



2021-22 Gift of Music Grant Recipients

Bringing Jazz to Life in CU submitted by John Currey, Nick Schulze, Mike Allen, Matt Chesner and Robin Heltsley, Champaign Unit 4 instrumental music teachers. Funds will support professional visiting artist Mr. Todd Stoll, (VP of Education for Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City) to Unit 4 schools for a two-day residency at Jefferson, Central and Centennial High Schools. Mr. Stoll will make in depth visits, providing access for 60-75 jazz students at each school to receive a historical perspective of jazz, work on the essence of swing, and how jazz culturally fits into our modern society.

Can't Stop the Beat submitted by Shawn Kimbrel, music director at Jefferson Middle School in partnership with UIUC music students and performers. Students will be exposed to lyric writing, music production, guest artists and feedback through critical response activities. Funds will be used to purchase musical production equipment and technology that allows students to learn how to create, perform, respond and connect with music that interests them.

Centennial Bands Composer Representation Initiative submitted by Matt Chesner at Centennial High School. Funds will enable band directors to purchase new music from underrepresented composers for the school music library. Music will be purchased to increase the representation of composers from minoritized communities including; women, composers of color, and LGBTQ2+ composers.

Gift of the Music grants are provided to K-12 schools in Unit 4