



KANKAKEE VALLEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

# ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024 CONCERT SEASON





## ANNUAL DINNER

JULY 9, 2024 ■ KANKAKEE COUNTRY CLUB

# Welcome and Invocation

- Kate Cloonen - President, KVS0 Board of Directors
- Bob de Oliveira - KVS0 Concert Committee Chairman

### Entertainment

- Music by Rebekah Cope-Evers, KVS0 Concertmistress
- Dr. Paul Kenyon, Keyboardist

### 2024 Dr. Janet V. Leonard ‘Con Spirito’ Award

- Presented by Lynn O’Brien-Ahlden, Honoring Yvonne Chalfant, Barbara Schwark and Jane Veers

### Highlights from the KVS0 Family

- Financial Update – Marcie Kolberg, Treasurer
- Introduction of New Officers
- Introduction of the Board

### Preview of the Coming Season

- ‘Where Words Fail, Music Speaks’ - Dr. Sean Paul Mills



## Kankakee Valley Symphony Orchestra

The 2023 – 2024 season started with the traditional and ever-popular July 4th concerts by the Kankakee Valley Youth Symphony Orchestra, the Municipal Band, our own Kankakee Valley Symphony Orchestra and the City of Kankakee fireworks on the beautiful campus of KCC. Huge crowds attended and good weather prevailed.

The 2023 summer series continued to expand thanks to sponsors and grants from the Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley and the Iroquois Federal Foundation. The Music in the Park series was held at Cobb Park along the Kankakee River, Manteno and Herscher. These concerts featured the KVS0 woodwind quintet, the string quartet, or the brass quintet and were available free of charge to the public so that people of all income levels, all ages and all ability levels had a chance to experience live orchestral music.

The same is true for the performances at the Rhubarb Festival, the Strawberry Jazz Festival, the Fall Arts Stroll, the Kankakee Farmers’ Market, Oktoberfest and the Winter Market. The KVS0 mini concerts have come to be a staple as a cultural gem in the Kankakee area.

The Kiwanis Concert in October had a record number of over 1,500 students in attendance. Held at Centennial Chapel, area fourth, fifth and sixth graders learn about the symphonic instruments, see them close-up on the large screen and listen to classical music.

The standard KVS0 concert season was entitled ‘Hope’ with each of the concerts planned around the theme. Held at various venues, including Asbury Methodist Church, the Lincoln Cultural Center, Morning Star Baptist Church and Larsen Fine Arts Center, the musicians performed magnificently as true classical symphonic music was brought to an appreciative audience.

KVS0 continues to enlist new ideas, move in new directions, use social media and engage new audience members to stay contemporary while presenting music of the greatest composers of all time.

Our successful season is possible only with our donors, concert sponsors, advertisers, concert attendees, music director, orchestra members, the Women’s Guild, the Foundation, the Board of Directors and the KVYSO. Our deepest gratitude goes to all who help further the ideals of the Kankakee Valley Symphony Orchestra.

Please join us in the 2024-2025 season as we present ‘Where Words Fail, Music Speaks’. We look forward to seeing you at the summer performances throughout the area. Check our website [kvso.org](http://kvso.org) and our Facebook and Instagram page for updates.

Respectfully submitted,



**KATE CLOONEN**  
*President*  
*Board of Directors*



## 2024 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE KVSO Women's Guild

The KVSO Women's Guild began our fiscal year in August 2023. The Kankakee Public Library has graciously continued to offer one of their conference rooms for our monthly meetings for the upcoming year. The guild is very appreciative for their hospitality.

The Women's Guild 2023-2024 program books were distributed to all members. Sadly, this year we lost one of our beloved members, Sandra Ortiz. She will be missed by all.

As always, we had a busy year for events. We coordinated and distributed all program materials for the Kiwanis concert, provided desserts for the KVSOA Annual Dinner, utilized our culinary skills for dinner for ten at the Ouwengas', provided ushers at all KVSOA concerts, provided cookies monthly to two businesses and of course planned for our huge event – Symphony of Sweets.

The annual Symphony of Sweets was held on December 03, 2023. Karen Duchene and Dee Pinski were co-chairs of this event and the evening was its usual success with total dinner receipts to over \$15,000. A special thanks to all members of the Guild for their generous contributions of their baking skills and hard work.

Our Fashion Show was held on May 16th at the Kankakee Country Club and was chaired by Dee Pinski. It featured a local designer from St. Anne and as usual, Dee outdid herself.

Shopping was provided by local vendors and the event was a wonderful success. The show was well attended and enjoyed by all. A net profit of \$3925 was added to our treasury. Many thanks to Dee Pinski.

Our annual luncheon was held on May 21, 2024 and the 2024-2025 Guild leadership team assumed their positions. Chairman - Liz Madsen, Vice-chairman - Carol Vallone, Meeting Notetaker - Vicky McBurnie and Financial Secretary - Peggy Strange. Additional chairs are: Symphony of Sweets – Christy Goselin and Sharon McGuire, Publicity - Sharon Ouwenga. The following women have requested to be moved from active membership to associate membership: Waltraud Schuller, Mary Jane Capriotti, Karen Duchene, Jeanne Lindberg, Diane Siaroff and Jane Veers. Connie Angelo resigned from the Guild.

Finally, as we all look forward to the upcoming year, we presented to the Kankakee Valley Symphony Orchestra a check for \$24,000 - the proceeds from this past year's fundraising events and contributions. A job well done ladies!

Respectfully submitted,

**KAREN KORUP-DUCHENE**  
*Guild Chairman*



## 2024 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE Kankakee Valley Youth Symphony Orchestra



### 2023

- July 4 – performance at Kankakee Community College with KVYSO and Friends (including orchestra alumni and community members).
- September 9 – Auditions for 2023-24's season, 'The Sun, the Moon and the Stars' were held at Olivet Nazarene University. Sunday rehearsals and sectionals for the regular season were held at Larsen Fine Arts Center, Olivet Nazarene University, beginning September 10.
- Coaches for the year – Woodwinds: Dr. Stephanie Lupo. Brass: Daniel Lesch. Strings: Julie Tomasek. Percussion and Piano were handled by Katrina Cessna.
- November 19 – Fall concert at Kresge Auditorium, Larsen Fine Arts Center, ONU. This concert featured works by Mozart, Holst, Handel, Drake and John Williams.
- December 3 – KVYSO members were invited to play on the KVSO Holiday Concert.
- December 9 – KVYSO Chamber Musicians performed a short Holiday program at the Kankakee Winter Market, Kankakee Public Library.

### 2024

- January 21 – 'Bring a Friend' Rehearsal and Pizza.
- January 28 – Regular 2nd semester rehearsals began.
- April 21 – Spring concert at Kresge Auditorium, Larsen Fine Arts Center, Olivet Nazarene University. KVYSO presented a program including works by Randy Edelman, Mussorgsky, Debussy, Kevin Day and KVYSO senior Parker Beasley.
- May 31 to June 2 – KVYSO closed out its season with several members participating in the 2024 Heart of Illinois Youth Orchestra Festival, making music with members of the Bloomington Normal Youth Symphony, Decatur Youth Symphony Orchestra, East Central Illinois Youth Orchestra, Illinois Symphony Youth Orchestra and Quincy Area Youth Orchestra. Concert June 2 at Doudna Fine Arts Center, Eastern Illinois University, featured works by Gillis, Liriano, Elgar, Grainger, Dvorak and Márquez.



**BARBARA  
SCHWARK**



**JUNELL  
HOEKSTRA**

*KVYSO Co-Chairs*



2024 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

Music Director

Sean Paul Mills



We took that first step in January as we rebuilt the KVSO from the ground up for our February concert. Not only did we manage to recruit the musicians for a chamber orchestra but also nearly completely replaced the original repertoire for that performance. All of this was accomplished over a few weeks in January! Our first step together was a big one.

Immediately following our February concert, we set to adding to the orchestra and acquiring a soloist for our season finale in April. This, too, happened quite quickly and would not have been possible without the assistance of board members, KVSO musicians, ONU faculty and other community members who are invested in the wellbeing of the KVSO and the arts in the region. To say that this was a 'group effort' would be an incredible understatement but does clarify the importance of every person to the success of an organization such as the KVSO. Without its myriad of volunteers, staff and musicians, we would not be able to present memorable concert experiences for our audience members.

Scattered throughout the last 6 months have been lovely interactions with community members (including our Season Finale reception); attendance at the KCC Foundation's Fundraiser Dinner, the KVSO Women's Guild's 'Symphony of Style' and the KVSO Women's Guild's Annual Luncheon; meetings with key community members and KVSO supporters; and getting to know the members of the KVSO Board of Directors.

As I sit down to 'pen' this Annual Report, the sky is blue, there is a slight breeze and the temperature is a lovely 76-degrees Fahrenheit... all in all, a beautiful early-summer day. Often, when I am composing a note to the orchestra, writing program notes, or completing some other writing task, I find myself looking out the windows of our home office in order to seek inspiration from the natural beauty outside. Today, I observe the wind rustling the leaves on the mature trees across the street and it causes me to reflect on our journey over the last 6 months. As one ponders this past season, it may feel as though the KVSO's 56th Season was an arduous one. And although that may be true, it was also a wonderful journey that revealed so many possibilities at the same time.

*The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step*

Lao Tzu: Tao te Ching



All of these have been thoroughly enjoyable experiences and wonderful opportunities to get a better-sense of both the community and the support for the KVSO.

The KVSO's *summer season* is just as filled with activity as the *regular season* with Music in the Park concerts, small group performances throughout the region and our July 4 concert at Kankakee Community College.

Our 57th Season will be an exciting one as we explore how 'Music Speaks...' (derived from Hans Christian Andersen's 'Where words fail, music speaks') and will feature two guest artists (French pianist Matthieu Bergheau and Ohio-based violinist Andrew Sords), several collaborations with the KVSO Chorus (Debussy's 'Nocturnes' and Vivaldi's 'Gloria'), the annual Kiwanis Concert (a Halloween-inspired theme), a Baroque Christmas program featuring our own Stephanie Lupo & Clara Capriotti (flutes) and concertmistress Rebekah Cope-Evers (violin) as soloists and two all-orchestra programs featuring some of the most emotionally powerful and personal music composed - Beethoven's 'Eroica Symphony' and Sibelius' 'Symphony No. 2.'

As I conclude my thoughts on this season, I again find myself reflecting on the journey metaphor. This time, it is more specific: Spain's Camino de Santiago (the Camino Francés in this case). The Camino de Santiago is an approximately 500-mile journey that will take the average hiker 35 days to complete, costs about \$60 per day (\$2100.00 total) and requires an additional investment in hiking gear (including multiple pairs of hiking boots), transportation to/from Spain and accommodations at either end of the journey. This is no small undertaking. Neither is the day-to-day operation of a symphony orchestra. The KVSO is blessed with an abundance of committed, dedicated, skilled, enthusiastic and selfless supporters who make it all possible. Thank you to one and all for your continued support of this organization and of the musicians who ARE the KVSO.

I eagerly anticipate the next steps in our musical journey together. I can't think of better companions to have on this journey.

With gratitude,

SEAN PAUL MILLS, D.M.A.  
KVSO Music Director & Conductor



## 2024 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE Foundation

Annual gifts of any size help to support the programs that the Symphony provides each year. Larger gifts, either during your life time or from your estate, can be invested in the funds that have been set aside to provide income to help assure that future generations have the opportunity to enjoy the quality of performances that we have been able to provide.

The Foundation funds started the fiscal year with \$698,800, as of May 31, 2023. Each year, an amount is transferred to the operating fund of the Symphony, based on a formula designed to support the annual operating budget while maintaining the long term viability of the invested funds. Based on that formula, a total of \$29,500 was transferred from the investments to the operating funds of the

Kankakee Valley Symphony Orchestra during the 2023-2024 season. The increase in the value the invested funds resulted in \$774,450 of investments as of May 31, 2024.

The Symphony, as an organization, has worked to be a good steward of the funds that have been entrusted to us by prior donors. Due to this dedication we have been able to help sustain the Symphony for many years. We encourage you to consider the Symphony when you are planning your charitable giving. Thank you to all of our donors.



**DALE L. GERRETSE**  
*Foundation Committee*



## 2023-2024 Leadership



### *KVSO*

**Sean Paul Mills, D.M.A.**  
MUSIC DIRECTOR  
& CONDUCTOR

**Kate Cloonen**  
PRESIDENT

**Lynn O'Brien-Ahlden**  
PAST PRESIDENT

**David Jaffe**  
VICE PRESIDENT

**Chris Bohlen**  
SECRETARY

**Marcie Kolberg**  
TREASURER

**Karen Korup-Duchene**  
WOMEN'S GUILD

**Junell Hoekstra**  
KVYSO

**Barbara Schwark**  
KVYSO

**Directors**  
Barbi Brewer-Watson  
Bill Buck  
Yvonne V. Chalfant  
Liz Madsen  
Don Reddick  
Rebecca Schiltz  
Michael Snyder  
Maurice Sullivan



### *KVYSO*

**Katrina Cessna**  
MUSIC DIRECTOR  
& CONDUCTOR

**Barbara Schwark and  
Junell Hoekstra**  
CO-CHAIRS

**Allison Beasley**  
SECRETARY

**Rich Schiltz**  
TREASURER

**George Kwain**  
MUSIC LIBRARIAN

**Committee Members**  
Julie Bell  
Robert Jensen  
Daniel Lesch  
Cassandra McCullough

### *Women's Guild*

**Karen Korup-Duchene**  
CHAIR

**KVSO BOARD  
REPRESENTATIVE**

**Dee Pinski**  
CO-CHAIR

**Vicky McBurnie**  
MEETING NOTES

**Jane Veers**  
FINANCIALS

**Dee Pinski**  
SYMPHONY OF FASHION

**Karen Korup-Duchene  
and Dee Pinski**  
SYMPHONY OF SWEETS

**Karen Korup-Duchene**  
ANNUAL MEETING

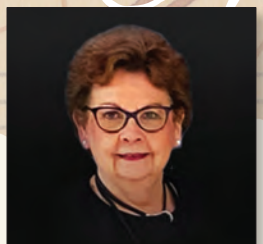
**Sharon Ouwenga**  
HISTORIAN

**Carol Vallone**  
MEMBERSHIP

**Sharon Ouwenga**  
PUBLICITY



CONGRATULATIONS  
TO THE 2024  
**DR. JANET V.  
LEONARD**  
CON SPIRITO  
AWARD RECIPIENTS



**Yvonne V. Chalfant**



**Barbara Schwark**



**Jane Veers**

#### Previous Recipients:

Lynn O'Brien-Ahlden, David Jaffe, Dr. and Mrs. John Bowling, George Kwain, Peter and Chris Crego, Bruce Payne, Dr. Kay Green, Paul Germano, Waltraud Schuller, Mary Maddox, Ovid Young, Harlow Hopkins, Ken Bade, Shannon Moore and Janet V. Leonard



## Cash Receipts

	2023-2024	2022-2023	Annual Budget
Subscriptions	\$10,870	\$12,360	\$14,760
Ticket Sales	4,815	6,730	5,750
Concert/Season Sponsorships	-	2,500	2,000
Kiwanis Children's Concert	2,775	3,000	3,000
Fourth of July Sponsor	5,000	5,500	5,500
Program Ads	10,598	7,828	8,200
Donations	17,856	15,960	17,228
Transfer from Women's Board	24,000	34,000	24,800
Transfer from Foundation funds	29,505	26,378	29,505
Charlton Family Fdn Support	6,000	6,000	6,000
Grant Revenues	17,800	8,100	8,200
Fourth of July Admission Fees	8,420	7,560	7,860
Other	2,640	3,230	3,860
<b>Total Cash Receipts</b>	<b>\$140,279</b>	<b>\$139,146</b>	<b>\$136,663</b>

## Corporate & Community Partners

Arends Hogan Walker, LLC	Iroquois Federal Foundation, Inc.
Charles Balesi and Waltraud Schuller	Carol Johnson
Barmann, Bohlen & Scott PC	Kankakee City Convention
John and Jill Bowling	& Visitors Bureau
Charlton Family Charitable Foundation	Kankakee Community College
City of Kankakee	Kiwanis Club of Kankakee
Gary and Kate Cloonen	Milner Media Partners
Community Foundation	Nucor Steel
of Kankakee River Valley	Olivet Nazarene University
The Daily Journal	Warren and Sharon Ouwenga
Emma Rose Dieter	Peddinghaus
Eastgate Industrial Parkway	Riverside Medical Center
Jill Eaton	Marjorie Schrock
First Trust Bank of Illinois	Diane Siaroff and Dr. Bert Jacobson
Barbara Harro	Norman Strasma
Hoekstra Transportation, LLC	TCMT Assembly & Packing
Illinois Arts Council	John and Jane Veers



## Cash Disbursements

	2023-2024	2022-2023	Annual Budget
Staff	\$12,430	\$12,600	\$ 13,200
Musician Costs for Concerts	70,090	58,565	75,687
Kiwanis Youth Concert	2,775	3,100	4,319
Musicians for Fourth of July	8,818	5,225	6,500
Other Fourth of July Expenses	5,572	4,756	5,200
Mini Concert Expenses	3,621	3,215	3,910
Music and Licensing	1,276	568	2,814
Insurance	2,705	2,701	2,631
Venue Expense	1,855	1,080	3,302
Professional Fees	2,150	1,950	2,600
Advertising	4,005	1,124	1,800
Printing and Postage	2,810	2,158	2,479
Graphic Design	6,661	5,477	6,800
Other Expenses	7,982	5,822	5,983
Transfer to Youth Symphony	3,533	2,609	2,733
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>136,283</b>	<b>110,950</b>	<b>139,958</b>
Receipts in excess of expenditures	3,996	28,196	(3,295)
Cash at beginning of year	157,751	129,555	
<b>Cash at end of period</b>	<b>\$161,747</b>	<b>\$157,751</b>	



# WELCOME TO OUR 2024-2025 SEASON

## WHERE WORDS FAIL

# Music Speaks



### **MUSIC SPEAKS OF EXUBERANCE**

**Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024 - 7 PM**

Kresge Auditorium, Olivet Nazarene  
University, Bourbonnais



### **A BAROQUE CHRISTMAS**

**Sunday, Dec. 8, 2024 - 4 PM**

Maternity Blessed Virgin Mary Church,  
Bourbonnais

### **KIWANIS YOUTH CONCERT**

**Centennial Chapel, Olivet Nazarene  
University, Bourbonnais - 10 AM**

A free concert for area students  
Date TBA

### **MUSIC SPEAKS OF AMOUR**

**Saturday, Feb. 15, 2025 - 7 PM**

Kankakee High School Auditorium,  
Kankakee

### **MUSIC SPEAKS OF LIVING**

**Saturday, Oct. 12, 2024 - 7 PM**

Kankakee High School Auditorium,  
Kankakee

### **MUSIC SPEAKS OF INDEPENDENCE**

**Saturday, April 5, 2025 - 7 PM**

Kresge Auditorium, Olivet Nazarene  
University, Bourbonnais

## *Our Youth Symphony*

### **FALL CONCERT**

**Sunday, Nov. 17, 2024 - 3 PM**

Kresge Auditorium,  
Olivet Nazarene University,  
Bourbonnais



**CELEBRATING  
25 YEARS!**



### **SPRING CONCERT**

**Sunday, April 27, 2025 - 3 PM**

Kresge Auditorium,  
Olivet Nazarene University,  
Bourbonnais

### **A BAROQUE CHRISTMAS WITH THE KVSO**

**Sunday, Dec. 8, 2024 - 4 PM**

Maternity Blessed Virgin Mary  
Church, Bourbonnais