



Issue No. 76 - Spring 2023

BIRCH NOTES

Birch Creek's 48th Season Filled With Possibilities

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

Dear Birch Creek friends,

New titles, new themes, GREAT faculty. Birch Creek is positioning itself for an invigorating summer, both in music education and performances on the Stage of Stars in the Dutton Concert Barn. Enhanced programming in the Percussion, Steel Pan & World Music Session will include world, jazz mallets and commercial music; Taka Matsunaga, Conductor, and Concertmaster Alan Snow are excitedly returning to the Symphony stage; and rare--and new to our audiences--big band jazz charts will be infused in two Big Band Sessions. Summer concerts will be intriguing and rewarding for all involved. After the academy concludes, the Wind Ensemble and Chamber Music retreats begin for adults, followed by Fall Series concerts in Juniper Hall's intimate setting. It all adds up to an

impressive year of Birch Creek programming.

Another possibility for new titles. New last season, naming rights became available for Birch Creek's most distinctive programs. The Birch Creek Concerto Competition was named the Clampitt Concerto Competition by Laurey and Phil Clampitt. Other flagship programs currently available for naming include Birch Creek Artists in the Schools, the annual program that brings Birch Creek professional artists into Door County Schools, and Birch Creek Jazz Ambassadors, each of two outreach student jazz combos that perform within towns and villages on the Door County peninsula.

Birch Creek's naming rights program is designed with ways for donors to name scholarships, faculty chairs, leadership positions, major locations, and programs through gifts to the Birch Creek Endowment. By working closely together, Birch Creek leaders help donors tailor naming gifts to match their values and preferences with Birch Creek's mission.

We are grateful for all your gifts. Long-established gifts to the Play It Forward Fund, scholarships, other funds in the Endowment that address ongoing budget and capital needs, and concert sponsorships pave the way for us to continue this great work at Birch Creek.

We hope you will join us for an invigorating and inspirational 2023 season.

Musically yours,

Mona Christensen, Executive Director

The Steve and Jackie Kane Chair

WAYS TO GIVE

Annual Gift

- Yearly support for general operations
- Memorials & Tributes
- Concert Sponsorships
- Annual Scholarships

The Birch Creek Endowment

- Permanent investments that provide an ongoing source of revenue and recognize significant donors

Capital Gifts

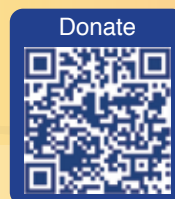
- Innovative solutions to technology, infrastructure, building, and energy needs

Planned Giving

- Lasting legacies through estate planning

Associates Volunteer

- Time and talent through service



New gifts received by 4/30/23 will be recognized in the 2023 Program Book; thereafter in the nightly program.

2023 AT BIRCH CREEK

Summer Music Academy

Percussion, Steel Pan & World Music	June 18 - July 1
Symphony	July 2 - 15
Jazz I	July 16 - 29
Jazz II	July 30 - August 12

Adult Music Programs

- Wind Ensemble Retreat:** August 15 - 18
- Chamber Music Retreat:** August 21 - 24

Fall Concert Series

September through December

WELCOME

Birch Creek welcomes two new staff members, Bill Schutté and Paul Greenlaw.

Bill Schutté's experience with maintenance and groundskeeping, along with property management and carpentry, brings upkeep and repair ability to the Lead Maintenance Tech position at Birch Creek.

Paul Greenlaw's experience in engineering and medicine provides safety and oversight to the Facilities Manager position, ensuring Birch Creek's facilities work efficiently to support music performances and learning.

We ask you to join us in welcoming Bill Schutté and Paul Greenlaw.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Steve Gomoll, **President**; Scott Brunswick, **Vice President**; Lyn Huber, **Secretary**; Stephen Kase, **Treasurer**; Sam Carmen, **Development Chair**; Miriam Erickson, **Past President**; John Belmont, Jane Berg, Jim Blair, Carla Byrnes, Jim Flint, Joan Guasta, Bill Hensge – **President of the Associates**, Steven Johnson, Lynn Kaczmarek, Bob Lindahl, Raymond Moulis, Carl Shakal, Diane Taillon

Birch Creek's mission is to provide intensive, performance-based instruction to promising young musicians by immersing them in a professional, mentoring environment.

SPRING OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday | 9am to 4pm Friday | 9am to 2pm

BIRCHCREEK.ORG

(920) 868-3763

Birch Creek is supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.





Buy Tickets

CONCERT TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Buy online at BirchCreek.org/Tickets

World Class Faculty / Academy Performances
Pre-Concert Music at 6:30 PM Concert Begins at 7:00 PM

PERCUSSION, STEEL PAN & WORLD MUSIC

June 22
June 23
June 24
June 29
June 30
July 1

July 4
July 6
July 7
July 8

July 13
July 14
July 15

SYMPHONY

BIG BAND JAZZ

July 19
July 20
July 21
July 22
July 26
July 27
July 28
July 29

Aug 2
Aug 3
Aug 4
Aug 5
Aug 9
Aug 10
Aug 11
Aug 12

BECOME AN ASSOCIATES VOLUNTEER!

Volunteer



For over 30 years, the Associates Volunteers have supported Birch Creek's educational mission by helping with campus beautification, ushering at concerts, staffing the concession stand, assisting with registration, tending to our gardens, doing office work and preparing the campus for students, faculty and patrons. The Associates also raise money for scholarships, equipment purchases and capital projects. We invite you to become a part of these great friends and valued supporters of Birch Creek!

The Birch Creek Associate Volunteers honored Dick and Jan Johnson with the Joan Guasta Award for Distinguished Service at the Annual Associates Volunteers Appreciation Dinner on September 14, 2022.



(920) 868-3763
www.birchcreek.org

3821 County Rd E, PO Box 230
Egg Harbor, WI 54209



PASSING TONES *Measures of Influence*

Lolly Ratajczak, President of the Birch Creek Board of Trustees during the years of the Capital Campaign that built the East Campus we enjoy today, passed away on August 25, 2022, in Apple Valley, MN. Lolly was all things to Birch Creek: a proponent of quality education, volunteer, donor, fundraiser, and friend. Her soft-spoken manner and laughter were infectious at every event from concerts to luncheons, reunions in Florida to ice cream socials at Birch Creek after the concerts had ended. She shared willingly, spoke with wisdom, and moved gracefully with her husband, Dave, equally involved, at her side. Artists in the Schools (AIS) is an outreach program for Door County schools that began with Miriam Erickson and Lolly in 2002 and continues to this day. Memorials to Birch Creek in Lolly's name are being used to underwrite the AIS outreach program this year.



Dave and Lolly Ratajczak were celebrated as Door County Community Foundation's 2018 Philanthropists of the Year.

Jeanne Barnard, Sturgeon Bay, passed away on August 21, 2022, after a year of valiantly battling brain cancer. The daughter of Howard and Miriam Erickson, both Birch Creek volunteers, Jeanne was recruited in the early years to volunteer also. It was a natural fit for Jeanne, who sang and played the piano and guitar daily for her kindergarten classes in Sturgeon Bay and was a member of no fewer than three choirs in the community. When Jeanne's daughter, Ann, was accepted as a jazz student, Jeanne added "Birch Creek parent" to her name. Her joy, laughter, and singing encouraged and delighted us, and float lightly on the breezes at Birch Creek still. Tribute gifts may be given in her memory.



Jeanne Barnard, left, is pictured with her mother, Miriam Erickson, at Birch Creek's dedication of the Erickson Listening Library, May 29, 2021.