



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)

- 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 Orchestra
- 2005 Elgin Symphony Orchestra
- 2004 No award
- 2003 Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra
- 2002 Symphony II
- 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 Orchestra
- 1993 Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra
- 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

2018	The Symphony of Oak Park & River Forest
2017	Evanston Symphony Orchestra
2016	Lakeview Symphony 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

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

Chamber Ensemble of the Year

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
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
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)

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 category)
2015	Andrew Grams, Elgin Symphony Orchestra (professional orchestra category)
2014	Lawrence Eckerling, Evanston Symphony Orchestra (community orchestra category)
2014	Joseph Malmquist, Schaumburg Youth Orchestra (youth orchestra category)
2013	Bruce Briney, Quincy Symphony Orchestra (community orchestra category)
2013	No award (professional orchestra category)
2012	Alan Heatherington, Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra and Lake Forest Symphony Orchestra (professional orchestra category)
2012	Stephen Alltop, Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra (community orchestra category)
2011	David Commanday, Heartland Festival Orchestra (professional orchestra category)
2011	Jay Kenneth Friedman, The Symphony of Oak Park & River Forest (community orchestra category)
2010	Russell Vinick, Lake Shore Symphony Orchestra (small orchestra category)
2010	Bruce Polay, Knox-Galesburg Symphony (professional category)
2009	Robert Hanson, Elgin Symphony Orchestra (professional category)
2009	Linc Smelser, Kishwaukee Symphony (small orchestra category)
2008	Randal Swiggum, Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra (small orchestra category)
2007	Lawrence Eckerling, Evanston Symphony Orchestra (small orchestra category)
2006	Steven Larsen, Rockford Symphony Orchestra (professional category)

- 2006 Paul Vermel, Northwest Symphony Orchestra (small orchestra category)
- 2005 Alan Heatherington, Lake Forest Symphony Orchestra and Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra (professional category)
- 2005 Edward Benyas, Chicago Chamber Orchestra and Southern Illinois Symphony Orchestra (small orchestra category)
- 2004 Harold Bauer, New Philharmonic (professional category)
- 2004 Bruce Polay, Knox-Galesburg Symphony (small orchestra category)
- 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
- 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

- 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

- 2018 Vince P. Flood, Evanston Symphony Orchestra
- 2017 Jim Kidder, Heartland Festival Orchestra
- 2016 No award
- 2015 Thomas Sharp, Midwest Young Artists
- 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
- 2002 John Totten, Elgin Symphony Orchestra

Executive Director or General Manager of the Year

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
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
1999	J. C. Wacholz, Northbrook Symphony Orchestra
1998	Jeannette Kreston, Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra
1997	Kevin Hagen, Illinois Symphony Orchestra

Volunteer of the Year

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
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

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

2018	Lake Shore Symphony Orchestra
2017	Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra
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 Orchestra
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

2018	Senior Suburban Orchestra
2017	Lake Shore Symphony Orchestra
2016	No award
2015	Heartland Festival Orchestra
2014	Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra
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 Orchestra
- 1999 Park Ridge Civic Orchestra
- 1998 McHenry County Youth Orchestra, and
Evanston Symphony Orchestra
- 1997 Park Ridge Civic Orchestra

Cultural Leadership 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 Orchestra
- 2009 No award
- 2008 Bruce Polay, Knox-Galesburg Symphony
- 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 Orchestra

Special Awards

- 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** The Chicago Symphony Orchestra
- 2009 **Honorable Mention, Volunteer of the Year** Robert Clark, Knox-Galesburg Symphony
- 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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