



2023-24 Gift of Music Grant Recipients

Bringing Orchestra to Life in CU submitted by John Currey, Madeline Noga, Curtis Viselli, Nick Schulze, and Lily Samson; Champaign Unit 4 string faculty. Funds will partially cover the cost of bringing Jung-Ho Pak (Artistic Director and conductor of the Bay Philharmonic Orchestra) to Unit 4 for a 3-day residency in the middle and high schools. During the 3-day visit, Mr. Pak will focus on working with the students to give them a different perspective of the orchestra music they are working on. The schools involved; Central, Centennial, Edison, Jefferson, have all been selected to perform at the Midwest Clinic, ILMEA.

Garden Hills Music Start-up submitted by Lily Samson music educator at Garden Hills and Centennial. Funds would be used to purchase a bass for the 6-8th grade Garden Hills orchestra students.

Experience Peter Pan in Chicago submitted by Emily Kuchenbrod, K-5 music educator from Kenwood in Champaign. 62 fifth-grade students and chaperones will travel to Chicago to explore the lakeside playground at Maggie Daley Park and to experience a production of the historic Broadway musical Peter Pan at the James M. Nederlander Theatre. Students will prepare for this trip through media analysis, group discussion, and creative activities prepared by the music specialist and classroom teachers.

Bassoon “the missing instrument” at Jefferson submitted by Robyn Heltsley from Jefferson Middle School. The funds will be used toward the purchasing a new or used bassoon to be used by band and orchestra students at Jefferson.

Classroom Ukuleles submitted by Megan Tipton from Barkstall Elementary. Funds will be used to purchase a classroom set of ukuleles so students have year-round access to quality instruments. The ukuleles would be primarily used with 140 fourth and fifth grade students.

Roots & Branches Among the Stars submitted by Abby Crull South Side Elementary. Funds will be used to bring quality live music experiences who will explore the roots and branches of music through classroom work and professional performances. Students will experience music making through three separate and diverse musical groups on different dates to perform for 300 K-5 students.

Gift of Music Grant

Gift of Music Grants are made possible by a private donor to enhance music education experiences for Unit 4’s Kindergarten through 12th grade students. This grant supports activities such as: student attendance at an instrumental, choral, operatic, or musical theatre performance; a guest artist or artist in residence; or the purchase, maintenance or repair of musical instruments or equipment.

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