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## Connecting to the Community with Music: Duquesne Chamber Orchestra Poised for Run-Out Concerts

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# Connecting to the Community

## *Duquesne Chamber Orchestra Poised for Run-Out Concerts*



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Leah Wallace, Supervisor of the Musician Volunteer Program at UPMC Hillman Cancer Center, brings musically-inclined volunteers to provide cheer and comfort to patients and their families. For more information about the program or to complete a “Volunteer” application visit the link below and select “UPMC Hillman Cancer Center.” [hillman.upmc.com/difference/supporting](http://hillman.upmc.com/difference/supporting)

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Music echoed through the multi-story lobby and into many patient treatment rooms throughout UPMC Hillman Cancer Center last October, as the Duquesne Chamber Orchestra (DCO) played to an audience that was mostly unseen.

The DCO run-out concert for UPMC Hillman patients, staff, and visitors included Beethoven’s *Symphony No. 2* and Elgar’s *Serenade for Strings* and was a very unique and poignant opportunity for the newly formed ensemble.

“We did not actually see the majority of our audience, as they were undergoing chemotherapy and other cancer treatments, but wanted to give the patients a small glimpse of the joy and beauty that makes Elgar and Beethoven’s music so special to us,” said Director of Orchestral Activities at the Mary Pappert School of Music, Daniel Meyer.

Meyer actively seeks performance opportunities in non-traditional concert settings like the one at UPMC Hillman in the Shadyside neighborhood of Pittsburgh. This performance had marked only the second time that the small ensemble played in the space, but it likely won’t be the last, as evidenced by the doctors and nurses who went out of their way to come and thank the musicians for their soothing sounds.

“We knew that our music-making had a deep and lasting impact on the patients,” said Meyer.

Leah Wallace, an oncology nurse and DCO liaison for performances at the facility was impressed with the musical talent of the group. “Your students are talented beyond words,” she stated to Meyer. “We were privileged to have the chance to listen to a class-act of music fill our halls from (literally) the floor to the ceiling. I have never seen people stop in their tracks upon entering Hillman to enjoy a small minute of their busy, sometimes scary day. I consider this a huge compliment to you and your orchestra.”

The DCO is a subset of the larger Duquesne Symphony Orchestra, both under the baton of Meyer. Many of the same full orchestra players perform the DCO’s run-out concerts. The group’s versatility of learning a great deal of repertoire specific to the chamber orchestra in a very short time period, combined with its sheer portability with 30 members at maximum instrumentation, makes the DCO ideal for smaller, more intimate performances within the community.

In the coming years, the DCO aims to do more community performances and travel to local high schools to perform for students. For more information on when and where DCO and all of the other Mary Pappert School of Music ensembles will be performing, please visit [duq.edu/MusicEvents](http://duq.edu/MusicEvents). ■

# *with Music*

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