



## **2024-25 Gift of Music Grant Recipients**

***Bringing Jazz to Life: Using Performance to Bring Jazz History to the Modern Jazz Student*** submitted by John Currey, Robin Heltsley, and Nick Schulze; Champaign Unit 4 string faculty. Funds will partially cover the cost of bringing Terrell Stafford (Director of Jazz Studies at Boyer college of Music at Temple University, and clinician for Jazz at Lincoln Center) to Unit 4 to do a two-day residency in the various middle and high schools. Mr. Stafford will visit Franklin, Jefferson and Central High School during his visit. To celebrate this cross-community collaboration they also hope to have a combined concert and feature Mr. Stafford as a guest artist.

***A Day at the Magical KCPA!*** submitted by Abby Krull, K-5 music educators from South Side in Champaign. Through a series of four visits to KCPA, 150+ elementary students grades 1, 3, and 4, will have the chance to have a magical and meaningful experience at a live performance in the incredible Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. Field trip performances include: a musical, a concert (Spanish/English), a collaborative playwright project, and a CU symphony orchestra concert followed by a Krannert building tour.

### ***Quality Recording Equipment for Middle School Band***

submitted by Robin Heltsley from Jefferson Middle Schools. The funds will be used to purchase two condenser microphones that can be stationed at the front of the ensemble, several feet apart, and 10-15 ft high. They will record performances to create a library of tracks to select from when submitting applications to additional performance opportunities.

***Drums Alive*** submitted by Gina Geraldi at Kenwood Elementary. Drums Alive is a program that fosters physical, musical, and social emotional skills. Large exercise balls are used for rhythmic drumming. This grant will fund ten Drums Alive drum sets to be used primarily with grades 2-5, approximately 260 students.

***Building the Program*** submitted by Brian Ford from Garden Hills Academy. This grant would help build a bank of instruments for students to check out from the school. It will focus on getting as many beginner level instruments as possible.

***The Power of Music in Emotional Expression*** submitted by Madeline Noga at Robeson Elementary. This grant would fund a field trip for 84 sixth through eighth grade orchestra students to attend a Chicago Symphony Orchestra youth

concert featuring the compositions of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, Jesse Montgomery, Jonathan Bingham, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and more.

***Extending the Clarinet Family - New Bass Clarinet for IPA*** submitted by Aaron Knight at IPA, 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade. This grant will purchase a new Yamaha bass clarinet, which will increase the tonal range of the 6th through 8th grade band and benefit all music students at IPA, who account for over 30% of their student population!

### 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**