

The SAINT PAUL
CONSERVATORY
of MUSIC



2022-2023 Annual Report



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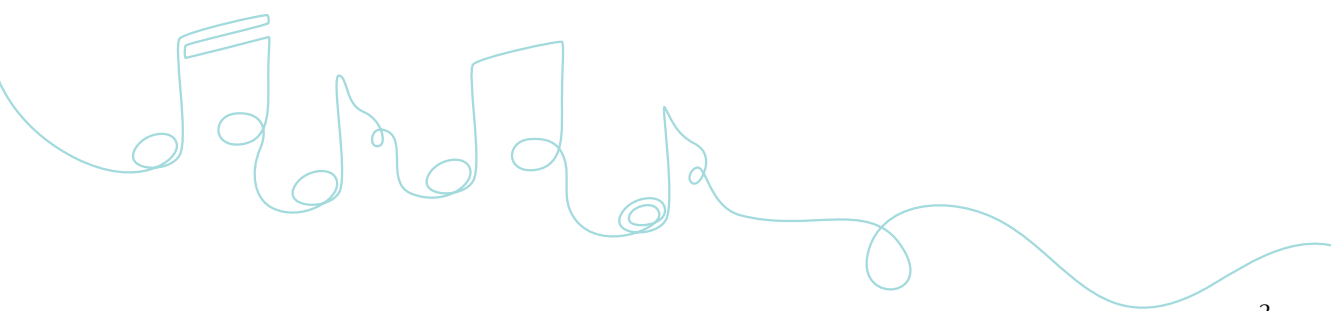
Mission Statement

The SPCM provides high-quality, innovative music education and performance experiences to students of all ages, abilities, cultures, backgrounds, and income levels, for the enrichment of our entire community.

Vision Statement

The SPCM will be a center of excellence for music education, performance, appreciation, innovation, and responsive to the needs and interests of our community, to develop a love of music within every person.

Our Core Values

- We believe that all people deserve the opportunity to pursue their musical aspirations.
 - We believe in creating a shared sense of community through the universal language of music.
 - We believe that excellence in teaching, disciplined training, and a supportive learning environment should be available to all, regardless of their ability to pay.
 - We believe that our faculty should feel supported, respected, and proud to be part of the SPCM community.
 - We aim to cultivate citizens who are intellectually curious and culturally aware; who will become valuable contributors to our society.
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Mary E. Larew, Executive Director

Dear Community,

This has been a banner year of music at the SPCM, and I am proud and excited to share this report with you!

Our year began with the **Saint Paul Chamber Music Institute**, and it was a remarkable Institute indeed. All over the country, our colleagues reported unusually low enrollment in chamber music programs as a result of pandemic-related rescheduling of youth orchestra tours, and we faced similar challenges. At first, we were concerned that our enrollment was not as robust as we had hoped – but after a brainstorming session, we determined that in fact this provided us with a unique opportunity to transform our approach to the Institute. The results were incredible. Do not miss the chance to listen to the **livestream of the final concert!**

Shortly thereafter, we had another opportunity to reinvent our approach – this time to our entire operations. In a matter of days, out of a regrettable but urgent necessity, **we pivoted our core lessons and classes from one central location into three new sites throughout Saint Paul.** I could not be prouder of our staff and our faculty for weathering this transition, nor could I be more grateful to our students and families who adjusted their own household logistics to find us in our new spaces. Over the course of the year, we have built new friendships, explored new venues, and welcomed new students, who found us suddenly in their neighborhoods! I want to thank, and to congratulate, the entire community for the many successes of this year.

Beyond our lesson and class sites, **we have increased our presence throughout our wider community** – continuing programming at Academia Cesar Chavez, partnering with Saint Paul Public Schools on their Extended Day Learning program, and providing concerts at Pillars of Prospect Park as well as concerts and workshops at MSS in Shorewood. We also launched a brand new program in partnership with Messiah Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, where members of our faculty were approached by young people in the congregation who wished to study music more seriously.

Each time I have the privilege of listening to our students’ recitals, I am in awe of their growth and of the work they are doing together with their teachers. **This year we launched new, introductory chamber music opportunities for students**, and it was wonderful to see them enjoying making music together while developing the important skills that chamber music requires, including excellence in reading, rhythm, intonation, listening, and team work. I can hardly wait to hear the next performance, and to find out which of our students will join together to form a new group!

Our adult students and ensembles are also especially inspiring to hear, and whether it is our Adult Recorders who gather each Monday afternoon to play polyphony, a serenade from the Adult String Ensemble, our Clarinet Choir’s unique **recording project**, or our Adult Recitals which always have the most delightfully eclectic programs, I so enjoy hearing the many ways that our musicians continue their musical journey beyond college years.

What compels me most of all is to bear witness to the **artistry of our faculty**, whom day-to-day I see in their role as caring mentors, generous colleagues, and model citizens and stewards of this Conservatory. When they take the stage, I am in awe of their musicianship and of the technical and musical accomplishment that they possess. Our faculty are the best part of the Saint Paul Conservatory of Music, and we are fortunate for their presence on our stage as well as in our studios.

Please enjoy a review of this year. It has been full of growth and music!

Mary E Larew



Purple Crayon Sextet Winner Performance



Fall 2022 Adult Recital

We believe that all people deserve the opportunity to pursue their musical aspirations.



Clarinet Choir

Our Adult Clarinet Choir recorded *Suite for Clarinet Quartet* by Geraldine Green.



Original Piano Composition

Joey Schilling won 3rd Place in Original Composition for the Minnesota Music Teachers Association (MMTA). He will play his composed piece, *Dreamy Walk; Caught in a Storm*, at the MN State Convention in June. This piece was also played at the SPCM Spring Rhapsody!

Joey also received award recognition from the Upper Midwest Music Festival for his work in Composition. Joey has been a student of Elena Piastro, Siobhann Paulman, and Peter Arnstein.

Saint Paul Chamber Music Competition

The Friends of the SPCO founded the SPCO Youth Chamber Music Competition in 2012. The competition provided an educational opportunity for young instrumentalists living or studying in Minnesota to expand their knowledge of chamber music, improve their orchestral skills, polish repertoire, and enjoy playing with others.

In 2021 the Friends of the SPCO formed a partnership with The Saint Paul Conservatory of Music to establish the Saint Paul Chamber Music Competition (SPCMC). A joint effort, this newly revamped competition, one of the only regional competitions of its kind, provides young musicians the opportunity to hone their chamber music skills, perform, and compete for monetary prizes, scholarships, and musical gifts.

First prize: Purple Crayon Sextet (\$1,500 and a performance at the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts prior to an SPCO concert)

Second prize: Esterhazy Quartet (\$1,000)

Third prize: Bells Quartet (\$750)



Purple Crayon Sextet – Pauline Lee, Jasmine Palikhuya, Rachel Wu, Elisabeth Meade, Nathan Evans, Heike Lowe



Esterhazy Quartet – Chloe Koch, Maggie Durant, Marcus Chen, Alexander Lenzmeier



Bells Quartet – Isabelle Ekstrom, Isabel Li, Hal Beatty, Sonia Pillai

We believe in creating a shared sense of community through the universal language of music.

Community Festivals

We have been out in the community, meeting our neighbors wherever we go! From sharing information about lessons and scholarships at our information booth, to performances by faculty and students, we are building connections through music.



MSS

Our faculty and students have performed interactive concerts at MSS Shoreview and MSS Saint Paul, ranging from solo voice to trumpet and piano to Suzuki violin group. Our faculty have led drum circles and facilitated a series of workshops on creating music using Garage Band.

“Connecting with people through music helps to grow familiarity and mutual understanding that can help bridge the differences that divide us and ease discomfort enough to allow a relationship or at least mutual understanding to take hold.” – Matthew Sheetz, MSS



Afghan Refugees

In fall of 2021, SPCM responded to a call for help – families were being evacuated out of Afghanistan, arriving in Minnesota and staying in a hotel while they awaited more permanent housing. While they waited, there was not much activity available and the call was for any engaging activity. SPCM answered the call by sending our faculty to perform!

The response was so resounding, and members of our faculty so moved by the experience, we continued our partnership through the early months of our FY23, providing performances and workshops. Two members of our violin faculty taught a biweekly violin class to women and children who were delighted by the opportunity.



“Tonight was so amazing!! Your concert so lifted everyone’s spirits. It later turned into a dance party. We can’t thank you enough for sharing your light and joy with our guests! It is much needed! THANK YOU!” – Anne Semenak, Hennepin County Human Services & Public Health Department

We believe that excellence in teaching, disciplined training, and a supportive learning environment should be available to all, regardless of their ability to pay.

Work in Schools

During FY23, SPCM faculty continued our partnership with Academia Cesar Chavez, and also built band programs in Battle Creek Elementary and Phalen Lake Elementary; a string program at Saint Anthony Park Elementary School; drumming programs at Groveland Park Elementary and Bruce Vento Elementary; and several faculty members supported the band and orchestra program at Murray Middle School.

Clea Galhano Scholars

As part of these school partnerships, 11 Cléa Galhano Scholars were identified for their passion for music in addition to their financial need, and were provided with free private lesson instruction with members of SPCM faculty!

Lessons funded by the Clea Galhano Scholarship in FY23 included students studying violin, viola, cello, flute, trumpet, french horn, euphonium, and percussion!

Messiah Lutheran

Young people who attend Messiah Lutheran Church (MLC) in Minneapolis approached SPCM instructor Gary Gratz – who plays in the Sunday morning band at MLC – and expressed interest in learning to play music. Gary has spearheaded this partnership, which now takes place weekly at MLC. There are students studying keyboard, guitar, and drums. SPCM hopes to expand the program to include strings and music production in FY25.



Clea Galhano Scholar Katie Avila, student of Andrea Myers, performing with SPCM faculty member Ada Tzab in June, 2023



Isaiah playing during Halloween Concert in 2022

We believe that our faculty should feel supported, respected, and proud to be part of the SPCM community.

Coffee Concerts

Our faculty are featured on a free monthly series, offered to the public on Wednesdays at noon. In FY23, each concert took place in a different venue!

Coffee Concert #1: 2 Pianos, 8 Hands

Wednesday, October 12, 2022 at Saint James Lutheran Church in West Saint Paul

Coffee Concert #2: Suzuki Violin Faculty

Wednesday, November 2, 2022 at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

Coffee Concert #3: The Paper Clips Trombone Quartet

Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at Olivet UCC

Coffee Concert #4: Artu Duo

Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at Edgcombe Presbyterian Church

Coffee Concert #5: Clarinet Trio

Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at Pilgrim Lutheran Church

Coffee Concert #6: Contemporary Music Faculty

Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at Immanuel Lutheran Church

Coffee Concert #7: Early Music Faculty

Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at Saint Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church

Coffee Concert #8: Mezzo-Soprano Clara Osowski with pianist Linda Kachelmeier

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at Unity Church-Unitarian



2 Pianos, 8 Hands



The Paper Clips Trombone Quartet



Contemporary Music Faculty

Pillars of Prospect Park

Our faculty performed “Out and About” – a monthly series of interactive concerts for the residents of Pillars of Prospect Park. This audience is always delightful, with excellent questions and conversation!



First Brass Program

Introducing Minnesota’s First Suzuki Brass Program! SPCM faculty member Lauren Husting is the first teacher trained in Suzuki Book One for Trumpet, Trombone, and Euphonium in the state of Minnesota. At MMEA in February 2023, Lauren Husting and Mary Larew presented to a large audience of music educators about their experience of launching this new program at SPCM.



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Summer Camp

Our Summer Camp – a longtime, beloved tradition at SPCM – continues to provide two weeks of musical exploration and friendship. Students have the opportunity to build upon their existing skills, but also the chance to try brand new approaches including songwriting, introduction to a variety of instruments, and ensembles including choirs, rock bands, and orchestra.



Composition Camp for Girls+



Summer Camp

Composition Camp for Girls+

Though musicians of all genders have been writing music for centuries, the field of music composition can often be a male-dominated space. SPCM's new Composition Camp for Girls+ is geared to girls and nonbinary students (ages 9–high school) who want a safe place to play with music and explore manipulating sound. Campers do not need to know traditional music notation and they do not need to be proficient on an instrument. They get to explore a variety of instruments and different ways of creating music using both traditional tools and various software programs. The all-female faculty are both mentors and role models who work to nurture students and create a vibrant community.

Thank you!

Thank you to our FY23 Board Members, for their service to SPCM!

Michael Adams, President
Teele Schneider, Vice President
Jamie Mudrick, Treasurer
Susan Bullard, Secretary

Thomas Brown, deceased
Caitlynn Daniels
Taylor Davis
William Eddins
Travis Erickson
Elsa Hauschildt
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Mary Larew
Martha McCartney
Clara Osowski
Christine Schwab
Michael Stockman
Heidi Teoh
Ben Vidmar
Maddie Wething
Torrii Yamada

Thank you to our Advisory Board

Nina Archabal
Nancy Dana
Claire Givens
Art Kaemmer
Patricia Mitchell
Bondo Nyembwe
Dobson West



Thank you to the generous individuals, foundations, and businesses who supported SPCM in 2023!

FOUNDATIONS:

Minnesota State Arts Board



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