



**Gregory Clemons, Director**  
**ICO Awards Program**  
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## 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)

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

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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)

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**

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

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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**

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)

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)

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- 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

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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**

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**

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

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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**

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 Dettlehouser, Illinois Valley Symphony Orchestra

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**Guild of the Year**

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**

2023	Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras
2022	Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra
2021	Waukegan Symphony Orchestra
2020	New Philharmonic

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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

**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

**Community Relations of the Year**

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



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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

### Cultural Leadership Award

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	<b>Honorable Mention, Volunteer of the Year</b> Mary Moutvic, Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra Awarded posthumously.
2016	<b>Certificate of Recognition</b> Brian Groner, Music Director, Harper Symphony Orchestra

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- 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

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