Orchestra
- Chloé Trevor Music Academy—2018
- Musical Productions
Future plans: Attending Oklahoma City University to pursue a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance

Nathaniel Nelson (viola): PSM 10 years, Iowa City West HS
High School Highlights:
- Gymnastics at the Iowa GymNest
- Piano at Three Dogs studio
- Rotary in RYLA, World Affairs & United Nations events
- Hills Bank Youth Salute Award Recipient
- Business Professionals of America participation including Executive Board
Future plans: Attending Washington University in St. Louis to study Architecture

Jalen Peterson (cello): PSM 7 years, Cedar Rapids Washington HS
High School Highlights:
- Niesta Honors Orchestra
- Cello Choir
- Travelling to Austria to perform
- All-State Orchestra
Future plans: Attending The University of Iowa to study Cello & train to become a Suzuki cello teacher

Dylan Philibert (viola): PSM 13 years, Iowa City West HS
High School Highlights:
- St. Thomas More student youth leader
- Horseback riding & showing in Hunter/Jumper Competitions
- Playing alto saxophone in Jazz Band
Future plans: Attending The University of Iowa to study Chemistry

Emma Prostine (violin): PSM 11 years, Cedar Rapids Washington HS
High School Highlights:
- All-State Music Festival
- National Honor Society
- Captain of Women’s Varsity Golf Team
- Leadership in FCA, Chamber Orchestra, Full Orchestra & Pit Orchestra
Future plans: Attending Luther College to study Chemistry
Justine Reschly-Krasowski (piano): PSM 9 years, Iowa City HS
High School Highlights:
- Jazz Band
- Band
- All-State Band
- Center for Worker Justice volunteering
- UAY art workshops
Future plans: Attending college to study Music & Computer Science

Madelyn Reschly-Krasowski (piano & violin): PSM 9 years, Iowa City HS
High School Highlights:
- Orchestra
- Baking internship at Tip Top
- Art Club @ UAY
- Long Furby’s
- Helping at the library with Ms. Petri
Future plans: Taking a gap year & volunteering

Billy Samuelson (piano): PSM 14 years, Iowa City HS
High School Highlights:
- Tennis
- Piano
- Being there for friends & family
- Ongoing installation of room sized sharpie drawing
- A whole lot of vinyl records . . . Listening to an album a day
Future plans: Playing music & tennis, but I don’t have a strict plan

Julie Shian (violin): PSM 10 years, Iowa City West HS
High School Highlights:
- Cross Country—3 years
- Walk It Out—3 years; Co-director for 1 year
- All-State Orchestra—1 year
- Volunteer research assistant at the VA
- AP Scholar with Distinction
Future plans: Attending college to study Psychology on a pre-med track

Colton Slaubaugh (violin): PSM 6 years, Mid-Prairie HS
High School Highlights:
- Basic training for the National Guard
- Swimming
Future plans: Training for underwater welding & National Guard

Sophia Surom (piano & harp): PSM 14 years, Iowa City HS
High School Highlights:
- Piano group
- Music Theory class
- Playing harp at Melrose Meadows
- Playing piano concert at Mercy Hospital
Future plans: Attending Wartburg College to study Music Therapy

Lila Terry (piano): PSM 12 years, Iowa City West HS
High School Highlights:
- West High School Dance Marathon President
- National Honor Society
- PALS Program
- Drumline
Future plans: Attending college & medical school & continuing work with Dance Marathon

Jenna Wang (violin): PSM 13 years, Iowa City West HS
High School Highlights:
- PSSO—4 years
- Show Choir & Theatre
- YouTube Silver Creator Award
- All-State Chorus
- Reporter for the WSS newspaper
Future plans: Attending Northwestern University to study Journalism & Performing Arts

Also graduating: Julien Cook, Shuntaro Kawasaki, Amelia Rios-Van Saun

A Special Note to Alumni & Parents
Graduates & parents, we’d like to hear from you. We are sure your lives will change when you leave Preucil School of Music. Each of you is important to our Preucil family and we want to stay in touch.

Please keep us updated along your journey!!

Options for contacting us:
- Alumni page on our new website: www.preucil.org
- Email: info@preucil.org
- Follow us on Facebook
- Address: Preucil School of Music
  524 N. Johnson Street
  Iowa City, IA 52245-2840
  Phone: (319) 337-4156
  Fax: (319) 337-9502

News from Alumni
- Xilla Giulietta Meraz (2015) lives in Kalispell, MT and works as a horse wrangler/tour guide/naturalist. “Listen carefully to what your teachers say—they’re trying to make things easier for you!”
Last October on a beautiful autumn afternoon the Preucil School of Music’s Guild Committee held a spirits and wine tasting event at the Cedar Ridge Vineyards, Winery & Distillery outside of Swisher, IA. The late afternoon fundraising event, to benefit the Preucil School of Music, included live music, a silent auction, wine and spirits, and tasty hors d’oeuvres, all while enjoying the picturesque view of the surrounding vineyards and rolling hills.

Cello Choir, conducted by Laura Shaw

Espressivo Strings, conducted by Lisa Guttenberg

As cellist Tony Arnone looks on, Iowa City Mayor Pro-Tem, Pauline Taylor, presents Sonja Zeithamel with a letter from Mayor Throgmorton congratulating her for being the recipient of the National Guild for Community Arts Education’s “National Guild Milestone Award”.

Student quartet

Preucil Guild member Jon Ranard
A new home for Nasr & Rasha and their three sons, Obada, Awab & Yassin!

Espressivo Strings, conducted by Doris, performed at the Habitat Women Build fundraiser, Hammers & Hardhats, at the Coralville Marriott in November 2019.

Doris celebrates completion!
A Story of Friendship  by Pam Weest-Carrasco

It is August, 1971 and a shy, homesick freshman (me) is hiding in her dorm room at Indiana University. There is a sudden knock on my door and the residence assistant, Rita, invites me down to her room where “we’re all getting together.” Rita’s enthusiasm could not be ignored and I reluctantly walked the hallway to her room and found space on the floor with others, trying to be as inconspicuous as possible. We were playing that favorite game of freshmen, “What’s your name-what’s your major-where are you from-who do you know”. While I remember the room was crowded, the girl I remember clearly was Lauren. She was a dance major from Morton Grove, IL, a suburb of Chicago. Right there, we had nothing in common: I’d never taken a dance class in my life. I was a harp major from suburban Indianapolis. Well, it ends up that that meeting was one of the most important in my life and we ended up being lifelong friends. For four years, we attended every IU football game and sat in the card section, flipping our cards to make different pictures with the other 800 students in the section! We sat in the nosebleed section of Assembly Hall to watch IU’s basketball team. (These might not seem like extraordinary activities, except that . . . she was a dance major and I was a music major . . . which means we both should have been practicing somewhere.) We ushered for all the IU operas. We attended each other’s weddings. Geographically, we moved further apart but we stayed in touch at Christmas and birthdays. This was all before the days of computers and emails so it was more challenging, but friendship is worth it.

A few years ago, we started a tradition with another friend from that freshman dorm—we would gather for a week in the summer – somewhere – friendship is too important to let go.

Now it is November, 2019, and I have received a belated birthday card from Lauren. She included a note to let me know that she was making a donation to the Fund for Inclusion and Diversity at Preucil School. This is a fund that started with a Facebook birthday fundraiser a few years ago. When the School asked me where I wanted the funds to go, I decided to concentrate on the underserved population, Black/African American/Hispanic/Latino. So the Fund for Inclusion & Diversity was born.

Back to Lauren’s card. “That’s nice of her to remember it,” I thought. Then I opened the paper work. $20,000. Yes. I read it several times. And then again.

Through Lauren Hilan’s generosity we will be able to go even further to help more students of color have access to the special programs at Preucil School. And continue to create beautiful hearts.

So to Lauren – a very public “THANK YOU” for your generosity and from me privately, thank you for being a friend.

Donations made to Preucil School of Music over the years have had an immeasurable impact on the School. Generosity has helped the School maintain a quality music curriculum and an early childhood educational program, provide financial aid to hundreds of students, attract and retain quality faculty, build a new building, send students around the globe to share their music and helped purchase musical instruments. More importantly, it has provided the opportunity for hundreds of students to study music, learn to play an instrument, pursue their love of music and to enhance their musical skills. Donations make a positive difference at Preucil School of Music.

Friends are forever . . .

Pam Weest-Carrasco, Lauren Hilan & Barbara Bradford Gardner
New Course Offering at Preucil School!

Beginning this fall, Preucil School will be offering a new course, “Every Chicken Can”. Shown below with North Campus office staff Denise Merritt, is the first registrant, Christie Chicken. In addition to other skills, the curriculum will include learning to jump fences and playground survival training. Interested chickens should contact Denise at 1-800-CHICKEN.

Seriously, this girl showed up on the North Campus playground on Wednesday, July 29 and is now safely with Animal Control.

“Laughter is the best medicine.” - Bennett Cerf