

# Driehaus Small/Mid Cap Growth Fund Summary

2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER 2021

### **Market Overview**

The June quarter was another positive period of appreciation for the U.S. equity market. The single digit percentage gains for the indices were broad-based but most of the market was stuck in a side-ways consolidation. The churning, rotating action was below the surface of the S&P 500 and Nasdaq, both of which reached new all-time highs driven by the strength of the largest technology stocks.

The consistent retreat in bond yields during the quarter was a major factor driving the direction of stocks. The decline in yields occurred despite elevated inflationary pressures and robust economic growth. Growth stocks were supported by the falling yields and driven by strong performance in the technology and healthcare sectors. Cyclical stocks (outside of the energy sector) and "reopening" stocks generally underperformed in the second half of the quarter as yields continued to fall and concerns about "peak" growth and the emerging Delta variant increased.

From a macro standpoint, the combination of very strong monetary and fiscal stimulus is providing tremendous support for the post-COVID economic recovery. The successful uptake of the COVID vaccines by nearly 70% of U.S. adults is enabling the economic reopening. These factors together with powerful pent-up consumer demand and very low inventories across most industries are producing economic strength and a rapid recovery in the labor market but are also fueling the threat of inflation.

The pace and sustainability of inflation has been an all-consuming topic for the market. The Federal Reserve believes it is transitory, but how long is transitory? Many indicators suggest the rate of inflation may have already peaked versus easy year-over-year comparisons. Peak stimulus and peak economic growth rates may have already occurred, a view corroborated by the decline in most commodity prices and bonds yields. Importantly, "peak" rates of growth don't mean the end of the economic cycle. Inflation and economic growth can remain elevated for some time. The U.S. economy is in year one of a new cyclical expansion and for context the last five U.S. expansions lasted 5 to 10 years. Still, component and inventory shortages together with labor shortages will continue and are being reported (or complained about) by nearly every industry. Some fear this is holding back economic growth and is pressuring corporate margins and the potential for even higher earnings. That is likely true, but the interesting part is that supply chain and labor constraints will likely elongate the cycle and prevent overheating.

It has become widely understood by market participants that economic growth and earnings will be strong as the economy reopens. The ongoing consolidation or rotation over the past couple months, outside of some of the largest S&P 500 stocks, is likely the result of the market transiting through a period of uncertainty. There is uncertainty surrounding monetary policy as the Fed will soon begin to transition away from crisis level monetary accommodation via tapering of asset purchases. There is also uncertainty around the magnitude of deceleration in economic growth from peak growth rates to a more sustained (but still strong) level of economic growth. A series of economic indicators have missed expectations recently but that is potentially due to component and labor shortages. As the market digests these uncertainties, it is likely setting up some appealing opportunities in the second half of the year as many cyclicals and small caps consolidate and earnings and the economy establish a new sustainable level of growth. Of course, these scenarios could be disrupted if the variants cause COVID cases to spike and economic shutdowns are mandated. Positively, the evidence to date suggests the mRNA vaccines continue to perform relatively well versus the variants, especially in limiting severe disease and new booster shots will likely become available versus the variants later this year.

### **Performance Review**

For the June quarter, the Driehaus Small/Mid Cap Growth Fund outperformed its benchmark. The Fund had a 7.57% return, net of fees, while the Russell 2500 Growth Index experienced a gain of 6.04%.<sup>1</sup>

The relative outperformance versus the Russell 2500 Growth Index was driven by the portfolio's relative outperformance in the following sectors: healthcare, communication services, energy, technology, and consumer staples.

Despite the outperformance and positive absolute returns, it was a challenging quarter. The market's stock and sector leadership were very rotational. Cyclical and reopening stocks which had performed well over the prior couple quarters pulled back as bond yields declined, peak growth fears increased and as the Delta variant spread late in the quarter. Conversely, secular growth stocks, which had a poor first quarter, resumed their leadership and performed well late in the quarter. Macro factors, such as the daily direction of yields, risk factors and correlations appeared to be more impactful than bottom up characteristics during the quarter. Many "reopening" stocks should handily exceed consensus expectations as their fundamental trends remain strong but most experienced multiple compression regardless. Despite this, the portfolio benefited from strong earnings reports and being well diversified across the various growth categories (secular, cyclical, consistent, recovery) which helped it outperform.

By sector, the Fund's absolute and relative performance was broad based as all sectors contributed with positive absolute returns. Consumer discretionary and industrials both trailed the benchmark by a small amount, based on relative performance. The positive absolute returns for the quarter came from (in order of magnitude): technology, healthcare, communication services, energy, consumer discretionary, industrials, and consumer staples.

### Technology

Technology outperformed while contributing over nearly 300 basis points on an absolute and over 20 basis points on a relative basis. The sector continues to see strong fundamental trends in most of its sub-industries and the group was able to perform well as bond yields fell, enabling some multiple expansion. Software and IT service stocks recovered nicely after they trailed in the first quarter. The performance of our semiconductor and semi capital equipment holdings were mixed. Big picture, the outlook for semiconductors and related capital equipment remains bright as it is one of many industries seeing shortages as inventories are at very low levels. Telco equipment holdings performed well as rural broadband spending is robust due to government stimulus to upgrade connectivity in rural sections of the country.

### <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 for more current performance information. A basis point equals 0.01.

### Healthcare

Healthcare also began to recover as bond yields fell. The portfolio's healthcare holdings outperformed slightly as the sector contributed nearly 180 basis points on an absolute basis and over 80 basis points on a relative basis. IPO activity within the group remains strong with many companies coming public during the quarter. The level of innovation we see in healthcare is exciting. Biotech/therapeutics, molecular diagnostics and med-tech all stand to benefit strongly looking forward as these companies improve the standard of care and provide better outcomes for patients.

### Energy

While it is a small weighting, the portfolio was overweight the energy sector and it outperformed slightly versus the benchmark. The sector was the best performing sector in the U.S. market in the first half of this year as crude oil surged to well over \$70 by the end of the quarter. The sector has largely been abandoned by public investors in recent years due to poor returns and excess capital spending over the past decade. Now the industry is more rational in how it spends capital and the rig count is rising again as demand and the commodity price recovers. From an Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) standpoint, we carefully assess each new holding. We hold one oil service company that improves worker and well site safety and exploration and production companies that generally operate more efficiently and are more favorable rated from an ESG perspective than their peers in the industry.

### Consumer Discretionary

The consumer discretionary sector holdings trailed modestly versus the benchmark on a relative basis. The portfolio continues to maintain overweight stance versus the benchmark. As the economy begins to reopen and the labor market recovers, the benefits of stimulus, very high savings rates and massive pent-up demand is driving robust consumer spending. Notable outperformers during the quarter included several specialty retailers, a shoe manufacturer, a casino operator, and some leisure product companies. On the downside, a few outdoor related leisure product manufacturers underperformed as "reopening stocks" generally experienced multiple contraction.

### **Outlook & Positioning**

The outlook for the economy, earnings and equities remains positive as there are multiple drivers supporting the economic reopening. The mRNA based COVID-19 vaccines are working very well and appear to provide good protection from new variants. The percentage of adult Americans who are vaccinated is near seventy percent. The rise of the Delta variant is a concern, but the risk of it materially impacting the U.S. economy is relatively low given the effectiveness of existing vaccines and additional boosters. For the most part, the U.S. has now come close to fully reopening across the country.

The US economy will likely have sustained strong growth well into next year due to many positives, including: the vaccines, pent-up demand, high savings rates, multi-decade low inventories, extremely easy monetary policy, and large fiscal policy stimulus. Even as some of these inputs see "peak" growth or peak impact, they all should provide a series of strong tailwinds.

Additionally, smaller cap valuations are favorable compared to large caps with earnings growth rates that are much stronger than large caps. Micro and Small Caps generally perform well for years from the beginning of a new expansion. Post the Nasdaq Bubble and post the Great Financial Crisis, smaller caps outperformed large caps for five to six years.

These positives need to be framed by the risks that exist. The numerous risks include: the Delta and other virus variants, the sizable segment of the population (about 25% in the U.S.) that is hesitant or refuses to take one of the vaccines, inflation pressures, changes in monetary policy, major changes in interest rates, new regulations on business and higher taxes, a stronger dollar, labor shortages and rising wages. All these risks are nuanced and may end up helping the market climb the wall of worry, but we are monitoring each one carefully.

We are confident that the US has entered a new economic expansion with many powerful drivers. This should result in a sustained new economic cycle and we anticipate broad participation from most sector and industries, including both secular growth and cyclical companies. In terms of portfolio positioning, technology is our largest absolute weight, closely followed by heathcare, then consumer discretionary, industrials and financials. Versus the index, the Fund is overweight consumer discretionary, industrials, energy, and materials and is underweight health care, financials, real estate, technology, and consumer staples. During the quarter, sector weightings in healthcare and technology increased, while weightings in consumer discretionary, industrials, financials were reduced.

Overall, we see many dynamic investment opportunities in improving or sustainable industries, which fit our investment philosophy of companies exhibiting positive growth inflections, differentiation, market share gains, strong revenues and expanding profitability.

### % Month-End Performance (as of 6/30/21)

			Annualized				
	MTH	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	Inception <sup>1</sup>
Driehaus Small/Mid Cap Growth Fund	4.96	13.20	61.94	n/a	n/a	n/a	78.96
Russell 2500 <sup>®</sup> Growth Index <sup>2</sup>	5.37	8.67	49.63	n/a	n/a	n/a	58.63

### % Quarter-End Performance (as of 6/30/21)

			Annualized				
	QTR	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	Inception <sup>1</sup>
Driehaus Small/Mid Cap Growth Fund	7.57	13.20	61.94	n/a	n/a	n/a	78.96
Russell 2500 <sup>®</sup> Growth Index <sup>2</sup>	6.04	8.67	49.63	n/a	n/a	n/a	58.63

### Top 5 Holdings<sup>3</sup> (as of 5/31/21)

Company	% of Fund
Crocs, Inc.	2.1
Springworks Therapeutics, Inc.	1.8
Five9, Inc.	1.7
Caesars Entertainment Inc	1.7
MKS Instruments, Inc.	1.6

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

Gross Expenses	2.58%
Net Expenses	0.95%

Sources: Driehaus Capital Management LLC, Factset Research Systems, Inc., eVestment Alliance Data as of 6/30/21.

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 for more current performance.

<sup>1</sup>Inception Date: 5/1/2020. <sup>2</sup>Benchmark: The Russell 2500<sup>®</sup> Growth Index measures the performance of those Russell 2500<sup>®</sup> Index companies with higher price-to-book ratios and higher forecasted growth values. The performance data includes reinvested dividends. 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, 2021. 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 Capital Management LLC, the Fund's investment adviser (the "Adviser"), has entered into a contractual agreement to cap the Fund's current ordinary annual operating expenses (excluding interest, taxes, brokerage commissions, other investment-related expenses, acquired fund fees and expenses, ratio of 0.95% until the earlier of the termination of the investment advisory agreement, by the Board of Trustees or the Fund's shareholders, or May 1, 2023. Pursuant to the agreement, and so long as the investment advisory agreement is in place, for a period of three years subsequent to the Fund's commencement of operations on May1, 2020, the Adviser is entitled to reimbursement for previously waived fees and reimbursed expenses to the extent that the Fund's expense cap that was in place at the time of the waiver / expense reimbursement as well as the current operating expense cap.

### Sector Performance Attribution 2nd Quarter - 3/31/21 to 6/30/2021

	Driehaus Small/Mid Cap Fund Composite (Port) (%)		Russell 2500 Growth Index <sup>1</sup> (Bench) (%)		Attribution Analysis (%)			
GICS Sector	Port Avg. Weight	Port Contrib To Return	Bench Avg.Weight	Bench Contrib To Return	Allocation Effect	Selection + Interaction	Total Effect	
Communication Services	3.30	0.71	2.36	0.16	0.03	0.47	0.50	
Consumer Discretionary	23.87	0.47	13.56	0.54	-0.12	-0.36	-0.49	
Consumer Staples	0.53	0.20	2.96	0.11	0.01	0.19	0.20	
Energy	3.55	0.58	0.24	0.01	0.45	-0.05	0.40	
Financials	3.12	0.09	4.05	0.22	0.05	-0.08	-0.02	
Health Care	17.56	1.78	27.86	1.37	0.22	0.62	0.84	
Industrials	17.72	0.40	13.41	0.44	-0.13	-0.19	-0.32	
Information Technology	21.32	2.96	28.72	2.93	-0.29	0.51	0.22	
Materials	5.70	0.11	3.22	-0.01	-0.39	0.34	-0.04	
Real Estate	0.00	0.00	2.69	0.21	-0.03	0.00	-0.03	
Utilities	0.00	0.00	0.95	0.02	0.05	0.00	0.05	
Cash	3.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00	-0.01	
Other	0.00	-0.13	0.00	0.00	-0.12	0.00	-0.12	
Total	100.00	7.16	100.00	6.01	-0.29	1.45	1.16	

#### Data as of 6/30/21

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

<sup>1</sup>The Russell 2500<sup>®</sup> Growth Index measures the performance of those Russell 2500<sup>®</sup> Index companies with higher price-to-book ratios and higher forecasted growth values. The performance data includes reinvested dividends.

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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.

### 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.

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At times, a significant portion of the 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.

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 are nondiversified funds compared to other funds, the Fund may invest a greater percentage of assets in a particular issuer or a small number of issuers. As a consequence, the Fund may be subject to greater risks and larger losses than diversified funds. Investments in small and mid-cap companies involve greater risk than larger companies.

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.

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