



Issue No. 75 - Fall 2022

# BIRCH NOTES

SIDE-BY-SIDE LEARNING AND PERFORMING.

Birch Creek Music Performance Center | Egg Harbor | Door County | Wisconsin



Exuberance describes the passion and excitement of performing side by side at the Kane Gazebo for pre-concert audiences during Percussion Session in June.

## SUMMER OF 2022

We did it! With joy, diligence and gratefulness, Birch Creek's campus came to life with 144 students and 80 teaching and performing faculty from across the country.



Faculty guitarist, Larry Brown, engages in a teachable moment side by side in the Kane Gazebo with student guitarist, Charlie Debski.



Faculty member, Emily Mantell, with daughter and assistant cello faculty Sonia Mantell (right), rehearse and perform side by side with student cellist, Sean Yoshihara, pictured here.

# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MONA CHRISTENSEN

*Mentoring. Learning. Growing. Performing. Repeat. The formula for student success.*



Dear friends,

What an incredible summer! All of us at Birch Creek are grateful for you! You have supported us through many wonderful seasons and most recently, two very challenging years. This summer, with students from 12 states and 3 countries, and faculty from across the U.S., appreciative audiences soaked in the energy from live concerts in our endearing performance venue, the Dutton Concert Barn. With our mission true to form, this is the reason why we persevere to do what we do. Every Birch Creek participant flourished as they engaged in our supportive music environment.

**Performance-based music education**, the cornerstone of our student success since its inception 47 years ago proves its relevance today. Our faculty and teaching assistants work tirelessly, **side by side** with our students to model form, style, and technique and offer encouragement and inspiration. Our students thrive because of Birch Creek's distinctive two-to-one student to faculty ratios. The daily mentoring our students receive inspires all to leave Door County as better people, better musicians, and better performers.

YOU are vital to our students' success. At Birch Creek, academy tuition covers only part of full program delivery. With grand opportunities to name scholarships, faculty chairs, and Birch Creek's distinctive music programs such as the Concerto Competition, the Jazz Ambassadors and Artists in the Schools, your resources and support are helping us bridge the gap. Whether you provide support for Play It Forward, our annual fund; student scholarships; or long-term support for our endowment, we steward every gift with utmost diligence and appreciation. Please reach out to me personally if you have any questions about our giving programs.

Thank you for your past support and for any gift you can provide today as we launch our Fall Series programming and 2023 summer preparations. We appreciate all YOU DO to support our students, the academy, adult music programs, and year-round programming. We are grateful for YOU.

Musically yours,



Executive Director, *The Steve and Jackie Kane Chair*



Concert goers were in awe as a double rainbow appeared at intermission during a Big Band Jazz concert. Audience member Andrew Raamot captured this spectacular display over Birch Creek amidst sprinkles on July 23, 2022.

## SIDE BY SIDE: Grateful Leadership

Program Directors Dan Moore, (University of Iowa), Ricardo Castañeda, (Northeastern Illinois University and University of Illinois) and Jeff Campbell, (Eastman School of Music) bring university teaching and performing expertise with relevant curriculum and teaching trends. Interfacing with professional musicians and faculty from these and other universities, they select reputable, world-class musicians to work with Birch Creek students. Pictured here, our program directors perform and teach side by side.



**Dan Moore**, program director for the Percussion and Steel Band Session and faculty ensemble director, performs intently on a five-octave marimba, side by side with his fellow Birch Creek faculty members: Wesley Morgan, Vicki Jenks and Emily Roane.



**Ricardo Castañeda**, program director for Symphony Session and oboe faculty member, rehearses side by side with student, Elizabeth (Libby) McConkie, in preparation for an exhilarating second week of symphony concerts that featured works by Puccini, Rachmaninov, Mahler, and Wagner.



**Jeff Campbell**, serving as program director for two Big Band Jazz sessions, plus faculty bassist and leader of the Birch Creek Jazz Orchestra, teaches side by side with student bassists, Zen Mendoza and Madilyn (Madi) Adams on a sunny Door County day in the Kane Gazebo.

# OVATIONS

We are thankful for the generosity of scholarship donors and grantors whose gifts provide endless opportunities. They include:

**Nancy Andriacchi Named Scholarship** was awarded to **David Donald**, guitar, Jazz I.

Two Endowment Scholarships from a fund established by an **Anonymous Donor** were awarded to **Aiden Temple**, drums, Jazz I; and to **Catherine Brenmark**, bassoon, Symphony.

Another **Anonymous Donor** underwrote two scholarships awarded to **Nora Campbell**, trumpet, Jazz I; and **Shay Parchem**, violin, Symphony.

An **Anonymous Family Fund** awarded Birch Creek a grant to install the technology necessary to boost cellular telephone providers' signals on Birch Creek's rural campus.

Scholarships named for the **Birch Creek Associates** were awarded to **Bethany Reed**, drums, Jazz I; **John Pinns**, baritone saxophone, Jazz II; and Symphony students **Kelsa Rice**, clarinet; and **Trista Schepp**, French horn.

The **Birch Creek Concerto Competition** awards a \$1,000 scholarship to two students during the Symphony Session. The award comes with the honor of performing as a featured soloist with the Birch Creek Symphony Orchestra in the following year. **Charles Kritsch**, viola, and **Salvatore Monastero**, clarinet were 2022 winners.

**Glenn Bruck Named Scholarship** was awarded to **Charlie Debski**, guitar, Jazz I.

**Dennis Connolly Named Scholarship** was awarded to **Christopher Fallis**, trombone, Jazz II.

The **Door County Emergency Response Fund**, A partnership of Door County Community Foundation and United Way of Door County, awarded two COVID-related grants to help Birch Creek reopen its campus to the public: one for ticket scanners and touchless towel dispensers, and another for ultraviolet air purification systems in the Miller Music Center complex.

The recipient of a scholarship named for **Walter Edwin Langbein** was **Qisi (Jessica) Lai**, violin, Symphony.

**Anthony & Judith Licata Named Scholarship** was awarded to **Brae Bigelow**, viola, Symphony.

Two scholarships named for **Karen Mehigan and Jim Friel** were awarded to Jazz I trombone students **Kristen Engelhardt** and **Skylar Harris**.

**MMG Foundation** underwrote nine named scholarships in 2022. A scholarship honoring **Margaret Miller Gilson** was awarded to Percussion & Steel Band student **Savannah Elgin**. Named for **Cynthia Stiehl** were scholarships awarded to Symphony students **Philip Hanifin**, percussion, **Matthew Hur**, cello, **Elizabeth McConkie**, oboe, **Jesse Perez**, flute; and violin students **Rachel Qi**, **Beatrice Sjostrom**, and **Jane Story**. Receiving a scholarship named for the **MMG Foundation** was **Milan Mendez**, piano, Symphony.

A **Les Paul Foundation** grant supported jazz guitar instruction for the ninth year in 2022. In 2020, an additional emergency grant was received from the Foundation to help with operational expenses during the pandemic, for a total of ten years of continuous support from this prestigious Foundation.

**John and Carolyn Peterson Charitable Foundation, Inc.** of Brookfield, WI has underwritten Named Scholarships since 2006. JCCPC Foundation scholars for 2022 were **Carter Dall**, trumpet, Jazz I; Percussion & Steel Band students with steelpan emphasis **Dimitri Lal** and **Jaden Teague-Nunez**; and **Sarah Pearl Anderson**, piano, Symphony.

**Ralph Pratt Endowment Scholarship** was awarded in 2022 to **Liam Berry**, trombone, Symphony.

**Raibrook Foundation Named Scholarships** for Door County students were awarded to **Dex Tishler**, tenor saxophone, Jazz I, Gibraltar High School; and **Amanda Austin**, trombone, Jazz II, Southern Door High School.



**Pictured Above, L to R: Robert & Joan Schaupp Named Scholarship** recipients were (top row) Jazz I students **Maggie Crichton**, drums, **Phillip Perea**, drums, and **Danica Rebudiao**, bass; Jazz II students **Armando Celaya**, tenor saxophone; **Stephen Paul**, trombone; and **Trista Schepp**, trumpet; (bottom row) Percussion & Steel Band student **Hudson Jones**, percussion; and Symphony students **Lily Yoshihara**, violin, and **Sean Yoshihara**, cello.

**Dwight & Linda Davis Foundation**, together with a **Private Family Fund of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation** and the **Building for Tomorrow Fund** in the Birch Creek Endowment awarded Birch Creek grants that underwrote a project replacing the West Dorm Fire Panel and Alarm System essential to maintaining student and public safety as we prepared for the 2022 season.

**James Dutton Memorial Scholarship** for artistic excellence went to **Beatrice Sjostrom**, violin, Symphony.

**Joan Guasta Outstanding Service Scholarship** was awarded to **Salvatore Monastero**, clarinet, Symphony.

**Carole Guyette Named Scholarships** were awarded to three students: Jazz I alto saxophone students **Jacob Merrill** and **Casey Stern**; and **Alexander Schulte**, trombone, Jazz II.

The **Brian T. Hynes & Barry J. Hynes Endowment Scholarship** was awarded to **Callie Widi**, tuba, Symphony.

The third **Phyllis C. Ingwersen Endowment Scholarship**, established in her memory in 2018, was awarded to **Ashley Hatland**, percussion, Percussion & Steel Band.

**Callie Widi** received a scholarship for a Wisconsin student from **Herb Kohl Philanthropies**.

**George Kress Foundation Endowment Scholarship** was awarded to **Ellen Zhang**, viola, Symphony.

The family of **Bertha Schenker** awarded a Named Scholarship in her memory in recognition of her love for youth and her gifts to music education. The recipient was **Ellison Xu**, harp, Symphony.

The **Town of Egg Harbor** sponsored four free family/community matinee concerts at Birch Creek. These free concerts entertained a variety residents, tourists and students' families without cost to them.

**Roger and Lynn Van Vreede Named Scholarships** were awarded to Jazz I students **Matteo Bennardo**, tenor saxophone, and **Edison Kimmel**, piano; and **Theo Mazza**, trumpet, Jazz II.

**Kim Viney Named Scholarship** for 2022 was awarded to **Audrey Ringle**, trombone, Symphony.

**Frank & Carol Weber Endowment Scholarship** recipient for 2022 was **Paul Krumpe**, trombone, Symphony.

The **Wisconsin Arts Board**, with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the **National Endowment for the Arts**, awarded Birch Creek a grant for operational support through the Creation and Presentation program, which recognizes organizations that make a significant impact on the cultural life of their communities in Wisconsin.

**Stanley R. & Robert E. Wright Foundation for the Arts Endowment Scholarships** recognize serious senior-level students who intend to pursue music as career paths. The recipients for 2022 were **Hudson Lybarger**, tenor saxophone, Jazz II; and Symphony students **Noel Sims**, violin, and **Philip Hanifin**, percussion.

# GRATEFUL



At Birch Creek, all our students write a thank you note to a lead donor. Shannon Lyons, counselor and medical staff, mentors a grateful student as she prepares to share her performance experience after a Thursday night concert.

## Upcoming Performances in Juniper Hall

**Saturday, September 10 7:00 PM**  
**Omega Double Keyboard Piano Concert**  
 featuring Jodie DeSalvo and Susan Wenckus

**September 17 7:00 PM**  
**Lawrence University Jazz Faculty Quintet**  
 featuring Dane Richeson, José Encarnación, Tim Albright, Mark Urness and Bill Carrothers

**September 24 7:00 PM**  
**Talk of the Town**  
 featuring Kevin Van Ess and his Dixieland Jazz Band

**October 8**  
**Jazz Combo: Jeff Campbell & Friends**  
 featuring Jeff Campbell, Rick Haydon and Reggie Thomas  
 5:30 Social | 6:00 Reception | 7:00 Concert

**December 3**  
**Christmas at Birch Creek**  
 featuring Birch Creek Symphony Brass with Dan Moore, Percussion Family Matinee | 2:30 PM  
 Evening Concert | 7:00 PM

Order tickets (920) 868-3763 or order online: [BirchCreek.org/Tickets](https://www.birchcreek.org/Tickets).

## PLAY IT FORWARD ANNUAL FUND



Pre-concert music from the Kane Gazebo is a Birch Creek distinctive. Audiences from every session enjoy student ensembles prior to the program order in the Dutton Concert Barn. Pictured here in a chamber ensemble during Symphony Session are left to right: Noel Sims, violin; Jessica Lai, violin; Mary Giersch, viola (Obscured: Brae Bigelow, viola); Emily Mantell, cello/coach

The Play It Forward Annual Fund is used for operational expenses and is the fund that bridges the gap between tuition paid by families and the true cost of program delivery.

Did you know that every student automatically receives **\$2,660** in reduced tuition because of your support to this annual fund?

True Cost:	\$4,860
Play It Forward Support:	<u>\$2,660</u>
Student/Family's Tuition:	\$2,200

We want to ensure that our tuition fees are affordable to most families by covering the gap between the cost of educating a Birch Creek student and the family's out-of-pocket costs, while also raising additional tuition assistance dollars to help those for whom even our subsidized tuition is a challenge.

Your gift, in any amount, will ensure affordability to a broad and inclusive spectrum of promising young musicians. Donate online at [BirchCreek.org/Support](https://www.BirchCreek.org/Support) or contact the office at 920-868-3763 or [mainoffice@birchcreek.org](mailto:mainoffice@birchcreek.org).

## THANK YOU TO OUR 2022 CONCERT SPONSORS

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Anthony and Judith Licata, super fans of our Jazz Sessions, sponsored all four Big Band Jazz Saturday nights. Attuned to student band school representation and enthusiastic supporters, the Licatas love our Saturday night Big Band Jazz concerts.

## ADULT MUSIC PROGRAMS



Attendees from nine states gathered after the academy to experience side-by-side learning in the Chamber Music and Wind Ensemble Retreats. Free community concerts culminated each program for enthusiastic audiences.

## SIDE BY SIDE



Pictured here with students in a masterclass session, Audrey Morrison demonstrates proper warm-up techniques. She is bidding farewell with sights on new endeavors after 33 summers at Birch Creek.



Students and energized faculty member, Anthony Di Sanza, percussion faculty from UW-Madison, took it to the parking lot to rehearse Bateria, a style of music from Rio de Janeiro called samba batucada. This is Rio style samba performed exclusively on percussion.



Hailing from among the top woodwind artists in the music scene, Todd Williams, IN (background) and Lenard Simpson, Chicago's top call saxophonists, work with Aiden Hartl, alto saxophone, for a lesson on tone and pitch.



With masterful musicianship & leadership, Birch Creek's newly appointed Symphony Concertmaster, Alan Snow, 2nd Associate Concert Master of the Omaha Symphony, led his 20-member violin section of students and faculty through eight ambitious concerts in two weeks.



Steel Band Director and master teacher, Liam Teague, looks on as he performs side by side with his steel pan students which include his son, Jaden, and a young Trinidadian student, Dimitri Lal.



Guest conductor, Taka Matsunaga, impressed his orchestra and audiences alike with sensitive, dynamic and engaging conducting that left audiences wanting for more! Robust programming featuring Sibelius, Wagner and Mahler showcased the advanced musicianship of our students and world-class faculty.

Birch Creek's mission is to provide intensive, performance-based instruction to promising young musicians by immersing them in a professional, mentoring environment.

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#### PROGRAM DIRECTORS

**Percussion & Steel Band** | Dan Moore  
**Symphony** | Ricardo Castañeda  
**Jazz I and II** | Jeff Campbell

#### FALL/WINTER OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday | 9 am to 4 pm  
Friday | 9 am to 2 pm  
Closed holidays and Dec. 24 – Jan. 1  
Mainoffice@birchcreek.org

(920) 868-3763

[www.BirchCreek.org](http://www.BirchCreek.org)



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## PASSING TONES

### Measures of influence

**Fred Mann**, One of Birch Creek's most trusted friends, Fred Mann of Sister Bay and Fort Lauderdale, FL, passed away in Florida on July 31, 2022. Fred treasured his summer home in Door County and the time he spent at Birch Creek where he and his partner, Charlie Beasley, were actively involved. Fred was a member of the Board of Trustees from Oct. 2011 through Sept. 2014, serving as Vice-President from Oct. 2013 through Sept. 2014; as an officer, Fred was also a member of the Executive Committee. His quiet influence extended across other committee memberships including Finance, Building and Grounds, Budget, and Marketing. In those years, Fred made a significant impact on the overall well-being of the organization. His warm personality and quiet demeanor left a lasting impression on the leaders who guide the Birch Creek music community.

Memorial gifts to Birch Creek should list "In Memory of Fred Mann" on checks or online under Tributes.



## OFF TO COLLEGE

### Jazz I Session

**Olivia Flood** (drums, 2021 and 2022) University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI; biology

**Lue Herrick** (upright double bass, 2021 and 2022) Loyola University, New Orleans, LA; jazz bass major

**Ian Johnson** (alto saxophone, 2022) University of Wisconsin Eau Claire, Eau Claire, WI; bachelor's degree in music education and jazz studies; additionally, a certificate program in recording arts

**Grace O'Neil** (bass, 2022) Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN; biomedical engineering

**Ryan Reid** (alto saxophone, 2021 and 2022) DePaul University, Chicago, IL; double major in jazz studies and finance

**Danica Rebudiao** (double bass, 2018, 2019, 2021, and 2022) Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY; double bass jazz performance

**Dex Tishler** (tenor saxophone, 2022) University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI; environmental science and enrolled in the University Marching Band

### Jazz II Session

**Dillon Flynn** (tenor saxophone, 2021 and 2022) University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign, IL; music education

**Stephen Gloyd** (trombone, 2018, 2019, 2021, and 2022) Temple University, Philadelphia, PA; music education

**David Harper** (guitar, 2022) Iowa State University, Ames, IA; physics

**Theo Mazza** (trumpet, 2021 and 2022) University of Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI; music education and trumpet performance

**Stephen Paul** (trombone, 2018, 2021, and 2022) University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI; jazz and contemporary improvisation

**John Pinns** (baritone saxophone, 2022) Elmhurst University, Elmhurst, IL; music education and jazz studies

**Jamin (Benjamin) Stolze** (alto saxophone, 2019, 2021, and 2022) Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN; music education and composition (pictured)

**Brendan Sunnygard** (trumpet, 2021 and 2022) Indiana University, Bloomington, IN; economics

### Percussion & Steel Band Session

**Drew Hansen** (percussion, 2019, 2020 virtual, 2021, and 2022) University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA; music performance (pictured)

**Bradford (Brayden) Reed** (percussion, 2020 virtual, 2021, and 2022) Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY; music-percussion performance

### Symphony Session

**Catie Brenmark** (bassoon, 2019, 2021, and 2022) Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN; bassoon performance (pictured)

**Philip Hanifin** (percussion, 2021 and 2022) University of Massachusetts Amherst, MA, music education

**Sal Monastero** (clarinet, 2022) University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL, music industry and clarinet performance

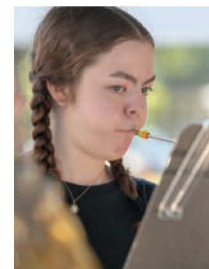
**Sean Yoshihara** (cello, 2022) Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia; computer science major and music performance minor



Jamin Stolze is attending Lipscomb University



Drew Hansen is studying at the University of Iowa



Catie Brenmark is attending Vanderbilt University