



March 2021

Greetings dear friends,

Spring and *hope* fill the air at Birch Creek! Who knew a year ago that Birch Creek would be on course to discovering a new and exciting inroad? Though not on-site, music was in the airwaves as teachers and students shared a full week of online learning and performing, despite the COVID-19 challenges. Honestly, what an opportunity to feature our faculty in new, creative ways! The outcome of the summer endeavor was Studio Sessions, a brand-new online program that engages students and adults on Saturday mornings. Drawing students from all over the country, Studio Sessions offer the personal attention and musical camaraderie that build the summer programming we all enjoy. Studio Sessions will continue even after we bring a renewed summer program back on-site.

At this writing, Birch Creek is directing its efforts to provide a safe and healthy environment for our residential clientele and for the public to attend open-air concerts outside. With plans for upgraded ventilation systems inside, modified schedules to rehearse and perform outside, and earlier concert start and ending times with distanced “tickets by the bench”, Birch Creek will return to the programming we’ve all come to love, along with modifications that could prove to be just as fun and enriching. For health and safety reasons, the current plan allows for only half of our student capacity in the dorms. With the facility and personal protection upgrades, we will need your help to implement these modifications. Would you help us with a special donation for this renewed 2021 season?

It is with much anticipation that we look forward to seeing you this summer. Be well, stay safe and enjoy this Spring season, in hopes for a wonderful summer together!



Musically yours,



Mona Christensen, Executive Director
The Steve and Jackie Kane Chair

2021 at Birch Creek

Summer Music Academy

Percussion & Steel Band	June 13-26 Senior Track
	June 13-19 Junior Track
Symphony	June 27 - July 10
Jazz I	July 11-24
Jazz II	July 25 - August 7

Adult Music Programs

Adult Band Camp * August 12-15
Chamber Music Retreat * August 18-21

Fall Concert Series

September thru December

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Steve Gomoll, **President**; Scott Brunswick, **Vice President**; Lyn Huber, **Secretary**; Steve Kase, **Treasurer**; Sam Carmen, **Development Chair**; Miriam Erickson, **Past President**; Jane Berg, James Blair, Greg Britton, Carla Byrnes, James Flint, Joan Guasta, Jan Johnson, Lynn Kaczmarek-**President of the Associates**, David Long, Charlotte Lukes, Raymond Moulis, Diane Taillon, Patti Vickman

It is our mission to provide intensive, performance-based instruction to promising young musicians by immersing them in a professional, mentoring environment.

Birch Creek is supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.



Birch Creek Online In the summer of 2020, Birch Creek faculty taught students in our online Academy Sessions. In September, we launched online Studio Sessions for students, adults and high school band directors' classrooms. These online learning programs continue through April and have prepared us in many ways for a revitalized 2021 summer with an on-campus Academy and live, in-person concert performances.

Summer Concert Tickets

We are thrilled to announce that there will be open-air concerts from June 17 to August 7 on the beautiful Birch Creek campus this summer! Join us in celebrating the welcome return of our world-class faculty performing artists and student musicians. New concert time: 7:00 PM, with pre-concert music at 6:30 PM. Tickets available in mid-March at birchcreek.org/tickets.



PERCUSSION & STEEL BAND

SYMPHONY



BIG BAND JAZZ



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Passing Tones



From the left:
Lois Deane in the Birch Creek Box Office in 1991,
Bob Koehler tending the Popcorn Stand in 2010,
and **Marlys Regan** at the Legacy Circle recognition party in 2019.

This past winter Birch Creek lost three members of the Birch Creek family who influenced our history and traditions for more than thirty-five years. We knew them as board members, founding members of the Associates, members of the Legacy Circle and friends. The Box Office was "home" to **Lois Deane**, as was her place on the Board of Trustees for 16 years; **Bob Koehler** not only made the popcorn loved by concertgoers (while collecting donations for student scholarships), but also helped build the popcorn stand next to the Farmhouse in 2001; and **Marlys Regan** was one of the early members of the Legacy Circle possessing a natural ability to tell Birch Creek's story with charm and grace. Each made a significant impact on the lives of Birch Creek's students and the overall well-being of the organization.

Memorial funds for each have been established at Birch Creek. Gifts should note "In Memory of (Name)" on checks or the enclosed remit envelope. For online gifts (birchcreek.org/support), donations should note "In Memory of (Name)" under Tributes.