



**ICO Awards Program**  
 4031 N. Leclaire Ave  
 Chicago, IL 60641  
 (847-508-9848  
 ICOexecutivedirector@gmail.com

## 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)

- 2024 No award
- 2023 Chicago Jazz Philharmonic
- 2022 Quad City Symphony Orchestra
- 2021 Music of the Baroque
- 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

**Community Orchestra of the Year** (Community, 2000 to present) (Separate awards for professional and community orchestras began in 2000)

2024 Evanston Symphony Orchestra  
 2023 Chicago Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra  
 2022 Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra  
 2021 DuPage Symphony Orchestra  
 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**

2024 Quad City Symphony Orchestra  
 2023 No award  
 2022 Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras  
 2021 Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra  
 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

### **Chamber Ensemble of the Year**

2024 No award  
 2023 No award  
 2022 No award  
 2021 No award  
 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)

2024 David L. Crane, Southwest Symphony Orchestra (community orchestra)  
 2024 Daniella Valdez, Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra (youth orchestra)  
 2024 No award (professional orchestra)  
 2023 Orbert Davis, Chicago Jazz Philharmonic  
 2022 Stephen Alltop, Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra  
 2022 Matthew Sheppard, Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra  
 2021 Scott Speck, Chicago Philharmonic (professional orchestra)

- 2021 Taka Matsunaga, Midwest Philharmonic Orchestra (community/small orchestra)  
 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)  
 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**

- 2023 No award  
 2022 No award  
 2021 Emanuele Andrizzi, Roosevelt University  
 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/Chair of the Year**

2024	Margaret Gergen, Evanston Symphony Orchestra
2023	Thomas O. Kuhns, Music of the Baroque
2022	No award
2021	No award
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
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**

2024	No award
2023	No award
2022	Christina Salerno, Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra
2021	Declan McGovern, Music of the Baroque
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, Heartland Festival Orchestra
2015	No award
2014	Susan Lape, 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, Knox-Galesburg Symphony Orchestra

2006 Michael Pastreich, 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**

2024 Alexandra Newman, Lakeview Orchestra  
 2023 Kathy Huff, The Hyde Park Youth Symphony  
 2022 No award  
 2021 Marjorie Stinespring, Music of the Baroque  
 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  
 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**

2024 No award  
 2023 No award  
 2022 Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra

2021	No award
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
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**

2024	Lakeview Orchestra
2023	Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras
2022	Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra
2021	Waukegan Symphony Orchestra
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

### **Education Program of the Year**

2024 EMA Youth Orchestra

### **Community Relations of the Year**

2024 No award  
 2023 Quad City Symphony Orchestra  
 2022 No award  
 2021 The Symphony of Oak Park & River Forest  
 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



**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

**Cultural Leadership Award**

2024	Greg Clemons
2023	Terrance Malone Gray, Associate Conductor Emeritus, Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras
2022	No award
2021	No 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	Walfred Kujala, Chicago Symphony Orchestra (retired)
2006	No award
2005	No award
2004	Robert Hanson, Elgin Symphony Orchestra
2003	Jeanette Kreston, Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras

**Special Awards**

2021	<b>Honorable Mention, Volunteer of the Year</b>	Mary Moutvic, Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra Awarded posthumously.
2016	<b>Certificate of Recognition</b>	Brian Groner, Music Director, Harper Symphony Orchestra
2015	<b>Certificate of Recognition</b>	100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Quad City Symphony Orchestra
2015	<b>Certificate of Recognition</b>	60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the DuPage Symphony Orchestra
2014	<b>Certificate of Recognition</b>	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
- 2002 **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, 50<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary
- Frank York, Park Ridge Fine Arts Symphony
- Harvey Treger, North Shore Chamber Orchestra

**REVISED 6/5/2024**