



Issue No. 70 - Fall 2020

BIRCH CREEK NOTES

MUSIC IN THE AIRWAVES

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

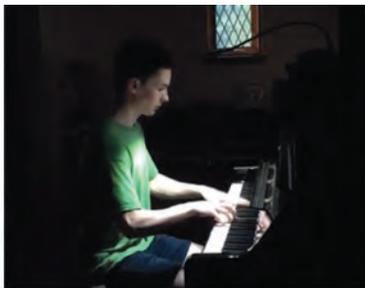


THE SUMMER OF 2020

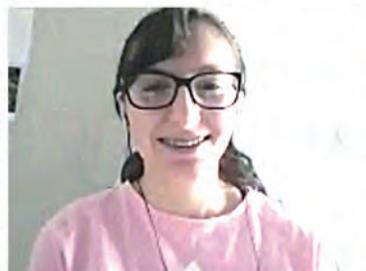
Birch Creek Online was launched in June 2020 as an educational opportunity for talented young musicians after the traditional residential summer academy was cancelled. Program Directors **Dan Moore** (left, Percussion & Steel Band), **Ricardo Castañeda** (center, Symphony) and **Jeff Campbell** (right, Jazz I & Jazz II) created virtual academy programs (masterclasses, sectionals, improvisation, Q&A, guest artists, and performances) with Birch Creek's renowned faculty for an interactive experience of summer music instruction.



Ricardo Castañeda



Dan Moore



Jeff Campbell



Our Unique 45th Season



Dear Friends,

Birch Creek is known for many wonderful things but having a quiet campus in the summer is not one of them! Soon after the April 24th cancellation of the residential academy due to COVID-19, Birch Creek's three program directors, Dan Moore, Percussion & Steel Band; Ricardo Castañeda, Symphony; and Jeff Campbell, Jazz I and II, embarked on developing curriculum for unique virtual experiences for Birch Creek students. Each director was navigating some form of online instruction to finish the spring semester as their universities moved college classes online in response to the pandemic. For the first time in Birch Creek's 45-year history, the faculty was challenged to create a feeling of place, mentoring and intense music education—from a distance! Creativity, ingenuity and persistence is what followed.

By June 1st, Birch Creek Online was our new reality! True to each session's unique genre, students spent time with Birch Creek faculty, took private lessons, submitted recordings for critique, joined in group classes, played together, and experienced some of the best, high-quality teaching through the Zoom video platform. Students, faculty and viewers were captivated!



"Birch Creek Percussion & Steel Band Online has given me a reason to wake up every morning and has given me tons of content to learn from and use."

- written in Zoom chat by Percussion & Steel Band Online student

"I have appreciated how all the faculty help me as if we know each other even though we have never met. I had such a wonderful private lesson I would not have thought possible online. I have done what I most needed: to perform for others, not having done it in months."

- Symphony Online student

We are so proud of our faculty and students who have met this challenge and led us forward. We applaud our program directors for developing a personal, meaningful curriculum and cultivating a "taste of Birch Creek" with 67 online students. Birch Creek didn't skip a beat! This 45th season was a summer of discovery and learning, very different but not so different than any other year.

During Percussion, daily faculty concerts were held on Zoom, and in Symphony, an hour of chamber music (produced from recorded tracks) culminated in a chamber trio concert from Rhode Island! Birch Creek Online jazz faculty and students performed during and at the end of each session from all over the country. Though nothing can compare to being onsite, the Birch Creek spirit rang true through and through!

Won't you help us with your best donation as we navigate through these next challenging months so that 2021 is poised for a strong, new beginning? Thanks in advance for your support!

Musically yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mona Christensen".



OVATIONS

Listed below are grants that have encouraged us as we move forward together into 2021 — **Birch Creek Strong!**

The Burton Prize was awarded to two students who won the 2020 Birch Creek Concerto Competition during the online symphony session. The Burton cash prize comes with the honor of performing as a featured soloist with the Birch Creek Symphony Orchestra in 2021. **Jasper Chambreau**, string bass; and **Luke Whittingham**, percussion were 2020 winners.



Birch Creek Concerto Competition winners: left, **Jasper Chambreau**, Madison, WI (string bass) and, right, **Luke Whittingham**, Middleton, WI (percussion). Each student is shown with their faculty instructor: bottom left, **Alan Steiner**, Symphony Faculty, string bass; middle right, **Robert Everson**, Symphony Faculty, percussion. Awards were announced on July 3, 2020.

Nancy & William Carpenter online scholarships for Milwaukee High School of the Arts students were awarded to **Julien Avery**, Percussion & Steel Band; **Aura Kostecki**, French horn, Symphony; and **Freya Theler**, bass, Jazz I.

Joan Guasta and the **MMG Foundation** were the lead sponsors for Birch Creek Online.

The **Town of Egg Harbor**, through the **Egg Harbor Business Association**, provided funding for free family/community matinee concerts at Birch Creek to take place in 2021.

For the 20th year, the **Wisconsin Arts Board** awarded Birch Creek a grant for operational support with funds from the **State of Wisconsin** and the **National Endowment for the Arts**.

Special grants to support Birch Creek during the COVID-19 pandemic were awarded by:

Greater Milwaukee Foundation Family Fund
Les Paul Foundation

MMG Foundation
Wisconsin Arts Board Emergency Relief Program with funds from the
National Endowment for the Arts and **Arts Midwest**



Birch Creek Strong is the name of our “forward together” campaign to help us recover from unprecedented revenue shortfalls from closing the academy and cancelling concerts for the 2020 summer season. This online campaign has raised more than \$55,000 toward a \$100,000 goal since May 1st. We are 55% there!

Here are several ways to help online at birchcreek.org/support/give:

- 1. Make a Gift** — Our standard donation form includes Birch Creek Strong in a dropdown menu under “My donation is for”.
 - 2. Donate a Ticket** — Make a gift that equals the value of one or more tickets.
 - 3. Join the Associates** — Pay your membership fee and make a Birch Creek Strong donation at the same time.
- or **Return the Enclosed Remit Envelope** — Designate “Birch Creek Strong”



Remember those nights, at the end of the concert, standing with others as the moon rose in the night sky? Your gifts will make it possible to set the stage for such magical moments in the summer of 2021.

DOUBLE YOUR DONATION

We are thrilled to announce that any gift received by October 1, 2020 will be matched dollar-for-dollar by a generous anonymous matching grant.

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

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

FALL OFFICE HOURS

The campus is closed to the public.
 Staff are working on-site and remotely
 Monday-Thursday 9-4; Friday 9-2

Email: mainoffice@birchcreek.org

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www.birchcreek.org



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BIRCH CREEK ONLINE: STUDIO SESSIONS

New this Fall!

Birch Creek is offering an online program that features Birch Creek faculty and accomplished alumni in one-hour instructional Zoom sessions tailored for today's students and adult musicians. The first series in September will feature:



Renée Paule-Gauthier (Chicago) | Violinist, Pedagogue, High Performance Coach
 Concertmaster and Faculty for Birch Creek Symphony Session

Effective Mindful Practice – Performance Prep Strategies to Get You in An Optimal Performing State
 September 12 - 10:00 AM (CST)



Katherine Kohler (Nashville) | Clarinetist with the Nashville Symphony Orchestra
 Faculty and Presenter for Birch Creek Online Symphony Session | Birch Creek Alumna

Audition Preparation for the Advancing Student and Adult Musician
 September 19 - 10:00 AM (CST)



Michael Thurber (New York) | Bassist, Creative Engineer, Composer, Songwriter and Actor | Guest Presenter for Birch Creek Online Symphony Session
 Birch Creek Alumnus

Technology for Today's Musician: Tips and Tricks for Submitting High Quality Videos and Recordings
 September 26 - 10:00 AM (CST)

Register at: birchcreek.org/birch-creek-online/studio-sessions. \$35; or \$90 for all three sessions.

BIRCH CREEK ASSOCIATES CARRY ON!



Coming from the comforts of their homes near and far, the Associates joined together over a Zoom breakfast. Happy to “see” each other again, they shared their experiences of a very different spring. Some Associates have been helping Birch Creek with yard and garden maintenance, taking paperwork to finish safely at home, and keeping in touch with each other through email. A fall meeting is being planned!

WHAT'S IN A NAME?



This summer the entrance to the Dutton Concert Barn was paved, joining together the sidewalks to the north and south sides of the barn that lead to and from the East Campus. Given as a gift by **Charlotte Lukes**, this new paved entry was named in memory of her husband, Door County naturalist **Roy Lukes**. Our endearing memories are of Charlotte—a Birch Creek board member, Associate, and generous donor—and Roy as they entered the barn together on many nights each summer for an evening of music and left under the canopy of stars—entertained and inspired. We will think of them as we walk upon this path named for Roy.

