

# Driehaus Micro Cap Growth Fund Summary

4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER 2020

## Market Overview

In the fourth quarter, US equities continued to shine. The market consolidated in October ahead of the US national election and then rocketed higher in November and December. In fact, the quarter was record setting. The month of November was the strongest month ever for the small cap Russell 2000 Index as it gained 18.4%. Then the market followed through in December, making the three-month period the best quarter ever for the Russell 2000, up 31.4%.

The strength over the final two months was partially due to the lifted overhang and clarity following the US election, but mostly due to the robust efficacy of the two leading COVID-19 vaccines reported in November. COVID has been the dominant theme all year and the prospect of vaccines vanquishing the virus sets up a likely and long-awaited economic reopening in the months ahead in 2021.

2020 was certainly a year unlike any other. The global pandemic ended the longest bull market in modern history, caused a severe recession, a bear market and a public health crisis on a global scale. Work, school and nearly all aspects of daily life were disrupted and went virtual. Political discord and social unrest reached their worst levels in decades. Monetary and fiscal stimulus programs were record setting in size and scope. The year started off "normal", then quickly saw a near complete economic shutdown and collapse due to social distancing restrictions and quarantines, followed by a stunning economic recovery overall (but of course, not for all) despite various levels of continued COVID restrictions. As the year concluded, optimism for a return to normalcy rose as safe, effective vaccines were developed in record time. Along the way, the Russell 2000 experienced its worst quarter ever in the first quarter and its best quarter ever in the fourth quarter, to complete the year 2020 up 20%.

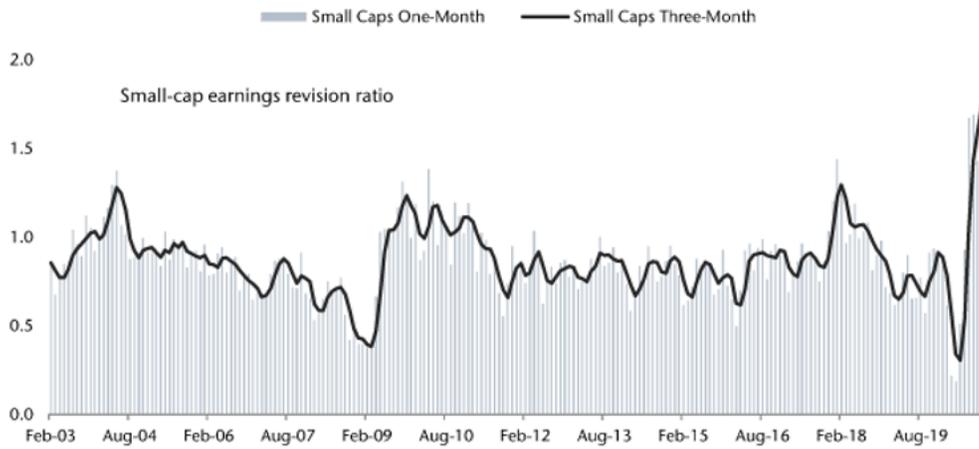
The outlook as we start the new year continues to be positive for the market as vaccine efficacy of around 95% for the two leading candidates is a near best case scenario. This is expected to result in a much quicker return to normalcy and a rapid economic reopening. As the vaccines are distributed over the next several months COVID case levels should decline, perhaps sharply, economic restrictions should ease as we enter the spring and summer months and ultimately, we should reach herd immunity. The equity market is a forward-looking mechanism and it likely will continue to price in better economic growth and stronger earnings that will get a sustained boost from the process of reopening.

This sanguine scenario should continue to be bullish for equities, but it won't occur in a straight line. Vaccine distribution and uptake on a national and global scale is difficult and requires complicated and coordinated logistics. In the US, federal agencies, states, and many different organizations and companies, in disparate industries, must work together. The public must also do its part to make the distribution and uptake successful. As of early January, after several weeks of distribution, the pace of uptake is already behind expectations. However, the pace of inoculations is picking up quickly and while there will likely be additional stumbles ahead, the number of vaccines administered should grow rapidly.

Despite possible short-term volatility, the intermediate-term outlook is quite encouraging as the economy exits a recession and enters what should be a new post-COVID expansion.

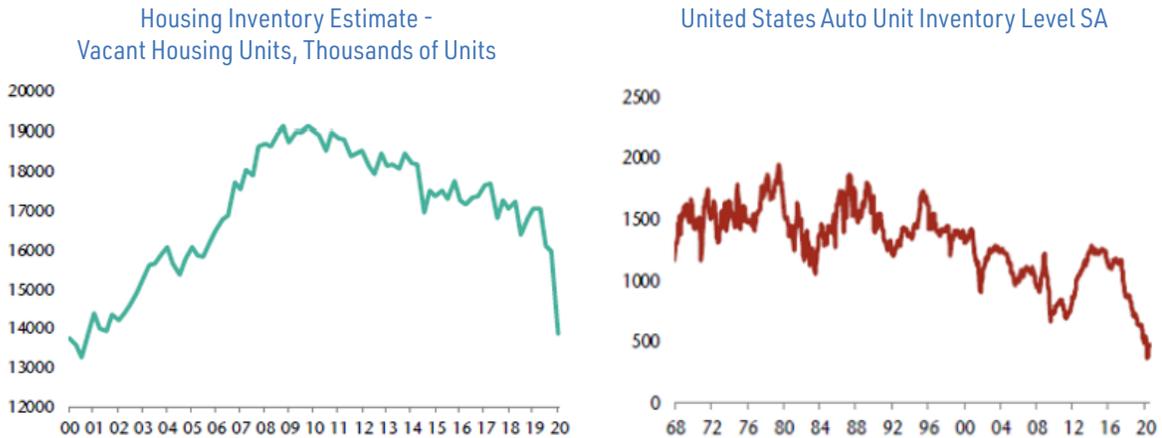
Monetary policy is very supportive of underlying conditions and the performance of equities is generally tied to the rising level of earnings. Heading into 2021, we see several key drivers of strong economic and earnings improvement (Exhibit 1), including: massive stimulus, decades-low inventories in many key industries (Exhibit 2), decades-high levels of savings (Exhibit 3) and household net worth gains, improving employment and massive pent up consumer demand. We expect these drivers to fuel mid-single digit GDP growth, possibly reaching the 6-7% range, driven by the consumer. Historically, equities do well in the initial year of a new economic expansion and small caps typically outperform large caps entering a new expansion.

### Exhibit 1: The Earnings Revision Ratio in Small is Still Above 2



Source: FactSet, FTSE Russell, Jefferies

### Exhibit 2: Low Inventory in Many Key Industries



Source: Bloomberg, Jefferies

### Exhibit 3: Multi-decade High Level of Savings



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis | U.S. recessions are shaded; the most recent end date is undecided.

## Driehaus Micro Cap Growth Fund

## Inflation expectations – cyclical or secular?

Inflation is one key debate for many market participants right now. While we don't have all the answers on inflation, we are monitoring it carefully. Here are some items to consider.

With the trillions of additional liquidity created since the start of the pandemic, an extremely accommodative monetary policy environment, further fiscal stimulus and cyclical forces such as supply disruptions, low inventories and pent up demand, it seems like we have the perfect mix for inflation to accelerate. Inflation typically rises as the economy enters a new economic expansion and it rose after the 1918-1919 pandemic. Inflation leads to higher interest rates. So certainly, it is one of the chief market concerns as we enter 2021.

While inflation and interest rates still currently remain low, some pickup in both should be expected. The inflation rate is still below the Fed's 2% target and the Fed has said they will let inflation even exceed their 2% target before they would consider raising interest rates. Recently Chairman Powell said, "there are significant disinflationary pressures around the world. It's not going to be easy to have inflation move up...It's going to take some time." A concern is that the Fed is complacent as are other key central banks and inflation will go unchecked, leading to a stubbornly high inflation rate comparable to the 1970s.

While we do expect inflation to pick up, we believe we have a long way to go before that negative scenario would play out. There are still secular forces at work keeping a lid on inflation such as: digital transformation via technology and the Internet, aging demographics and globalization. There is also tremendous slack in the labor force and labor typically makes up 2/3rds of corporate costs. These are secular, multi-year forces that have caused disinflation for years now.

Even if the new economic expansion boosts wages and commodity prices, it is likely to be cyclical inflation as opposed to secular, we believe. This could be a tailwind for equities in general and for small caps specifically. It could be positive for pricing power with many companies not having had pricing power for a while.

## Performance Review

For the December quarter, the Driehaus Micro Cap Growth Fund outperformed its benchmark. The Fund had a 39.58% return, net of fees, while the Russell Microcap Growth Index experienced a gain of 29.65%. The Fund also outperformed the other major indices, such as the Russell 2000 which gained 31.37%, the Russell 2000 Growth which rose 29.61% and the S&P 500 which grew 12.15%.<sup>1</sup>

For the full calendar year of 2020, the Fund returned 85.60% while the Russell Microcap Growth Index experienced a gain of 40.13%. The Fund also outperformed the other major indices, such as the Russell 2000 which gained 19.96%, the Russell 2000 Growth which rose 34.63% and the S&P 500 which grew 18.40%.

<sup>1</sup>Performance Disclosure

The performance data shown represents past performance and does not guarantee future results. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. Principal value and investment returns will fluctuate so that investors' shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Performance data represents the rate that an investor would have earned (or lost), during the given month, on an investment in the Fund (assuming reinvestment of all dividends and distributions). Average annual total return reflects annualized change. **Since Fund performance is subject to change after the month-end, please call (800) 560-6111 or visit [www.driehaus.com](http://www.driehaus.com) for more current performance information.**

**Driehaus Micro Cap Growth Fund**

2020 marked the 22nd calendar year out of the past twenty-three years, since 1998, where the Driehaus Micro Cap Growth strategy has outperformed its relevant benchmark and the ninth year in a row. It was also the fifth calendar year, since 1998, where the Fund has exceeded annual returns of greater than 60% and the third time over 80%.

By sector, the Fund's performance was broad based as all sectors had positive absolute performance. Much of the total contribution to returns for the quarter came from (in order of magnitude) healthcare, consumer discretionary, technology, industrials, financials and consumer staples. The relative outperformance for the quarter came from (in order of magnitude) healthcare, consumer discretionary, industrials and consumer staples. Technology and financials were relative underperformers by a slight margin.

Healthcare's relative outperformance and positive absolute performance was led by strong gains in biotech as several stocks reacted positively to newly-reported clinical data that demonstrated robust efficacy and safety while others appreciated ahead of upcoming data. Also, one long held cardiology holding was acquired at a healthy premium by a major pharma company during the quarter, which nicely added to returns.

The consumer discretionary sector experienced strong percentage gains and it was the portfolio's largest sector overweight vs the benchmark. As the economy reopened and the labor market started to recover, the benefits of stimulus and pent-up demand drove healthy consumer spending that was better than expectations. Ecommerce continued to grow vs traditional brick and mortar retail as social distancing and other restrictions remain in place. Notable outperformers during the quarter came from home furnishing companies, a brand name footwear company, casino/gaming operators and outdoor product companies. While homebuilders and building materials companies still have robust fundamentals given the positive supply/demand imbalance for homes, the group's stock performance was held back by the rise in interest rates (even though mortgages rates remain near record lows).

The industrial sector also performed well. Outperformance came from alternative energy, such as solar, wind, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and hydrogen companies. Machinery and other cyclical related stocks performed well.

Technology overall is benefitting greatly from the pandemic as it accelerates the digital transformation of the economy. Adoption of cloud software, outsourced IT services and increased data consumption and ecommerce were already experiencing secular adoption curves. The sector was a strong, positive contributor but a slight relative underperformer. The outlook for tech is for continued strength given positive demand and secular trends, promising innovation as well as a strong IPO market.

### **Outlook & Positioning**

The recent news of two highly effective COVID-19 vaccines and their distribution are the key developments needed to bring an end to the pandemic that has overwhelmed nearly everything since the first quarter of 2020. The pace of the distribution of the vaccines will determine when and to what degree society, daily life and the economy will reopen and return to normal. Based on the projected number of doses to be manufactured and the number of people (in the US) that need to be inoculated, even with a slow rollout thus far, there should be a dramatic decline in cases and social distancing restrictions during the second quarter and into the summer.

This time estimate is of course imprecise as there are many nuances that will impact the timing of the economy reopening. These include logistics, distribution, the public's willingness to take the vaccines, the actual number of already infected people, the efficacy of a third vaccine (Johnson & Johnson's) and negative surprises, etc. An effective rollout that vaccinates

## Driehaus Micro Cap Growth Fund

30-40% of the US adult population could get the country close to herd immunity by late spring or early summer. 30-40% assumes the actual number of people infected is approximately 2x the number of confirmed official cases (so potentially 15% of the population) and individuals under the age of 18 are excluded (the two approved vaccines are not approved for that age group which equals to nearly 20% of the US population).

A successful vaccine rollout will lead to a robust reopening and a sustained new economic cycle. We anticipate broad participation from most sectors and industries, including both secular growth and cyclical companies. Low inventories in housing, autos and across the broader industrial sector should further support accelerating growth. High savings rates, healthy household balance sheets and continued very highly accommodative monetary policy also contribute to a positive backdrop.

In terms of portfolio positioning, healthcare remains our largest absolute weight, followed by technology, consumer discretionary, industrials and financials. Versus the index, the Fund is overweight consumer discretionary, technology, financials and industrials and is underweight health care, real estate and communication services.

Overall, we see many dynamic investment opportunities in improving or sustainable industries, many of which fit our investment philosophy of companies exhibiting positive growth inflections, differentiation, market share gains, growing revenues and expanding margins which will likely lead to expectations being exceeded over time.

# Driehaus Micro Cap Growth Fund

## % Month-End Performance (as of 12/31/20)

			Annualized				
	MTH	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	Inception <sup>1</sup>
Driehaus Micro Cap Growth Fund	12.74	85.60	85.6	37.18	30.46	20.24	20.5
Russell Microcap <sup>®</sup> Growth Index <sup>2</sup>	8.23	40.13	40.13	14.04	13.08	11.57	10.51

## % Quarter-End Performance (as of 12/31/20)

			Annualized				
	QTR	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	Inception <sup>1</sup>
Driehaus Micro Cap Growth Fund	39.58	85.6	85.6	37.18	30.46	20.24	20.5
Russell Microcap <sup>®</sup> Growth Index <sup>2</sup>	29.65	40.13	40.13	14.04	13.08	11.57	10.51

## Top 5 Holdings<sup>3</sup> (as of 11/30/20)

Company	% of Fund
SiTime Corporation	2.1
GrowGeneration Corp.	2.1
Natera, Inc.	1.9
Inspire Medical Systems, Inc.	1.8
Magnite, Inc.	1.8

## Annual Operating Expenses<sup>4</sup>

Gross Expenses	1.48%
Net Expenses	1.48%

Sources: Driehaus Capital Management LLC, Factset Research Systems, Inc., eVestment Alliance Data as of 12/31/20.

The performance data shown represents past performance and does not guarantee future results. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. Principal value and investment returns will fluctuate so that investors' shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Performance data represents the rate that an investor would have earned (or lost), during the given month, on an investment in the Fund (assuming reinvestment of all dividends and distributions). Average annual total return reflects annualized change. Contractual fee waivers were in effect from inception to 8/21/2014. Without such fee waivers, performance numbers would have been reduced. Since Fund performance is subject to change after the month-end, please call (800) 560-6111 or visit [www.driehaus.com](http://www.driehaus.com) for more current performance information.

<sup>1</sup>The average annual total returns of the Driehaus Micro Cap Growth Fund include the performance of one of the Fund's predecessor limited partnerships, which is calculated from January 1, 2003, before the Fund commenced operations and succeeded to the assets of its predecessors on November 18, 2013. The Fund's predecessors are the Driehaus Micro Cap Fund, L.P. (1996 inception) and the Driehaus Institutional Micro Cap Fund, L.P. (2011 inception). The performance of the Driehaus Micro Cap Fund, L.P., which was selected because it has the longer track record of the two predecessor partnerships, has been restated to reflect estimated expenses of the Fund. The predecessor limited partnerships were not registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended ("1940 Act") and thus were not subject to certain investment and operational restrictions that are imposed by the 1940 Act. If the predecessors had been registered under the 1940 Act, their performance may have been adversely affected. After-tax performance returns are not included for the Driehaus Micro Cap Fund, L.P. The predecessors were not regulated investment companies and therefore did not distribute current or accumulated earnings. <sup>2</sup>Benchmark: The Russell Microcap<sup>®</sup> Growth Index is constructed to provide a comprehensive and unbiased barometer of the microcap growth market. Based on ongoing empirical research of investment manager behavior, the methodology used to determine growth probability approximates the aggregate microcap growth manager's opportunity set. The index has an inception date of July 2000. An investor cannot invest directly in an index. <sup>3</sup>Holdings subject to change. <sup>4</sup>Represents the Annual Fund Operating Expenses as disclosed in the current prospectus dated April 30, 2020. It is important to understand that a decline in the Fund's average net assets due to unprecedented market volatility or other factors could cause the Fund's expense ratio for the current fiscal year to be higher than the expense information presented. A shareholder may be required to pay a commission to their financial intermediary.

## Driehaus Micro Cap Growth Fund / DMCRX

## Sector Performance Attribution 4th Quarter – 9/30/20 to 12/31/20

GICS Sector	Driehaus Micro Cap Growth Fund (Port) (%)		Russell Microcap Growth Index <sup>1</sup> (Bench) (%)		Attribution Analysis (%)		
	Port Avg. Weight	Port Contrib To Return	Bench Avg. Weight	Bench Contrib To Return	Allocation Effect <sup>2</sup>	Selection + Interaction <sup>2</sup>	Total Effect
Communication Services	2.40	0.36	2.45	0.68	0.07	-0.30	-0.23
Consumer Discretionary	20.64	9.00	11.57	4.48	0.99	0.67	1.66
Consumer Staples	4.00	2.28	1.53	1.09	1.12	-0.61	0.51
Energy	0.40	0.09	0.35	0.14	0.03	0.02	0.04
Financials	9.82	2.91	2.28	0.71	0.15	-0.35	-0.20
Health Care	32.12	12.43	50.31	10.10	1.83	5.52	7.35
Industrials	10.28	5.56	8.21	3.95	0.47	0.54	1.01
Information Technology	16.24	6.20	19.18	7.30	-0.19	0.00	-0.18
Materials	1.58	0.55	1.06	0.37	0.02	0.04	0.06
Real Estate	0.68	0.31	2.10	0.65	0.03	0.12	0.15
Utilities	1.28	0.58	0.95	0.14	0.02	0.42	0.44
Cash	0.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.17	0.00	-0.17
Other <sup>3</sup>	0.00	-0.37	0.00	0.00	-0.32	0.00	-0.32
Total	100.00	39.91	100.00	29.62	4.06	6.08	10.13

## Sector Performance Attribution 1-Year – 12/31/19 to 12/31/20

GICS Sector	Driehaus Micro Cap Growth Fund (Port) (%)		Russell Microcap <sup>®</sup> Growth Index <sup>1</sup> (Bench) (%)		Attribution Analysis (%)		
	Port Avg. Weight	Port Contrib To Return	Bench Avg. Weight	Bench Contrib To Return	Allocation Effect <sup>2</sup>	Selection + Interaction <sup>2</sup>	Total Effect <sup>2</sup>
Communication Services	2.96	3.53	3.20	0.89	0.28	1.17	1.45
Consumer Discretionary	17.98	18.22	8.70	4.36	4.27	4.48	8.75
Consumer Staples	3.00	3.69	1.74	0.44	1.09	1.96	3.05
Energy	0.24	-0.49	0.70	-0.73	0.87	-0.29	0.59
Financials	8.67	5.45	4.11	-2.40	-1.95	7.83	5.88
Health Care	36.28	36.00	51.04	23.37	1.87	15.43	17.29
Industrials	10.37	5.42	9.49	3.75	1.69	0.31	2.00
Information Technology	18.13	12.95	16.26	10.60	0.18	4.07	4.24
Materials	0.61	0.34	1.12	-0.38	0.55	-0.36	0.19
Real Estate	0.17	0.31	2.38	0.07	0.61	0.12	0.73
Utilities	0.80	1.98	1.27	0.00	-0.02	1.85	1.83
Cash	0.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.05	0.00	1.05
Other <sup>3</sup>	0.00	-2.07	0.00	0.00	-2.01	0.00	-2.01
Total	100.00	85.33	100.00	39.96	8.47	36.56	45.03

Data as of 12/31/20.

Sources: Driehaus Capital Management LLC, Factset Research Systems, Inc., eVestment Alliance

Per FactSet Research Systems Inc., the attribution report provides an in-depth analysis of relative performance. With this report one can research whether or not a portfolio outperformed a benchmark, and how each group contributed to performance. The performance data shown above is estimated and represents past performance and does not guarantee future results. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. The information presented is intended for informational purposes only.

<sup>1</sup>The definition of this index can be found on page 6. <sup>2</sup>Attribution Analysis categories are defined as: **Allocation Effect** - Measures the impact of the decision to allocate assets differently than those in the benchmark. **Security Selection Effect** - Measures the effect of choosing securities, which may or may not outperform those of the benchmark. **Interaction Effect** - Jointly measures the effect of allocation and selection decisions. **Total Effect** - The Total Effect for each MSCI/GICS Sector is equal to the sum of the individual Attribution Effects for that MSCI/GICS Sector. <sup>3</sup>Other refers to securities not recognized by Factset.

**Driehaus Micro Cap Growth Fund / DMCRX**

This material is not intended to be relied upon as a forecast or research. The opinions expressed are those of Driehaus Capital Management LLC (“Driehaus”) as of January 13, 2021 and are subject to change at any time due to changes in market or economic conditions. The commentary has not been updated since January 13, 2021 and may not reflect recent market activity. The information and opinions contained in this material are derived from proprietary and non-proprietary sources deemed by Driehaus to be reliable and are not necessarily all inclusive. Driehaus does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this information. There is no guarantee that any forecasts made will come to pass. Reliance upon information in this material is at the sole discretion of the reader.

At times, a significant portion of a Fund’s return may be attributable to investments in initial public offerings (IPOs) or concentrations in certain strong performing sectors, such as technology. Returns from IPOs or sector concentrations may not be repeated or consistently achieved in the future. In addition, participating in IPOs and other investments during favorable market conditions may enhance the performance of a Fund with a smaller asset base, and this Fund may not experience similar performance results as its assets grow. The securities of micro-cap companies may be more volatile in price, have wider spreads between their bid and ask prices, and have significantly lower trading volumes than the securities of larger capitalization companies. As a result, the purchase and sale of more than a limited number of shares of the securities of a smaller company may affect its market price. Growth stocks may involve special risks and their prices may be more volatile than the overall market. It is anticipated that the Fund will experience high rates of portfolio turnover, which may result in payment by the Fund of above-average transaction costs. These and other risk considerations are discussed in the Fund’s prospectus.

Market Turbulence Resulting from COVID-19. The outbreak of COVID-19 has negatively affected the worldwide economy, individual countries, individual companies and the market in general. The future impact of COVID-19 is currently unknown, and it may exacerbate other risks that apply to the Fund.

**Please consider the investment objectives, risks, fees and expenses of the Fund carefully prior to investing. The prospectus and summary prospectus contain this and other important information about the Fund. To obtain a copy of the prospectus and/or summary prospectus, please call us at (800) 560-6111. Please read the prospectus and summary prospectus carefully before investing.**

Forside Financial Services, LLC, Distributor