

**COALESCE DUO** is a collaboration between Elise Dalleska and Jeff Kowalkowski. Together they present concerts of many genres (classical, pop, jazz/blues, American fiddle, new music and the classics of Cole Porter/Gershwin/etc) in many venues (concert halls, classrooms, senior residences, private events, Chicago parks). We have a passion for designing programs for students of any age. Live music inspires in a way no recording or individual lesson can. We believe exposing children to concerts encourages a life long curiosity about music.

Violinist **ELISE DALLESKA** received her M.M. in violin performance from Florida State University and her B.M. summa cum laude from Boston University. She maintains a private teaching studio, is a faculty member at DePaul University in the Community Music Department, and teaches violin lessons at Whitney Young Magnet High School. She has been teaching for 13 years. Elise was a member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago and has worked with artists ranging from Pierre Boulez to Mary J. Blige.

Composer/pianist **JEFF**

**KOWALKOWSKI** received his doctorate in composition from Northwestern University. He is active as a free-lance keyboardist and band-leader performing classical, jazz, and rock music, with a specialty in "avant-garde" and "new music." Jeff has been on the faculty at DePaul University since 1996 and at Northeastern Illinois University since 2001. He teaches courses in music composition and theory, as well as orchestration and form and analysis. Recent commissions for original compositions include a Meet the Composer/Met-Life Creative Connections grant for a duo percussion concerto, and also a sound-installation produced by the Experimental Sound Studio (ESS) and the Chicago Park District at the Lincoln Park Conservatory. Recent work as a keyboardist includes synthesizer and sound-effects for Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus, and piano with the Exploding Star Orchestra (Delmark). He also is conductor and performer in Julia Miller's Improvised Opera *Dissecting Adam*. In summer of 2013 he taught theory, composition and improv at the Chicago Piano Festival, and also at Percussive Attack Camp (Marquette, Michigan). Jeff conducted the 100th anniversary concert of the Chicago Zither Club (1912-2012). He has co-organized the New Music at the Green Mill Sunday afternoon concert series since 1991.

## **OUR PROGRAMS**

Our current programs are listed below. We are always in the process of creating new programs, so please contact Elise ([312-933-2256](tel:312-933-2256)) for our latest options, or if you have a specific topic in mind. We may be able to create a program just for your school!

**Music of the pedagogues** - Music written by the great pedagogues from Europe and the U.S.A. Genres include operatic, romantic, and contemporary.

**Jazz Standards** - Music includes the great composers and singers - Gershwin, Porter, Sinatra, etc

**Music of Jeff Kowalkowski** - Music written by Jeff, ranging from his early works to new compositions.

**Music of America** - Folk tunes and the history of how they helped make America great!

## **CONTACT**

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