



ICO Awards Committee

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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)

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

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Community Orchestra of the Year

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

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

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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)

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)

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- 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

- 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 of the Year

- 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

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- 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

- 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, Executive Director, Heartland Festival Orchestra
- 2015 No award
- 2014 Susan Lape, Executive Director, 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, Executive Director, Knox-Galesburg Symphony Orchestra
- 2006 Michael Pastreich, Executive Director, 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

- 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

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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

Guild of the Year

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

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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

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

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

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Community Relations of the Year

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

Cultural Leadership 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

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- 2016 **Certificate of Recognition** Brian Groner, Music Director, Harper Symphony Orchestra
- 2015 **Certificate of Recognition** 100th Anniversary of the Quad City Symphony Orchestra
- 2015 **Certificate of Recognition** 60th 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, 50th Year Anniversary
Frank York, Park Ridge Fine Arts Symphony
Harvey Treger, North Shore Chamber Orchestra

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