



Des Moines Community Orchestra

Summer Bonus Concert - 2022

Welcome! The Des Moines Community Orchestra has had this concert planned for over two years! Due to pandemic-related issues, we were unable to present it until now.

The concert's theme, "DMCO Reveals Some News," refers to my choosing repertoire that are all premieres of one sort or another and offer some unique listening opportunities, as they should all be "new" to our audience.

We will begin with *Heart Melodies* by William A. Payn. This work is the oldest we will be playing today, as it was written in 1998 for Handbells and Orchestra. To our knowledge, and that of the publisher, it has never been performed in Iowa before. We look forward to joining forces with the Des Moines Concert Handbells in presenting this lovely work.

I was first introduced by Kris Peysen to his work *To Awaken a God* some three years ago while he was studying at the University of Iowa. As with the other works, its performance had to be postponed more than once. We are proud to offer the world premiere of this challenging piece.

The second half of our concert will feature the world premieres of two commissioned works. The first is *Concertino* for piano and string orchestra by Elaine Erickson. We have been proud to perform premieres of a number of Elaine's works and are fortunate to have another friend of the orchestra, Sonya Siebert, to play the solo piano part.

We will conclude the concert with *Scenes from the Sea* by James Goodwin. This is the second work of his we have premiered and believe you will find its five short movements to be descriptive and entertaining.

We are delighted to have the chance to again experience the joy of sharing music with you.

Best wishes,

Carl

Carl B. Johnson,
Music Director and Conductor

About the Orchestra

Welcome to our Summer Bonus Concert. The theme of today's concert is "DMCO Reveals Some News," which refers to the fact that all the music will be premieres of one sort or another for Iowa audiences.

This Summer Bonus Concert concludes our concert season – our 46th concert season. We present a summer concert this season because the Covid-19 pandemic necessitated cancellation of our Fall Concert last November. This gives us a chance to perform for you what was originally planned for the Fall Concert.

We thank you for your support of classical music and of the Des Moines Community Orchestra. We hope you will continue to join us throughout our concert seasons. For more details, check our website (see below).

DMCO is dedicated to making classical music available to our community, especially by removing financial obstacles to attend. That is why we strive to make all our regular concerts free admission.

To be added to our mailing list, please send us your name and contact information using the Contact Us form on our website. At your preference, we can send you mailings or email messages to keep you informed about details of coming concerts.

With help from friends like you ...

The Des Moines Community Orchestra could not exist without support from the community. There are many supporters, but special acknowledgement goes to:

- ❖ Grace United Methodist Church, for rehearsal space
- ❖ Heuss Printing for in-kind donor of printing
- ❖ Michael & Stacey Ramirez Family for equipment transportation and supplies

The orchestra is funded by dues from member musicians, by corporate sponsors, and by contributions from you, our audience. Your contributions are tax deductible, and are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your donation!

The Des Moines Community Orchestra is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization
Send correspondence to P.O. Box 1796, Des Moines, IA 50306
website: desmoinescommunityorchestra.org

— Program —

“DMCO Reveals Some News”

Heart Melodies..... William A. Payn

I. Yearning (Adagio & Andante)

II. Devotion (Theme & Variations)

Des Moines Concert Handbells, guest performers

To Awaken a God..... Kris Peysen

- 15-Minute Intermission -

Concertino for piano and string orchestra Elaine Erickson

Sonya Siebert, piano

Scenes from the Sea.....James Goodwin

Part 1: Schools of Fish

Part 2: Shipwrecks

Part 3: Fighting Crabs

Part 4: The Abyss

Part 5: A Squall

We invite you to a reception immediately following the concert.

In gratitude to our financial donors:

Many businesses and individuals recognize the value that the arts bring to our community. Their financial donations to DMCO demonstrate community citizenship that is extraordinary. We are grateful for their vision and encouragement.

Benefactor (\$1000 and above)

- Bravo Greater Des Moines
- FBL Financial Group, Inc.
- Carl & Jean Johnson
- Noel Liechty

Sustaining Patron (\$500-999)

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Patron (\$200-499)

- Carol Ramirez – endow principal trombone & endow percussion member
- Ann Detlefsen – endow principal flute
- Anonymous – Facebook Network for Good

In Memory of David Hindal

- Beck, Don
- Brennan, Larry
- Des Moines Community Band
- Liechty, Mary
- Liekweg, Dawn
- Metzger, Kitty
- Reisetter, Linn
- Rogers, Carolyn
- Ryan, Thomas & Nancy
- Sens, John
- Stoneberg, Loren
- Stroud, Julie
- West Des Moines Community Band

Friend (\$25-199)

- Ague-Kennedy, Janet D.
- Amazon Smile
- Anderson, Richard & Kim Mehlenbacher
- Beck, Don
- Benakis, Marilyn
- Boyers-Liechty, Jason in honor of Mary Liechty
- Brennan, Larry
- Brown, Nancy & Kenneth
- Chapman, Richard & Joyce
- Clark, Sandra
- Coder, Sydney
- Cole Buck, Sharon
- Couch, Jeffrey
- Esse, Loren & Cathryn
- Hallenbeck Giving Fund
- Hanson, Larry & Joyce
- Hertz, George
- Hite, Ann
- IBM Foundation
- Kernen, Glenda
- Klaus, Margaret
- Knowles, Wendy
- Livingston, Barbara
- Lucy, Carol, in memory of her parents Amos & Mary Lucy
- Metzger, Kitty
- Mooney, Lisa
- Olah, Joel or Katharine
- Raymond, Mike & Mary
- Roets, Dr. Lois
- Rogers, Carolyn, in memory of Jean Sandstrom
- Sandblom, Julie
- Stoner, Connie
- Thomas, Philip
- Thompson, Brent
- Voss, Richard & Constance
- Westergaard, Alice
- Wheelock, Jennifer
- Young, Bart & Mary

Program Notes – edited by Carl Johnson

■ ***Heart Melodies*, (1998)**
William A. Payn (b. 1946)

Heart Melodies is subtitled “A concerto in two movements for Handbells and Chamber Orchestra.” It was jointly commissioned by The Joyful Ringers of United Christian Parish of Reston, VA, (David K. Tiller, Director) and The Reston Chamber Orchestra (Dingwall Fleary, Conductor and Music Director) in 1998. The piece calls for 60 bells and 19 hand chimes. The orchestra consists of winds in pairs, plus a tuba, strings, and percussion. On the inside cover of the score is a quote from Langston Hughes:

Bring me all of your dreams, you dreamers,
Bring me all of your heart melodies that I may wrap them
In a blue cloud-cloth
Away from too-rough fingers of the world.

To the best of our knowledge, this is an Iowa premiere, and it is indeed an honor for us to collaborate with the Des Moines Concert Handbells in presenting the work. [CJ]

■ *To Awaken a God*, (2014)
Kris Peysen (b. 1986)

For this piece, I took a somewhat different approach towards conceptualization. Rather than have an overall arc in mind or an idea of various “events” that would occur throughout, I instead decided to start at the beginning, with a simple melody in the flute, and see where that would lead me. The rest of the piece flows organically from this one theme, as new ideas and melodies are constantly spun out and introduced until the piece at last reaches its apocalyptic climax.

I titled the piece *To Awaken a God* partly in reference to this climax, as well as to the musical processes that led me to arrive at it. Gods are portrayed in myriad cultures and mythologies, and they are invariably beings of immense power, and sometimes better left undisturbed. For this piece, I wanted to end strongly, with no hint of closure or release. The resulting raw power displayed in the final bars is, I think, godlike. When the piece finally arrives to this point, there is nowhere to go from there, so it simply ends—leaving the rest, if there is any, up to the listener’s imagination. [Kris Peysen]

■ ***Concertino for piano and string orchestra* (2020)**
Elaine Erickson (b. 1941)

Concertino, for solo piano and string orchestra, is in one movement. It is in a free atonal style with shifting tonalities, polyharmony, and extreme registers for both the piano and strings. Major and minor 2nds and 9ths occur frequently.

The entrance of the piano part is lyrical and tonal. The dissonant atonal parts of the piece resolve into that theme throughout the work. The piece ends with a question: an ascending minor 2nd for the strings. [Elaine Erickson]

■ *Scenes from the Sea* (2019)
James Goodwin (b. 1952)

The First Movement, “Schools of Fish,” is a brisk opener that utilizes two main themes. The first, rather angular theme is made of two parts, the second of which is an inverse of the first. The second main theme is smooth and full. These two themes represent the sea as a whole, which is teeming with life and containing fishes and sea life of all kinds and sizes.

The Second Movement, “Shipwrecks,” is a contemplative piece that considers the ships that lie at the bottoms of the various seas. Here one can find the relics of thousands of ships, ancient and new, great and small, each of which has a story to tell. Many of them are the watery graves of men, women, and children – some who were famous and many who were unknown. Here also lie the remains of the sailors who battled on the high seas.

The Third Movement, “Fighting Crabs,” is stylistically a march that tells a comical story. One crab is feasting upon a dead fish, when another crab eyes the meal and wanders over to seize it from the first, who is not wanting to share his meal. The two crabs size each other up and a fight to the death ensues. To the winner goes the spoils. Can you guess who won?

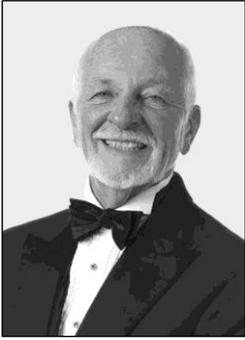
Movement Four, “The Abyss,” is in two parts. The beginning finds the listener descending into the deepest parts of the sea. It is dark, mysterious, and foreboding, and we do not know what we will find there. But upon reaching the bottom, we find beauty and serenity.

In the fifth and last movement, “A Squall,” the listener is enjoying the beauty and calmness of the sea above, although a storm can be seen in the distance. The Navy Hymn, “Eternal Father, Strong to Save,” appears in the brass, first with a solo trumpet accompanied by impending thunder. The lyrics are:

“Eternal Father, strong to save, Whose arm has bound the restless wave,
Who bids the mighty ocean deep its own appointed limits keep;
O hear us when we cry to Thee for those in peril on the sea.”

Turmoil begins as the squall suddenly appears, starting in the percussion. But it is a brief storm, and after a relatively short time, the calmness reemerges and we find ourselves on gentle seas and so ends the music. [James Goodwin]

William A. Payn



William A. Payn was born in Ashtabula, OH, and attended Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ, where he received his undergraduate degree. He then received both an MM and DMA from West Virginia University. Dr. Payn is currently a Professor at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA. He has received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Westminster Choir College and is in demand as a leader/lecturer at handbell clinics all across the country.

Kris Peysen



Kris Peysen is a composer currently in the process of completing his Ph.D. in Music Composition at the University of Iowa. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of North Texas and a Master of Music degree from the University of Louisville, both specializing in composition. His works have been commissioned and performed by the Iowa City New Horizons Band, Hypercube, and the Unheard-of Ensemble, with further performances by Voices of Change, Invoke, the Out of Bounds Ensemble, Dal Niente, saxophonist Erin Rogers, and members of the Beo String Quartet.

His music has been featured throughout the United States, in venues such as Imani Winds Chamber Music Festival, Atlantic Music Festival, Midwest Composers Forum, Wintergreen Summer Music Festival, Fresh Inc Festival, Iowa Composers Forum Summer Festival of New Music, and Charlotte New Music Festival. Further recognition includes the Voices of Change Russell Horn Young Composers Award, two ASCAP Plus awards, and numerous travel grants from the University of Iowa.

His music is typically rhythmically active, formally inventive, orchestrationally vivid, and harmonically a mix of tonal and non-tonal elements. Influences range from classical composers such as Stravinsky, Shostakovich, and numerous others to progressive rock bands such as Tool, Anglagard, and The Mars Volta. His music often strives for a synthesis of these disparate elements, combining the immediacy of rock music with the detail and nuance of the contemporary classical practice.

For more information, visit his website at www.krispeysen.com.

Elaine Erickson



Elaine Erickson has a Master of Music degree in Music Composition from Drake University. She has won numerous awards and fellowships, including the Ford Foundation (when she composed music for public schools in Broward County, FL) and the National League of American Pen Women (including the national Music Composition Awards).

She studied composition at the University of Iowa and at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore. She has composed five operas, three of which were performed at Peabody. She taught Music Composition at Central College in Pella, IA, and taught piano in her home for many years. Several of her compositions have appeared on the MMC recording label. She is also a published poet.

James Goodwin



Mr. James Goodwin is retired after 38 years of teaching band in Michigan, Germany, and Iowa. He received his Bachelor of Music Education Degree from Eastern Michigan University and a Masters Degree in Music Education from Drake University.

Mr. Goodwin has composed numerous instrumental compositions for bands and various small ensembles. He served in Army bands in Maryland, Germany, Michigan, and Iowa, and was the Bandmaster of the 34th Army Band, Iowa National Guard, until 2010 when he retired with 29 years of service. He is a recipient of the Army Meritorious Service Award and the Legion of Merit Award.

Presently Mr. Goodwin conducts the Iowa Military Veterans Band, an ensemble made up of 80 veteran musicians. He has been married to his wife Janice for 49 years. Their three children are all accomplished musicians.

Sonya Siebert, pianist



Sonya Siebert operates a private piano studio in Des Moines and is a staff accompanist at Drake University. She earned her Master of Music in Piano Performance at the University of Kansas and a Bachelor's Degree at Bethel College (Kansas). She accompanies many local musicians, soloists, chamber ensembles and musical groups. Sonya has performed classical and modern music internationally and performed as a local keyboardist for many Des Moines Performing Arts Broadway productions, touring nationally and internationally with *Mamma Mia*, *Billy Elliot* and *Cabaret*. Sonya is a member of the Music Teachers National Association and is a National Certified Teacher of Music in Piano.

Carl Johnson, DMCO Music Director and Conductor



Carl Johnson became Music Director and Conductor of the Des Moines Community Orchestra in 2002.

Carl received his Bachelor of Arts in Music and his California teaching credential from the University of California, Los Angeles. He taught high school instrumental music (and some vocal and English) in California for 19 years before moving to Urbandale.

He was awarded his Master of Music degree in conducting from Drake University, where he studied with Robert Meunier as a graduate assistant. He

continues his teaching career through affiliations with Mercy College, Heartland AEA 11, the Urbandale Community School District, and the Johnston Community School District. Mr. Johnson is currently a member of the Iowa Bandmasters Association, and the Iowa Music Educators Association/Music Educators National Conference. For a number of years, Carl has also served as orchestra conductor for summer performances of musicals presented by the Urbandale Community Theatre, and for spring performances of Ballet Des Moines.

Mr. Johnson's family consists of his wife, Jean, daughters Ellen and Allison, their husbands Adrian and Mark, and five grandchildren.

— *Orchestra Musicians* —

Violin-I

Kathy Naja,
concertmaster*
Kristin Sullivan
Ed Walker
Laura Mueller
Madalyne Rutledge
Ally Jorgensen

Violin-II

Shaunda Murphy*
Daniel Kiekhaefer
Hoang Bui
Sue Sevedge
Matthew Nieves

Viola

Nick Brown*
Ben Munson
Krista Baskerville
Julisa Heredia
Paris Knox
Monica Amman

Cello

Curtis Barr*
Lynn Rich
Carolyn Rogers

Bass

Chris Schnucker*

Flute/Piccolo¹

Theresa Driscoll*
Rebekah Hickok
Valerie Wedgeworth

Oboe²

Laura McNulty*
Alec Gabel

Clarinet

Brooke Carter*
Heather Barkley

Bass Clarinet

Laura Appenzeller*

Bassoon

Rich Gordley*
Kristen Stopulos

French Horn³

Greg Barton*
Lawrence Brennan
Sarah Hoppe
Samantha Bouwers

Trumpet

Steve Billingsley*
Jimmy Dooling

Trombone⁴

Fred Lange*
Steve Ramsey

Tuba

Brian Lewsadder*

Percussion⁵

Josh Whitver*
Brent Thompson
Anna Cort

Timpani

Abigail Smith

Piano

Josh Whitver
Sonya Siebert

Harp

Laura Erickson

Librarian

Stacey
Bostwick-Ramirez

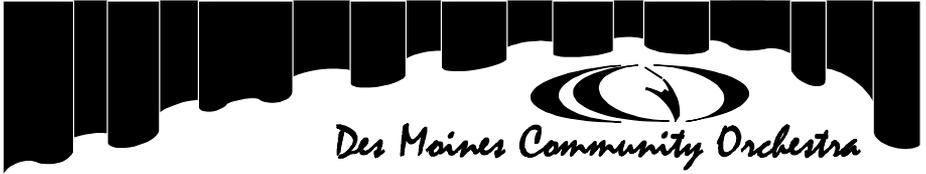
Website

John Sens

- 1 Principal Flute - Provided through an endowment by Ann Detlefson, Principal Flute Emeritus.
- 2 Principal Oboe - The Deb Gordley Endowed Chair of Oboe.
- 3 French Horn 3rd Chair – The David Hindal Endowed Third Chair of French Horn.
- 4 Principal Trombone - The Martin Ramirez Endowed Chair of Trombone.
- 5 Principal Percussion - The Dee & Helen Jewell Endowed Chair of Percussion.

* Section principal.

Board of Directors: Michael S. Ramirez.....President
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Angela AldridgeSecretary
Carolyn KnittleTreasurer
Hoang Bui.....Member-at-large
Krista BaskervilleMember-at-large
Rich Gordley.....Member-at-large



Concert dates for the 2021-2022 concert season:

- Fall Concert, November 15, 2020, cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic.
- Celebrate & Sing Handel's Messiah, cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic.
- Winter Concert, February 27, 2022.
Sheslow Auditorium, Drake University
- Interim Concert, April 19, 2022.
Roosevelt High School, Des Moines
- Spring Concert, May 22, 2022
Sheslow Auditorium, Drake University
- Summer Bonus Concert, June 19, 2022
Performing Arts Hall, Drake University