

Strengthened and Honored



News from the Delta Omicron Foundation, Inc.

Spring 2024

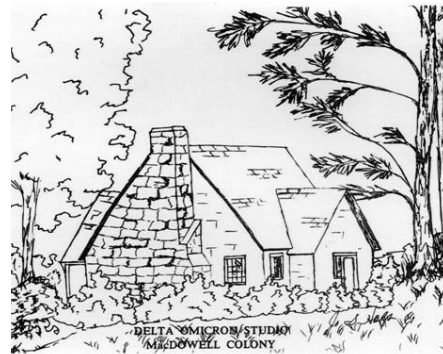
Foundation Continues Commitment to MacDowell

Since its establishment in 1927, the Delta Omicron Studio at MacDowell has been supported by both the Fraternity and the Foundation. The installation of the Petzold-Collyer Piano at the studio allowed more composers to complete their fellowships at the DO Studio. Here is an introduction to the composers who worked there in 2023, excerpted from the MacDowell website and used here by permission.

Vicente H. Atria is a Chilean composer and drummer. Described as “virtuosic,” “revelatory” (The New York Times), and “ecstatic” (The Guardian), his music riffs on a wide range of idioms, from renaissance dances to Korean sanjo, creating ludic and futuristic sonic worlds. He holds a D.M.A. in composition from Columbia University.

At MacDowell, Atria composed *dreams and tips of thoughtful leaves*, a 15-minute work commissioned by Wet Ink Ensemble.

Estonian-American composer and animator **Lembit Beecher** writes



Former International President Jo Swindall Holt created this drawing of the original Delta Omicron Studio at MacDowell (later remodeled in 2017).
Learn more about her beginning on page 2.

music that stems from a fascination with the way memories, histories, and stories permeate our contemporary lives. Threading together fragments of family lore, distantly experienced legends, imagery, and songs from Estonian folk culture, and explorations of place, migration, natural processes, and ecology, he strives to create musical worlds full of fragile lyricism, propulsive energy, and visceral emotions.

During his 2023 fellowship, he worked on a new quartet commissioned by the Lydian String Quartet at Brandeis for premiere in the fall of 2024.

Composer **Douglas Boyce**'s music draws on Medieval and Renaissance traditions and modernist

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Meet the 2023-2024 Foundation Grant Recipients

Here are the students who received grants for the academic year 2023-2024. The Foundation is accepting its applications for educational grants for 2024-25, and these awards will be announced early in the fall. A list of the grants may be downloaded from the Foundation website at www.dofoundation.org.

Would you like to help? Please use the form on page 3 to donate to the Foundation's Principal Fund.



Jake Crotteau
Central Michigan
University



Ashton Hoelscher
Western Kentucky
University



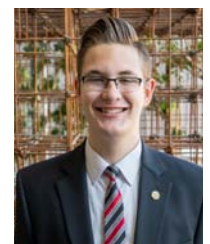
Amanda Kester
University of
Wisconsin - Stevens



Tayvis Mayfield
Kent State
University



Hailey Pollack
Kent State
University



Austin Vonderloh
Univ. of Wisconsin-
Stevens Point

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Delta Omicron's Legacy: *Important Names in the History of the* *Fraternity and Foundation*

Jo S. Holt



Jo Swindall Holt served the Fraternity as International President from 1980 to 1987, having previously served as Iota Province President and International First Vice President.

She was an initiate of Delta Omega chapter at Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, Alabama, which she attended as an adult student with a young child. She later transferred to Birmingham-Southern College in Birmingham, Alabama, and earned her undergraduate degree in church music with an emphasis in voice. She also received her master's degree in counseling and guidance from Troy State University's location in Montgomery, Alabama.

In addition to a career in the business world, she served several churches and the Protestant Chapel at Maxwell Air Force Base as music

director. She directed choirs of all ages from kindergarten through adult and was a certified Director of Music in the United Methodist Church.

Among the achievements during her presidency was the computerization of the Fraternity's executive office through an extensive fundraising campaign.

Holt received DO's Alumni Achievement Award at the triennial

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Then-International President Jo S. Holt presided over the 75th anniversary conference of Delta Omicron in Kent, Ohio.

Contributors to Delta Omicron Foundation's Campaigns

The following persons and groups have contributed to the Foundation from May of 2023 through February of 2024. Monies raised will support scholarships to worthy Delta Omicrons and other Foundation projects. Thanks, everyone!

Navana Ahrends
Betty Behrens
Gloria Ottun Engstrom
Hermie Gaston
Pamela Gibboney
Joan Goetzinger
Ann Jones
Georgia S. Kleinheksel
John K. Kleinheksel
Carol Anne Koehl

Judy Greenisen Lewis
Teresa Motz
Jonny and Darhyl Ramsey
Reba A. Will Foundation
Cornelius Robinson, Jr.
Lynette Rusch
Kay C. Wideman
Zeta Sigma Chapter
Zeta Zeta Chapter

Jo S. Holt*from Page 2*

conference of 1990. It was presented by Past International President Kay C. Wideman, who said at the time, "Jo possesses poise, tact, leadership, communication, and business skills (in fact, she has worked for many years in the business world), and she is an exceptionally strong person. Her gifts extend from the world of music to that of a visual artist. Her sketch of the Delta Omicron studio at MacDowell Colony has been enjoyed by many through Delta Omicron notecards."

Holt joined the Chapter Eternal on November 6, 1990.

MacDowell Composers*from Page 1*

aesthetics, building rich rhythmic structures that shift between order, fragmentation, elegance, and ferocity. Many of his works have direct historical, literary, or philosophical touchstones; others focus on foundational features of performance ordered and disordered temporalities, technical virtuosity, improvisation, spatialization, and the relation of soloist to ensemble.

During his time at MacDowell, he completed two works: *Small Philosophies*, for voice and guitar,

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Consider another way of assisting the Foundation

If you are ready to start taking Minimum Required Distributions from any retirement accounts you have, or will qualify soon, please think about sending some of your distribution to the Delta Omicron Foundation. According to the Internal Revenue Services website, Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) are the minimum amounts you must withdraw from your retirement account(s) each year. You generally must start taking withdrawals from your traditional IRA, SEP IRA, SIMPLE IRA, and retirement plan accounts when you reach age 72. Learn more at www.irs.gov.

Today's Gifts are Tomorrow's Philanthropies

For more than sixty years, the Delta Omicron Foundation, Inc. has served the philanthropic purposes of the Delta Omicron International Music Fraternity. As a member or friend of the Fraternity, you can help the Foundation increase its giving potential.

Consider your gift today! Contributions--cash or pledge, unrestricted or assigned to specific projects--assure the continuity and expansion of the Foundation's philanthropic program. Other means of assistance are:

- Giving memorial or recognition gifts (one acknowledgment will be sent for each gift of \$10.00 or more)
- Assigning the Foundation as beneficiary of an insurance policy (policy should identify the Delta Omicron Foundation, Inc.)
- Perpetuating the name of a donor by establishing a special fund bearing the donor's name within the Foundation
- Making a bequest to the Foundation (bequests should identify the Delta Omicron Foundation, Inc.)

Gifts to the Foundation are **tax deductible** as permitted by law. Consult your tax advisor for information on your own situation. Please make your checks payable to the DELTA OMICRON FOUNDATION, INC. (please do not send currency), and mail to Susan Tams, Treasurer, Delta Omicron Foundation, Inc., 2 Wynfield Trace, Winfield, WV 25213.

Yes, I want to contribute to the future of music and musicians.

Here is my contribution of \$ _____, designated as follows:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grants and Awards (Principal Fund) | <input type="checkbox"/> Named fund (specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Petzold-Collyer Piano Maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Musical Pathways for Youth | |

This is a memorial or gift honoring

Please send an acknowledgment to (name and address):

Donor's Name (as it should appear in donor listings) _____

I prefer to remain anonymous in lists of donors.

My check is enclosed. PayPal or Credit Card (Please visit www.dofoundation.org online and click on Make a Gift.)
(Please contact Susan Tams, treasurer, before initiating a wire transfer.)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Delta Omicron Chapter (if applicable) _____

MacDowell Composers

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written for the Bowers Fader Duo, setting poems by MacDowell Fellow Jennifer Chang, and *On the Phenomena of Dance*, for flute and guitar, written for the BlackBox ensemble for performance in 2024.

Tamar Diesendruck's favored compositional medium for many years has been virtuosic chamber music; in recent years, her focus has shifted, and she has embraced opportunities to compose for larger ensembles. She composes for all acoustic media, and has explored use of field recordings in video installation and music for film.

At MacDowell in 2023, she worked on a substantial piece for 11 instruments featuring virtuoso saxophonist Philipp StĂudlin.

Currently based in Izmir, Turkey, **Fusun KĂksal** is a composer whose works have recently been programmed in various contemporary music festivals, mainly in Europe. She graduated from Hochschule fĂr Musik KĂln and received her Ph.D. in composition from the University of Chicago.

At MacDowell, she worked on a string orchestra piece commissioned by Fondazione Merz in Italy. She also finished a work for bass clarinet and violoncello.

Nora Stanley is a New York-based saxophonist and composer whose work lives at the intersection of composed and improvised music. With roots in the jazz, folk, and rock traditions, Stanley's music emphasizes interaction and collaboration and draws from various influences across genres and artistic media.

During her stay at MacDowell, Stanley undertook work on a collection of arrangements and compositions based on the music of Joe Henderson for a commission by SFJAZZ, to be played by her quintet at the Joe Henderson Festival in San Francisco.

Other artists who stayed at the Delta Omicron Studio during the past year included Nkenna Akunna, playwright; Chisaraok Asomugha, poet; and Daaimah Mubashshir, playwright.

Learn more at
www.MacDowell.org

