



ICO Awards Committee

Gregory Clemons, *Professor of Music & Chair*
 Department of Music
 Harper College
 1200 W. Algonquin Road
 Palatine, IL 60067-7398
 (847)925-6569 gclemons@harpercollege.edu

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

ICO Awards History

Page 2

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

ICO Awards History

Page 3

Chamber Ensemble 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 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)

ICO Awards History

Page 4

- 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

ICO Awards History

Page 5

- 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

ICO Awards History

Page 6

- 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

ICO Awards History

Page 7

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

ICO Awards History

Page 8

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

ICO Awards History

Page 9

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** 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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