
CENTRAL IOWA WIND ENSEMBLE

Symphonic Band Excellence

2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Dr. Christian Carichner, Artistic Director & Conductor



CIWE.ORG

Central Iowa Wind Ensemble BOARD MEMBERS

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

Dr. Christian Carichner

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Rich Thimmesch

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

J.R. Deeds, President

Rose Kundel, Vice President

Rick Eichner, Treasurer

Justin Wells, Secretary

Brian Kinnan, Director

Gayle Lundak, Director

David Naylor, Director

Chad Thompson, Director

The Central Iowa Wind Ensemble (CIWE) is an adult symphonic band with musicians drawn from the greater Des Moines area. The ensemble was founded in 2003 by a group of central Iowa music educators under the leadership of Dr. Evan Feldman, who led the group until 2005. To this day, the ensemble maintains a strong contingent of educators, but membership has expanded to include musicians from a wide variety of musical backgrounds and occupations.

Recent recognitions include performing under the director of Colonel Jason Fettig, former director of "The President's Own United States Marine Band" in May 2023 at the Iowa Bandmasters Association Conference and in April 2024 will perform by

invitation at the Regional Conference of the Association of Concert Bands in Omaha, Nebraska.

CIWE annually performs a series of four concerts plus special events. CIWE has expanded its audiences to reach underserved constituencies by partnering with various local human services agencies. CIWE also sponsors a competition for high school music students that awards an honorarium for first, second and third place and a performance opportunity for the first-place winner.

The Central Iowa Wind Ensemble is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization registered as a corporation in the State of Iowa.

MISSION

To build lifelong engagement in the arts by providing meaningful and challenging concert band experiences.

VISION

The Central Iowa Wind Ensemble will be the Midwest's premier wind ensemble performing conscientious programming to appreciative, loyal, and diverse audiences.

VALUES

We believe in the power of music to positively impact people. We believe our performances should be accessible to everyone.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL MESSAGE



As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the journey we continue to share. Together, we have strengthened CIWE's role in Central Iowa's cultural life while building a stronger foundation for the future.

This season we launched our first season announcement video—an exciting step in professionalizing our marketing. Our inaugural Donor Appreciation event created meaningful connections and set a new standard for stewardship. We also closed our books with a budget surplus, fueled by growth in individual giving—a clear sign that our community values access to live, high-quality music.

Performing at the beautiful Staplin Performing Arts Center has elevated the concert experience, offering audiences a welcoming, professional environment. With these operational successes, CIWE is well-positioned to continue growing partnerships, investing in outreach, and ensuring that music remains accessible to all.

To everyone who made this season possible—our musicians, volunteers, donors, and audience members—thank you. Your support empowers us to dream bigger and continue enriching lives through music.

With sincere appreciation,

Richard Thimmesch

Executive Director

Central Iowa Wind Ensemble

MUSICIANS

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

Dr. Christian Carichner

PICCOLO/FLUTE

Sara Danielson

FLUTE

Elysia Crecelius

Elly Hartbecke

Sarah Howell

Joni Kinnan

Rose Kundel*

OBOE

Kristin Rasmussen

Colleen Schulze

BASSOON

Janet Benest*

Emily Castelline

CLARINET

Lauren Cassaidy

Christopher Goodson

Walter Hyde

John Kahrl

Gayle Lundak

Elizabeth Peterson

Bryce Sederburg

Katie Seehusen

Sura Smadi

Kristi Stubblefield

Christina Tait

Dana Thacker

Esther Ware

Garrett White

BASS CLARINET

Carrie Siepel*

BASS CLARINET/ CONTRABASS CLARINET

Tony Pappas-Garton

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Cameron Mitchell

Joseph Thering*

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Jacob Lemons

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Jennifer Williams

TRUMPET

Brian Burke

Hans Decker

Dan Giesinger

Rebecca Gomez

Lynn Lange

Eric Layden

Sarah McEntee

Steve Newman*

Rich Thimmesch

HORN

Greg Barton

Kristy Carter-Mauss

Cristina Deeds*

Heather Hoffman-Richeson

Spencer Marsh

TROMBONE

James Deeds

Josh Deutmeyer

Rick Eichner

Fred Lange*

Ryan Rawley

Colton Sleister

EUPHONIUM

Sara Reichart

Justin Wells

TUBA

Brian Kinnan*

Leo Salazar

Chad Thompson

PERCUSSION

Collin Bell

Kate Cassaidy

Josh Grant

Jaxson Mrzena

David Naylor*

Jeff Norton

Harris Rogerson

* Denotes Section Leader

FROM THE PODIUM



Dear Friends and Supporters,

As I reflect on this past season, I am filled with gratitude and excitement for the artistic journey we've shared. Together, we experienced extraordinary moments of creativity and musical growth.

From Jackson Churchill's dazzling trombone solo in *Blue Bells of Scotland* to Harris Rogerson's unforgettable timpani feature in *Raise the Roof!*, our musicians brought energy and artistry to every stage. We also ventured into bold new territory with our *Live Music Trivia* concert — an innovative blend of music, trivia, and multimedia that drew record-breaking audiences and created a joyfully interactive experience.

Looking ahead, the 2025–2026 season promises to be our most vibrant yet: a Parisian-inspired program, a global dance celebration, and *FEAST!* — a concert pairing music about food with delicious tastes from the metro. These concerts are more than performances — they're shared experiences designed to engage, delight, and inspire.

Thank you for supporting us as we dream big and play boldly. I look forward to another season of unforgettable music together.

With gratitude and anticipation,

Christian Carichner

Artistic Director & Conductor

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

GRAND BENEFACTORS **\$5,000 and above**

Bravo Greater Des Moines
Iowa Arts Council/National
Endowment for the Arts

BENEFACTORS **\$1,000–\$4,999**

James & Cristina Deeds
Donald Lamberti
Cheryl A. & Donald C. Lee
Renee & Steven Newman
Polk County Board of Supervisors
Richard & Karen Thimmesch
Chad & Ellen Thompson

SPONSOR \$500–\$999

Greg Barton
Rick Eichner & Gayle Lundak
Rose & Scott Kundel
Don Manley
McKee, Voorhees & Sease, PLC
Tony Pappas-Garton
West Bancorporation Foundation

PATRON \$250–\$499

Anonymous
Greater Iowa Credit Union
Kemin Industries
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Mr. & Mrs. Ronnie Hallenbeck
Jeremy & Elly Hartbecke
Fred & Lynn Lange
Alan & Rochelle Naylor
Roger Nielson
Justin & Emily Wells

CONTRIBUTOR \$100–\$249

First National Bank
Greater Des Moines Dermatology
Jeanne Balk
Zachary Beaman
Brian Burke
Lori Carter
Emily Castelline
Elysia Crecelius
Richard L. Eichner
Brent Engelbert
Gretchen Funaro

Mitch Hambleton
Mary Ann Juhl
Gary Lemons
Jacob Lemons
Jaxson Mrzena
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Sarah Reichart
Linda Robbins Coleman
Julie Rumohr
Colton Sleister
Kathleen Seehusen
Kenneth & Donna Stinson
Peter Stoltenow
Adam Thimmesch
Jeffrey & Carolyn Wells

FRIEND \$50–\$99

Dhuha Akili
Julie Bruns
Christian Carichner
Brian Cassaidy
Julie Cassaidy
Annabelle Chamberlain
Diane Drake
Jill Garton
Jane Hartman
Frances Henderson
Richard Hoenig
Deborah Hoppus
Jennifer Horner
Mary Jobst
Diane Johansen
Renee Kayser
Joyce Kenagy
Dennis Mabie
Michelle Montgomery
Kathleen Murrin
John Pollak
Richard Snyder
Ramona Tortorilla
Sally Walsh

INDIVIDUAL — Up to \$49

Anonymous
Sally Benson
Lawrence Brennan

Brian Burke
Lydia Burkholder
Alan Carlsborg
Kristi Chambers
Cynthia Davis
William Dennis
Deb Dowling
Russ Fulton
Janet Hanlin
Robert Hanson
Bryce Henson
Lynn Hodgeman
Diane Johansen
Wendy Keplinger
Angela Kirby
Robert Korte
Harriet Leitch
Michelle Mackey
Carol Meinecke
Gerald Miller
Candace Moore
Diane Moorman
Steven Moser
Danilo Noboa
Mary Norman
Kenneth Ohms
Deborah Pic-Deutmeyer
Michael Plummer
Georgene Raver
Charles Roy
Judith Russell-Bucy
Carol Stratemeyer
Paul Stoutenburg
ShoShanna Swanson
Allison Szurek
Janet Thurtell
Jennifer Wade
Kathryn Webb Wikert
Gary Wemer
Robin West
Zdzislaw Wozniczka
Mary Zirkelbach

HONORS AND MEMORIALS

In Honor of Jeff Norton's Family
Zachary Beaman

LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



After another inspiring and successful season, it is a joy to pause and celebrate the people who make the Central Iowa Wind Ensemble thrive. Our conductor, Dr. Christian Carichner, continues to challenge and inspire us with performances that raise the bar artistically. Our Executive Director, Rich Thimmesch, keeps the organization moving forward with tireless energy, vision, and careful stewardship. And we remain grateful for the steady guidance of Paul and Holly at Ferrone Olson, whose arts management expertise strengthens everything we do.

This past year brought exciting growth. We expanded into our new home at Valley's Staplin Performing Arts Center, where larger audiences now join us for every concert. We welcomed new board members who bring fresh energy and perspective, and we celebrated the dedication of longtime musicians who share their artistry and volunteer hours each season. Our **Bravo Spotlight Award recognition** highlighted how far we've come — and how much potential lies ahead.

Looking ahead, the 2025–2026 season is full of promise: imaginative concert themes, collaborations with guest soloists, and deeper connections with our community partners. Together, with the commitment of our musicians, board, donors, and audiences, we are ensuring that world-class wind ensemble music remains free and accessible to all.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your generous support and encouragement. Because of you, CIWE continues to enrich lives, bring people together, and make a lasting impact in Central Iowa.

JR Deeds

Board President

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS

John Deere
Emerson Electric
Symetra

IN-KIND GIFTS

Heuss Printing
Brian and Joni Kinnan
Microsoft
Sleister Music
Valley High School Bands



IOWA ARTS COUNCIL



Greater
Des Moines
Dermatology



CHAIR UNDERWRITING PROGRAM

Chair Underwriters are a select group of individuals who believe in the mission and vision of the Central Iowa Wind Ensemble and its values of the power of music to positively impact people and that their concerts should be accessible to everyone. Donors who contribute \$500 or more have the option of choosing a musician's chair and receiving recognition as that chair's underwriter for the concert season.

For more information, contact Rich Thimmesch at 515-991-8653 or via email at executivedirector@ciwe.org.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO 2024-2025 CHAIR UNDERWRITERS

Piccolo	Rose Kundel
Flute	Brian and Joni Kinnan
Oboe	Rich & Karen Thimmesch
Clarinet	Gayle Lundak
Bass Clarinet	Tony Pappas-Garton
French Horn	Greg Barton
Trumpet	Renee & Steve Newman
Tuba	Chad Thompson
Percussion	Don Manley

THANK YOU TO THE STAPLIN PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



3650 Woodland Avenue, West Des Moines



VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Serving as Vice President of the Board and chair of the Aimee Krug Student Solo Competition has been a privilege, offering me a front-row seat to the impact of music education and community engagement.

Our solo competition awarded \$1,750 in scholarships to three outstanding young musicians, highlighted by Carson Menke's brilliant marimba solo at our May concert. These students embody the future of our art form and remind us why nurturing young talent matters.

We also deepened our community outreach this year, partnering with Families Forward to bring music to young children and supporting families through a household essentials donation drive. At our concerts, festive lobby activities, percussion demonstrations, and music-themed games created fun, welcoming experiences for audiences of all ages.

These initiatives reflect why CIWE exists: to make concert band music accessible, meaningful, and joyful for everyone. Thank you for being part of this mission — we can't wait to share the 2025–2026 season with you.

Warmly,

Rose Kundel

Vice President



A SOUSA SPECTACULAR

We stepped into a bygone era of pomp and pageantry as we presented “A Sousa Spectacular”—an exhilarating concert celebrating the timeless legacy of John Philip Sousa and the golden age of American marches.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED:

Sousa’s Greatest Hits: Immerse yourself in the iconic sound of the “March King” himself as we perform some of John Philip Sousa’s most beloved compositions, including “Stars and Stripes Forever,” and more.

Classic Marches: Beyond Sousa, discover the brilliance of other renowned composers of the era

who contributed to the rich tapestry of American band music. From rousing military marches to elegant concert pieces, each selection captures the spirit of a bygone era with its own unique charm and character.

Timeless Appeal: Whether you’re a longtime fan of Sousa’s music or new to the genre, “A Sousa Spectacular” promises an evening of musical excellence and nostalgic delight. Our ensemble of talented musicians will showcase their virtuosity and passion, ensuring a memorable experience for all.

“Everyone Loves a March”: Explore marches from other eras and cultures including the epic *March from Symphonic Metamorphosis* by Paul Hindemith and Percy Grainger’s *Children’s March*.

DECK THE HALLS

An enchanting evening of festive melodies and emotional resonance as we presented a special holiday concert that warms your heart and lifts your spirits.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED:

Beloved Holiday Classics: Experience the magic of the season with timeless favorites like “Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire” and “Silent Night” performed by our talented musicians. From joyful carols to soulful hymns, each piece is carefully chosen to evoke the true essence of the holidays.

Musical Brilliance: Be mesmerized by the impeccable skill and passion of our ensemble as they bring Alfred Reed’s *Russian Christmas Music* to life. Let the music transport you to a place of nostalgia and joy, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

Emotional Journey: Prepare to be moved as the concert weaves a tapestry of emotions through music. Feel the warmth of community, the beauty of tradition, and the spirit of togetherness that defines this special time of year.

Memorable Moments: Whether you’re singing along to familiar tunes or discovering new favorites, our holiday concert promises an unforgettable experience that will leave you feeling uplifted and inspired.





EPIC!

An evening filled with the most iconic and breathtaking pieces from the world of band and orchestral literature, carefully curated to showcase the depth and diversity of our musical heritage.

Under the dynamic direction of Dr. Christian Carichner, our talented ensemble will captivate you from the first note to the last with a repertoire that spans stirring marches, lyrical symphonies, and exhilarating contemporary compositions.

Feel the exhilaration of *Shortcut Home* – a virtuosic showcase by Dana Wilson. Lose yourself in the haunting melodies of John Mackey's moving *Some treasures are heavy with human tears*, renowned for its emotional depth and intricate harmonies.

Be swept away by the rhythmic intensity and virtuosic brilliance of Michael Daugherty's *Raise the Roof*, a timpani concerto featuring CIWE Timpanist Harris Rogerson. And finally, experience the grandeur and complexity of Shostakovich's monumental *Finale from Symphony No. 5*, a masterpiece that has defined the very essence of classical music.

LIVE MUSIC TRIVIA!

An afternoon of thrilling music, brain-teasing trivia, and exciting contests that will keep you on the edge of your seat.

Musical Marvels: Hear our talented musicians bring to life a diverse repertoire that spans classical masterpieces, modern hits, and everything in between. From soul-stirring ballads to energetic marches, our band's performance promises to dazzle and delight.

Trivia Challenges: Think you know your band trivia? Test your knowledge with our interactive trivia segments sprinkled

throughout the concert. Answer questions about composers, historical facts, and musical tidbits for a chance to win prizes and bragging rights!

Contest Extravaganza: Feeling lucky? Participate in our fun-filled contests where audience members can showcase their musical talents or engage in entertaining challenges related to the pieces being performed. Prizes await the winners!

Engaging Insights: Gain deeper insights into the music as our conductor shares behind-the-scenes stories, anecdotes, and interesting facts about the pieces being played. Discover the rich history and significance behind each composition.



Pianist Mei-Hsuan Huang performs at Live Music Trivia.

Carson Menke's marimba solo at Live Music Trivia.



CENTRAL IOWA WIND ENSEMBLE
BALANCE SHEET – JUNE 30, 2025

ASSETS	
Cash	\$37,455
TOTAL ASSETS	\$37,455

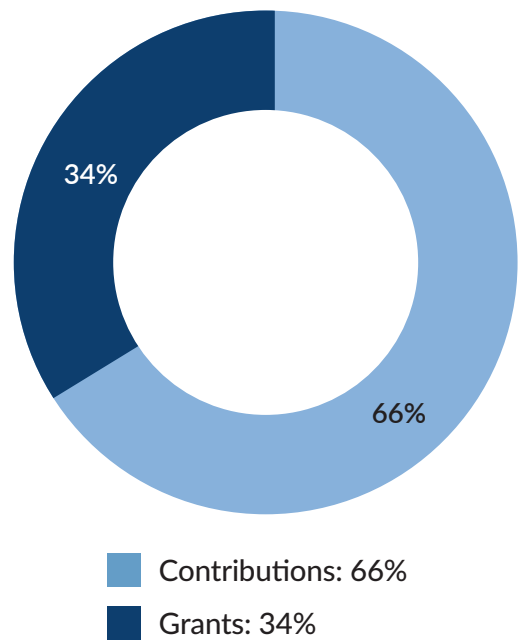
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Accounts Payable	\$730
Deferred Revenues	\$5,388
Total Liabilities	\$6,118
EQUITY	
Opening Balance Equity	\$3,292
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$18,942
Net Income	\$9,104
Total Equity	\$31,338
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$37,455

CENTRAL IOWA WIND ENSEMBLE
PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT – JUNE 30, 2025

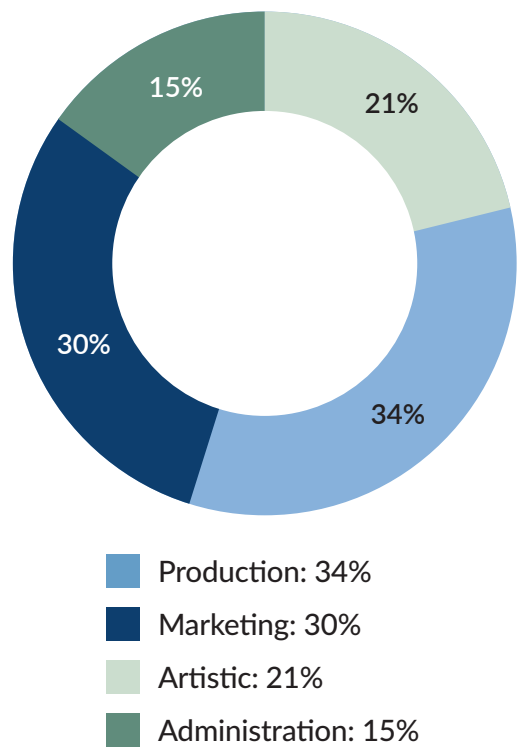
REVENUES	2023-2024 ACTUAL	2024-2025 BUDGET	2024-2025 ACTUAL
Contributions - Members	\$7,309	\$8,500	\$15,671
Contributions - Concerts	\$4,145	\$4,750	\$5,315
Contributions - Individuals	\$3,285	\$5,500	\$6,870
Contributions - Business	\$6,100	\$6,460	\$1,850
Contributions - Foundations	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$1,000
Contributions - Government	\$12,900	\$13,000	\$16,491
Interest Income	\$430		\$596
Miscellaneous Income	\$1,429		
Scholarship Fees	\$141	\$100	\$103
TOTAL REVENUES	\$38,239	\$40,810	\$47,895

EXPENSES	2023-2024 ACTUAL	2024-2025 BUDGET	2024-2025 ACTUAL
Artistic Expense	\$7,075	\$7,150	\$8,225
Concert Production Expense	\$13,436	\$15,350	\$13,169
Marketing Expense	\$14,490	\$10,410	\$11,475
Administrative Expense	\$8,873	\$7,900	\$5,922
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$43,873	\$40,810	\$38,791
NET REVENUE (EXPENSE)	(\$5,634)	\$0	\$9,104

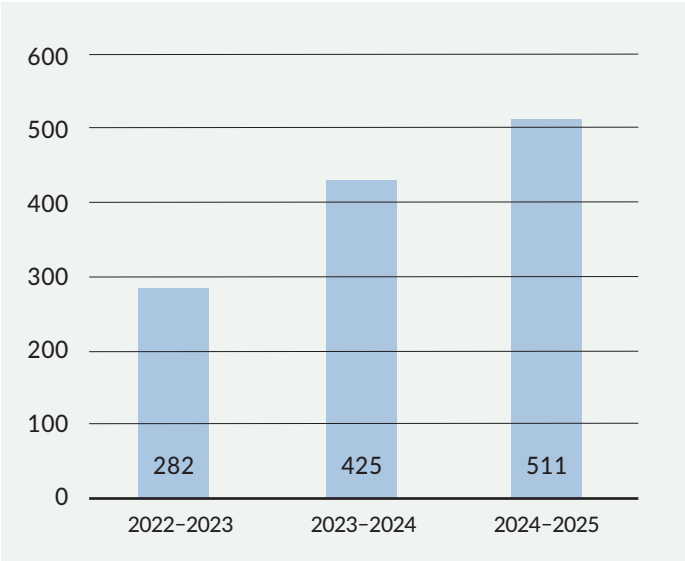
CENTRAL IOWA WIND ENSEMBLE
2024-2025 REVENUES



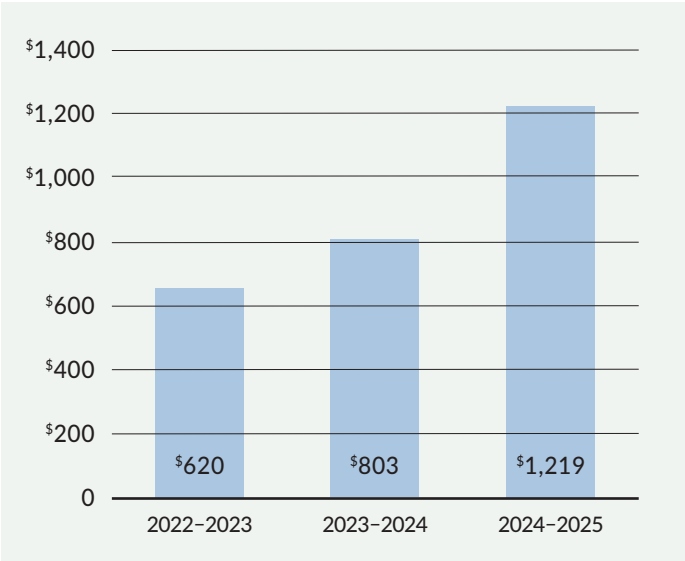
CENTRAL IOWA WIND ENSEMBLE
2024-2025 EXPENSES



CENTRAL IOWA WIND ENSEMBLE
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER CONCERT



CENTRAL IOWA WIND ENSEMBLE
AVERAGE CONTRIBUTIONS PER CONCERT



CENTRAL IOWA WIND ENSEMBLE

Symphonic Band Excellence

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Ankeny, IA 50021

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FACEBOOK: [CentrallowaWindEnsemble](#)

INSTAGRAM: [ciweorg](#)

CIWE.ORG
