



Issue No. 78 - Spring 2024

BIRCH NOTES

Birch Creek's 49th Season - The Countdown to the 50th

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



What's the Tempo?

Spring Greetings from Birch Creek,

All of us at Birch Creek send warm wishes your way, wherever you are. Though it is not warm and sunny in Door County now, we are busy with summer 2024 plans. What's the tempo at Birch Creek this time of year? It is usually Moderato...a constant flow of planning.

Currently, our program directors Dan Moore, Ricardo Castañeda, and Jeff Campbell are working behind the scenes to develop an array of concerts for 2024 and hire the very best faculty musicians to perform for you in the historic Dutton Concert Barn. And what an exhilarating, entertaining and memorable experience this promises to be. Plan to be

wonderfully entertained!

And plan to be surprised. An incredible improvement is happening inside the beloved barn. We are thrilled to announce the installation of professional audience lighting. With this aesthetic and technical enhancement, audiences and performers alike will enjoy the concert experience even more, raising the bar to an industry standard.

Alongside replacing the audience lighting, we have staff and board members working hard to prioritize a myriad of projects on the property. Did you know that Birch Creek houses upwards of 190 students and over 100 faculty and summer staff, plus dozens of adult program participants over the course of the summer? The oversight, maintenance, and ongoing upgrades in the residential living spaces are critical to undergirding Birch Creek's mission. This year we plan to replace more mattresses, update flooring, improve the outdoor eating area off the dining room, and continue this inspiring path of continuous improvement.

Soon, students and faculty from around the country, with aspirations to become the best musicians they can be, will converge on a parcel of farmland in rural Door County. To affirm their dreams, would you support them by giving toward these much-needed upgrades? Your gifts will help us meet our goals and provide life-changing, memorable experiences for all. Thank you for your continued support of Birch Creek, and we look forward to seeing you this summer when the tempo is Allegro...fast and lively. Enjoy Spring wherever you are!

Musically yours,

Mona Christensen, Executive Director

The Steve and Jackie Kane Chair

WAYS TO GIVE

Annual Gift

- Play It Forward - Support for General Operations
- Memorials & Tributes
- Concert Sponsorships
- Annual Scholarships

The Birch Creek Endowment

Permanent investments that provide an ongoing source of revenue and recognize significant donors

Capital Gifts

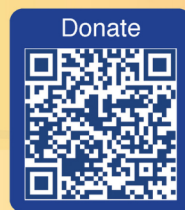
Innovative solutions to technology, infrastructure, building, and energy needs

Planned Giving

Lasting legacies through estate planning

Associates Volunteer

Time and talent through service



New gifts received by 4/30/24 will be recognized in the 2024 Program Book; thereafter in the nightly program.

2024 AT BIRCH CREEK

Summer Music Academy

Percussion, Steel Pan & World Music

June 16 - 29

Symphony

June 30 - July 13

Jazz I

July 14 - 27

Jazz II

July 28 - August 10

Adult Music Programs

Wind Ensemble Retreat: August 14 - 17

Chamber Music Retreat: August 19 - 22

Piano Retreat: August 25 - 28

Fall Concert Series

September through December

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Birch Creek proudly announces the appointment of its Senior Grants and Development Manager, Kate Rericha, to the Wisconsin Humanities Council. Recommended by George Tzougros, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Arts Board, and appointed by Governor Tony Evers, Rericha's commitment to arts and humanities shines. Joining esteemed leaders in championing humanities in civic life, she looks forward to enriching cultural understanding. Birch Creek commends Rericha's significant achievement, anticipating her positive influence on Wisconsin's cultural and educational landscape.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Steve Gomoll, **President**; Scott Brunswick, **Vice President**; Lyn Huber, **Secretary**; Stephen Kase, **Treasurer**; Patti Vickman, **Development Chair**; Miriam Erickson, **Past President**; John Belmont, **Associates Volunteers President**; Jane Berg, Jim Blair, Carla Byrnes, Jim Flint, Joan Guasta, Steven Johnson, Lynn Kaczmarek, Steven Kane, Bob Lindahl, David Long, Raymond Moulis, Carl Shakal

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

SPRING OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday | 9am to 4pm Friday | 9am to 2pm

BIRCHCREEK.ORG

(920) 868-3763

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.





CONCERT TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Buy online at BirchCreek.org/Tickets



PERCUSSION, STEEL PAN & WORLD MUSIC

June 20 - June 22
June 27 - June 29



SYMPHONY

July 4 - July 6
July 11 - July 13



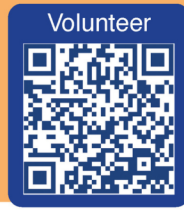
BIG BAND JAZZ

July 17 - July 20
July 24 - July 27
July 31 - August 3
August 7 - August 10

World Class Faculty / Academy Performances
Pre-Concert Music at 6:30 PM Concert Begins at 7:00 PM



BECOME AN ASSOCIATES VOLUNTEER!



For over 30 years, the Associates Volunteers have supported Birch Creek's educational mission by helping with campus beautification, ushering at concerts, staffing the concession stand, assisting with registration, tending to our gardens, doing office work and preparing the campus for students, faculty and patrons. The Associates also raise money for scholarships, equipment purchases and capital projects. We invite you to become a part of these great friends and valued supporters of Birch Creek!

*Birch Creek Associates
Volunteer Dick Johnson
assists concertgoers
at the June 30, 2023
Percussion, Steel Pan &
World Music concert.*



www.birchcreek.org
(920) 868-3763

3821 County Rd E, PO Box 230
Egg Harbor, WI 54209



PASSING TONES *Measures of Influence*

JAN JOHNSON, a cherished member of our Birch Creek family, passed away on November 13, 2023. Jan, alongside her husband Dick, dedicated her time and passion to Birch Creek since 2011. A beacon of love and service, Jan contributed to the community through various volunteer roles, from fundraising auctions to serving as both a member of the Birch Creek Board and as the President of the Associates. Her love for music, showcased through playing the violin and her involvement with Birch Creek, remains a lasting legacy. Jan's legacy will forever resonate, honoring her commitment to enriching our community through the transformative power of music at Birch Creek. Memorial gifts may be made in her memory.



*Dedicated volunteers
Jan and Dick Johnson
stand proudly in front
of the Dutton barn
on August 2, 2019,
embodying the spirit of
community service at
Birch Creek.*

GRACE GUNNLAUGSSON On November 13, 2023, Birch Creek lost a trusted friend when Grace Gunnlaugsson of Chenequa, WI, passed away in her home. Grace served on the Birch Creek Board of Trustees from 2009-2013. She, along with her dear friend and fellow Board Member Lolly Ratajczak, championed Birch Creek's exceptional educational model and Artists in the Schools outreach program for Door County students. She modeled a quiet influence; her warm personality will not be forgotten as Birch Creek will remember Grace and her husband, Gordon, walking together toward concert music drifting on the breeze of a warm summer night at Birch Creek.



*Memorial gifts made
to Birch Creek should
note "In Memory of
Grace Gunnlaugsson"
on checks or remit
envelopes. For online
gifts ([birchcreek.org/
support](http://birchcreek.org/support)), donations
should list "In Memory of
Grace Gunnlaugsson" in
the comments section.*