

2023–2024 | December & January

Project 88

MAGAZINE

Concert series

December Student
Showcase Recital

Lakeshore
Brass at St. Nikola

Soirée Concert Series

Voice and Piano
Stephen Edwards,
voice and
Matthew Lorenz,
piano

February Soirée Concert

Peter Saltzman, piano

In memoriam:

Lucile Evans

December 9

December Student
Showcase Recital

88
**Project 88
Music
Academy**

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12/09/23

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Stephen Edwards,
voice and
Matthew
Lorenz, piano

Voice and Piano

12/16/23

[Get your tickets](#)

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Peter Saltzman,
piano

Piano

02/17/24

[Get your tickets](#)

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Project 88 Music Academy

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December 9

UNITY LUTHERAN CONCERT



December Student Showcase Recital

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|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Firefly | Sophia Salgado , piano | Randall Faber |
| Rollin' Rhythm | Ryan Anaya , piano | Wesley Schaum |
| Toccatina | Abraham Arce , piano | Dmitri Kabalevsky |
| Twinkle Twinkle Little Star | Alexa Ayala , violin | W. A. Mozart |
| Ihr Kinderlein, kommet | Eileen Burns , violin | Johann Schulz |
| May Song | Armani Cardona , violin | Folk Song |
| Melody | Isabela Barrientos , piano | Dimitri Kabalevsky |
| Gavotte | Ian Crisantos , violin | François-Joseph Gossec |
| Twinkle Twinkle Little Star | Ilan Crisantos , violin | Traditional |
| Tarantella | Alan Gonzalez , piano | Sergei Prokofiev |
| Solfeggietto Prelude in C minor, Op.28 No. 20 | Diego Granciano , piano | Ph. E. Bach Frédéric Chopin |
| L'Arabesque | Grey Hernandez , piano | Friedrich Burgmüller |
| Minuet No. 1 | Montserrat Islas , violin | J. S. Bach |
| Midnight Blues | Hector Leyva , piano | James Bastien |
| raduation Day | Simon McCutcheon , piano | Martha Mier |
| Sea and Sky | Cynthia Melecio , piano | Peter Saltzman |
| Russian Folk Song Come See The Parade | Danielle Melecio , piano | Folk Song Randall Faber |
| Allegro Moderato | Shiva Nair , cello | J. S. Bach |

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Moody Movie Action Figure | Aeyden Ortiz , piano | Peter Saltzman Peter Saltzman |
| La Dernière danse D minor Dance | Ashley Perez , piano | Peter Saltzman Peter Saltzman |
| Concerto No. 5 in D major | Lola Perez , violin | Friedrich Seitz |
| Gavotte | Nani Perez , violin | Giovanni Battista Martini |
| One Four Seven | Liliana Reynoso , piano | Lynn Freeman Olson |
| Go Tell Aunt Rhody | Oscar Rojas Jr , violin | Folk Song |
| Copycat | Jorge Salazar , piano | Randall Faber |
| Gone But Not Lost Upbeat | Petar Simbi , piano | Peter Saltzman Peter Saltzman |
| Little Drummer Boy | Maggie Soto-Braulio , violin | Katherine Kennicott Davis |
| In The Garden, Op. 82 No.4 | Miguel Angel Vega , piano | Cornelius Gurlitt |
| Twinkle Twinkle Little Star French Folk Song Rocky Mountain | Project 88 String Ensemble Violins: Alexa Ayala, Eileen Burns, Armani Cardona, Ian Crisantos, Ilan Crisantos, Camilo Estrella, Montserrat Islas, Lola Perez, Nani Perez, Oscar Rojas, Maggie Soto Braulio Cello: Shiva Nair | Folk Song Folk Song Folk Song |
| Prelude from Five Pieces for Two Violins and Piano | Project 88 Developing Artists Ensemble Lola Perez , violin Nani Perez , violin Keaton Roberts , piano | Dmitri Shostakovich |
| Moonlight Sonata | Reinaldo Perez , piano | Ludwig van Beethoven |
| Two part invention No. 15 October: "Autumn Song" Pour Le Piano: 1. Prélude | Keaton Roberts , piano | J. S. Bach Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky Claude Debussy |



January 27



Lakeshore Brass at St. Nikola

RECITAL PROGRAM

Fire Dance

Anthony DiLorenzo

Suite Impromptu

A. LaFosse

Epithalame

Marche

Elegie

Mouvement

Oblivion

Astor Piazzolla

arr. Serdar Cizmeci

Burek Dance from Balkanika

Eric Ewazen

INTERMISSION

Brass Quintet No. 1

Malcolm Arnold

Allegro Vivace

Chaconne- Andante Con Moto

Con Brio

The Music of George Gershwin

George Gershwin

arr. Zachary Smith

Trolley Song from A Tribute to MGM

Paul Nagle

It started at age 4, seated at the piano, trying to pick out tunes he heard on the family’s stereo, and morphed through the years, becoming Peter’s unique musical

language. His organic fusion of qualities—the distinctiveness and improvisation of jazz, the soul of blues, and the compositional technique of Bach, Beethoven, and other classical composers—led to an emergence of new sounds, a new feel, a new purpose.

Peter’s broad career as a composer, pianist, singer-songwriter, music educator, and screenwriter started as a budding teenage jazz musician in Chicago. He studied jazz at the Bloom School of Jazz (Chicago, IL), majored in jazz at Indiana University (Bloomington, IN), and majored in composition and piano at Eastman School of Music (Rochester, NY). Later, he studied film scoring at UCLA-Extension (Los Angeles, CA). Recently, he has completed a full load of courses in screenwriting at various institutions in Los Angeles and New York City.

Over his career, Peter’s prolific musical work has run the gamut—solo piano, orchestral, chamber, theatrical/film, choral, and pop. Various ensembles have performed

and recorded his work globally—the Czech National Symphony Orchestra recorded his orchestral dance suite “Walls” (1996), and the Dallas Black Dance Theatre performed “Walls” during the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

Peter’s concert work is published by Oxford University Press; his film and television work is published by Wild Whirled Music. His music has been licensed for television shows, jingles, and industrials, including *My Name is Earl* (NBC, 2006).

In the mid-to-late 1990s, Peter led the Revolution Ensemble, a group that broke new ground with its adventurous mix of jazz, classical, Latin, and pop genres. Since 2001, he has headed the Peter Saltzman Band as lead singer, pianist, songwriter/arranger—and produced CDs/demos for Chicago-area artists.

From 2006 to 2014, Peter was an adjunct professor of music at Columbia College Chicago, where he developed and taught a series of courses entitled “Technology for Musicians” and taught piano and theory. He continues to teach piano and composition in his own studio and at Project 88 Musical Academy.

About the music

LAKESHORE BRASS RECITAL : JANUARY 26, 2024

Anthony DiLorenzo is an award winning trumpet soloist and composer, whose works have been played by distinguished ensembles including The San Francisco Symphony, The New World Symphony, The Tokyo Symphony and The Boston Pops Orchestra. Since it was written in 1998, the piece *Fire Dance* has become a favorite in festivals and competitions. It features a main theme full of bold melodic lines and striking chromatic harmonic shifts, which alternates with material of a more lyrical nature, and as variations on the main motives unfold, the music drives forwards to a stirring finale.

Andre LaFosse was a trombonist who recorded in orchestras led by Stravinsky in the 1920's and 30's, wrote important trombone method books, and served as Professor of Trombone in the Conservatoire de Paris. His *Suite Impromptu* has become a modern classic and a standard of the brass quintet repertoire. The first movement, "Epithalame" ("Poem"), begins in a relaxed and pensive mood, and features lush harmonies reminiscent of jazz. The second movement lives up to its name, as its majestic melodies and animated instrumental interplay invoke a march. The third movement, "Elegie," is full of

emotion, as its lyrical melodic lines rise and fall in waves of intensity; near the movement's conclusion, the mood shifts and a new theme is heard as a powerful climax develops. The playful fourth and final movement features tight rhythmic interplay between ensemble members.

Astor Piazzolla was an Argentinean composer known for creating the "Nuevo Tango," which revolutionized the traditional tango form by infusing it with elements of classical, jazz and rock. *Oblivion* was written in 1982, and was originally featured in the 1984 Italian film *Enrico IV*, ("Henry IV"), directed by Marco Bellocchio. Now one of his most popular and frequently performed pieces, *Oblivion* displays many of Piazzolla's most characteristic stylistic traits, as its haunting melodies, melancholic harmonic progressions, and quasi-baroque sequences infuse rhythmic figures derived from the tango with profound emotional depth.

A graduate of The Juilliard School, Eric Ewazen is an award winning American composer who studied with Milton Babbitt, Samuel Adler and Gunther Schuller, and is especially known as a composer for brass instruments.



BY DAVID A. POWERS,
PROJECT 88 VOLUNTEER

Balkanika - Four Scenes from the Balkans was originally commissioned by a Croatian brass quintet; the upbeat “Burek Dance” is named after a Balkan pastry which originated in the Ottoman Empire, and brings to mind images of peasants reveling in the rustic Balkan countryside.

Malcolm Arnold played trumpet with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and BBC Symphony Orchestra, composed many works for orchestras and chamber ensembles, and wrote the score to the celebrated film *Bridge over the River Kwai*. The lively first movement of his *Brass Quintet No. 1* opens with an exciting contrapuntal exchange between the trumpets, followed by a contrasting rhythmic figure performed by the rest of the ensemble, and the remainder of the movement develops out of these two contrasting moments. The second movement adopts a darker tone, as dissonant harmonies frequently emerge from the chorale-like melodic counterpoint, and features a dramatic trombone solo midway through the movement. The technically challenging third movement features exciting fanfares and intense interplay between all ensemble members, and brings the quintet to a spirited conclusion.

Finally, the concert concludes by evoking the era of the Great American Songbook and the Golden Age of Hollywood. The *Music of George Gershwin* features standards written by Gershwin in the 1920’s and 1930’s – “Love Is Here to Stay,” “Embraceable You,” and “I Got Rhythm.” *The Trolley Song* was made famous by Judy Garland in the final scene of the 1944 film *Meet Me in St. Louis*.



SOIRÉE CONCERT VOICE AND PIANO

December 16

Matthew Lorenz,
piano

DECEMBER SOIRÉE
CONCERT
VOICE AND PIANO

Featuring

**Stephen Edwards, voice and
Matthew Lorenz, piano**

Matthew J. Lorenz is rising to prominence as a pianist in the American Midwest, aiming to usher the art of piano performance into the 21st century. As a big supporter of Project 88 and especially its founder, Elider DiPaula, Matthew is privileged to feature regularly on Project 88's concert series, jury panels, and masterclasses.

Matthew began his studies in Fargo, North Dakota at the age of 9 and made his debut in 2015-16 performing Liszt's concerto Totentanz with 3 different local orchestras. Currently based in Chicago, IL, he is engaged in solo performances and frequent collaborations, studying with Adam Neiman. In his upcoming cycle of recitals you can catch Matthew in his project "CONCERTO" which features Adam Neiman's 1st, Rachmaninoff's 1st, and Mozart's 20th all on the same program.

Matthew is on the piano faculty at the New Music School, Chicago's premier music academy in the Gold Coast. You can keep up to date with Matthew at his website mlorenzmusic.squarespace.com!



SOIRÉE CONCERT PIANO

February 17

Éliader DiPaula,
piano

FEBRUARY SOIRÉE
CONCERT

Featuring

Peter Saltzman, piano

It started at age 4, seated at the piano, trying to pick out tunes he heard on the family’s stereo, and morphed through the years, becoming Peter’s unique musical language. His organic fusion of qualities—the distinctiveness and improvisation of jazz, the soul of blues, and the compositional technique of Bach, Beethoven, and other classical composers—led to an emergence of new sounds, a new feel, a new purpose.

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Media Reviews

“Powerful stuff”

from Dallas Morning News

“Ambitious, richly layered, wonderfully accessible”

Chicago Sun-Times

“Jaws drop when Saltzman sits at the piano and plays.”

ChicagolandMusicalTheatre.com

A note from the



Artistic Director

It feels a bit surreal that we are celebrating the 6th season of our Concert Series!



I am filled with profound gratitude as I reach out to express my heartfelt appreciation for your unwavering support. As we embark upon our 6th Season, I find myself reflecting upon the incredible journey that Project 88 Music Academy has undertaken. It is with great pride that I acknowledge the pivotal role each of you has played in shaping our success. Whether serving on our esteemed board of directors, offering guidance on our board of advisors, contributing your time as dedicated staff, faculty, or volunteers, fostering young talents as parents, students, or individual donors, or collaborating as cherished partners, your collective efforts have been instrumental.

This season marks a significant milestone in our story as we expand not only in terms of enrollment but also geographically. Our new home at St. Nikola Serbian Orthodox Church in Lyons represents our commitment to extending exceptional music education to a broader and more diverse community. Simultaneously, our Project 88 concert series at Unity Lutheran Church of Berwyn and the Soriée Concert Series at Beacon Arts & Music in Uptown Chicago have become beacons of artistic expression, casting the radiance of our mission and musical artistry far and wide. One of the most gratifying developments

this season is the maturation of our student body. It is with immense pride that we showcase a growing number of our exceptionally talented students during our professional concert series. This not only highlights the exceptional talents nurtured at Project 88 Music Academy but also underscores our mission to bridge the gap between established musicians and the rising stars of tomorrow.

What truly distinguishes Project 88 Music Academy is our steadfast commitment to providing transformative opportunities through music education. We go beyond mere instruction; we create a platform for our audiences to experience the profound magic of music, in the company of both renowned musicians and emerging virtuosos. Our concert venues serve as stages upon which our future students can envision themselves, not merely as spectators in the short term, but as esteemed guest artists in the grand tapestry of classical music. We empower our students with opportunities that transcend financial limitations. On average, our students receive an exceptional 2.5 hours of weekly instruction, encompassing a comprehensive range of musical disciplines, from composition to performance classes, and private tutelage in piano, violin, or cello.

It is noteworthy that every one of our students is a recipient of a full scholarship, a testament to your steadfast support. We aspire to broaden this significant opportunity, extending its reach to more students and communities. We yearn to expand our horizons and ensure that the transformative power of music remains within reach for those who might otherwise be deprived.

In memory of our beloved founder and supporter, Lucile Evans, who passed away a few months ago, we dedicate this season of concerts to her memory. Lucile was not only esteemed but held a special place in my heart personally. We extend our heartfelt condolences to her family.

At Project 88 Music Academy, our impact is not solely measured by the music we create but by the expansive scope of our mission. We stand steadfast in our commitment to reinvigorate classical music by diversifying our audiences, amplifying performance opportunities for musicians, and nurturing a vibrant new generation of artists. Through your enduring generosity, we have been able to dismantle barriers and carve a more inclusive realm of music, where talent knows no bounds.

As we warmly welcome the 2023/2024 season, I invite you to celebrate our collective journey and look forward to a brighter future. Your continued support is an invaluable asset, and together, we can continue to craft a profound impact on the world of music and education. I extend my deepest gratitude for your indispensable role in Project 88 Music Academy's extraordinary narrative.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Élida DiPaula

Executive and Artistic Director



A note from the

Branka Matevich

President,
Board of Directors



What a joy it has been to watch how Project 88 has grown and flourished since its inception.

We now serve over 50 students at the academy and have a concert schedule filled with amazing talent, thus continuing our mission to provide musical education to children, while giving access to the community with our concert series, all of which are funded by donations.

This semester we moved to a new facility, thanks to a partnership with St Nikola Serbian Orthodox Church in Lyons, Illinois. The new site is larger, giving us more room for expanding our academy. I would like to thank St Nikola for this opportunity.

I want to thank Élider DiPaula, Desirae Contreras, the staff, our parents, volunteers and Board of Directors for all that they have done and continue to do for Project 88.

In order for Project 88 to continue with its mission as well as to be able to grow and provide for more students at the academy, please donate at our concerts, go online and donate, or join Friends of Project 88. We are also in need of volunteers to help out with a variety of tasks.

Our 2023/2024 year will hopefully be another year of growth for the academy and a year of fabulous music. Thank you to all of you who support us.

Branka Matevich
Past-President, Board of Directors



Director of Operations

Welcome to the sixth season of the Project 88 concert series!



Our magazine has received a visual refresh, and in many ways, that represents the energy that is present at Project 88 this year.

Building off of our past success, we have had many changes occur over the past few months, and we are excited to see what this holds for our organization in the coming year. This season, we are offering an expanded concert series, with a set of *soriée* concerts added to the line-up. We are excited to offer our traditional concerts series, with concerts in the suburbs, along with these *soriée* concerts in the city of Chicago. Please read through this magazine to see the slate of artists scheduled to delight your ears, minds, and hearts this season.

Our Music Academy has also moved locations; we are still close by, but at a new facility in Lyons. We thank St. Nikola Serbian Church for partnering with us to offer

a larger-capacity space to house our ever-growing body of students. We celebrated with a very successful Open House event at the end of August, and classes began in September. Families are loving the new facility, and our teachers are happy, too!

Operationally, our staff is a small, but mighty group, and we are proud of the services we are able to provide to the community. Our Board members have service hearts, and they support us in our visions and endeavors. Our Academy families are helpful and grateful, and they are the reason we do all of this. To you, our patrons, we thank you for continuing to support Project 88 Music Academy. You, too, are part of the impact we are having on the community. I look forward to seeing you at many events this season!

Desirae Contreras
Director of Operations





“*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.*” **Élider DiPaula**

About Project 88

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.

about project 88 is continued on next page

about continued

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. 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."





Our history

BY TIFFANY ROBERTS,
PROJECT 88 BOARD MEMBER, SECRETARY

Project 88 began with **Élida DiPaula's** vision to provide top-tier classical music concerts to the community and to make high-quality, comprehensive music education accessible to students at all income levels. Today, that vision is a reality as the organization marks its fifth anniversary. Here are some of the major mile markers on Project 88's road to success.



August

2017

Élida DiPaula moves to Chicagoland to serve as music director at Unity Lutheran Church in Berwyn.



September

2018

Through support from Unity Lutheran Church Pastor Julie Boleyn, DiPaula receives approval to turn the church sanctuary into a concert hall on Saturday nights. DiPaula & Boleyn form a board for the fledgling non-profit, negotiate the use of a state-of-the-art Steinway Grand and launch the True Unity Concert Series. 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.



November

2018

Project 88 amps up its offerings with the first Lucile Evans Music Festival. Named for one of Project 88's most ardent, early supporters, the festival includes 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.



March

2019

With Desirae Diehl joining as operations manager, Project 88's second season begins with a multimedia 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, which is directed by Élider DiPaula, conducted by Kyle Dickson, and the scenery designed by Mike Garon, is praised by the Chicago Tribune as "whimsical and fanged."



Fall

2019

Project 88 continues its trend of featuring artists from across the globe in its concert series. In October, it hosts Turkish pianist Eren Yahsi. In November, violinist Lúcia Barrenechea and cellist Hugo Pilger travel from Brazil to open the second Lucile Evans Music Festival. And in December, a joyous brass concert celebrates the holidays with Project 88's program of ecumenical hits. In all, Project 88 hosts 20 events in its first 16 months of existence, including concerts, masterclasses and youth programs.



January-March

2020

In January, Patricia Gill joins the organization to serve as Program Coordinator for the Project 88 Music Academy. In February, a series of open house meetings for interested parents and students yields a wealth of applications. In March, the COVID-19 pandemic brings all events and programming to a halt.

our history continued



2020

In response to the ongoing pandemic, the third season of Project 88 concerts is shifted online, starting with an August performance of American composers, and continuing with a celebration of Beethoven's 250th birthday. The Music Academy curriculum is fine tuned and in September launches predominantly online with the first cohort of 16 students learning piano and violin in what will become known as the apprentice program.



2021

Project 88 kicks off its fourth season with a new live-stream format for concerts and an expansion of the Music Academy to include an entry-level preparatory program for students in grades 1-2.



2022

In celebration of 200 years of Brazilian independence, Project 88 forges a partnership with the General Consulate of Brazil in Chicago that includes the sponsorship of performances highlighting Brazilian music. The first concert of this commemoration features Brazilian guitarist Pedro Rogerio Aguiar performing the works of influential composers from his native country.



January–April

2023

In the midst of its fifth season, **Project 88** celebrates the **150th birthday of Russian composer Sergei Rachmaninoff** with a series of concerts featuring his works. The academy, now with 44 students at various levels of study, continues to grow with the addition of cello to its instrument offerings.



May

2023

Three students from the first cohort of the academy complete the **three-year apprentice program**, marked by the premiere of the annual **Rising Stars** concert featuring one of its graduates. **Project 88** launches the **Soriée Concert** fundraising series in partnership with **Beacon Arts and Music in Chicago**.



September

2023

To kick off its sixth season, in partnership with **St. Nikola Serbian Orthodox Church**, **Project 88 Music Academy** moves to the church's facility in Lyons, IL. The academy, now at 52 students, adds a new **Developing Artist Program**, a four-year advanced course of study. On the concert side, **Project 88** hosts its inaugural fundraising **Skyline Concert** on a rooftop terrace in downtown Chicago.



from parents and students

“I like the fact that Project 88 gives you a challenge while still being fun.”

Lola, *student*

“Project 88 music academy affected me by inspiring me to compose music.”

Nani, *student*

“The thing I most like about Project 88 is how they are able to teach and share how to show my passion for music by playing an instrument. As well as showing their own ways of how they show their passion for music.”

Maggie, *student*

“My favorite part of music class is playing games. My favorite game is jump on the staff. It’s soooo much fun!”

Evelyn, *student*

“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, *student*

The biggest effect that Project 88 has had on my children is that they learned how to read music which has opened up an entire world of opportunities. They no longer have to rely on YouTube tutorials, they can look up any song and learn to play it from standard notation.”

Angela, *parent*

“I appreciate the time that you have been spending teaching my children there. Another thing that I love about Project 88 is the quality of professionalism that every person has, and the way how they interact with the kids [which] results in the children’s engagement. Project 88’s work will change the future of many children in our community. One more time THANK YOU PROJECT 88 for everything.”

Adriana, *parent*

“In the three years we’ve been a part of Project 88, I’ve seen tremendous growth in my son. He has become passionate about practicing the piano every moment possible. He has discovered enjoyment and confidence in playing before others. And he has developed a deep knowledge of music theory and the skill to compose award-winning pieces.”

Tiffany, *parent*



our people

staff



Élider DiPaula
Executive and Artistic
Director



Desirae Contreras
Director of Operations



Wen Chin Liu
Music Academy
Supervisor



Rick Torres
Music Academy
Program Coordinator

faculty



Élider DiPaula
Piano and Composition
Faculty



Nayelii Duran
Violin



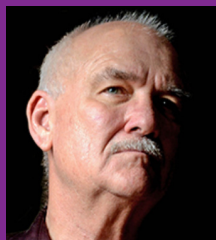
Miguel Fabian-Sauceda
Ensemble and
Performance



Peter Saltzman
Piano

Not pictured:
Ingrid Schimnoski,
Violin

volunteers



Bill (William) Calvert
Volunteer, Photographer



Catey Sullivan
Volunteer, Writer



David A. Powers
Volunteer, Writer

board of directors



Andrew Halverson
President



Branka Matevich
Past-President



Mike DeLonay
Vice President



Jonathan Adamczewski
Treasurer



Tiffany Roberts
Secretary



Janna Fiester



Carol Lin-Murphy



David Olson

Not pictured:
Karaline Feller
Mary Kitzberger



In memoriam

Lucile Evans

BY CATEY SULLIVAN,
PROJECT 88 VOLUNTEER



Even in a room of hundreds, Project 88's founding godmother Lucile Friese Evans was impossible to miss. It wasn't just her outward sense of style, which was impeccable whether she was sporting a floor-length golden gown or a snappy suit.

Lucile carried her own light, and it illuminated every room she entered. She could be deceptively soft-spoken, but when she became passionate about something she wanted to make happen in her beloved community, she found a way to make it happen. Her legacy to Project 88 will reverberate indefinitely. Lucile died August 6, 2023, at 94, in her sleep, in her Berwyn home of over 70 years. We hope to honor her through our music.

Lucile's crucial involvement in Project 88 dates back to September 17, 2017, when she attended an informal piano recital at her longtime house of worship, Berwyn's Unity Lutheran Church. In what seems, in retrospect, like a fateful coincidence, the concert happened to occur on the very same Sunday Project 88's Artistic Director Élider DiPaula reported for his first day of work as Unity's new music director.

The church was reasonably full, and Lucile — ever a passionate supporter of the local arts community — sat in the fourth row, avid and beaming. When DiPaula broached the wildly ambitious idea of a local music academy, she listened carefully. The amateur concert, he pointed out, had drawn close to 100 people. Think of what a concert from world-class musicians could create.

DiPaula's vision for the academy was two-fold: Establish an academy that provided top-tier music instruction to children regardless of their ability to pay, and be a producing entity that would bring world-class talent to concertize Berwyn.

Lucile believed in it from the start. Her support took many forms. She helped in a myriad of ways. She talked Project 88 up and brought friends to the concerts. She helped establish a fund for scholarships. She was a one-woman marketing team, sharing about Project 88 at grocery stores and city council meetings. Early on, she opened her home for epic Project 88 holiday parties. The Dunham House, as it's officially known on the National Registry of Historic Places, was the perfect place for the kind of 'everyone-around-the-piano' sing-a-longs reminiscent of a Judy Garland movie. Everyone who could play did, and those who didn't sang. Participation was mandatory, Lucile gleefully insisted. It was also raucous and wonderful.

Lucile attended every Project 88 concert and event right up until the pandemic. We weren't alone in benefiting from her generosity. Her largesse toward Project 88 was indicative of her deep roots in the community.

As DiPaula and Director of Operations Desirae Contreras were taking Project 88 from dream to reality early in its very first season, Lucile was awarded one of Berwyn's highest honors – the Robert Teeter Award, bestowed annually for remarkable service to the community. She invited DiPaula and made sure he met everyone she knew, talking up his musicianship and Project 88's goals with all of them.

As Lucile's obituary noted, she went to high school locally, a graduate of Morton. She left town to earn two college degrees, first a bachelor's in education from Carroll College and then a master of education from Chicago State University. She returned to marry Arthur Dunham in 1952 and then taught P.E. in Berwyn for decades. It didn't matter where you went with Lucile in Berwyn. She'd run into friends, whether at a tiny railroad station café or in line to renew vehicle stickers at city hall. She served on too many civic boards and committees to list here, including libraries, parks, after-school programs, and local arts organizations. When Lucile decided she was behind something, you could be sure it would get done. She'd link elbows with you, pull you in, and make you believe. She had an indomitable vision and was a profound influence.

We'd like to believe that now she can hear the music of the spheres.

Thank you, Lucile.

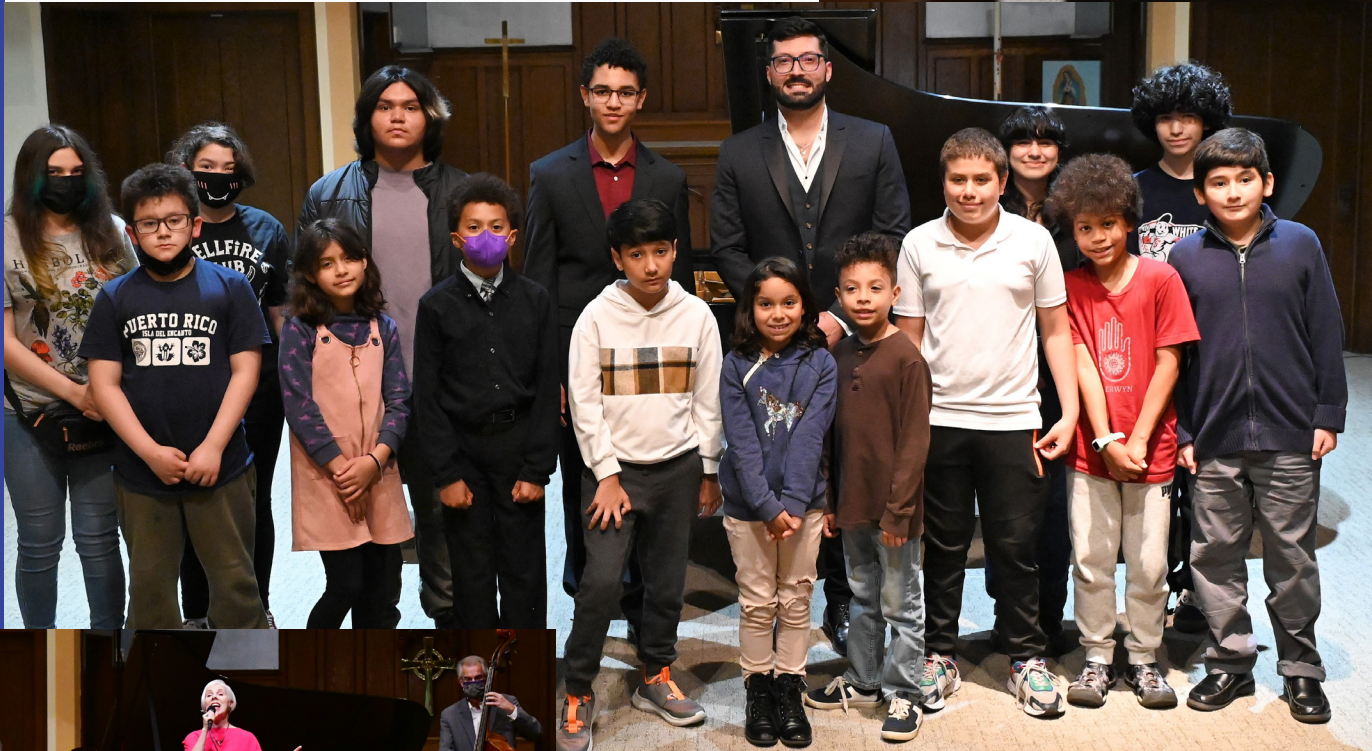


ways to give

Become a friend

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. By becoming a Friend of Project 88, you will play a critical role in helping sustain our mission and make our work possible.



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

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** (Soriée 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.

ways to give

Become a partner

Your Support Matters

The support of the local business community is critical to our vitality and stability. By partnering with Project 88 through a corporate sponsorship, local businesses help sustain our mission and play an essential role in enriching and inspiring our community through the power of music.

As a valued sponsor, your company will receive exposure across multiple platforms that will allow you to expand your reach and build brand recognition in the community—all while supporting a worthy cause.

Your Brand Exposure By the Numbers

- ✓ **Over 1,000 followers** on social media
- ✓ **Email distribution list of 355** individuals and growing
- ✓ On average, **1,267 website page views each month**
- ✓ **133 magazine reads** (digital magazine) in last month
- ✓ Our **concert series caters to an audience of about 1,000 people per season**, allowing your brand to be associated with well established and top emerging artists
- ✓ Our concert series has featured **artists from 16 different nations, including several Grammy award winning artists and the first American finalist in the Chopin International Competition**
- ✓ Our productions have been featured in the **Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times, Suburban Life**, and have been sponsored by the **Consulate General of Brazil in Chicago**

Corporate Sponsorship Opportunities:

Project 88 Music Academy offers a diverse range of sponsorship opportunities to meet your business and philanthropic objectives:

- 1. Sponsor an individual concert**
- 2. Support student** educational initiatives
- 3. Participate as a Community Business Partner by offering a discount** to Friends of Project 88

OR

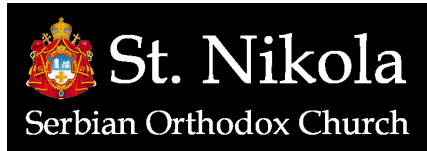
- 4. Maximize your impact by becoming a Season Sponsor** of our Concert Series that runs from September–May

Your sponsorship of our Concert Series or individual concerts helps showcase renowned artists from all over the world and keeps the concerts free to the community!

For more information, or if you have questions on a corporate sponsorship investment, please email contact@project88musicacademy.org and your message will be directed to the appropriate individual.

our partners

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



[St. Nikola](#)



[Unity Lutheran Church](#)



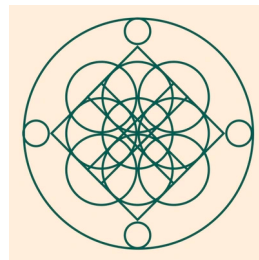
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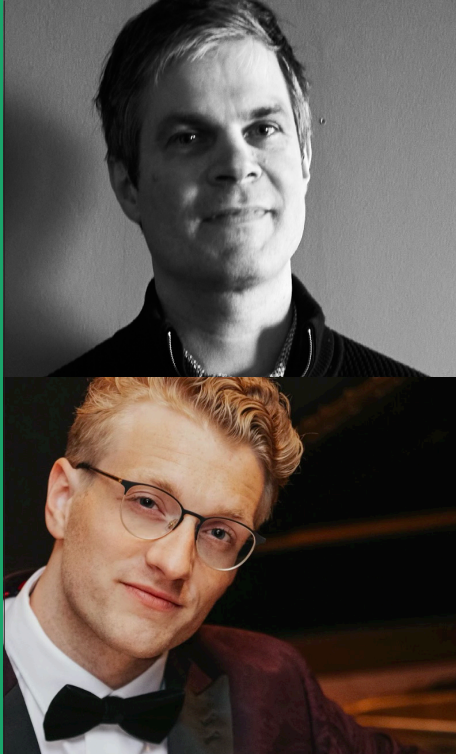
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Upcoming Project 88

UPCOMING UNITY LUTHERAN CONCERT

concerts



Dominic Johnson,
viola and
Matthew Lorenz,
piano

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soirée concerts



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piano

Piano
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Anita Graef, cello
and Louise Chan,
piano

Cello and Piano
03/16/24

[Get your tickets](#)

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



October–November, 2023

Project 88 Music Academy is a 501(c)(3) organization.

