

rhythm&news

SPRING 2021



Our Virtual Life

Jazz Education

Short List Ending

New Transmitter

The Year in Jazz

Student Profile:

Emma Stadelmann

Member Profile:

Brian & Marty Stoll

Underwriter Profile:

Gilded Pear Gallery

kcck
jazz 88.3

2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

THE KEY OF G

There is not much that can be said here about 2020 that hasn't already been said. This was a costly year. We grieved the loss of our favorite concerts and plays, our property and particularly trees destroyed in the derecho, and the thousands of lives lost in the pandemic, including so many jazz icons.



Dennis Green

I have been so proud of the KCCK community for their dedication and flexibility during this year. When nearly every business shut down in the spring, each KCCK producer committed to behaving safely and continued to come to work, preserving KCCK's service for a listenership starved for companionship and entertainment.

And our donors have been there each step along the way, continuing to give and in many cases, increasing donations to help our operations continue without pause even though other income sources dried up.

Thanks for listening, thanks for contributing, and thanks for your positive emails, phone calls, and social media posts that helped us get through this tumultuous year.

Here's hoping that soon we'll again have opportunities to gather in person to enjoy the music that sustains and the community that knits us together.

Dennis Green
General Manager, KCCK

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Jazz 88.3 KCCK FM & HD Radio

Member-supported public radio from Kirkwood Community College

Dennis Green, General Manager
Bob Stewart, Program and Music Director
George Dorman, News and Operations Director
Michelle Collier, Development Director
Ron Adkins, Music and Feature Producer
Hollis Monroe, Music and Feature Producer
Laura Carson, Office Manager

MUSIC AND PROGRAM PRODUCERS

Scott Chrisman
Bob DeForest
Cary J. Hahn
John Heim
Murray Kent
Craig Kessler
Saul Lubaroff
Dennis Lynch
Bob Naujoks
Monica Schmidt
Zachary Schmitz
Emma Stadelmann

ENGINEERING

James Brown
Phil Meaney

Jody Pellerin, Vice President, Advancement
Kirkwood Community College

Lori Sundberg, President
Kirkwood Community College

Photos by Jeff Schmatt, Rubicon Photography



KCCK, 6301 Kirkwood Blvd. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404
Download the free KCCK app for Apple or Android

88.3 FM & HD Radio | 106.9 FM & HD Radio - Johnson County

Listen online at www.kcck.org

Studio 319-398-5883 | Office 319-398-5446 | Toll Free 800-373-5225

Kirkwood Community College Board of Trustees

James Mollenhauer, Chair
Tracy Pearson, Vice Chair
Margaret (Peggy) Doerge (appointed Oct. 2020)
Alan Jensen
Steven Ovel
Rose Rennekamp (resigned Sept. 2020)
Dr. Keith Stamp
John Swanson
Joel Thys
Lorraine Williams

Kirkwood
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

2020 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Operating Revenues

CPB, Community Service Grants

\$105,991

Contributions from business and industry through Kirkwood Community College Foundation

\$36,857

Contributions from individuals through Kirkwood Community College Foundation

\$359,273

Jazz Band Camp

\$17,400

Nonoperating Revenues

Investment earnings (loss)

\$8,205

State Board and Iowa Department of Education allocations

\$479,758

Administrative support from Kirkwood Community College

\$243,569

KCCCK's financial audits for this and previous years can be viewed at www.kcck.org/legal or in person during business hours at the KCCCK office.

Expenses

Programming and Production

\$493,667

Fundraising and Membership Development

\$70,646

Programming Information and Promotion

\$17,848

Jazz Camp

\$18,545

Broadcast and Engineering

\$16,010

Underwriting and Grant Solicitation

\$40,864

Management and General

\$520,290

Depreciation

\$13,489

\$1,251,053 TOTAL REVENUE

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$1,191,359**

CHANGES IN NET POSITION

\$59,694

In Tribute: Jim Majusiak

During fund drives, we sometimes make the point that KCCCK is here today because people gave money in the past that enabled the station to survive into the present. If you're hearing KCCCK today, Jim Majusiak is one of the people to whom you owe a debt of gratitude.

Jim died of pancreatic cancer in July 2019. His life was filled with friends, helping others, and, of course, music.

Jim moved to Iowa City in the '80s, where he worked many a late night as an emergency room physician.

Jim mentioned to a colleague that he missed the radio listening options he had when he lived in Oregon, particularly during the overnight hours. His friend suggested KCCCK. And that was all it took.

Over time, listening to KCCCK became a bigger and bigger part of Jim's life. He even asked the hospital engineering department to run an antenna wire from the roof to his workstation (located deep inside Iowa City's Mercy Hospital), which had poor reception.



"That became moot when the station started streaming," he said with a chuckle in a 2018 interview.

Jim was one of KCCCK's most generous and consistent donors. After his first donation in 1989, he never missed a year. He sometimes would tell friends he was KCCCK's first donor!

Jim told us that donating to KCCCK is important because there are no guarantees in life that the things

we enjoy will always be around.

"Sometimes things disappear, whether it's the corner grocery or the friendly guy you knew that ran the service station. Small operations like that, when they go away, they don't come back. And that's where the urgency is in supporting it. Because it's probably more tenuous than any of us realize."

Jim was also one of the first KCCCK members to make an estate gift. When KCCCK needed a new transmitter in 2020, we realized that helping to fund that transmitter would certainly have been Jim's wish. We used part of his estate gift as a matching grant for the transmitter fundraising campaign; that helped us blow past our goal of \$70,000, funding the transmitter and subsequent engineering expenses.

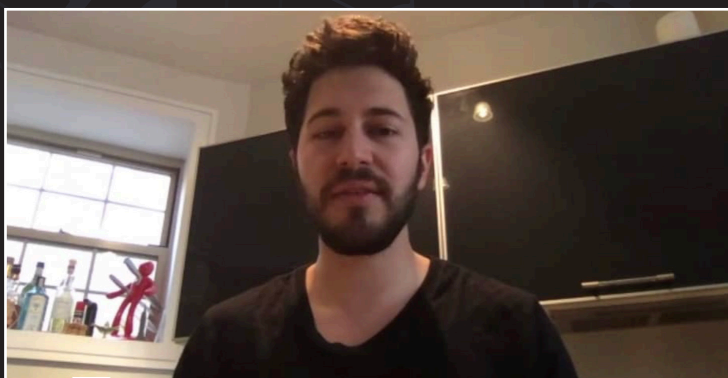
Jim passionately supported KCCCK throughout his life, and today his generosity sustains Iowa's Jazz Station for the future.

Our Virtual Life

Many of our usual activities moved online in 2020, such as the Iowa City Jazz Festival. The Jazz Festival's presenting organization, Summer of the Arts, recorded several shows that streamed over the July Fourth weekend in lieu of a live festival. At the same time, KCCK broadcast "Best of the Fest," an entire weekend of favorite Jazz Fest performances chosen by musicians, jazz fest volunteers, and KCCK listeners.



As most live music and theatre performances moved online, so did KCCK's Culture Crawl, Dennis Green's weekly interviews with artists of all kinds. An unintended benefit of the pandemic shutdown has meant that artists from all over the country have participated in eastern Iowa performances, such as Joy Vandervort-Cobb (pictured) from Charleston, South Carolina, who starred in Riverside Theatre's "No Child" in October.



With most venues closed, jazz musicians took to the Internet. Renowned pianist Emmet Cohen presents "Mondays with Emmet" each week, with special guests in his quarantine bubble. Emmet also talked to us about the shows this past spring.



The Iowa Women's Jazz Orchestra Sextet was a featured group for the Iowa City Jazz Festival streaming event. (From left: Gail Williams, Jen Tiede, Vivian Shanley, Lynne Hart, Farren Johnson, Toni LeFebvre.)



Even the fund drive became a socially distanced affair. The pledge drive moved to Studio D, several doors down from the main control room, to maintain distancing during fundraising.



As our knowledge evolved about how the pandemic spread, so did our safety precautions. We began by (and are still) wiping down all contact services in the control room between shifts. When it became known the virus was mainly transmitted through the air, every producer was given their own microphone, and the studios were all equipped with HEPA filters. We also now alternate studio use to allow each room to “rest” and exchange air for at least four hours before being used again.



First Friday Jazz has continued through the pandemic, even though there hasn't been a live audience since March 2020. Shows are broadcast on KCCK and streamed from the Orchestra Iowa Facebook page. The series took a month hiatus in the fall, when the Opus Concert Cafe was damaged in the derecho. The newly repaired venue was christened by 3 Dawgs and a Bone (pictured) in November.



In lieu of a premium during the fall fund drive, we donated a portion of each pledge to Trees Forever to help their campaign to replace trees lost in the derecho. Ron Adkins and Michelle Collier presented a check to Trees Forever Founder and CEO (and longtime KCCK member!) Shannon Ramsay for \$2,100.

Bob Calls It a Day for the 'Not-So-Short' List



Bob Naujoks recently announced that after 984 episodes covering 938 artists, groups, and venues, this spring's "Sweeping Up" will mark the end of "The Short List." Bob reflects on the experience of making the show that debuted in 1997.

"The Short List" began because I was looking for an excuse to buy an expensive set of classic jazz. Mosaic had come out with the Classic Capitol Jazz Sessions set of 12 CDs, which had the hefty price tag of about \$200. I thought if I could produce a series of programs on this set which contained some of my favorite jazz from 1940s, and if the station had a small amount of money, I could both share and afford it. I pitched the idea to Diane Allender, who was music director at the time, and she went for it. Once that series was finished, she asked me to do another, so I did one on my favorite jazz vocalists. Assuming it would be a one-off, I called it "The Short List." When things continued, it was George Dorman who nailed the name for publicity purposes.

I got nice comments along the way, even from my KCKC associates. The series that I found most challenging, interesting, and perhaps rewarding were:

- **"Jazz & the Spoken Word,"** about poets and jazz music, a tradition that extends back to Langston Hughes and the Harlem Renaissance, but also continues today.
- **"Accordion Jazz,"** chronicling that instrument's encroachment into the genre, which turned out to be a marvelous research project. It gave me the chance to talk to some present-day jazz accordionists, one of whom even came to Cedar Rapids twice.
- **"Jazz Bow,"** on violin jazz. Again, some interesting research where I learned that even Benny Moten's early band had one.
- In the **"Gabriel's Horn Two"** series, I wrote the narrative in poetic lines.

There was an additional bonus to doing the series: When I made the archival CDs for the station, I made a drawing or image for the cover insert. That opportunity created some nice artwork for my portfolio, as well as being an outlet for my graphic design skills.

I know I missed some favorite artists. I can't believe that I did not do the great Sidney Bechet somewhere along the line. That will be rectified in the final "Sweeping Up" series this spring.

One touching thing was a request to use "Jazz Bow" at a musician's funeral. I had contact with the journeyman New York jazz violinist Peter Compo as I was compiling the series in 2000. There were several phone calls where we talked, and Peter sent several CDs of his music to me in return for a copy of the finished program. When he died in 2003, his son gave copies of the show to attendees at the wake.

I am grateful to KCKC for the encouragement and support for the "Short List" programs. Dennis Green and former KCKC General Manager Steve Carpenter have always been supportive. Other KCKC staff members offered ideas for programs or artists. "B-3 Blitz" originated from a suggestion from Gordon Paulsen. Mark Yother and I traded ideas occasionally, too. George Dorman always helped technically, Ron Adkins was often a sounding board, and Bob Stewart often found CDs that I required. Thanks to all.

Corridor Jazz Project: Coming in Under the Wire

2020 started off normally enough for KCKC's Corridor Jazz Project. The recordings were completed in mid-January. The CD was produced and delivered on time. And the March concert took place less than a week before things began to close down. The Corridor Jazz Concert ended up being the last high school jazz event in the state of Iowa!

But the concert would have been memorable even without the shadow of the pandemic. We welcomed special guest Sherri Maricle, drummer and founder of the DIVA big band, who extended her stay in the Midwest by an extra day to do some clinics and to perform with City High School (Iowa City). Quad Cities drummer Josh Duffee brought Louie Bellson's fabulous drum kit when he guested with Solon High School. Other highlights included trombonist and 10 of Soul leader Mike McMann doing a duet with his cousin, Linn-Mar High School trumpeter Anna Kelly.

KCKC's Student Guest DJ hours were some of the first programs to pivot to Zoom, as we hosted all 12 schools virtually.

The Corridor Jazz Project has been modified for 2021 so recordings can be done in school with social distancing and other precautions. Instead of a live concert, we'll be presenting a special online show with the debuts of professionally produced videos of each school, hosted by students and guest artists.

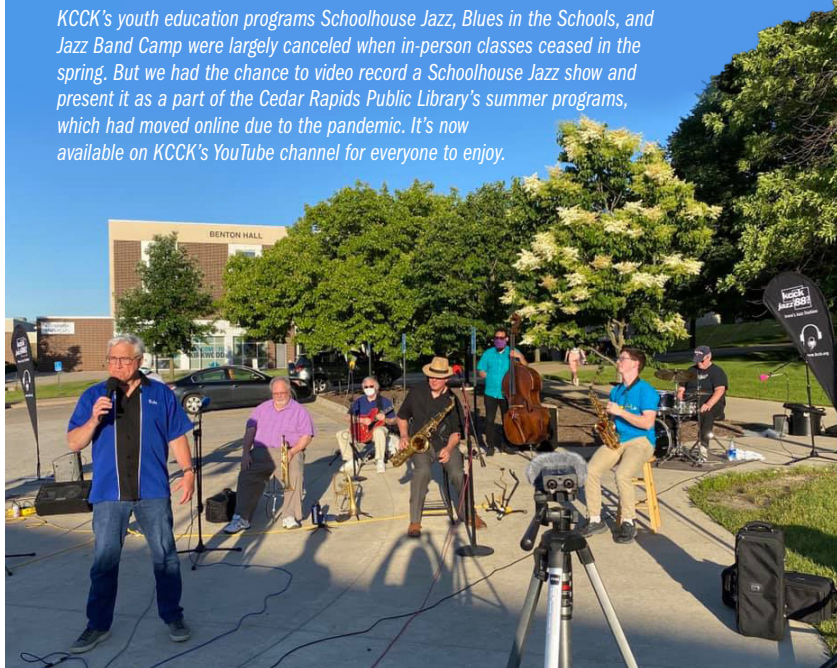


Vivian and Ana's KCKC fundraiser

Bassist Vivian Shanley from Cedar Rapids Washington High School and guitarist Ana Koch from City High School in Iowa City performed a "back deck" concert in July to support KCKC. It was streamed from our Facebook page and raised several hundred dollars to support our education programs.

Schoolhouse Jazz

KCKC's youth education programs Schoolhouse Jazz, Blues in the Schools, and Jazz Band Camp were largely canceled when in-person classes ceased in the spring. But we had the chance to video record a Schoolhouse Jazz show and present it as a part of the Cedar Rapids Public Library's summer programs, which had moved online due to the pandemic. It's now available on KCKC's YouTube channel for everyone to enjoy.





KCKK Installs New Transmitter

In the fall of 2019, KCKK's tower was struck by a lightning bolt, overwhelming the antenna's lightning protection and damaging several circuit boards in the transmitter. We suffered through a weekend off the air, and when repairs were made, discovered that the HD radio circuitry would be a very expensive repair. It was decided instead to purchase a new transmitter and keep the old one as a backup. In February 2020, we asked our listeners to help fund the purchase.

The response was wildly successful, blowing past our \$70,000 goal. The effort was helped by a matching grant from the Jim Majusiak estate gift (see Jim's tribute article earlier in this publication). The pandemic slowed down installation, which began in July. We benefitted from expert installation help from two of the country's top radio engineers: IPR's Jim Davies and NRG Media's George Nicholas.

The transmitter came online just a week before the derecho! Fortunately, the windstorm didn't damage it, and when the electricity came back, so did the signal (although we admit we were holding our breath).



(TOP) Consulting engineers George Nicholas (left) and Jim Davies examine the new GatesAir FAX5 transmitter after delivery.

(BOTTOM) Consulting engineer Jim Davies works on the coupler that will transfer operations between the primary and backup transmitters when necessary.

(RIGHT) KCKK member Tom Vavra was curious to see what his contribution to the transmitter fund drive purchased and took a socially distanced tour in November.





The Year In Jazz

by Bob Stewart

As was the case with most everything in 2020, COVID-19 was the story in jazz over the past year. From canceled concerts and festivals to coronavirus-related deaths to struggling jazz clubs endeavoring to stay afloat — the pandemic cast a shadow over it all.

There were a few events that took place in the spring before it all came down. In March, KCCK held its Corridor Jazz Project Concert featuring the talented ensembles from the area's high schools and their special guest performers at the Solon Center for the Arts. It included a surprise appearance by drummer Sherrie Maricle of the Diva Jazz Orchestra, who happened to be passing through the Midwest and took time to sit in with one of the ensembles. A few days after that, guitarist Fareed Haque, keyboardist Tony Monaco, and drummer Paul Wertico gave a wonderful performance to a small, but appreciative, audience at the National Czech and Slovak Museum in Cedar Rapids.

Then it all came to a halt. Jazz festivals across the country, including our own Iowa City Jazz Festival, had to be postponed. Jazz musicians across the country, and especially the jazz capital of New York City, had to curtail their live activities due to restrictions on gatherings.

The virus took the lives of some of the greats early in the pandemic. In March, virtuoso trumpeter Wallace Roney died at the age of 59. The month of April alone saw the passing of legends Lee Konitz, Ellis Marsalis, Bucky Pizzarelli, and Henry Grimes.

The year also saw the passing of many other greats, not specifically related to COVID-19. Pianists McCoy Tyner, Mike Longo, Lyle Mays, Frank Kimbrough, and Stanley Cowell all left us. The reed section lost Jimmy Heath, Lennie Niehaus, Jeff Clayton, Steve Grossman, and Richie Cole. Percussionists Jimmy Cobb and Ray Mantilla, and bassist Gary Peacock were also lost to us. And we'll certainly miss the voices of Freddy Cole and Annie Ross. The towering jazz critic and poet Stanley Crouch, whose engagement with American culture spanned over five decades, numerous mediums, and many dustups, died at age 74. Joe Segal, the jazz impresario who spent many decades maintaining a home for jazz in Chicago at the famed Jazz Showcase, died in August at the age of 94.

Gradually, as the year wore on, musicians began to find ways to get their art out. Big bands utilized Zoom to make recordings. Performers like John Pizzarelli, Kurt Elling, Emmet Cohen, and others began weekly concerts and chats online from their homes. Even Hancher Auditorium found a way to bring us the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra Septet's debut of Wynton Marsalis's "The Democracy Suite" from Rose Hall in New York in October. Student performances, in front of limited audiences, were streamed from the University of Iowa and the University of Northern Iowa. New York clubs like Smalls, The Village Vanguard, and Smoke put performances online from their spaces for a fee or donation. (Maybe the only upside of this pandemic was getting to see jazz greats from legendary New York clubs in the comfort of one's home in Iowa.) The Des Moines jazz club Noce did the same.

Sadly, the situation was different for some clubs. Both The Jazz Standard in New York and El Chapultepec in Denver had to close their doors for good. Others were on life support. By the end of the year, the famed Birdland in New York, Keystone Korner in Baltimore, the Catalina Jazz Club in Hollywood, and Chris' Jazz Café in Philly all set up GoFundMe sites in order to stay in existence.

It was a bumpy ride for jazz in 2020. Here's looking forward to smoother sailing eventually this year.

It's hard for us to remember when Emma Stadelmann was not involved with KCCK.

She attended KCCK's Summer Jazz Band Camp while in middle school, then later helped at the camp as a student intern. In high school, she played trumpet on four Corridor Jazz Project CDs and also got to know the station while working as a student intern.

It was only natural that Emma then took to the air with her own show. She was KCCK's Thursday evening voice for nearly two years, acquiring a very loyal following along the way.

Emma graduated from high school in 2020 and now attends the University of Notre Dame. Adjusting to college life, Emma says, was easier than she expected.

"The classes are challenging, but not overwhelming. I've been able to balance my time pretty well. I absolutely love it here and everyone I've met has been so nice."

One of the biggest challenges, Emma admits, is adjusting to college life during the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, though, she says, "Notre Dame has done a very good job of creating policies that keep people safe." Students are required to wear masks whenever they leave their dorm rooms. All students are surveillance tested periodically. Band musicians are required to use bell covers and special masks, and social distancing is practiced by the band at games and functions.

And it's no surprise that Emma landed another jazz radio show. "After I made the decision to go to Notre Dame, I reached out to one of the assistant band directors because I knew he hosted a jazz show at a South Bend station." He was so impressed with Emma's resume and air-check sample that he contacted the station manager of WSND-FM 88.9, the Notre Dame student radio station. She was signed on right away.

"WSND is primarily a classical station, but after 6 p.m. weekdays and on weekends, they also feature shows that can be of any genre," says Emma, adding that hers is the only student jazz show currently on WSND. You can tune in to Emma's show online through the MyTuner app for WSND every Sunday at 3 p.m.

Emma enjoys the freedom she's afforded in programming her show. Each show, she says, "is unique to the people hosting them. It's a very relaxed environment. And the studio has a really cool lava lamp."

While she's thriving in this new stage of her life, does Emma miss KCCK? "I definitely miss the people the most," she says. "KCCK folks are such kind people and I always felt so supported by the station. Starting out at KCCK made the transition into radio at WSND pretty effortless. Being comfortable on-air was a plus."

Emma is currently a Philosophy and Global Affairs double major. Law school is her plan after finishing undergrad.

Her KCCK family is certain that whatever path Emma chooses to follow, she will succeed brilliantly.



STUDENT PROFILE:

Adding Radio to Her Resume - Emma Stadelmann

Emma Stadelmann in the studio at Notre Dame's WSND-FM.

KCCK 2020 Donors

The following list reflects charitable gifts given to KCCK between Jan. 1, 2020, and Dec. 31, 2020. While every effort has been made to ensure that this report is accurate, we apologize in advance if we failed to list your name properly.

If you believe your listing is in error, or you do not wish your name to be printed in future reports, please contact the KCCK Office at 319-398-5446.

Sustaining Members are highlighted in bold type. These music fans have made the special commitment to make a pledge to KCCK that automatically renews every year.

The guaranteed, consistent giving gives us the ability to better budget and plan for the long term.

Ellington Circle (\$2,500+)

BrandMuscle, Inc.
Nile & Lois Dusdieker
Greater Cedar Rapids
Community Foundation
Steve Griffith
Hancher Auditorium
MidwestOne Bank
Darrell & Julie Wahlstrom

Blue Note Society (\$1,000 – \$2,499)

Marva Abel & Richard Knoedel

Anonymous (3)

Anonymous (1)

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Brennan Baehler & Mary Walser

John & Cindy Bloomhall

Paula Brandt

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Doug Bruce

John Cox

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Day Sponsor (\$365 – \$499)

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James Baker

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(\$240 – \$364)

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Anonymous (2)
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(\$120 – \$239)

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Richard & Linden Aerts
Lois Albrecht
Chad & Amanda Allard
Tom Anderson
Anonymous (7)
Anonymous (12)
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Kendall & Alice Atkinson
R. Dwayne Augspurger
Tom Baer & Susan Chrysler White
Lisa & Kevin Barnes
Lisa Baum
James Bayne
William Behn
Carol & Harry Bell
Bruce & Rebecca Bentley
Holly & Dan Berkowitz
Neil & Renate Bernstein
Big Wow
Bix Beiderbecke Memorial Society
Gary Black
Calvin Boman
Alan Brink
Randy Brown
Brown Street Inn
Kevin Burford
Todd Burzynski
Douglas & Julie Busch
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Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre
Center Point-Urbana CSD
Mary Bess Chester
Devona Chun-Furlong
Mark Clark
Mark Classon
Brett Cloyd & Debra Venzke
Terry Cole
Darwin & Liz Coleman
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Dana Conklin
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MEMBER PROFILE:

Brian and Marty Stoll

Brian and Marty make a great couple. Their love and respect for each other is evident when you talk to them. They joke with one another, they truly enjoy each other's company, and they have many interests in common.

KCKK is one of those common interests. They've been KCKK members for 10 years, but their association with 88.3 goes back even farther — at least 20 years and scores of Jazz Under the Stars concerts.

"We started dating in 2009," says Marty, "and as we got to know each other, we realized that we'd been going to the same shows but had never met."

It's pretty much a given that you'll find them at Noelridge Park on Thursdays in August. "It's rare that we've missed a concert in four or five years," says Brian. "Jazz Under the Stars is what grew our commonality to each other. Every time we crossed paths it was at a music event."

Brian is the owner of Illuminate Digital LLC, a

firm that provides digital consulting services to small and medium-sized businesses. Marty is an attorney at Shuttleworth & Ingersoll PLC specializing in business and real estate.

"She's my lawyer," Brian chuckles.

Does that mean she's the smarter one of the two? "I keep telling him that," laughs Marty.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed all aspects of their lives, including the way they listen to KCKK and their reasons why. "Before COVID, I listened every morning as I was getting ready for work," says Marty. "Now, I listen while I work at home. It's music that I love, that is something enjoyable." As an attorney, it's nice, she says, to listen to something "relaxing and not too distracting."

Marty and Brian believe that the value of KCKK has increased with the pandemic. "It's now a resource for me to listen and relax and help me deal with the stress," says Marty. "We, as listeners, have a say in not only the music played, but also

some of the events put on by KCKK."

Brian agrees. "KCKK is more important than ever now because it gives us something to listen to that isn't determined by soundbites. This station is a valuable resource to hear music that is slowly fading away. And it's important we listen to this music because it's a part of our cultural history."

KCKK appreciates the generous support of the Stolls. Friends like Marty and Brian make it possible for KCKK to continue its mission. And they both agree it's easy for anyone to feel as they do.

"Donate to KCKK," says Marty.

And when the pandemic lifts, "Go to a KCKK event," says Brian. "You get to meet the staff firsthand, and you get to see a great performance."

Better yet, says Marty, "Invite your friends along. Bring a bottle of wine. Bring your dog. Relax to a great live show. KCKK is beyond a listening experience and more of a life experience."

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UNDERWRITER PROFILE: Gilded Pear Gallery

Leave it to Gilded Pear Gallery to find ingenious, creative ways to keep art lovers and collectors engaged during the era of COVID-19.

People crave the gallery experience. They want that sensation of being in the room with art, to feel the energy it gives off when they stand in front of a piece and study it. So, the imperative for Gilded Pear Gallery director Lauren Tucci and owner Suzy McGrane-Hop has been to devise paths that allow people to satisfy their gallery craving while still keeping everyone safe.

Customers are welcome to visit Gilded Pear Gallery at 808 3rd Ave. SE near downtown Cedar Rapids, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Folks “ring for service” in the vestibule, are greeted, and are updated with

the number of people browsing in the gallery at the time. Masks are required, and strict COVID-19 protocols are observed.

Shoppers can also call, email, or visit www.gildedpeargallery.com to schedule an appointment for any of their services. Additionally, Lauren and Suzy can arrange a private viewing of current exhibitions, or a kind of “date night” experience, where a small number of couples (two to three at most) have a safe get-together. Sometimes, winks Lauren, a bottle of wine mysteriously appears for the occasion.

The real creative challenge, Lauren and Suzy admit, has been finding virtual work-arounds for art lovers who aren’t comfortable with on-site shopping. “We’ve really beefed up our gallery blog,” says Lauren.

“Folks can browse the blog for new

Bruce Williams
Fletcher Williams
James Wilson
Bonnie Winslow-Garvin
Claudia Wood
Craig & Candace Wood
Jason & Leslie Wright
William Wylder
Carolyn Wyly
Nancy York & Tom Hess
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Cristin Noonan

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Trudy Russell
Paul Schmidt
Jill Stephenson
Patricia Thompson
Ben Vierling

arrivals, framing ideas, custom projects in people's houses, studio visits with artists, and our "Collections" feature — where we curate art based on a theme and feature an artist based on it."

KCKC plays a role in Gilded Pear's unique solutions. As part of their online content for current shows, Gilded Pear posts the "Culture Crawl" interview feature for each new exhibition, hosted by KCKC's Dennis Green.

The year 2020 was justifiably difficult for artists and the business of art. But if the words "pandemic" and "positive outcome" could ever be used in the same sentence, Suzy, Lauren, and the Gilded Pear staff found a way.

"We've seen quite a bit of creativity from clients for our custom framing services," says Lauren. "We've had the pleasure of collaborating on

a lot of really cool projects! And we've gained folks from out of state through our live video sessions, and our art shipping has increased as well. Even locally, folks are discovering us for the first time and we've seen more people added to our mailing list."

All of these creative adaptations to the new normal are now part of Gilded Pear's business as usual. As the gallery's worldwide interaction and customer base continues to grow, Lauren says, "What we're currently doing and what you see on our exhibit pages this year will be the new standard. People have responded well to our online escapades."

In addition to operating Gilded Pear Gallery, Suzy McGrane-Hop (right) and Lauren Tucci (left) are artists in their own right.



Memorial Gifts

Thank you to the family and friends of Jerry Cisar, Wendy Geertz, Sylvia Gould, Josephine Horst, Jim Kottmeier, Lennox Randon, and Jeff Reeder who contributed memorial gifts in their names in 2020.

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