

PROJECT 88

May 2023



SPECIAL EVENT

Spring Student
Showcase Recital

CONCERT SERIES

Project 88 Rising Stars

ABOUT THE MUSIC

 Project 88
Music Academy

PROJECT 88 MUSIC ACADEMY

May 2023

WELCOME TO OUR 5TH SEASON

We are proud to share with you our 2022/2023 Season. Last year, we launched a new brand, a new website and a new opportunity to support our organization by becoming a Friend of Project 88. During this season, we will feature quarterly editions of the Project 88 Magazine highlighting events, interviews and guest artists. Stay tuned for upcoming concerts, events, and more!



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STAFF

Élida DiPaula,
Executive and Artistic Director

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Apprentice Program Coordinator

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Francisco Malespin, *cello*

Nayelii Duran, *violin*

Peter Saltzman, *piano*

Rodolfo Faistauer, *piano*

Élida DiPaula,
piano and composition

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SEE WHAT OUR COMMUNITY HAS TO SAY

“Awesome teachers, incredible program, amazing musicians.”

FROM A MUSIC ACADEMY PARENT

“Great musicians playing great music in a great venue is hard to beat.”

FROM A CONCERT ATTENDEE

“I’m so glad Project 88 is part of our community.”

FROM A BERWYN RESIDENT



Project 88 Concert Series is a collection of Saturday evening concerts that present classical music to the community. Free and open to the public, we host a variety of performances, including solo recitals, chamber music, and larger ensembles.

SPRING STUDENT SHOWCASE RECITAL

Dona Nobis Pacem

*Traditional Latin Text
by Ralph Vaughan Williams*

Preparatory 2 Program

**Alexa Ayala, Gloria Barron, Getsemani
Delgado, Eli Hernandez, Danielle Melecio,
Jorge Salazar, Sophie Salgado,
Ava Seeman, Mila Yonzon**

Für Elise

Ludwig van Beethoven

Sara Vallines, piano

Can't help falling in love

Arr. Peter Saltzman

Liliana Reynoso, piano

Lightly Row

Folk Song

Armani Cardona, violin

Yankee Doodle

Traditional American

Simon McCutcheon, piano

I've Got Music

Randall Faber

Ryan Anaya, piano

Bourrée

Johann Sebastian Bach

Lola Perez, violin

Prelude in E minor, Op. 28 No.4

Frédéric Chopin

Diego Granciano, piano

Ashley jazzier waltz

Peter Saltzman

Ashley Perez, violin

Gavotte from Mignon

Ambroise Thomas

Nani Perez, piano

Action Figure

1. Not Two Blue Part Invention

Peter Saltzman

Petar Simbi, piano

Not Tomorrow

Akira Yamaoka

Shaun Vallines, violin

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Oscar Rojas Jr, violin

Aeyden's Sauce

Aeyden's Waltz

Peter Saltzman

Aeyden Ortiz, piano

Winding Blues

Moody Song

Peter Saltzman

Cynthia Melecio, piano

Minuet No.2

Johann Sebastian Bach

Ian Crisantos, violin

Connections

Lynn Freeman Olson

Little Song

Dmitri Kabalevsky

Abraham Arce, piano

Sleeping Lotus

Joep Beving

Gabrielle Alisa, piano

Go Tell Aunt Rhody

Folk Song

Eileen Burns, violin

La Candeur

Friedrich Burgmüller

Grey Hernandez, piano

L'Arabesque

Friedrich Burgmüller

Für Elise in A minor

Ludwig van Beethoven

Alan Gonzalez, piano

Coro, from Water Music

George Frideric Handel

Project 88 String Ensemble

Eileen Burns, Armani Cardona, Ian Crisantos, Ilan Crisantos, Camilo Estrella, Lola Perez, Nani Perez, Oscar Rojas, Maggie Soto Braulio

Etude Op. 10 No. 9

Frédéric Chopin

Keaton Roberts, piano

Rondo alla ingharese quasi un capriccio, Op. 129

Ludwig van Beethoven

Reinaldo Perez, piano

PROJECT 88 RISING STARS

SATURDAY, MAY 13 AT 6:30 P.M.
KEATON ROBERTS, PIANO, AND
ÉLIDER DIPAULA, PIANO

Fantasia in D Minor, K. 397
W. A. Mozart

Invention No. 15 in B Minor
J. S. Bach

Etude Op. 299, No. 7
C. Czerny

Etude Op. 10, No. 9
F. Chopin

Etude Op. 72, No 6.
M. Mozkowski

Songs without words
Op. 30, No. 1, F. Mendelssohn

Moment Musical Op. 16, No. 4
S. Rachmaninoff

Il neige!..
H. Oswald

Sunrise*
Keaton Roberts

**St. Francis of Paola Walking
on the Waters**
F. Liszt

* World premiere

INTERMISSION



KEATON ROBERTS, piano

Keaton Roberts is an accomplished musician and student hailing from Oak Park, Illinois. He began his formal musical training at Project 88 Music Academy, where he learned to play the piano and developed his composition skills under the expert guidance of instructors Alyssa Conde and Élider DiPaula. Keaton is set to graduate from the three-year apprentice program this month and has grown tremendously as a musician during his time there.

In addition to piano, Keaton has a diverse musical background, having played instruments such as the guitar, saxophone, recorder, and steel pans during his elementary school years. He is currently an active member of Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School's chorus program, as well as Brooks' Bravo musical theater program.

As a student, Keaton excels academically, consistently earning recognition on the Dean's List and Straight A Honor Roll at Brooks, from which he will also graduate in June. In his free time, he enjoys exploring the city of Chicago, cooking, spending time with friends, and taking walks in his neighborhood.

Keaton is thrilled that his piano and composition instructor, Élider DiPaula, will be premiering one of his original compositions at tonight's concert. He has already received accolades for his work, winning Project 88's Composition Award in May 2022. Keaton's passion for music and dedication to his craft are sure to lead him to great things in the future.

A Honor Roll, Brooks Middle School — 2020–2021

Straight A Honor Roll, Brooks Middle School — 2021–present

Winner of Project 88's Composition Award — May 2022



ÉLIDER DIPAULA piano

Praised by the Chicago Tribune as a “highly personable, exceptionally talented pianist,” **Élder DiPaula** is a Brazilian classical musician, composer and pedagogue. Since winning the Orestes Farinello National Piano Competition at the age of seven, he has received numerous accolades, including as guest soloist of the Youth Symphony Orchestra of Goiás, and the award of a commission by the Brazilian concert series Goiânia Música Hoje.

DiPaula earned his conservatory diploma at Escola de Música de Anápolis, and was subsequently invited to join their music faculty at the age of seventeen. Concurrently, DiPaula studied piano at the Universidade Federal de Goiás in the studio of Dr. Ana Flavia Frazão. In his undergraduate experience at Universidade Federal de Goiás, DiPaula was awarded by the CAPES/FIPSE program to be part of a student exchange program at Marshall University. Upon receiving his undergraduate degree, DiPaula joined the faculty of the Instituto Basileu França, the largest conservatory in central Brazil, serving as piano professor, lecturer, and as coordinator of both the Chamber Music Department and the International Artist Exchange program. In addition to his artistic and pedagogical accomplishments, DiPaula established the Catartístico Society, founded the Escola de Músicos, coordinated the 8th National Composers Conference at Federal University of Goiás, and was the co-creator of the Contemporary Music Exhibition Som de Minuto. While still performing actively, he premiered and recorded works by several Brazilian and American composers.

DiPaula earned his Master of Music degree in piano performance at James Madison University, where he studied with Dr. Paulo Steinberg and Dr. Gabriel Dobner. Under the tutelage of Dr. Ludmila Lazar, DiPaula received the Artist Diploma in Piano Performance from the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University.

In 2018, he launched Project 88, for which he is the Executive Director. Additionally, as Artistic Director, DiPaula leads the Fifth Season of Project 88's Concert Series in 2023. In recognition for his work for Project 88, DiPaula was awarded the Center for Arts Leadership Seed Grant from Chicago College of Performing Arts in 2019 and the Social Justice Alumni Award from Roosevelt University during its 75th Anniversary Celebration in 2020. He is currently on faculty at Project 88 Music Academy and is the director of Beacon Arts & Music in Uptown Chicago, where he teaches both piano and composition. In 2022, he joined the Chicago College of Performing Arts Advisory Board at Roosevelt University.

ABOUT THE MUSIC

Project 88 Rising Stars

BY DAVID POWERS, PROJECT 88 VOLUNTEER

From his early years as a childhood prodigy, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was known as a virtuoso keyboard performer and outstanding improviser, and his many keyboard works form an important part of the classical piano repertoire. Mozart's K. 397 *Fantasia* in D minor unfolds like an improvisation, as it moves from the mysterious opening arpeggios, through the mournful main theme, and on to the joyous second theme.

Like Mozart, Johann Sebastian Bach was a great keyboard virtuoso, and although his keyboard works were not originally composed for the pianoforte, since his death they have become essential pieces in the piano repertoire. Bach's two part Inventions are exquisitely crafted contrapuntal masterpieces, which also possess exceptional pedagogical value—Bach himself said that performers will “not only learn to play two voices clearly” and “achieve a cantabile style of playing,” but also to “obtain good ideas ... and thereby to acquire a strong foretaste of composition.” Invention No. 15 in B minor demonstrates Bach's mastery of two voice counterpoint while providing a full workout for both hands.

Like Mozart, Felix Mendelssohn was a child prodigy, and throughout his career as a composer, pianist, organist and conductor, he played a major role in nineteenth century German musical life. Mendelssohn composed eight volumes of the *Songs Without Words* for solo piano which were extremely popular; according to Robert Schumann,

these pieces were not only “pillars of the piano repertoire,” but also “a household possession, as widespread in Germany as the Grimm brothers' fairy tales.” According to critic Charles Rosen, Mendelssohn's music is characterized by “lyrical melodic lines and delicate, transparent textures,” and Op. 30, No. 1 provides a beautiful example of Mendelssohn's talent for creating the lyrical melodic lines Charles Rosen praised.

Carl Czerny, Frédéric Chopin, and Moritz Moszkowski were three of the nineteenth century's greatest pianists, and all three left behind influential etudes for piano which continue to be studied and performed. The advanced etudes in Czerny's *The School of Velocity*, emphasize rapid passagework; in Étude No. 7 we hear the influence of Czerny's teacher, Beethoven, as the left-hand executes demanding arpeggios beneath a lyrical melody. Chopin's Étude Opus 10, No. 9 also emphasizes left hand passagework, but in this piece, minor harmonies and chromatic inflections evoke a world of turbulent passions. The playful Étude No. 6, from Mozowski's 15 Étude de Virtuosité (“Virtuosic Etudes”), was often played as an encore by Vladimir Horowitz; the piece features rapid-fire scalar passages that offer a workout for both hands.

Sergie Rachmaninoff's *Moments Musicaux* (“Musical Moments”) date from 1896, during a period when he was battling depression following the catastrophic debut of his first symphony.

Like the earlier Musical Moments composed by Franz Schubert, Rachmaninoff's *Musical Moments* are character pieces for solo piano, but Rachmaninoff's pieces achieve a greater level of complexity and intensity, as they unfold sonic images of darkness developing into light. The tempestuous No. 4 hearkens back to Chopin's "Revolutionary Etude," as it tests the pianist's endurance with virtuosic left-hand passagework in music full of heroic exclamations and fiery climaxes.

Henrique Oswald, a composer and pianist from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, was an important figure in Brazilian musical culture later in his life. But he first achieved fame in 1902 while living in Europe, when a jury including Saint-Saëns and Fauré awarded his piece "*Il neige!..*" ("It's snowing!") top prize in a Parisian competition.

Keaton Roberts has been enrolled at Project 88 Music Academy for the past three years, where he has been studying music theory and composition along with piano performance. We are pleased

to present the world premiere of Keaton's new composition *Sunrise*, which was submitted in fulfillment of his final composition requirements at Project 88.

Although he is known as the greatest piano virtuoso of the 19th century, Franz Liszt had a relatively short career; he retired from performing around the age of 35, and devoted the rest of his life to teaching and composing. It was during this latter period that he wrote "St. Francis of Paola Walking on the Waters," a tone poem based on the well-known Catholic legend. In this piece, we hear the miracle of walking on water recreated in sound, as the music moves from the calm devotion of the introduction, through lightning, wind, and waves, until finally the storm clouds dissipate and the music expresses a mood of joyful thanksgiving.

Wondering how you can support Project 88?



Become a Friend of Project 88

When you make a monthly donation or donate annually, you'll join a special group of Friends of Project 88 who help sustain our mission and make our work possible. Your support ensures that students receive high-quality music education in our Music Academy. It also helps bring renowned artists from all over the world to our community through our free Concert Series.

Maximize your impact with a recurring monthly or annual gift.

Join Friends of Project 88

project88musicacademy.org/ways-to-support/



We are grateful for our current partners who help us achieve our mission within the communities we serve.



A Note from the Artistic Director



It feels a bit surreal that we are celebrating the 5th Season of our Concert Series! In retrospect, during our inaugural season in 2018, when our hopes were to achieve a small percentage of what we already accomplished now, I am overjoyed with pride and gratitude. In each season, we celebrated so many artists and composers and enjoyed so much music! We've showcased artists from all corners of the world, grown as a community, and garnered recognition for the works of our mission.

In May 2023, we'll graduate the first class of our Apprentice Program. During their three years in our academy, these students studied composition, piano, violin and performance practices. Now, we are prepared to kickstart a new program: The Developing Artist. As a continuation of the Academy, students in the Developing Artist program will acquire experience in chamber music, participate in competitions and have more opportunities to perform. In addition to this exciting development, we are enhancing our partnerships with local organizations and institutions for higher education and expanding our Apprentice program in the spring for students interested in learning the cello. We have gained momentum and we hope to continue to thrive!

We are proud to bring you so many renowned artists through our concert series. Both our audience and students learn from each performance the very unique sense of enjoyment, responsibility, discipline and awareness of their own potential. This modeling

system has been very successful in helping our students gain interest and feel engaged with music, as well as develop better social and interpersonal skills while providing opportunities to build new friendships.

As part of our ongoing partnership with The Consulate General of Brazil in Chicago, during the first half of this season we commemorate the cultural independence of Latin countries and celebrate the 100th year since Modern Art Week in Brazil, an event that made such an incredible impact on the cultural history in Latin America. During the second half of the season, we celebrate the 150th birthday of Sergei Rachmaninoff with his wonderful works for piano and chamber music.

We have so much to celebrate! I welcome you to learn more about the ways you can join our mission and support our goals. We have new options for designated giving as we desire to give our patrons the opportunity to directly impact our programming. Donations to the concert fund impact our ability to continue producing concerts of this variety and caliber to the public. Donations to the scholarship fund help us to continue making our high-quality music education affordable for students in the Music Academy. Friends of Project 88 nurtures relationships and creates new ways for patrons to support and collaborate with our organization.

I would like to thank all our volunteers, our family and student ambassadors, and you for your support. I welcome you to our 2022/2023 Season!

Élder DiPaula
Executive and Artistic Director

A Note from the Board of Directors



What unprecedented years these have been, ones filled with challenges and many successes. But, none of the achievements would have been possible without the help of many hands, all under the direction of Élider DiPaula, who was the conductor of our organization.

People are what make Project 88 able to continue, grow and succeed. None of the growth and successes would have been possible without the support of many individuals, including artists who performed, the faculty who taught, the volunteers who gave many hours to Project 88 and the Board of Directors, who are truly a working board.

All of these accomplishments would not have been possible without donations from you, our Patrons and from our Donors. Those donors include the Consulate General of Brazil, Unity Church and Atlas Arts Media. Thank you to all of you for all of your assistance. We would not have been able to do it without you.

Last year we rolled out a new program called Friends of Project 88. Take a moment and become a friend, help to support the music academy and to enable us to continue bringing world class music to our community. Details on how you can become a Friend of Project 88 are on our website.

Thank you for all you do; your efforts keep Project 88 able to continue providing music education and access to music in our community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Branka Matevich". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Branka Matevich
President, Board of Directors

A Note from the Director of Operations



Grab your party hat! - Project 88 celebrates 5 years in 2023. FIVE YEARS!

Last year was a growing year for us. We launched a new website and this new magazine, regularly recorded and live-streamed concerts by Atlas Arts Media, and continued to grow our Music Academy with new programs and more students.

Our concert series has continued to bring a variety of high-quality music to the community, all for free. We've expanded the musical genres shared, featured returning favorite performers, and been able to showcase other up-and-coming artists whose talents have delighted our audiences. The utilization of an online ticketing system and our helpful parent volunteers have made concert evenings run almost seamlessly. Thanks to the strong leadership of Janna Fiester - one of our Board members - the communication team instituted the quarterly Project 88 magazine, which you are reading a new edition of right now. Our online marketing presence has grown and allowed us to continue to expand our radius to new followers and supporters.

Our very first group of students in our Music Academy has just started their final year of the Apprentice Program! It's been a joy and honor to watch them grow and mature in their skill and musicianship over the past few years. We hope to be able to help these students progress into Developing Artists - the final level in our Academy programming. Additionally, we have a strong group of returning second-level students, as well as seven brand new students this semester, selected because of their high musical aptitude. Our Preparatory Program grew in number and structure last year, as we provided an introduction to music to our youngest students. Because of the growth in our programming, we've also grown our staff to incorporate two Program Coordinators for our Academy, Rick Torres serving the Apprentice Program, and Miguel Fabian-Sauceda serving the Preparatory Program.

If you couldn't already tell, Project 88 is continuing to grow and thrive and even the tireless hard work of our staff couldn't carry on our programs if it wasn't for our loyal patrons and donors. For those of you who have been with us since the start, attending concerts from that very first season until now, we thank you for supporting this organization that was once just an idea in Élider's head. And for those of you who have joined us somewhere along the way, we thank you as well; we are grateful to all of you who continue to support Project 88 and we hope that you'll invite your friends and family to attend a concert this season.

We look forward to seeing you in the audience each month!

Desirae Contreras
Director of Operations

ABOUT PROJECT 88 MUSIC ACADEMY

BY CATEY SULLIVAN, PROJECT 88 VOLUNTEER

Mere survival is never sufficient. Yet in times of budget cuts — in effect, essentially all the time — the arts are the first on the chopping block when schools strive to save money. And that invariably sells short kids who might not otherwise learn about the sheer joy of learning to make your own joyful noise.

Learning to translate those bulbous black and white markings and squiggly symbols is like learning the alphabet of your native language. They are a conduit to new worlds. Debussy's *Preludes* can take you to rainy-day Paris. Joplin's rags right to the cusp of the great Harlem Renaissance Jazz-era NYC. Theresa Carreno, the Venezuelan artist who played for President Lincoln at age 9 and was dubbed the Valkyrie of the Piano as an adult, will take you directly to Planet Empowerment.

Education is the prerequisite to gaining access to the infinite worlds that music education offers. Access to that education? Whether it's Beginning Flute, Advanced Music Theory, or a Masterclass, access usually comes with a price tag that can and does translate into gate-keeping.

Élizer DiPaula knows that first hand. Growing up in Anápolis, Brazil, Project 88's Founding Artistic Director had a one-way commute of two hours, on foot, to get to his piano lessons. And those lessons, which he treasured, were only accessible to him at all because he was offered a patchwork of financial aid and scholarships and affordable pricing.

"I know first hand how this kind of help can change someone's life," he said. "When I was younger, I received a parcel of the type of support we've been trying to gather for our students. We want all of them to have access like I did," he said.

Project 88's Music Academy could not have gotten off to a rockier start. It was slated to launch in Spring, 2020. In January that year, the board had hired a program coordinator for the Academy. After a February Open House, the first student applications were accepted. In March, the Academy's opening was moved to August. In August, it was moved to September.

Students are making their way back as we, like everyone in our community, work to rebuild. At present, there are roughly 16 students in the Project 88 Music Academy Preparatory Program. The students meet with their instructors via zoom and in person. They are enthused in giving testimonials (see page 8 for Project 88 testimonials).

There is a formal curriculum in place for Academy Operations Director Desirae Diehl's team of string, and keyboard artists. Students follow it, but it can be tailored to individuals as needed.

"The dedication and support I've received from my colleagues, combined with the passion I witness from students, has moved me to be better as a teacher and in my everyday life," said teacher Nayelii Duran. "I joined the





Project 88 team on a whim during its beginning and I'm so thankful I've been able to stay part of it since."

Students receive an average of 2.5 hours a week of instruction including instrument private lessons, composition, ensemble, and studio classes, DiPaula said. "That forms a solid foundation for their artistry and the understanding of music-making. Along with the academic portion of our organization, the students have the opportunity to watch and meet artists that come to our concert series and have a feeling for what is the career of a professional artist," he said.

That's precisely the point, said DiPaula. "At Project 88 Music Academy, we instill inspiration to become a complete artist not just an instrumentalist. Music is more than just an organization of sounds, it's the vehicle to transcribe our life experience and share with others that resonate the same frequency."



For more information about the Project 88 Music Academy, visit project88musicacademy.org/about-project-88/

Hear What People Have to Say

From Students

"I love Project 88 because they taught me how to read music and play the violin. Since we have been taking music theory classes I can now learn a song on the violin and play it on the piano if I want to. My teacher Nayelii is nice and we have fun in our group classes." — *Nani P.*

"I like project 88 because it helped me learn how to read music and play the violin. I love that we get to experience different concerts and learn about a variety of music like jazz, bossa nova, and classical music. Being in project 88 is a once in a lifetime opportunity and I am glad I have a chance to go." — *Lola P.*

"My favorite part of music class is playing games. My favorite game is jump on the staff. It's soooo much fun!" — *Evelyn M.*

"My favorite parts are the music games and making new friends. It makes learning so much fun. I can't wait to go to class!" — *Noah M.*

Anonymous student testimonials

"My favorite part [of class] is when we color the notes."

"I like when we move our body."

"Doing movements is my favorite part of class."

"I liked that you learn about music notes on the staff."

"I like my teacher's shirts."

From Parents

"I love Project 88, they have made a commitment to the community to give children of all walks of life and all abilities the opportunity to learn how to read music and to play an instrument. Their instructors are patient, professional, and passionate. They encourage my children to do their best and foster their curiosity and love of music. Their staff is warm and inviting and every encounter with them is a joyous one. I applied my children to Project 88 on a whim and it was one of the best decisions I have ever made." — *Angela C.*

"Project 88 is such a wonderful program offering age appropriate activities to foster a love and appreciation of music. My kids are excited to go to class and often play the music games later at home. The concerts are also a great way to gain exposure to different genres of music" — *Nicole M.*

"We are very pleased with Project 88 Music Academy. The teacher is great with kids, has made it fun and engaging for all, and my kids are excited to go every week. They have learned important beginning music fundamentals. We recommend it!" — *Felipe M.*

I just want to thank you for this opportunity that you gave my children, Reinaldo and Ashley Perez. Thank you to all the staff for your time and patience that make a difference in our children. This project helps my children to be responsible and they have acquired new music skills every day. Now they spend more time learning something that is super good and spend less time playing video games or something else that is not so beneficial like music for them. Also this has opened more doors for my children. My son feels more confident and he is participating in the music program at school too.

My daughter loves her teacher and she said that learning music is so interesting. She said that she has a great time when she is in her music class. She is learning to read music notes. She asks me every day "mom what day is today", because she knows that on Thursday she has her music class.

My son Reinaldo said that he learned a lot there. He said he has learned [to] read music notes, he is playing the piano faster than before. He has a new teacher, but we know that he would be wonderful like that before.

Thank you so much Project 88 for this opportunity that you bring to our community children. — *Adriana B.*

From Faculty

"Working with Project 88, I've never failed to be impressed by the level of excellence shown by students and faculty alike. These students push themselves to improve every time I see them and have progressed faster than any group of students I've ever worked with. The dedication and support I've received from my colleagues, combined with the passion I witness from students, has moved me to be better as a teacher and in my everyday life. I joined the Project 88 team on a whim during its beginning and I'm so thankful I've been able to stay part of it since." — *Nayelii Duran*



OUR HISTORY

BY CATEY SULLIVAN, PROJECT 88 VOLUNTEER

It started as an audacious proposal: How about we start a year-long concert series spotlighting artists from all over the globe? And a music academy where young, beginning musicians can learn music theory, performance and history? And an annual week-long festival and a second concert series specifically aimed at bringing young people fully into the thrall of the musical world? It would all be accessible, according to Éli­der DiPaula's vision for Project 88, a 501(c)(3) non-profit named for the 88 keys on the piano keyboard

and dedicated to providing top-tier concerts and music instruction to anyone, regardless of income.

A concert pianist who grew up in Brazil, DiPaula flourished as a young, aspiring musician thanks to scholarships and programs similar to those he planned to bring to the Berwyn-based, international endeavor. He arrived in Chicagoland by way of Berwyn's Unity Lutheran Church, where he previously served as music director.





Élizer DiPaula

With instant support from Julie Boleyn, then Pastor at Unity Lutheran Church, DiPaula received approval to turn the church sanctuary into a concert hall on Saturday nights. DiPaula & Boleyn formed a board for the fledgling non-profit, negotiated the use of a state-of-the-art Steinway Grand and launched the True Unity Concert Series in September, 2018. At the debut event, German pianist Henning Vauth performed for a full house. Tickets were by donation, setting the template for all the concerts to follow.

In November, 2018, Project 88 amped up by its offerings with the first Lucile Evans Music Festival. Named for one of Project 88's most ardent, early supporters, the festival included seven nights of concerts culminating in a performance by Edward Auer, the first American to win a prize in Warsaw's prestigious International Chopin Piano Competition.



Lucile Evans Music Festival

Project 88 was just getting started. With Desirae Diehl joining as operations manager, Project 88's second season began in March, 2019 with a multi-media concert of Igor Stravinsky's "The Soldier's Tale," a seven-piece chamber orchestra performing the score, accompanied by the 16th Street Theater actor Eddie Dzialo as the multifaceted narrator and a series of illustrations by Berwyn's Julie Freeney. The production was directed by Élizer DiPaula, conducted by Kyle Dickson, and the scenery by Mike Garon, which the Chicago Tribune praised as "whimsical and fanged."



Junghwa Moon Auer and Edward Auer



The Soldier's Tale

In October, Project 88 hosted Turkish pianist Eren Yahsi. In November, violinist Lúcia Barrenechea and cellist Hugo Pilger traveled from Brazil to open the Second Annual Lucile Evans Music Festival. And in December, a joyous brass concert celebrated the holidays with Project 88's program of ecumenical hits. In all, Project 88 hosted 20 events in its first 18 months of existence, including concerts, masterclasses and youth programs.

All three prongs of Project 88 were up and running in 2019: The True Unity Concert Series, Lucile Evans Music Festival, and the Into the Musical World concert series aimed at bringing young people into, yes, the musical world. By January 2020, Patricia Gill was onboard to serve as Program Coordinator for the Music Academy. In February, a series of open house meetings for interested parents and students yielded a wealth of applications. In March 2020, everything changed.

As COVID-19 ravaged the entire performing arts sector and sent countless musicians into a devastating time-out, Project 88's core staff rolled with the punches. Concerts went online, starting with an August performance of American composers and continuing with a celebration of Beethoven's 250th birthday.

Generous donations and a fiscally prudent board kept the lights on. DiPaula garnered a generous anonymous matching grant. Academy curricula was fine-tuned. Artists for 2021 were lined up.

As the world slowly reopened in the Fall of 2021, Project 88's core values had been untouched by COVID. Its leadership continues to make music accessible, through galvanizing performances and top-tier music education.

Whether you're an artist or in the audience, Project 88 invites you to join in as it embarks again into the musical world.



Holiday Concert



Masterclass



Harp Septet



Lúcia Barrenechea and Hugo Pilger



Project 88 has made a very positive impact in our community and with your help, we can do more.

BECOME A FRIEND OF PROJECT 88

Give today to access all these member benefits while helping us continue our mission to bring new musical opportunities to Berwyn and surrounding areas.

By becoming a Friend of Project 88, you will play a critical role in helping sustain our mission and make our work possible. Your support ensures that we can continue our mission of making classical music accessible to our community through our free Concert Series and Music Academy.

As a Friend of Project 88, your generosity makes an immediate impact. And, as a thank you for your support, you will also enjoy special benefits to enhance your Project 88 experience.

Allegro

**\$10 or more/month or
\$120 annually**

Provide 3 hours of instruction for a student in the Music Academy.

- ✓ **Watch Project 88 concerts** either in-person or live online
- ✓ **Access to all archived concerts** any time
- ✓ Invitations to **Project 88 special events**
- ✓ **10% Discount** on Project 88 merchandise

Vivace

**\$25 or more/month or
\$300 annually**

Help keep the Project 88 Concert Series free to the community.

- ✓ **Watch Project 88 concerts** either in-person or live online
- ✓ **Access to all archived concerts** any time
- ✓ Invitations to **Project 88 special events**
- ✓ **15% Discount** on Project 88 merchandise
- ✓ **A one-time 10% discount** at Project 88 Community Partner businesses

Presto

**\$50 or more/month or
\$600 annually**

Provide a semester-long scholarship for one student in the Music Academy.

- ✓ **Watch Project 88 concerts** either in-person or live online
- ✓ **Access to all archived concerts** any time
- ✓ Invitations to **Project 88 special events**
- ✓ **Discounted tickets to Project 88 special events** (Candlelight Concerts, Artist Dinner/Receptions, Matinees, etc.)
- ✓ **20% Discount** on Project 88 merchandise
- ✓ **A one-time 20% discount** at Project 88 Community Partner businesses

Want to be a Friend of Project 88?
Visit the [Project 88 website](#) to learn more.



BECOME A PARTNER

PARTNERS OF PROJECT 88 ENJOY PERKS SUCH AS:

- ❑ Advertisements in quarterly editions of our magazines and other marketing materials
- ❑ Recognition at concerts
- ❑ And more!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please email ***contact@[project88musicacademy.org](mailto:contact@project88musicacademy.org)***
or call (630) 708-4247.

THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT OUR MISSION!

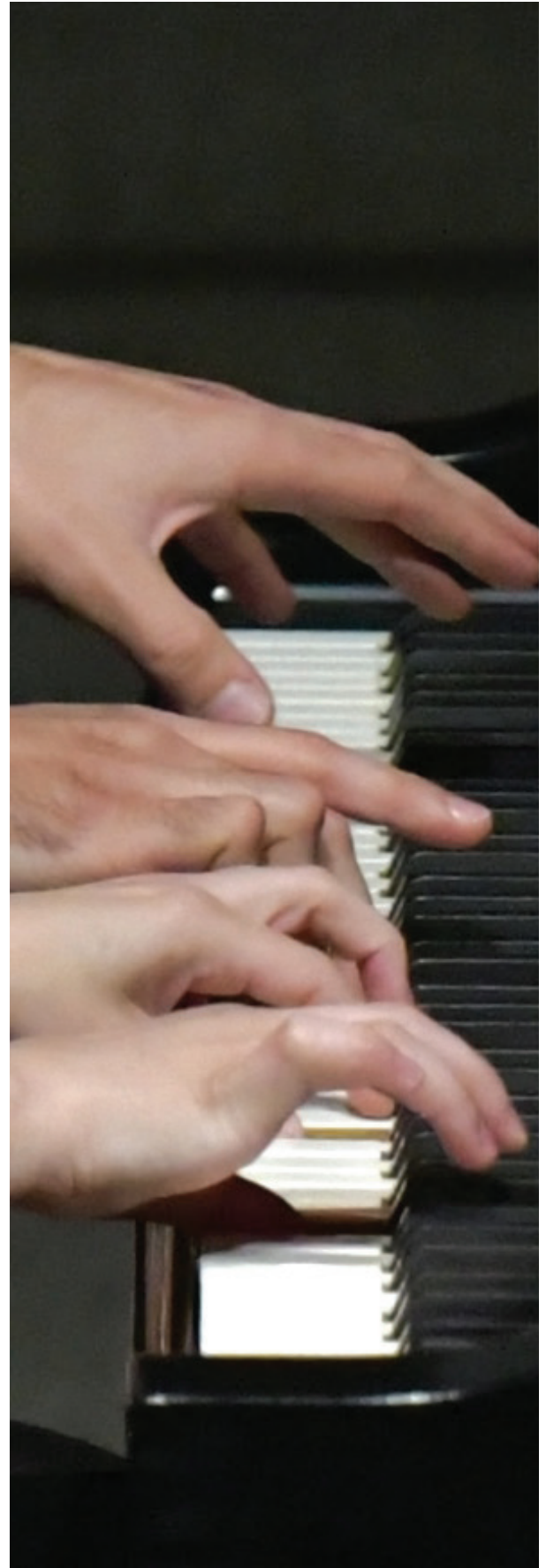
VOLUNTEER

Project 88 is the product of a dedicated group of people volunteering their time and talents. If you are interested in volunteering with Project 88, please click [here](#) to fill out our form.

SHARE

Project 88's Concert series are our main fundraisers. By going Virtual, we have the opportunity to expand our audience across the world. Please share Project 88 through your Social Media and personally with family, friends, coworkers, neighbors, and others. Word of mouth will help us spread our mission and connect to more supporters like you!

ENGAGE WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!





SAVE THE DATE

PROJECT 88 MUSIC ACADEMY

June Candlelight Concert

Saturday, June 10 at 7:00 P.M.

Featuring Élider DiPaula

**Look for more
information**

on our website,
social media and
through our
email updates.

project88musicacademy.org

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Vision Statement

Revitalizing classical music by diversifying audiences, enhancing performance opportunities for musicians, and nurturing a new generation of artists.

Mission Statement

Project 88, named for the number of keys on a piano, aims to bring new musical opportunities to Berwyn and surrounding areas.

Our mission is threefold:

1. Make classical music accessible to the community
2. Promote artistic development in the area
3. Instill a commitment to hard work and camaraderie in young people through affordable, high-quality music education

We live out this mission through our Concert Series, Lucile Evans Music Festival, and Project 88 Music Academy. We infuse our values into the work we do. Through our concert series, we are able to support artistic development and engage the community. Through our music festival, we are able to offer additional learning opportunities to students in the area. Through the music academy, we seek to foster discipline, commitment, respect, and accountability, while also developing successful minds and building authentic character.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Find @project88musicacademy
on these social channels

