

BERKS SHINES

2023

celebrating extraordinary
student musicians
in Greater Reading

benefitting
Reading Musical Foundation

Sunday, October 15
Reading Country Club



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BERKS SHINES

celebrating extraordinary student musicians
with Reading Musical Foundation

welcome

Keri Shultz, President

berks shines program

Dr. Willis M. Rapp, Host

Austin Snavely, Percussion
performing with Shawn Snavely
Billy Boy, Traditional Folk Song as performed by Miles Davis
The Spirit Soars by Dan Haerle

Twyla Ewen, Guitar & Voice
My Future by Billie Eilish
No Room For Doubt by Lianne La Havas
Say A Little Prayer by Lianna La Havas

Lauren Watts, Piano & Voice
accompanied by Kelly Kuhn
Ecossaise by Ludwig van Beethoven
Arabesque by Johann Burgmuller, Op. 100, No. 2
Castle on a Cloud from Les Miserables, Music by Claude Michel Schönberg

Olivia Szor, Violin
accompanied by Geert Ruelens
Concerto No. 3 in B Minor by Camille Saint-Saens

So What! featuring:
Noah Gibney, Piano
Esteban Ruiz Velazquez, Bass
Dexter Sales, Percussion
Continuum by Mike Tomaro
Milestones by Miles Davis
Azul Serape by Cannonball Adderley

closing

Fran Post, Chair of Development

Thank You!



Connors Investor Services is proud to be a sponsor of Berks Shines.

Congratulations to these amazing musicians!



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meet our performers

Twyla Ewen, Voice & Guitar ***Olivet Youth of the Year 2022***

Twyla is a shining star and a prime example of leadership and scholarship. She is currently 17 years old and a senior at Reading High School. Twyla is heavily involved in her community where she performs in the Reading and surrounding areas. She also has won many awards and honors in her years of high school. Last year, she competed against many other Olivet Boys & Girls Club Members, to earn the title of Youth of the Year (2022). This title is one of the highest honors in the City of Reading and Twyla was the best candidate to win the title. Because of her community outreach and academic excellence, she was also invited to be inducted into the National Honor Society at Reading Senior High School in her sophomore year. Twyla is now a senior at Reading High School and is extremely talented. She is a glowing student in flute, piano, guitar and voice. Twyla is a section leader in both band and choir. She was selected as a finalist for the Olivet Boys & Girls Club of America's National Talent Search and performed at the Boys & Girls Club Game Changers Summit in Atlanta, GA, the NE/SE Regional Conference in Washington, D.C., and the National Conference in Orlando, Florida. On top of her many accolades, she is also a star Volleyball player and is on the Varsity Team at Reading Senior High School. Her passion for Volleyball is seen clearly as she received an award from her coach two years in a row with the title of "Most Outstanding Female Volleyball Player." Twyla has been blessed by God and continues to use her many talents to inspire and motivate the many youth surrounding her.

Austin Snavely ***Willis M. Rapp Percussion Fund, First Place Recipient 2023***

Austin Snavely is the son of Shawn and Lori Snavely. He is currently a senior at Daniel Boone Area High School. Austin began studying privately at the age of 8 with Larry Marshall at the High Street Music Company in Pottstown, PA. Currently Austin is studying with both Dr. Willis Rapp with an emphasis on orchestral percussion and Mr. John Riley with an emphasis on jazz drum set. Austin has attended various collegiate summer music/jazz camps including Lebanon Valley College Music Camp, Berklee College of Music Percussion Workshop, University of North Texas Jazz Camp, and Frost School of Music Young Musicians Advanced Jazz Camp and has performed in many venues including Carnegie Hall in NYC and Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia, PA.

Austin has been recognized and honored by being selected for PMEA District Band and District Orchestra, PMEA Regional Band and Northeastern Regional Orchestra, PMEA State Jazz Band, and the NAFME All-Eastern Jazz Band. He has also successfully auditioned and continues to perform with Philadelphia Youth Orchestra under the direction of Louis Scaglione, Philadelphia Youth Jazz Orchestra under direction of Justin Faulkner, and the Settlement Music School's Helen K. Schwartz Advanced Study Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Tony Miceli.

Austin continues to perform with the Daniel Boone Area High School symphonic band, wind ensemble, percussion ensemble, and jazz band.

He also performs outside of his school in various musical theater pit orchestras for musical theater productions in community theaters and school districts throughout southeastern PA and has performed with the Lower Merion Symphony Orchestra, the Philadelphia Wind Symphony, Reading Pops Side by Side concerts, and other various ensembles.

Olivia Szor, Violin

Atonement Bach Scholarship, String Recipient 2023

Katherine N. Quartner - Rita Quartner Herman String Fund (Grades 10-12), First Place Recipient 2023

Olivia has been honored and grateful to win RMF scholarships for the past four years. Olivia's other musical accomplishments include: Youth Chamber Orchestra 2023-24, Chamber Players Orchestra 2022-23 - Temple University Music Preparatory; PMEA All-State, Regional, District, and County Orchestra Festivals 2023; Lake Luzerne Music Center Orchestra & Chamber Program 2022, 2023, Reading Symphony Youth Orchestra since 2021 - Concertmaster 2023-24; Reading Symphony Junior String Orchestra 2018-2021; PMEA Regional and District Choral Festivals; MEBC Junior County Concertmaster 2022; MEBC Junior County Principal Second Violin 2020. Olivia studies violin with Dara Morales, Assistant Principal Second Violin of the Philadelphia Orchestra.

At Wyomissing Area High School, Olivia is the Concertmaster of her school orchestra. She also plays in the school musical pit orchestra, and sings in the Choir and Camerata. Olivia is a member of the National Honor Society and maintains a 4.0 GPA.

Lauren Watts, Piano & Voice

Robert Kreitz -Mark Hornberger Piano Scholarship (Grades 5-6),

First Place Recipient 2023

Lauren Watts is a sixth grader in the Wilson School District. She has been a recipient of RMF'S merit scholarship awards since first grade. In addition to the piano, Lauren enjoys singing and playing the violin and flute. She recently joined Reading Symphony Junior String Orchestra in September. Lauren also participates in her school orchestra, band and chorus. She has performed in musical theatre productions in the Berks County and Lancaster area. Some shows include *Les Miserables*, *The Sound of Music*, *Ragtime*, *Matilda*, and *Miracle on 34th Street*. Lauren also enjoys reading and playing tennis and volleyball.

She is so grateful to all of her music teachers and to RMF because she sincerely wouldn't be the musician she is today without them. Lauren knows in her heart that music will always be a part of her life.

So What!

Noah Gibney, Keyboard; Esteban Ruiz Velazquez, String Bass; and Dexter Sales, Percussion

So What!, consisting of junior Noah Gibney (Wyomissing Area High School), junior Esteban Ruiz-Velazquez (Exeter Township Senior High School), and freshman Dexter Sales (Wilson High School), met by chance at various camps and events sponsored by Reading Musical Foundation and Berks Arts. Gibney and Sales first played together at a getJazzed summer camp in the summer of 2021, while Sales and Ruiz-Velazquez met in November of 2022 at a musical workshop during Reading Blues Fest. The three



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began jamming together in January 2023 at Gibney's open mic and from there formed a group with their sights set on auditioning for the Chuck Loeb Memorial Scholarship. Since then, So What! has gone on to kickoff Berks Jazz Fest 2023, open for Chuchito Valdes, perform at the Reading 275th Citizens' Bicycle Race and provide entertainment at numerous establishments throughout Berks, Lebanon, and Montgomery counties.

meet our host

Dr. Willis M. Rapp

Willis M. Rapp holds the B.S. and M.M. degrees in Music Education from West Chester University, the Diploma of Fine Arts in Conducting from the University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada, and the Doctor of Musical Arts in Instrumental Conducting from the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. Dr. Rapp has served on the faculty of Millersville University, Southeastern Louisiana University, Iowa State University, and Kutztown University, where he retired in 2013 with the distinction of Professor Emeritus. In 2007 he was the recipient of the Kutztown University Faculty Research Award, and in Fall 2009 he was honored with the Arthur and Isabel Wiesenberger Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching, making him the first faculty member in the history of the university to be honored with both awards. He has worked with RMF as an educator, adjudicator and Music in the Schools director. For the past several years Dr. Rapp has worked with the Kutztown Foundation and Kutztown University to establish the Wells-Rapp Center for Mallet Percussion Research at Kutztown University. The Center was a \$6.4 million project, and includes a 2,100 square foot performing space in addition to rooms dedicated to each of the specialized collections of rare marimbas, xylophones, vibraphones, bells, and chimes currently in the collection.



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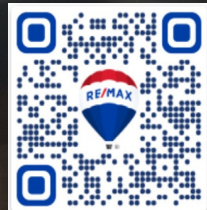
*Kent Gutzler,
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"I think music in itself, is healing.
It's an explosive expression of
humanity. It's something we are
all touched by. No matter what
culture we're from, everyone loves
music." – Billy Joel

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DAVID L. KLINE FAMILY MOUNTAIN FOLK SCHOLARSHIP FUND

a scholarship program of
Reading Musical Foundation

The David Kline Family Mountain Folk Scholarship Fund provides funding for students of any age studying roots music from any ethnicity, folk, blues, bluegrass, klezmer, gypsy jazz, almost any style of acoustic music.

Scholarships from the fund are granted to players of guitars, violins/fiddles, banjos, autoharps, lap dulcimers, hammered dulcimers, dobroes, mandolins, upright bass fiddles and other more obscure instruments.



Support area folk & acoustic musicians by
scanning the QR Code

About RMF...

RMF believes that every child in Berks should have access to high quality music programs, and events like Berks Shines allow us to make that possible. Not every student musician will become a professional musician, but the skills they've learned through choir and band room will play an important role in whatever direction they choose. Students who participate in music have a tangible advantage when it comes to developing a strong work ethic and positive attitude.

Over 95 years old, RMF is a public charity that provides financial support for music presenters in Berks County, music scholarships by audition and in response to financial need, and extensive music outreach, including programs in most of Berks County's public and parochial schools. RMF is governed by a self-perpetuating board of volunteer trustees and is administered by a staff of two full-time employees and two part-time employees. The Foundation depends upon the public's support each year.

RMF's annual efforts to support music education and appreciation include:

- Investing more than \$250,000 in scholarships for Berks County student musicians, divided equally between audition-based awards and awards that respond to financial need.
- Support local music organizations with \$200,000 in program grants that advance and advocate for music education and appreciation.
- Advocating for Berks County's strong music network, from strengthening the capacity of school music programs to economic development found in the arts as well as community access to concerts and ensembles.
- Ensuring quality instruments are available to students, regardless of their ability to afford them through Operation Replay, RMF's instrument recycling program sponsored by Zeswitz Music.



RMF's mission is to advance and advocate for music education and appreciation in Berks County.

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