

Joan Mantle Music Trust Community Award

The Joan Mantle Music Trust Community Award was established in 2014 to recognize individuals who share Joan Mantle's passion for music education for all ages. The award acknowledges individuals who have a positive impact on music in the community, promote lifelong music education, and serve as an inspiration to others through their musical contributions and accomplishments.

2019 - Heather Parker



A graduate of Levack District High School, Heather Parker participated in music festivals and theatre productions while growing up in Onaping. A talented pianist, organist and vocalist, she earned her teaching credentials from the Royal Conservatory of Music.

Throughout the years, Heather Parker has shared her love of music with infants, children, young people and adults. She has provided outstanding musical leadership at St. John's United Church in Levack as organist, hand chime director, music director and adult choir director. She has accompanied school choirs at Larchwood Public School and Levack Public School, provided musical leadership at St. Gabriel's Villa in Chelmsford, and been a valued member of the Bel Canto Chorus. She has also been

a piano instructor, vocal coach, and Kindermusik educator.

"When I was six years old, my parents bought me a piano and asked if I was interested in taking lessons," says Stephane Ostrander, a music teacher at Sudbury Secondary School. "Heather Parker became my piano teacher and every week for the next 13 years I went to Mrs. Parker's house for a lesson. I didn't just learn about music and the piano, I learned about communication, collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, determination and discipline." He adds: "Heather Parker inspired me to be the musician and teacher I am today."

"Heather Parker has spent her life encouraging students to discover their talents and to grow in their musical accomplishments," says Sylvia Carscadden, the inaugural recipient of the Joan Mantle Music Trust Community Award. "The Kiwanis Festival, as an educational event, has a high profile in our community and provides a venue for learning through performance and adjudication. Participation in the Kiwanis Festival is an experience that promotes growth and confidence for young people and adults."

As Co-ordinator of the Festival, Heather Parker ensures the 10-day event runs smoothly from start to finish - preparing the syllabus, hiring adjudicators, scheduling performances, producing the program, recruiting volunteers, liaising with musicians, organizing the final concert, and making arrangements for musicians who qualify for other levels of competition. She also raises an impressive amount of money for scholarships, an important component of the festival.

Kiwanis Club of Sudbury Treasurer Susan Ross says: "Heather tackles all this with poise and a calm demeanor." She adds: "Heather believes passionately that people from all walks of life be included in the musical experience. She encourages school bands and choirs which include children who may not otherwise have an opportunity to receive some musical instruction. The delight on these children's faces when they perform at the Kiwanis Highlights concert in front of family and friends is a joy to see."

Adds Sylvia Carscadden: "Heather brings a high standard to the festival. She is undaunted by the potential complications than can befall the event and by the complexity of the juggling act that must take place to provide a positive experience to students and their families. Her hard work is her personal commitment that makes the Festival an outstanding musical contribution to the life of our community."

2018 - Brenda Arrowsmith



An accomplished clarinetist, Brenda Arrowsmith retired from the Cambrian College School of Music in 2012, after more than 30 years as head of wind instruction and theory studies. She was a principal player with the Sudbury Symphony Orchestra, and served as their rehearsal conductor for many years.

Brenda is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario, where she studied Theory and Composition. She also attended the Banff School of Fine Arts. In addition to the clarinet, she is a talented pianist with an Associate of the Royal Conservatory of Toronto diploma in performance.

Throughout the years, Brenda Arrowsmith has been in demand across Northern Ontario as a wind clinician and music festival adjudicator. She has also made an impressive contribution to a number of local organizations, including the Sudbury Symphony, the Sudbury Youth Orchestra, the Northern Ontario Honour Festival Concert Band, Opera for a Cause, and the Sudbury and District Pipe Band. She also continues to act as a resource to local teachers.

Brenda remains dedicated to the success of music students and the richness music brings to their lives. She often transports students and their instruments to the Kiwanis Music Festival of Sudbury to ensure they are ready to perform. When accompanying solo students, her quiet confidence gives them the strong support they need.

In 2006, Brenda was a recipient of the President's Award of Excellence from Cambrian College. In recognition of her outstanding contributions to music in the community, she has also received four volunteer awards from the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, and was a recipient of the YWCA's Women of Distinction award in the field of the Arts in 2012.

Brenda serves on the board of the Sudbury Youth Orchestra, and continues to be involved in making music with many wonderful colleagues. She has been called “a quiet mover and shaker” in the local music scene, an individual who gives of herself so others can achieve their full potential.

Marion Harvey Hannah, retired Director of the Bel Canto Chorus, said Brenda Arrowsmith is highly regarded for her dedication, musical and personal integrity, friendly helpfulness and depth of commitment. She added: “I continue to admire this woman who so unassumingly has made such an impact on music education and who has fostered an appreciation for excellence in so many people of this community.”

Brenda is incredibly proud to be receiving this award with her son, Jamie, an internationally accomplished musician who cares deeply about the preservation of musical arts in the community. She is also very proud of her daughter, Dana, a federal government employee in Ottawa and a busy violinist/fiddler. Brenda is eternally grateful to her wonderful husband Don, a staunch member of the bass section in the Bel Canto Chorus, and a supportive, right-hand man in all ventures.

2018 - Dr. Jamie Arrowsmith



Dr. Jamie Arrowsmith has had an illustrious career as a performer, clinician, teacher and conductor. Jamie's passion for music began when he took his first violin lessons at the age of three at the Cambrian College Academy. At 16, he joined the string section of the Sudbury Symphony Orchestra, and remains dedicated to both these organizations. Jamie holds post-secondary degrees from the Eastman School of Music, Kent State, and Brunel University, in the United Kingdom where he earned a PhD.

Since returning to Sudbury in 2006, Jamie has had a significant impact on many aspects of music education in the community. He is not only the Head of the Strings Program and Coordinator of the Music Production Program in the Cambrian College Faculty of Music, he is also the founder and director of the recently formed Sudbury Junior Strings which provides ensemble education and performance opportunities to beginning string players. In addition, Jamie directs the Sudbury Youth Orchestra, which frequently collaborates with other young artists.

Both as a solo artist and with the groups he directs, Jamie participates in outreach activities in schools, taking his passion for music making to children and youth. By providing innovative programming and directed improvisation activities, he inspires them to develop their skills and creativity.

In addition, Jamie is principal violist and associate conductor of the Sudbury Symphony Orchestra (SSO). In the latter role, he not only prepares community musicians for their concert performances, but also programs and directs the SSO's chamber music series and presents library talk, which provide insight into the symphony's repertoire. Jamie also sits on the board of the SSO as an ex-officio musician representative.

A member of the Sudbury Kiwanis Music Festival Board of Directors for the last 10 years, Jamie is in demand as a clinician both in Canada and internationally. From adjudicating for the youngest string players throughout Canada, to joining a distinguished panel of judges in China, Jamie has been involved with music education for all ages and at all levels. He was a guest conductor of the Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra, has published several academic papers in the field of community music and has presented at numerous international conferences.

Although his influence as a musician and educator extends far beyond Sudbury, he remains rooted in and dedicated to the local community. In June 2017, he directed and conducted a production of Noye's Fludde featuring the Sudbury Symphony Orchestra, professional and community vocalists and instrumentalists, and 80 local elementary and high school students.

Jamie's contributions to the musical life of Sudbury were recognized in 2015 when he received a Northern Ontario Business 40 under 40 Award for Community Arts Leadership.

Dr. Charlene Biggs of the School of Music at Cambrian College said Dr. Jamie Arrowsmith "pours his heart and soul into everything he does and, as a result, he continues to inspire young musicians across Sudbury and beyond." She added: "He commands respect and guides students into giving their best performances whether it is through private lessons or leading the Sudbury Youth Orchestra. He also promotes civic values in his students by giving them opportunities to play in senior centres and local high schools."

2017 - Dr. Robert Hall



Dr. Robert Hall, the 2017 recipient of the Joan Mantle Music Trust Community Award for his contribution to music and education, was honoured at the International Dinner and Silent Auction in support of the Trust on Saturday, April 8, 2017. The evening of food and music celebrated Canada's 150th anniversary.

"Dr. Hall is truly a champion of life-long music education, and has had an immense impact on music in our community," said Ralph McIntosh, Chair of the Joan Mantle Music Trust Steering Committee.

"A professor in the Music Department at Laurentian University, Dr. Hall is more than a teacher, he is a mentor whose passion for music education is inspiring."

"The 200 people in attendance were a testament to the high value placed upon music education in the Sudbury community," said Dr. Hall following the dinner.

Dr. Robert "Bob" Hall is an accomplished musician, vocalist, pianist, organist and conductor, who has served 22 years as Associate Professor of Music at Laurentian University, and Director of Music and Organist at St. Andrew's United Church, Sudbury. Dr. Hall's contributions to Sudbury's music culture have greatly influenced elementary, secondary and postsecondary education, as well as the community at large.

At the elementary level, Dr. Hall has organized integrated arts presentations for young people, and has served as the Director of the St. Andrew's Junior Choir for several years.

As an expert in vocal and choral music, Dr. Hall's services as an adjudicator are in high demand. As a result, he often travels across Canada to share his wisdom and years of training with secondary school vocal and choral students. A frequent adjudicator at the Northern Ontario Music Festival, Dr. Hall provides regional high school choirs with guidance and feedback on how to improve their technique and performance skills.

Since 2003, Dr. Hall has supported local secondary schools by providing keyboard accompaniment for their musicals, including productions of Annie, Beauty and the Beast, and The Wizard of Oz.

Dr. Hall arrived in Sudbury in 1995 and soon after established the Laurentian University Choir (LUC), which has presented annual performances, singing major choral pieces such as Carmina Burana by Orff, Requiem by Mozart and Handel's Messiah. Throughout many of the years, Dr. Hall has extended an invitation to local church choirs and other vocalists in the community to participate in order to ensure that all choral positions were represented.

Dr. Hall is highly regarded in the community, especially by those who are involved in local choirs. It is a great honour to receive an invitation to sing with the LUC. Dr. Hall's involvement with choral organizations extends beyond the LUC and St. Andrew's United Church. He has also performed with Cambrian College, the Bel Canto Chorus, and the Sudbury Chamber Singers, among many others. Dr. Hall is in the process of organizing four community concerts to be held at St. Andrew's United Church this spring.

Dr. Hall's talent as a vocalist has also been recognized. In 2005, he sang at the Supreme Court of Canada to honour the retirement of Justice John C. Major. As an Associate Professor at Laurentian University, Dr. Hall has inspired a generation of new music teachers, many of whom teach in Rainbow Schools as well as other public

and separate school boards in and out of the Sudbury area.

“Dr. Hall inspires a passion about music and the arts, reaching the very young, other youth, adults and seniors,” says local soloist Pamela Teed, who has studied under his tutelage. “Like a student, Dr. Hall is continually educating himself on musical knowledge and the latest technology. Future generations of music lovers will enrich their families and communities from Bob’s talent and energy.”

2016 - Dr. David Buley



Dr. David Buley received the Joan Mantle Music Trust Community Award for his contributions to music and education at the International Dinner and Silent Auction in support of the Trust on Saturday, April 9, 2016.

“Dr. Buley shares Joan Mantle’s passion for music education for all ages,” said Ralph McIntosh, Chair of the Joan Mantle Music Trust Steering Committee. “He has had a positive impact on music in the community, promotes lifelong music education and serves as an inspiration to others through his musical contributions and accomplishments in the community. He is most deserving of the Joan Mantle Music Trust Community Award.”

An Associate Professor of Music Education at Laurentian University, Dr. Buley established Young Sudbury Singers in 2007, an award-winning choir for children and youth from across the Greater Sudbury area. As director, Dr. Buley provides a high level of training to choir members with impressive results. Young Sudbury Singers have consistently received praise for their performances, having earned Gold or High Gold Standard at the Kiwanis Music Festival for the past seven years.

The choir provides a safe and enjoyable place for students from Grades 2 to 12 to come together to develop a love of choral music through study and performance; develop and refine voice production and general musicianship; experience personal growth and enhance their self-esteem through team building and the development of friendships among members; gain a cultural appreciation of music through exposure to works from various styles and periods, including works by Canadian composers; contribute to the cultural life of Sudbury; and connect with other choirs locally, provincially and nationally.

Dr. Buley is also the founding director of the a cappella choral ensemble Octatonic Decadence. Formed in 2010, Octatonic Decadence achieved first place standing in the Canadian National Music Festival in the choral ensemble category. The group's membership fluctuates according to the voices needed for the wide array of music the group performs. Every concert is unique and enhances the cultural mosaic of Greater Sudbury. Audiences are introduced to music written by current composers and those who lived centuries ago, from Canada as well as other nations and cultures.

Another passion Dr. Buley shares is his interest in music in the environment, organizing outdoor dawn and dusk concerts on Lake Nepahwin and in the Lake Laurentian Conservation Area. While creating music, Dr. Buley invites community members to be part of his projects. This not only brings variety to the performances, it also allows people in the music community to grow, try new things, work together and develop mutual respect.

Through music, Dr. Buley also sets an example of how to be caring citizens and make Greater Sudbury a better place. The Young Sudbury Singers, for instance, participated in the "Voice of Hope Concert" in November 2015 to raise money for Syrian newcomers. He has also organized numerous benefit concerts on behalf of Better Beginnings Better Futures.

As an educator, Dr. Buley not only shares his passion for music at the postsecondary level, he also offers professional learning for elementary and secondary teachers to inspire a love of music in students of all ages. Dr. Buley regularly leads professional learning sessions for educators across Northeastern Ontario, including clinics for Choirs Ontario, and was a member of the organizing committee for the Northeastern Ontario Regional Arts Conference (NORAC) from 2006 to 2011.

Dr. Charlene Biggs, Director of Piano Studies and Music History at Cambrian College, knows Dr. Buley through his establishment of the Ariadne Women's Chamber Choir, Young Sudbury Singers and Octatonic Decadence. "I was impressed by his commitment to expanding musical life in the Sudbury community, by his dedication to helping singers hone their talents, his deep desire to instill the love of music in the children, and his commitment to educating at every level," she said.

She added: "Dr. Buley has also been innovating in expanding our horizons in terms of where and when music can be performed. He has always shown himself eager to be involved in community music-making initiated by others."

2015 - Peter Schneider (posthumous)



Long-time educator and musical performer Peter Schneider has been selected as this year's (posthumous) recipient of the Joan Mantle Music Trust Community Award. The award will be presented at the International Dinner and Silent Auction in support of the Trust on Saturday, March 28, 2015.

Peter Schneider passed away on September 10, 2014, leaving a lasting legacy for music and music education. "Throughout Peter Schneider's life, he exemplified everything the Joan Mantle Music Trust Community Award stands for," said Ralph McIntosh, Chair of the Joan Mantle Music Trust Steering Committee. "His passion for melody and music education was remarkable. Whether performing or teaching, his love of music resonated with audiences of all ages, making him the ideal recipient for this year's award."

At the age of six, Peter Schneider's mother bought him a violin, a gift that would ignite his lifelong passion for music. From that moment, it was evident that he would go on to devote much of his life to sharing that passion with others, including as a long-time music educator with the former Sudbury Board of Education.

In his early years, Peter always challenged himself to learn as many instruments as he could. As he mastered one, he quickly moved on to another. Within a very short time, his musical repertoire expanded to include the bass fiddle, the viola, the string bass, the electric bass and the portable bass guitar.

It wasn't long before Peter brought his talent to audiences across the city. During his youth, he played in the Sudbury Public School Orchestra and the Sudbury Philharmonic Orchestra. He also performed at numerous venues for wedding ceremonies, receptions, concerts and fundraisers.

With an appreciation for many genres of music, Peter took every opportunity to capture audiences of all ages with his unique instrument collection. He shared the stage with many local groups including the Sonny Musico combo, The Hilltop 76ers, Hi-Five, The Music Shoppe, The Commodores, The Parkside Gang, The South End Dixie Stompers, The Schneider Stringtet and The Swing Fever Band.

A profound moment in Peter's career took place in 1953, when he joined the Massed Choir and Orchestra to commemorate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth. He also performed live at the airport with the Sudbury Band during the arrival of the Queen and Prince Philip in 1959.

Peter began teaching music in the elementary panel in the 1960s and went on to devote 33 years as an instrumental music educator and music supervisor. He was one of the first music teachers in Sudbury to lead a Grade 7-8 instrumental music program. During his career, Peter conducted countless student bands, combos and choirs, and infused his passion for music into schools and students.

In the 1990s, Peter formed the Roy C. Barnes Memorial Band after receiving the local performer's entire musical library. As founder of the Blueberry Festival and the popular Bell Park Gazebo Concert Series, which he coordinated for 16 years, Peter received the 2012 Northern Ontario Recreation Association Award for Distinction for community service.

Carolyn Otto, a member of the Sudbury Secondary School Music Department, had the pleasure of working with Peter Schneider in various community bands for more than 25 years. She witnessed the positive impact he had on individual musicians and the cultural vitality of the City of Greater Sudbury. He combined his love for music with his dedication to the community through his involvement with many events and organizations.

"Peter was the consummate music educator," she said. "He was a font of music trivia and an endless source of background information about the music contained in the many books he painstakingly arranged for his various groups. He was an avid collector of instruments of all kinds and enjoyed the challenge of learning to play each one. He happily shared this knowledge with his fellow musicians and audiences alike." Otto described Peter Schneider as "never happier than when he was sharing his music with others." She added: "This recognition will continue to keep Peter's memory alive in our hearts."

2014 - Sylvia Carscadden



Sylvia Carscadden, founder and director of the Kampana Handbells, received the inaugural Joan Mantle Music Trust Community Award on Saturday, April 5, 2014. The award was presented during the International Dinner in support of the Trust.

In accepting the award, Sylvia Carscadden said that music teachers don't always realize the tremendous impact they have on a person's life. "I want to reinforce to teachers the great influence they have on their students," she said.

“Music teachers provided experiences and opportunities that formed my appreciation of quality and the discipline of excellence. But most importantly, they made an extra effort to share what they loved. It has had a lasting impact on my life and I am truly honoured to receive this wonderful award.”

“Sylvia Carscadden shares Joan Mantle’s passion for music education for all ages and we welcomed this opportunity to recognize her significant contribution in the company of her family and friends,” said Ralph McIntosh, Chair of the Joan Mantle Music Trust Steering Committee. “Sylvia has had a positive impact on music in the community, has promoted lifelong music education, and has served as an inspiration to others through her musical contributions and accomplishments.”

Ralph McIntosh thanked the many people who attended the third International Dinner in support of the Joan Mantle Music Trust. He also commended the local individuals, organizations and businesses who donated items for the silent auction. “This event was a tremendous success, raising over \$10,000 for the purchase of instruments for students in Rainbow Schools,” he said. “We greatly appreciate everyone’s support.”

Sylvia Carscadden founded the Kampana Handbells in 1975, serving as director until their final concert in December 2013. She spearheaded the only handbell group in northeastern Ontario, one of the few non-church and non-school based handbell groups in the province. An Honorary Fellow of Huntington University, she is a Charter Member of the Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers.

The unexpected gift of English handbells from her retired music-teacher mother would be the start of a legacy that would teach music and performance skills to dozens of children, teens and adults for close to four decades. Sylvia Carscadden’s passion for handbells grew into concerts for local audiences in support of many not-for-profit organizations and workshops on chime playing for elementary teachers. In the process, she inspired the creation of handbell/chime choirs in area schools and churches, and launched one of her daughters on a career as a professional handbell soloist and ensemble director.

Sylvia’s first choir was made up of her four children and their friends. While she was a competent pianist, she’d never seen handbells before, let alone played them. So she read and experimented and went to handbell workshops in Canada and the United States to figure out what to do with this uncommon gift.

As the children moved on and she came into her own as a gifted ringer and director, Sylvia - with characteristic enthusiasm and generosity – invited newcomers into successive Kampana choirs. Members honed their music reading skills and gained the self-confidence that comes from performing in public, and being supported by a “can do” attitude.

Over the years, the Kampana Handbells have been guest performers at many concerts in the Sudbury area, including the Bel Canto Chorus, Sudbury Chamber Singers, Heart & Soul Singers, Bell Park Gazebo series, Market Square Festival of Trees, and other city-based events. They have played at school concerts, fundraisers, dinners and meetings.

With her passion for nurturing musical ability in young people, Sylvia Carscadden made a point of inviting young musicians to perform as guests at Kampana concerts, including the Chime Choir from Copper Cliff Public School, which was founded by a former Kampana ringer. Children were always admitted free of charge and were encouraged to ring the bells and chimes after the concert.

The Kampana Handbells regularly entered the Sudbury Kiwanis Festival. Their involvement prompted the creation of a new category at this annual celebration of music, which provided an opportunity for more children and youth to be exposed to the unique sound of handbells. The Kampana Handbell choirs have also released two CDs.

As director of the group, as in the rest of her life, Sylvia was generous with her time, her spirit, and her resources. Her passion for music meant that she had high standards for her ringers. Her flexible, inclusive and supportive approach inspired the ringers to always do their best so they could hear Sylvia say, "Oh, that was so good! I'm so proud of you!"