

# Benches on the Avenue

– PRESENTS –

## The Power of Music



### 1 Sweet Home Chicago

**Artist:** Nick Schulien  
**Sponsor:** Bettenhausen Automotive  
**Zabrocki Plaza South, 17375 S. Oak Park Avenue**

Jake and Elwood Blues are shown with Ray Charles and Aretha Franklin on a bench that represents songs from the classic 1980 movie, "The Blues Brothers." The bench was designed to resemble a car and features a real bumper, with real cloth and hats to add dimension to the characters. The back of the bench features the iconic Stateville Prison featured in the movie.

**About the Artist:** Nick has lived in Tinley Park for more than 60 years. He taught high school art at Bolingbrook High School for 34 years and has participated in the Benches on the Avenue program for 12 years, having created 35 benches during that time.



### 2 A Whole New World

**Artist:** Nick Schulien  
**Sponsor:** Mid-Con Hospitality, LLC  
**Zabrocki Plaza North, 17375 S. Oak Park Ave.**

This bench depicts a classic scene from the 1992 Disney film "Aladdin" in which Princess Jasmine and Aladdin fly high above the desert on a magic carpet. The bench is very colorful and shows the world in a new light from the comfort of a magic carpet. This bench uses a real rug, differing materials and fur and feathers to add dimension.

**About the Artist:** Nick has created specialty benches that can be seen around town. The 911 Commemorative bench can be seen at Fire Station #1, 17355 S. 68th Court. His holiday-themed benches are displayed in Downtown Tinley during Halloween and the holiday season.



### 3 Coldplay

**Artist:** Jennifer Lilly  
**Sponsor:** Gatto's Restaurant & Bar  
**17313 S. Oak Park Avenue**

When many people listen to Coldplay, they think of color and movement. Their music is typically upbeat and fun, and Jennifer tried to represent with this bench the colors she sees and feelings she has while listening to this group. Materials used include plywood, paint, canvas, frames and glitter.

**About the Artist:** This is Jennifer's 13th year creating benches for the program. She said she really enjoys the entire process of coming up with a two-dimensional idea and building and creating it in three dimensions. "It's very rewarding, as well as challenging," she said. Jennifer lives in a neighboring community and enjoys spending time with her two teenage children.



### 4 Chinese Traditional Music: Seasons

**Artist:** Rong Liang  
**17255 S. Oak Park Avenue**

This bench is inspired by traditional Chinese music seasons and features the Chinese characters for fall, winter, spring and summer painted on the sides of its flower boxes. The bench is also decorated with colors and imagery that evoke feelings of each of the four seasons.

**About the Artist:** Rong is a former instructor at the Vogt Visual Arts Center in Tinley Park, as well as the Asia Institute – Crane House in Louisville, Kentucky, and the Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts in China. Rong has also taught oil painting, Chinese brush painting and calligraphy workshops during her professional career.



### 5 Just Sing

**Artist:** Raye Ann & Kevin Saunoris, Rosalie Schneider  
**Sponsor:** Heat and Frost Insulators – Local 17  
**17225 S. Oak Park Avenue**

Join Buster Moon, Rosita, Mike, Ash, Johnny and the rest of the animal gang as they sing their hearts out in this bench that pays tribute to the 2016 animated movie "Sing." The bench is a colorful, 3-D piece that stresses the importance of the power of one voice.

**About the Artist:** Raye Ann is a professional artist, published illustrator and owner of A Raye of Color, a painting design and mural business. She enjoys working on the bench with her husband, Kevin and mother, Rosalie.



### 6 Fantasia: Music's Apprentice

**Artist:** Jackie Bobbitt, David Cermak and Samantha Cermak  
**Sponsor:** Lawn Funeral Home  
**17217 S. Oak Park Avenue**

"Fantasia" was the first animated film to incorporate a live orchestra and famous scores. This bench depicts the idea of what one might see when hearing specific music. Using wood, paint and some creative Disney ideas, this bench brings music to life! Take a closer look and find some fun music facts about this classic film!

**About the Artist:** Jackie, David and Samantha met in high school, where they spent four years in both band and/or tech crew. Having a background in music and building sets made them a great team for this year's "Benches" theme. All three are Tinley Park residents with a passion for bringing creativity to life.



### 7 Music Speaks Life

**Artist:** Bethany Nemecek  
**17208 S. Oak Park Avenue**

This 3-D design brings art and music together to create a colorful, energetic experience. Layers of wood, screen mesh and paint are just some of the many materials that comprise this dimensional design that illustrates the power music.

**About the Artist:** Bethany is a Tinley Park resident and fourth-year Benches on the Avenue artist. During her three years as a student at the Illinois Institute of Art – Tinley Park, she worked on the school's team that created benches in 2012, 2013 and 2014. Now a bachelor of fine arts in interior design alum, Bethany has set out to fly solo and create a design that captures the power of music through art.



### 8 Heavenly Sounds

**Artist:** Hillcrest High School Art Society  
**Sponsor:** Rizza Buick/GMC/Cadillac  
**17236 S. Oak Park Avenue**

This bench is a tribute to Bremen High School District 228 fine arts supervisor Keith Anderson, who recently passed away from cancer. Mr. Anderson received numerous awards during his career, including the prestigious Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching. His musical influence is timeless and can be heard from the heavens. Wood, metal and found musical objects were used to construct the bench.

**About the Artists:** The Hillcrest High School Art Society is comprised of students of various backgrounds who enjoy the camaraderie that the fine arts create. This is the first year the group has created a piece for the Benches on the Avenue project.



### 9 Fantasia

**Artist:** Carrie Hartman and Emily Hartman  
**Sponsor:** Creative Cakes Bakery & Cafe  
**17244 S. Oak Park Avenue**

This bench was inspired by the timeless Walt Disney classic "Fantasia," which features music by classical composers Bach, Tchaikovsky, Stravinsky, Beethoven and others. The bench is painted with colorful illustrations that depict several memorable characters such as Dewdrop, Frost, Young Pegasus, Melinda, the Dancin' Goldfish and Hop Low and the dancin' mushrooms! Come take a seat and feel the magic of "Fantasia!"

**About the Artist:** Carrie and Emily are both Oak Lawn Community High School students who recently participated in Acorns on Parade, Oak Lawn's public art project. This is the first year Carrie and Emily are participating in the Benches on the Avenue program.





**10 It's Music Time**  
**Artist:** *Amanda Tempinski & Greg Cichoracki*  
**Sponsor:** *Ed & Joe's Restaurant and Pizzeria*  
**17316 S. Oak Park Avenue**

This vibrant, colorful bench is a timeline that shows the different ways music has reached people. The artists have fused this technology with images of traditional instruments such as an electric guitar, a trombone, a French horn, a harp, piano keys and a drum. The bench is constructed from plywood and found materials from real instruments. It's also interactive and includes a working drum!

**About the Artist:** Amanda has loved music and art her entire life. She teaches art, music and Spanish to students in kindergarten through eighth grade. This will be the third bench she created with her father.



**11 Star Spangled Jimi**  
**Artist:** *Sue Kohlstedt-Berry and Sean Berry*  
**Sponsor:** *Odyssey Fun World*  
**17322 S. Oak Park Avenue**

This bench represents a glimpse back to 1969 when the late, great Jimi Hendrix took the stage in the early morning at Woodstock to play his epic rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner." Canvas, beads, fabric and wood enhance the 3-D look.

**About the Artist:** Sue is a Tinley Park native and a 1982 graduate of Victor J. Andrew High School. She is an artist and an educator at Century Junior High School in Orland Park. Her son, Sean, is a talented woodworker and helped his mother transform this bench into a 3-D masterpiece.



**12 The Heartbeat of Culture**  
**Artist:** *R. Michael Trapp*  
**17332 S. Oak Park Avenue**

For many, music is a creative ingredient of community. It drives the development of culture and has been a key aspect of cultural identity for millennia. In that vein, this bench portrays some of the many musical heritages across the world. The bench utilized construction materials such as wood, wire and plaster.

**About the Artist:** Michael has lived in Tinley Park for 30 years with his wife, Debbie. He has raised three children, the youngest of which is now graduating college. He loves music, nature and all the creativity of life.



**13 John Williams Musical Themes**  
**Artist:** *Jennifer Lilly*  
**Sponsor:** *The Odyssey*  
**Oak Park Avenue and Hickory Street**

John Williams has written some of the most memorable music for movies, including "Star Wars" and the Indiana Jones films, and conveys intense emotion in his pieces. Materials used include plywood, paint, screen, great stuff, canvas, sculpting clay and rope.

**About the Artist:** Jennifer said the "Benches" program gives her the opportunity to create art on a large scale. "I really enjoy the challenges it creates, and it's so rewarding to see the final product out on the street being enjoyed by so many." Jennifer has two teenagers and lives in Oak Forest, though she has worked in Tinley Park for 27 years (and grew up there, too!)



**14 Carnival de Musique**  
**Artist:** *Lisa Hanna Akroush*  
**Sponsor:** *DuPage Medical Group*  
**17424 S. Oak Park Avenue**

This bench is made with wood, acrylic paints, string and yarn. Using multiple colors, the bench depicts instruments such as a xylophone, an acoustic guitar, maracas, a saxophone and a tambourine. Musical notes dot the backdrop. You can almost hear the music coming from this bench!

**About the Artist:** Lisa is classically trained fine artist and performer in the Chicago area. She works at Second City and manages its student volunteer program. Lisa is a returning Benches on the Avenue artist after taking a few years off, and everyone is glad to have her back!



**15 Prince and Bowie: A Tribute**  
**Artist:** *Providence Catholic High School Studio Art Class*  
**Sponsor:** *Robinson Engineering, Ltd.*  
**17432 S. Oak Park Avenue**

This bench was made using wood cutouts and wood additions and pays tribute to legendary rock musicians Prince and David Bowie, both of whom passed away in 2016. With careers spanning decades, Prince and Bowie have influenced thousands of musicians and provided the soundtrack to millions of people's lives.

**About the Artists:** This bench was created by an advanced art class at Providence Catholic High School in New Lenox. Each class member played an important role in creating the final work of art.



**16 Musical Culture**  
**Artist:** *Gabrielle Ciuteikis and Jacob Diaz*  
**Sponsor:** *Panduit Corporation*  
**17500 S. Oak Park Avenue**

This bench is comprised of paint, fabric, lights, plywood and polish. It depicts how music unifies people and cultures of different backgrounds by showing a diverse group of musicians playing brass instruments. The seating area is painted to look like piano keys. The emotions created by music can be seen on the bench, as well.

**About the Artist:** Tinley Park High School seniors Gabrielle Ciuteikis and Jacob Diaz teamed up to create this bench, which is their first for the Benches on the Avenue program. Both students combined their own styles to create a unified, vibrant design that catches the eye.



**17 Music Makes Us Feel**  
**Artist:** *Isabella Sutton and Hailey Piorek*  
**17514 S. Oak Park Avenue**

This bench design contains many music notes and tries to tell a story with song. The bench attempts to depict how music goes into our hearts and makes us love and feel loved, and features the quote, "Music speaks when words fail." Featured bands on the mp3 player include Third Eye Blind, Green Day, Papa Roach, My Chemical Romance, Panic at the Disco, Nirvana, Linkin Park and Three Days Grace.

**About the Artist:** Hailey and Isabella attend Tinley Park High School. Both love the Benches on the Avenue program and said they are happy for, "the chance to be a part of something so pretty."



**18 Oldies But Goodies**  
**Artist:** *The Painted Turtle*  
**Sponsor:** *Aero Rubber Company, Inc.*  
**17459 S. Oak Park Avenue**

This bench displays large-scale symbols of nostalgia in the music industry. The front is a massive jukebox, while the back is an old-school vinyl record. The bench is painted with acrylic paint and wooden add-ons that give the jukebox and record their distinctive shape. Artists cued up on the jukebox include Pink, Michael Jackson and Jill Scott.

**About the Artist:** The Painted Turtle is a local art studio for adults with disabilities. Painted Turtle artists have an endless passion to create. This is the first year the group has participated in Benches on the Avenue, and the students couldn't be more excited.



**19 The Wordsmith**  
**Artist:** *Marty Rose*  
**Sponsor:** *Tinley Park Park District*  
**17401 S. Oak Park Avenue**

The wordsmith forges metals into useful tools. So, too, does the wordsmith. He performs his craft by forging words into powerful instruments that can express something as delicate as an emotion, or influential enough to change the course of history. Musician Bob Dylan is the poet laureate whose accolades reflect that craft in songs such as "Knocking on Heaven's Door," "Like a Rolling Stone" and "Blowin' in the Wind." This bench is made of plywood and acrylic paint.

**About the Artist:** Marty is one of the original bench artists. He believes Tinley Park's art project is far superior to any other villages, and is part of a true modern day renaissance.