



**ICO Awards Program**  
 4031 N. Leclaire Ave  
 Chicago, IL 60641  
 (847-508-9848  
 ICOexecutivedirector@gmail.com

## Awards History of the Illinois Council of Orchestras

**Orchestra of the Year** (Professional, 2001 to present) (Separate awards for professional and community orchestras began in 2000)

2025	Elgin Symphony Orchestra
2024	No award
2023	Chicago Jazz Philharmonic
2022	Quad City Symphony Orchestra
2021	Music of the Baroque
2020	Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra
2019	Lake Forest Symphony
2018	Chicago Philharmonic
2017	New Philharmonic
2016	Elgin Symphony Orchestra
2015	Quad City Symphony Orchestra
2014	Chicago Arts Orchestra
2013	Peoria Symphony Orchestra
2012	No award
2011	Heartland Festival Orchestra
2010	Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra
2009	New Philharmonic
2008	Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra
2007	Rockford Symphony Orchestra
2006	Lake Forest Symphony
2005	Elgin Symphony Orchestra
2004	No award
2003	Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra
2002	Symphony II (now known as Chicago Philharmonic)
2001	Grant Park Symphony Orchestra and Chorus
2000	Park Ridge Civic Orchestra
1999	Elgin Symphony Orchestra
1998	Knox-Galesburg Symphony Orchestra
1997	Northbrook Symphony Orchestra
1996	Evanston Symphony Orchestra
1995	Music of the Baroque
1994	Lake Forest Symphony
1993	Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras
1992	Rockford Symphony Orchestra
1991	Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra
1990	Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO Centennial Year)
1989	Chicago Chamber Orchestra
1988	Elgin Symphony Orchestra
1987	Peoria Symphony Orchestra
1986	Knox-Galesburg Symphony Orchestra

1985	Springfield Symphony Orchestra
1984	Grant Park Symphony Orchestra
1983	Springfield Symphony Orchestra
1982	Danville Symphony Orchestra
1981	Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra
1980	Belleville Philharmonic Society

**Community Orchestra of the Year** (Community, 2000 to present) (Separate awards for professional and community orchestras began in 2000)

2025	Lakeview Orchestra
2024	Evanston Symphony Orchestra
2023	Chicago Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra
2022	Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra
2021	DuPage Symphony Orchestra
2020	Quincy Symphony Orchestra
2019	Lake Shore Symphony Orchestra
2018	The Symphony of Oak Park & River Forest
2017	Evanston Symphony Orchestra
2016	Lakeview Orchestra
2015	Knox-Galesburg Symphony Orchestra
2014	No award
2013	DuPage Symphony Orchestra
2012	Lake Shore Symphony Orchestra
2011	The Symphony of Oak Park & River Forest
2010	Evanston Symphony Orchestra
2009	Kishwaukee Symphony Orchestra
2008	Knox-Galesburg Symphony Orchestra
2007	DuPage Symphony Orchestra
2006	Northbrook Symphony Orchestra
2005	Northwest Symphony Orchestra
2004	The Symphony of Oak Park & River Forest
2003	Evanston Symphony Orchestra
2002	Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra
2001	Southern Illinois Symphony Orchestra
2000	North Shore Chamber Orchestra

**Youth Orchestra of the Year**

2025	Midwest Philharmonic Orchestra
2024	Quad City Symphony Orchestra
2023	No award
2022	Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras
2021	Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra
2020	No award
2019	Midwest Young Artists Conservatory
2018	Rockford Symphony Youth Orchestra
2017	No award
2016	Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras
2015	No award
2014	No award
2013	No award
2012	No award
2011	McHenry County Youth Orchestras
2010	Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras

2009	Midwest Young Artists Conservatory
2008	Schaumburg Youth Orchestra
2007	Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra
2006	West Suburban Youth Orchestra
2005	No award
2004	Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras
2003	Midwest Young Artists Conservatory
2002	Metropolis Youth Symphony
2001	Schaumburg Youth Orchestra
2000	Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra
1999	East Central Illinois Youth Orchestra
1998	Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras
1997	Midwest Young Artists Conservatory
1996	No award
1995	McHenry County Youth Orchestra

### **Chamber Ensemble of the Year**

2025	Artemis Chamber Orchestra
2024	No award
2023	No award
2022	No award
2021	No award
2020	No award
2019	No award
2018	No award
2017	No award
2016	No award
2015	No award
2014	No award
2013	No award
2012	No award
2011	Mendelssohn Chamber Orchestra
2010	No award
2009	No award (please refer to “Special Awards” below)
2008	No award
2007	Chicago Chamber Musicians
2006	No award
2005	Midwest Young Artists Conservatory
2004	Salt Creek Sinfonietta
2003	No award
2002	Baroque Artists of Champaign-Urbana
2001	Zion Chamber Orchestra
2000	Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra
1999	Midwest Young Artists Conservatory
1998	The Prairie Ensemble
1997	McHenry County Youth Orchestra
1996	No award
1995	Woodstock Mozart Festival

### **Conductor of the Year** (Professional and Community/Small Orchestra categories since 2004)

2025	Chad Goodman, Elgin Symphony Orchestra (professional)
2025	Russell Vinick, Lake Shore Symphony Orchestra (community orchestra)
2024	David L. Crane, Southwest Symphony Orchestra (community orchestra)
2024	Daniella Valdez, Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra (youth orchestra)

2024	No award (professional orchestra)
2023	Orbert Davis, Chicago Jazz Philharmonic
2022	Stephen Alltop, Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra
2022	Matthew Sheppard, Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra
2021	Scott Speck, Chicago Philharmonic (professional orchestra)
2021	Taka Matsunaga, Midwest Philharmonic Orchestra (community/small orchestra)
2020	No award (professional orchestra)
2020	No award (community/small orchestra)
2019	Vladimir Kulenovic, Lake Forest Symphony (professional orchestra)
2019	Allen Tinkham, Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras (youth orchestra)
2018	Kirk Muspratt, New Philharmonic (professional orchestra)
2018	No award (community orchestra)
2017	Jay Friedman, The Symphony of Oak Park & River Forest (community orchestra)
2017	No award (professional orchestra)
2016	Gregory Hughes, Lakeview Orchestra (community orchestra)
2016	Steven Larsen, Rockford Symphony Orchestra (professional orchestra)
2015	Russell Vinick, Lake Shore Symphony Orchestra (community orchestra)
2015	Andrew Grams, Elgin Symphony Orchestra (professional orchestra)
2014	Lawrence Eckerling, Evanston Symphony Orchestra (community orchestra)
2014	Joseph Malmquist, Schaumburg Youth Orchestra (youth orchestra)
2013	Bruce Briney, Quincy Symphony Orchestra (community orchestra)
2013	No award (professional orchestra)
2012	Alan Heatherington, Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra and Lake Forest Symphony Orchestra (professional orchestra)
2012	Stephen Alltop, Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra (community orchestra)
2011	David Commanday, Heartland Festival Orchestra (professional orchestra)
2011	Jay Kenneth Friedman, The Symphony of Oak Park & River Forest (community orchestra)
2010	Russell Vinick, Lake Shore Symphony Orchestra (small orchestra)
2010	Bruce Polay, Knox-Galesburg Symphony Orchestra (professional orchestra)
2009	Robert Hanson, Elgin Symphony Orchestra (professional orchestra)
2009	Linc Smelser, Kishwaukee Symphony Orchestra (small orchestra category)
2008	Randal Swiggum, Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra (small orchestra)
2007	Lawrence Eckerling, Evanston Symphony Orchestra (small orchestra)
2006	Steven Larsen, Rockford Symphony Orchestra (professional orchestra)
2006	Paul Vermel, Northwest Symphony Orchestra (small orchestra)
2005	Alan Heatherington, Lake Forest Symphony and Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra (professional orchestra)
2005	Edward Benyas, Chicago Chamber Orchestra and Southern Illinois Symphony Orchestra (small orchestra)
2004	Harold Bauer, New Philharmonic (professional orchestra)
2004	Bruce Polay, Knox-Galesburg Symphony Orchestra (small orchestra)
2003	Barbara Schubert, DuPage Symphony Orchestra
2002	Edgar Muenzer, Park Ridge Civic Orchestra
2001	Robert Hanson, Elgin Symphony Orchestra, and Allan Dennis, Midwest Young Artists Conservatory
2000	Jay Friedman, The Symphony of Oak Park & River Forest
1999	Steven Larsen, Rockford Symphony Orchestra
1998	Samuel Magad, Northbrook Symphony Orchestra
1997	Bruce Polay, Knox-Galesburg Symphony Orchestra
1996	No award
1995	Carmon DeLeone, Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra

#### **College/University Conductor of the Year**

2023	No award
2022	No award

2021	Emanuele Andrizzi, Roosevelt University
2020	No award
2019	No award
2018	No award
2017	No award
2016	No award
2015	No award
2014	No award
2013	Donald Schleicher, Music Director & Conductor University of Illinois Symphony Orchestra
2012	No award
2011	Michael Luxner, Music Director & Conductor Millikin-Decatur Symphony Orchestra

### **Board President/Chair of the Year**

2025	Lindsay Brown, Lakeview Orchestra
2024	Margaret Gergen, Evanston Symphony Orchestra
2023	Thomas O. Kuhns, Music of the Baroque
2022	No award
2021	No award
2020	David Leehey, The Symphony of Oak Park & River Forest
2019	Ann Tucker, Kishwaukee Symphony Orchestra
2018	Vince P. Flood, Evanston Symphony Orchestra
2017	Jim Kidder, Heartland Festival Orchestra
2016	No award
2015	Thomas Sharp, Midwest Young Artists Conservatory
2014	No award
2013	David J. Leehey, The Symphony of Oak Park & River Forest
2012	Kip Pope, Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra
2011	No award
2010	John Schladweiler, Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras
2009	Penelope Sachs, Evanston Symphony Orchestra
2008	No award
2007	Diane Macewicz, Northwest Symphony Orchestra
2006	Louise Sullivan, Elgin Symphony Orchestra
2005	Robert B. Clark, Knox-Galesburg Symphony Orchestra
2004	Kelly Brest van Kempen, Evanston Symphony Orchestra
2003	Gene Bahls, Kankakee Valley Symphony Orchestra
2002	John Totten, Elgin Symphony Orchestra

### **Executive Director or General Manager of the Year**

2025	Schaumburg Youth Orchestra
2024	No award
2023	No award
2022	Christina Salerno, Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra
2021	Declan McGovern, Music of the Baroque
2020	Donna Milanovich, Chicago Philharmonic
2019	No award
2018	Beth Hoover, The Symphony of Oak Park & River Forest
2017	Lucas D. Wood, Knox-Galesburg Symphony Orchestra
2016	Laura Evancho, Heartland Festival Orchestra
2015	No award
2014	Susan Lape, Lake Forest Symphony Association

2013	Jeffrey Farlow-Cornell, Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra
2012	David Ellis, Evanston Symphony Orchestra
2011	No award
2010	No award
2009	Brian Ritter, Rockford Symphony Orchestra
2008	Jane Polett, Quincy Symphony Orchestra
2007	Pearl Strickland, Knox-Galesburg Symphony Orchestra
2006	Michael Pastreich, Elgin Symphony Orchestra
2005	No award
2004	Beth Hoover Gavriel, The Symphony of Oak Park & River Forest
2003	Justine Burlson, Senior Suburban Orchestra
2002	No award
2001	Lynn Klingler, Classical Symphony Orchestra
2000	Pearl Strickland, Knox-Galesburg Symphony Orchestra
1999	J. C. Wacholz, Northbrook Symphony Orchestra
1998	Jeannette Kreston, Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras
1997	Kevin Hagen, Illinois Symphony Orchestra

### **Volunteer of the Year**

2025	Cheryl Flinn, Symphony of Oak Park and River Forest
2024	Alexandra Newman, Lakeview Orchestra
2023	Kathy Huff, The Hyde Park Youth Symphony
2022	No award
2021	Marjorie Stinespring, Music of the Baroque
2020	Anthony Riani, Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra
2019	Cheryl Flinn, The Symphony of Oak Park and River Forest
2018	Karen Hoag, Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras
2017	Sterling (Stu) Ainsworth, Elgin Symphony Orchestra
2016	Taylor Scott, Lakeview Orchestra
2015	Sarah Flax, Evanston Symphony Orchestra
2014	Richard & Dorothy DuSold, Park Ridge Civic Orchestra
2013	David Moller, Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra
2012	Kenneth Bade, Kankakee Valley Symphony Orchestra
2011	No award
2010	No award
2009	Joyce McFarland Dlugopolski, Elgin Symphony Orchestra
2008	Walter Wolodkin, Northwest Symphony Orchestra
2007	No award
2006	Julie Westbrook, Evanston Symphony Orchestra
2005	Gilbert R. Demange, Salt Creek Sinfonietta
2004	Rita Gentry, Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra
2003	William Simpson, Illinois Symphony Orchestra
2002	James Bataille, Northwest Symphony Orchestra
2001	Paul Keser, Knox-Galesburg Symphony Orchestra
2000	Barbara Bowermaster, Illinois Valley Symphony Orchestra
1999	Barbara Lukancic, Illinois Valley Symphony Orchestra
1998	Midwest Young Artists Conservatory
1997	John Hayes, Illinois Symphony Orchestra
1996	No award
1995	No award
1994	Ray Pensinger and Elizabeth Wester, Woodstock Mozart Festival
1993	No award
1992	No award
1991	No award

1990 Edward and Pearl Brody, Elgin Symphony Orchestra, and  
Lorene Dettlouser, Illinois Valley Symphony Orchestra

### **Guild of the Year**

2025 Illinois Symphony Orchestra Guild  
2024 No award  
2023 No award  
2022 Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra  
2021 No award  
2020 No award  
2019 No award  
2018 No award  
2017 No award  
2016 Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra  
2015 No award  
2014 No award  
2013 The Guild of the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra  
2012 Kishwaukee Symphony Orchestra Associates  
2011 Lake Forest Symphony Association  
2010 No award  
2009 Midwest Young Artists Parent Volunteer Organization  
2008 The Guild of the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra  
2007 Kankakee Valley Symphony Orchestra Women's Board  
2006 Lake Forest Symphony Association  
2005 No award  
2004 No award  
2003 No award  
2002 No award  
2001 No award  
2000 No award  
1999 Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra Guild  
1998 Millikin-Decatur Symphony Orchestra Guild (Frank Beaman)  
1997 Danville Symphony Orchestra Guild

### **Contributor of the Year (discontinued)**

2001 Ralph Bowermaster, Illinois Valley Symphony Orchestra; and  
Wells Fargo Bank and Knox-Galesburg Symphony Orchestra  
2000 Maytag Corporation, Knox-Galesburg Symphony Orchestra  
1999 Granger Cook, Lake Forest Symphony  
1998 Kraft Foods, Inc., Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra  
1997 First Chicago Bank of Park Ridge, Park Ridge Civic Orchestra  
1996 No award  
1995 Maytag Corporation, Knox-Galesburg Symphony Orchestra  
1994 Richard and Roseann Noel, Sinfonia da Camera  
1993 No award  
1992 No award  
1991 Maytag Corporation, Knox-Galesburg Symphony Orchestra  
1991 Mitchell Brothers Realty, Evanston Symphony Orchestra

### **Programming of the Year**

2025 Chicago Philharmonic  
2024 Lakeview Orchestra

2023	Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras
2022	Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra
2021	Waukegan Symphony Orchestra
2020	New Philharmonic
2019	Chicago Philharmonic
2018	Lake Shore Symphony Orchestra
2017	Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras
2016	No award
2015	Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra
2014	No award
2013	Northbrook Symphony Orchestra
2012	Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras
2011	Lake Shore Symphony Orchestra
2010	Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra
2009	No award
2008	Rockford Symphony Orchestra
2007	Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras
2006	Knox-Galesburg Symphony Orchestra
2005	Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra
2004	The Prairie Ensemble
2003	Northwest Symphony Orchestra
2002	No award
2001	Metropolis Youth Symphony
2000	Northbrook Symphony Orchestra
1999	The Prairie Ensemble
1998	The Symphony of Oak Park & River Forest
1997	Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra
1996	Elgin Symphony Orchestra

### **Education Program of the Year**

2024	EMA Youth Orchestra
------	---------------------

### **Community Relations of the Year**

2025	Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra
2024	No award
2023	Quad City Symphony Orchestra
2022	No award
2021	The Symphony of Oak Park & River Forest
2020	Evanston Symphony Orchestra
2019	Chicago Philharmonic
2018	Senior Suburban Orchestra
2017	Lake Shore Symphony Orchestra
2016	No award
2015	Heartland Festival Orchestra
2014	Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras
2013	Knox-Galesburg Symphony Orchestra
2012	Senior Suburban Orchestra
2011	Quincy Symphony Orchestra
2010	Illinois Symphony Orchestra
2009	Southwest Symphony Orchestra
2008	No award
2007	Evanston Symphony Orchestra
2006	Senior Suburban Orchestra



2005	Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestra
2004	Illinois Symphony Orchestra
2003	Knox-Galesburg Symphony Orchestra
2002	The Symphony of Oak Park & River Forest
2001	Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra
2000	Lake Forest Symphony
1999	Park Ridge Civic Orchestra
1998	McHenry County Youth Orchestra, and Evanston Symphony Orchestra
1997	Park Ridge Civic Orchestra

### **Season Brochure of the Year (discontinued)**

2002	Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra
2001	Rockford Symphony Orchestra
2000	Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra
1999	Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra
1998	No award
1997	Lake Forest Symphony
1996	No award
1995	Elgin Symphony Orchestra

### **Marketing Program of the Year (discontinued)**

2000	Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra
1999	Music Institute of Chicago
1998	Evanston Symphony Orchestra
1997	Park Ridge Civic Orchestra
1996	Evanston Symphony Orchestra

### **Cultural Leadership Award**

2024	Greg Clemons
2023	Terrance Malone Gray, Associate Conductor Emeritus, Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras
2022	No award
2021	No award
2020	Allen Dennis, Founder & Director, Midwest Young Artists Conservatory
2019	No award
2018	Jay Friedman, Chicago Symphony Orchestra and The Symphony of Oak Park & River Forest
2017	No award
2016	No award
2015	No award
2014	No award
2013	No award
2012	No award
2011	Dieter Kober, Chicago Chamber Orchestra
2010	Alan Heatherington, Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra and the Lake Forest Symphony
2009	No award
2008	Bruce Polay, Knox-Galesburg Symphony Orchestra
2007	Walfrid Kujala, Chicago Symphony Orchestra (retired)
2006	No award
2005	No award

- 2004 Robert Hanson, Elgin Symphony Orchestra  
 2003 Jeanette Kreston, Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras

### **Special Awards**

- 2021 **Honorable Mention, Volunteer of the Year** Mary Moutvic, Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra  
 Awarded posthumously.  
 2016 **Certificate of Recognition** Brian Groner, Music Director, Harper Symphony Orchestra  
 2015 **Certificate of Recognition** 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Quad City Symphony Orchestra  
 2015 **Certificate of Recognition** 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the DuPage Symphony Orchestra  
 2014 **Certificate of Recognition** Edgar Muenzer, Park Ridge Civic Orchestra  
 2013 **Honorable Mention, General Manager of the Year** Amanda Nelson, Kishwaukee Symphony Orchestra  
 2012 **Honorable Mention, Volunteer of the Year** Helen Jahn, Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra  
 2011 **Honorable Mention, Conductor of the Year** Terrance Oliveras Gray, Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras  
 2010 **Arts Leadership Award** Chicago Symphony Orchestra  
 2009 **Honorable Mention, Volunteer of the Year** Robert Clark, Knox-Galesburg Symphony Orchestra  
 2009 **Honorable Mention, Chamber Orchestra of the Year** FullScore Chamber Orchestra  
 2008 **Honorable Mention, Youth Orchestra of the Year** Merit School of Music  
 2007 **Special Recognition in Chamber Music** Merit School of Music  
 2002 **Festival Events of the Year** Zion Chamber Orchestra  
**Outreach Program of the Year** Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra  
 2001 **Festival Events of the Year** Salt Creek Sinfonietta  
 1999 **Special Events of the Year** The Symphony of Oak Park & River Forest  
 1998 **Festival Events of the Year** Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, Northwestern University

### **Lifetime Achievement Award** (Discontinued)

- 2002 Dieter Kober, Chicago Chamber Orchestra, 50<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary  
 Frank York, Park Ridge Fine Arts Symphony  
 Harvey Treger, North Shore Chamber Orchestra

**REVISED 6/5/2024**