

OPEN THE WINDOW



A CELEBRATION OF EDUCATORS AND YOUNG PEOPLE
THROUGH CANADIAN SONGS

Nov 15-18, 2022

PRESENTED BY



For more than 15 thousand years, the First Nations peoples have walked upon and cared for, the lands we now call home: the Ani-she-naw-bay (Anishinaabek), Ho-de-ne-show-nay (Haudenosaunee), Ojibwe, and many others cared for their families and communities the way we seek to care for ours today. And on these lands generations shared their stories.

In Barrie, we acknowledge the land we meet on is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit. It has been a site of human activity for at least 15,000 years.

This is Dish With One Spoon Territory. Dish With One Spoon is a treaty between the Anishinaabe, Mississaugas and Haudenosaunee to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

Theatre Collingwood (and the participants of our performance) acknowledge the Lake Simcoe-Nottawasaga Treaty of 1818 and respect all of the Nation-to-Nation agreements that have formed relationships with the original inhabitants of Turtle Island.

We acknowledge the reality of our shared history and the current contributions of Indigenous people within our community and beyond.



PRESENT

OPEN THE WINDOW

**A CELEBRATION OF EDUCATORS AND YOUNG PEOPLE
THROUGH CANADIAN SONGS**

DIRECTOR (NOV 15/16)

DIRECTOR (NOV 18)

MUSIC DIRECTOR/PIANO

BASS

DRUMS

STAGE MANAGER

PRODUCER/CEO, TALK IS FREE THEATRE

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, TALK IS FREE THEATRE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THEATRE COLLINGWOOD

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

PROJECT MANAGER

PRODUCTION MANAGER

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT/SOCIAL MEDIA

ARTISTIC CONSULTANT/NOMINEE LIAISON

ARTISTIC CONSULTANT/NOMINEE LIAISON

ARTISTIC CONSULTANT/NOMINEE LIAISON

ARTISTIC CONSULTANT/NOMINEE LIAISON

ASSOCIATE PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

PETER JORGENSEN

SACCHA DENNIS

MARK CAMILLERI

WILL JARVIS (NOV 15/16)

JON MAHARAJ (NOV 18)

STEVE HEATHCOTE

HEATHER BELLINGHAM

ARKADY SPIVAK

MICHAEL TORONTOW

ERICA ANGUS

DUSTYN WALES

GABI EPSTEIN

JEFF BRAUNSTEIN

JUSTAN MYERS

AIDAN DESALAIZ

ANDREW MCALLISTER

JENNIFER WALLS

JENNIFER STEWART

JOSHUA KILIMNIK

NOVEMBER 15, 2022

Directed by Peter Jorgensen

Musical Direction by Mark Camilleri

Hosted by Richard Ouzounian

OPEN THE WINDOW

by Norman Campbell, Don Harron & Mavor Moore

Performed by Gabi Epstein

THE WORLD IS CHANGING

by Leslie Arden

In honour of **Robert Pili, Lisa Zeilstra, Robert Boge & Lori Watson**

Nominated by Justin Stadnyk

Performed by Griffin Hewitt

INFINITE

by Colleen Dauncey & Akiva Romer-Segal

In honour of **Jeanette Martin**

Nominated by Doug Martin

Performed by Andrew McAllister

FRIEND YOU WERE TO ME

by Andrew Sabiston & Timothy Williams

In honour of **Deborah Flynn**

Nominated by the Marion Graham High School choir, band and theatre students.

Performed by Tracy Michailidis

USED TO BE FIRE

by Matt Murray, Bob Foster, & Johnny Reid

In honour of **Chris Arthurs**

Nominated by Logan Yantha

Performed by Alicia Toner

ONE MORE YEAR

by Jim Betts

In honour of **Isaac Oxley**

Nominated by Dayna Ellis

Performed by Tracy Michailidis

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SONG

by Britta Johnson & Anika Johnson

In honour of **Simcoe County District School Board Music Teachers**

Nominated by Bonnie Black

Performed by Alicia Toner & Jamie McRoberts

GROWING

by Landon Doak & Victor Pokinko

In honour of **Julia McLellan**

Nominated by Matt Kinney

Performed by Tess Bengier

MY LIFE

by Paul Sportelli & Jay Turvey

In honour of **Yehoshua Lavner**

Nominated by Jodie Katz

Performed by Cyrus Lane

CMTdB Tribute featuring Peter Jorgensen

FOR LIFE

by Michael Doherty & Tania Breen

In honour of **Brigitte Eve Sirois Roffey**

Nominated by Chantal Sirois

Performed by Andrew McAllister, Jamie McRoberts, Tan Vu

INTERMISSION

NORMAL

by Mateo Chavez-Lewis

In honour of **Remielle Lumbao**

Nominated by Mario Mabrucco

Performed by Glynis Ranney

LET LOVE OUT

by Mike Ross & Sarah Wilson

In honour of **Gabi Epstein**

Nominated by Leanne Goldstein

Performed by Jake Epstein

SMALL WAYS TO MOVE

by Kevin Wong

In honour of **Kathryn Edwards**

Nominated by Ruby Hickman

Performed by Gabi Epstein

TRY

by Grant Tilly

In honour of **Noah Nesdoly**

Nominated by Cathy Le

Performed by Gabi Epstein

QUESTIONS

by Landon Doak & Victor Pokinko

In honour of **Mark Latter and John Kim**

Nominated by Ruthie & Winfield Gilgan

Performed by Tess Benger, Tan Vu

LIGHT ON IN THE WINDOW

by Mateo Chavez-Lewis

In honour of **Christopher Wilson**

Nominated by Gabi Epstein

Performed by Tan Vu

MRS. REMINGTON

by Neil Bartram

In honour of **Bruce Pepper**

Nominated by Emrys Nadajewski

Performed by Mike Nadajewski

WHO I AM

by Jonathan Monro

In honour of **Jonathan Monro**

Nominated by Lucas Kalechstein

Performed by Andrew McAllister

WE CAN'T FORGET TO DREAM

by Jim Betts

In honour of **Brian Meli**

Nominated by Roy Fernandes

Performed by Glynis Ranney & Mike Nadajewski

NOVEMBER 15 HONOUREES



Robert Pili, Lisa Zeilstra, Robert Boge, and Lori Watson ***(Kickit Dance Studio and the Shelley Shearer School of Dance)***

Thanks to the extraordinary educators of Kickit Dance Studio and the Shelley Shearer School of Dance in Winnipeg, dancers always had someone watching over the Pandemic.

Robert Pili outfitted the entire studio with top notch equipment for programs to move digital. They rose to all occasions and really came

through for students, teachers and parents.

Lisa Zeilstra, the HR/Account Manager went above and beyond with making sure all government resources and programs were being used and made sure all staff were paid throughout the length of the pandemic!

Robert Boge, in addition to keeping his teachers and instructors employed during the pandemic, also made it his mission to make sure people knew how important it was to keep moving, dancing and learning everyday.

And Lori Watson kept kids and teachers engaged, always advocating a love and passion for dance, going above and beyond to keep the business going.

Without these outstanding efforts a whole community of dancers would have been left without a creative outlet for so many months.



Jeanette Martin

Jeanette Martin is no stranger to arts education. Among her many achievements are the 2021 Reader's Choice Award for Best Piano Teacher and in 2022 she was a semi-finalist in the Seniorpreneur Division of the Canadian Innovators and Entrepreneurs Awards. In 2022, she was even invited to participate in the National Festival Chorus at Carnegie Hall in NYC. But it is the positive impact on her students that is her most amazing accomplishment of all. Whether it's

to guide an anxious child to becoming a self-confident performer, the hyper-active child to find their inner focus, or a bullied child to feel truly valued and appreciated for the person they are, Jeanette's impact and numerous achievements can not be overstated.



Deborah Flynn (Marion Graham High School)

Deborah Flynn is a dedicated music teacher, band leader and choir director at Marion Graham Collegiate in Saskatoon. She has always gone above and beyond to give her music students the most memorable and valuable experience possible from weekend band retreats to running her ensembles like a team, stressing the importance of teamwork. When the pandemic hit, Deborah entered her students into CBC's Canadian Music Class Challenge, creating a music video

with as many students as possible performing socially distanced singing lyrics she rewrote, doing most of the filming herself. Thanks to her extraordinary efforts, her students can now look back on the pandemic not as a time where their shows were canceled, but as a time where they came together as a team, against all odds, to create something incredible.



Chris Arthurs (Clarkson Secondary School)

What would a world without music be like? What would a school without a music program and music classes be like? Chris Arthurs recently fought to keep music alive at Clarkson Secondary School. During the pandemic he kept his music classes going for his students online, encouraging them to practice their instruments at home and to record their various solos and harmonies so they could send them to Mr. Arthurs to edit them all together. He motivates his music students, strengthening and empowering them to play and learn with confi-

dence and skill.



Isaac Oxley (Rothesay Netherwood School)

In Isaac's final year at Rothesay Netherwood School in Rothesay, New Brunswick, he was faced with a challenge. With their final musical on the verge of being canceled, the only way it could go on was if Isaac took it upon himself to video record the show and tackle all of the fine cinematography and editing details. To say he passed with flying colors is an understatement. Isaac created a final product anyone would be proud of. His community and arts leaders felt this effort

must be acknowledged, and we couldn't agree more. Isaac's ability to pull this off in normal times would be extremely difficult, when you add in the stresses and complications of a global pandemic, it seems impossible. Isaac is someone who doesn't shy away when things get tough, and that is exactly what the arts needs.



Simcoe County District School Board Music Teachers (Simcoe County District School Board)

The Simcoe County District School Board Music Teachers are very dedicated and work tirelessly, providing high quality music instruction to their students across the school district. They ensure that the music program is effective and equitable to all. There are numerous instruments that must be taught, theory to teach, vocal tools and tips to model. In addition to music in the classroom, they provide extra-

curricular activities, such as choirs, bands, ukulele clubs, and ensembles. During the pandemic the music teachers had to rethink how to provide instruction for their music classes and continue to engage students online. This was very challenging, but if you ask students, they will tell you that they looked forward to their music classes more than ever, and it is all thanks to these diligent music teachers.



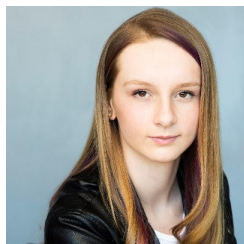
Julia McLellan (Coach with Julia & Co.)

Julia McLellan is a tour de force! Since graduating from the Sheridan College Musical Theatre Performance Program she has not only continued to work non-stop, but also is the co-founder of the "Canadian Green Alliance," a not-for-profit organization devoted to bridging the gap between sustainability & theatre. If that hasn't kept her busy enough, throw in her own "Coach with Julia & Co." company, offering vocal coachings that specialize in mix/belt, pop and contemporary theatre. Finding a way to connect with warmth and passion through zoom is unthinkable, but she has managed to provide that safe space for learning, growth and achievement.



Yehoshua Lavner (*Associated Hebrew Schools*)

Yehoshua (Jeffrey) Lavner teaches music at Associated Hebrew Schools in Toronto and was nominated by Jodie Katz. This teacher has dedicated his life to his career and education. He greets everyone with a smile and was a sense of comfort and support even in the darkest of times. Mr. Lavner created online zoom musical events to keep people engaged when they couldn't be together in person fostering a sense of community and love. That is what a teacher does. That is why we are honouring Mr. Lavner's extraordinary acts of kindness.



Brigitte Eve Sirois Roffey (*Spaulding Canada*)

Brigitte Sirois is quickly becoming a prolific songwriter and performer in and around the Ontario rock scene. With the support of Ultimate Steps Dance Studio, Spaulding Canada, and Infinity Performing Arts, Brigitte's love of the arts has taken off. She wrote three original songs over the past few years, bringing kindness, compassion, and love to a community that was struggling. Through her music, Brigitte continues to inspire others to never give up. Through her original music, Brigitte showcases her belief in the power of communication and community.



Remielle Lumbao (*Mary Ward Catholic Secondary School*)

Remielle Lumbao from Mary Ward Catholic Secondary School in Toronto, Ontario, is one of those gifted performers who believes the sky's the limit. Remielle has single-handedly turned around the Musical Theatre department at their school. Their spirit and love for theatre shines through in all that they do. The ability to be fearless and break the mold is such an extraordinary and rare quality - one we are so thrilled to honour in this nomination. At only 15 years old, the potential Remielle has is next-level. To have that authenticity and soul and such a young age is priceless and should not go unnoticed



Gabi Epstein (*Gabi Epstein Private Voice Studio*)

Gabi is not only known for her immense talent but her spirit and love for the arts! Music and theatre pour out of her. That spirit, love and talent has propelled her career forward in magical ways but it also led to her finding her voice as an educator. Most know Gabi for her work on the stage, but in this instant - we want to acknowledge the impact she has made on her private studio students. During the pandemic, she has had an infectious "Make it Work" attitude that is coupled with her passion, care, and dedication to her students. The way she has found a way to rally and keep her students engaged in learning and bettering themselves is admirable. Gabi has a natural ability to shine a beautiful light on any situation she is faced with. Whether it be her work through "The New Local", through providing entertainment for people in tough times, or taking the time to share all that she knows and has learned with her students, we couldn't be happier to bring light to all Gabi as achieved during this phase of "new normal".



Kathryn Edwards (Centre Stage Studios)

Kathryn Edwards has been teaching young performers for nearly 20 years and is the founder of Centre Stage Studios in Lloydminster, Alberta. She has been sought after as a vocal coach and music director and for 8 years was the director of the Triple Threat program at Lakeland College. Many of her students have received accolades in both our local and provincial music festival competitions, have gone on to pursue music/musical theatre at post-secondary schools, and

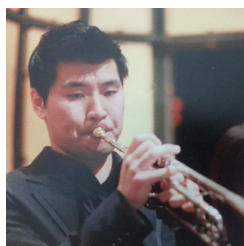
have professional performance careers of their own. Kathryn is very passionate about her work and believes that arts education is vital to nurturing the growth and development of our youth. Throughout the pandemic she kept her students engaged and inspired with classes over zoom and socially distanced, masked sessions in person. Nothing gives her greater joy than seeing her students achieve success both on and off the stage.



Noah Nesdoly (Fleetwood Park Secondary School/Dragons Theatre Company)

We all know how challenging the past few years have been, in particular for our young people. With support and the ability to access perspective and critical thinking, Noah Nesdoly helped to get their friends through a very stressful period in their lives. They provided assistance, feedback, and guidance throughout, helping them to see

that there was a light at the end of the tunnel. Noah is able to bring their passion for the arts alive through work with Fleetwood Park Secondary's Dragon Tales Theatre Company, appearing in such productions as Les Miserables.



Mark Latter & John Kim (Runnymede Public School Toronto)

As a music teacher with the Toronto District School Board, Mr. Kim leads interesting and fun lessons that include many traditions from other cultures. As a multi-instrumentalist, he brings his expertise to introduce students to a whole range and variety of new instruments. Mr. Kim leads many great initiatives and extracurriculars, even introducing the community to outdoor concerts, allowing them to bond

through music at a time when opportunities like that felt inaccessible and distant.

During the days of online learning, Mr. Latter made countless entertaining videos to help keep the kids feeling creative and active. He always goes above and beyond to make tough times more positive, interesting, and enjoyable for his students. Through his drama classes at Runnymede P. S. he led his students through a dark time with his bright smile and positive energy --not to mention his excellent video drone operating skills!





Christopher Wilson (*Big Girl and Friends*)

Christopher Wilson, a beautiful educator and friend to many has always been a creator. And most of the time he does this to benefit the community, fellow artist friends, and students of all ages.

Not two weeks into the first lockdown Christopher started putting together a series of DAILY livestream YouTube shows called “Big Girl and Friends” where he would interview his fellow artistic colleagues and have them perform a couple of songs online with all proceeds from donations going to the Actors Fund of Canada. “Big Girl and

Friends” raised over \$30K for the Actors Fund. But even above that, “Big Girl and Friends” offered all artists a sense of hope, a sense of purpose, and a sense of light.



Bruce Pepper (*Stratford Intermediate*)

According to their nominator Emrys Nadajewski, Bruce Pepper takes his job as a music teacher very seriously. This is why we are honouring this extraordinary educator tonight. Mr. Pepper expects the best from his students and makes you feel like you really can do it. We have no doubt that Emrys is a better musician, student, and person because of Mr. Pepper’s inspiring expectations of his students.



Jonathan Monro (*Jonathan Monro Voice Studio*)

A private coach listens and caters to your specific needs, constantly switching tactics and offering different techniques. Not only this, but a private coach gets to know their students on a very deep level, acting as not only a coach but as a mentor and friend.

Toronto singer and high school student Lucas Kalechstein feels this way about his vocal coach Jonathan Monro. To Lucas, Jonathan has gone above and beyond to help hone his craft at a critical time in their vocal development. Jonathan’s mentorship inspired Lucas to keep at it

and his outstanding skills as a teacher helped provide the world with an outstanding new singer who will hopefully inspire others to do so in the future.



Brian Meli (*Toronto Catholic District School Board*)

More than one school within the Toronto Catholic District School Board has had the pleasure of having dedicated teacher and father Brian Meli on their staff. His work during the pandemic inspired schools across the board to diversify their skills to offer their students a chance to continue performing. When the pandemic forced extra-curricular programs and performances to shut down, Brian got busy learning how to capture the magic of live performance in a way that could be performed safely and viewed from home. Teaching himself

how to film, edit, and stream his students’ work, he was able to offer them an opportunity to recapture some of what they lost and create hope during a time of uncertainty.



Welcome to BizWiz Academy!

We've created a hub for all things Performing Arts.

Great for students and teachers alike, we're pulling back the curtains and giving you a sneak peek into what it's like to be an artist.

Training and tutorials, interviews giving tips and tricks, as well as in interactive question-and-answer board where you can ask any questions you have and even request the content you would like to see.

We will be posting the latest exciting news happening in the arts industry, as well as the best places and people to utilize as part of your artist training.

And, if you'd like to work with one of our phenomenal Canadian talents, we will be streaming live workshops monthly.

Best of all, we'll have a mobile app ready for your enjoyment available on the Apple Store and for Android on January 16, 2023.

We are extremely excited to welcome you into our Biz Wiz Family!

www.bizwizacademy.ca

NOVEMBER 16, 2022

Directed by Peter Jorgensen

Musical Direction by Mark Camilleri

Hosted by Jennifer Walls and Jake Epstein

OPEN THE WINDOW

by Norman Campbell, Don Harron & Mavor Moore

Performed by Jackie Richardson

SWEET VICTORY DIVINE

by Andrew Sabiston & Timothy Williams

In honour of **Craig Tompkins**

Nominated by Connor Hogg

Performed by Michael Torontow

ANYONE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

by Jim Betts

In honour of **Tracey Riggillo**

Nominated by Shurly Arnold

Performed by Alison J. Palmer

LIVE A LITTLE, JULIA

by Leslie Arden

In honour of **Rachel LaChanse**

Nominated by Gabi Epstein

Performed by Jennifer Stewart

WHAT HIT 'EM

by Colleen Dauncey & Akiva Romer-Segal

In honour of **Amanda Clarke, Matthew Rodnick, and the GBDSS Music Students**

Nominated by Betony Main

Performed by Jake Epstein

THIS TIME NEXT YEAR

by Scott Christian & Lezlie Wade

In honour of **Megan Cheng**

Nominated by Amanda Donaldson-McFarlane

Performed by Evangelia Kambites

THE MUSIC TEACHER SONG

by Mateo Chavez-Lewis

In honour of **Jessica Belanger**

Nominated by Jennifer Walls

Performed by Alison J. Palmer

WHEN I GROW UP

by Barbara Johnston, Anika Johnson, & Suzy Wilde

In honour of **The Cast of "Magic of Zoom"**

Nominated by LouAnn Davis

Performed by Jennifer Walls

CMTdB Tribute featuring Michael Torontow

FIELD OF STARS

by Joey Miller

Performed by Michael Torontow

INTERMISSION

A NAME MEANS A LOT

by Mike Ross & Sarah Wilson

In honour of **Keira Louis**

Nominated by Yirui Song

Performed by Madelyn Kriese

WHO AM I

by Paul Sportelli & Jay Turvey

In honour of **Julie-Rae King**

Nominated by Melissa Bencic

Performed by Arlene Duncan

SOMETHING WONDERFUL

by Cathy Elliott

In honour of **Sarah Quick**

Nominated by Rebecca Anne Bloom

Performed by Evangelia Kambites

NOTHING LEFT TO LOSE

by Scott White & Peter Fenton

In honour of **Savannah Dowell**

Nominated by Andrea Noga

Performed by Adam Brazier

THE MULTIVERSE LOVES YOU

by Daniel Abrahamson

In honour of **Samantha Basian**

Nominated by Carly Moore (and Lucas, Jayden, and Aiden)

Performed by Madelyn Kriese

SOMEONE HANDED ME THE MOON

by Nancy White

In honour of **Elaine Boulanger**

Nominated by Christina Barrington

Performed by Jennifer Stewart

A CHAMPION'S HEART

by Jonathan Monro

In honour of **Matthew Rodnick**

Nominated by Brennan Bielefeld

Performed by Griffin Hewitt

PART OF ME

by Richard Ouzounian & Marek Norman

In honour of **Britt Bailey**

Nominated by Ruby Forte

Performed by Michael Torontow

DRAMA 101

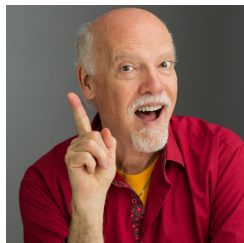
by Kevin Wong & Steven Gallagher

In honour of **Brennan Bielefeld and the Youth Cast of Talk Is Free Theatre's Spring-water Production of *Into the Woods***

Nominated by Betony Main

Performed by Jake Epstein, Griffin Hewitt, Jennifer Stewart & Jennifer Walls

NOVEMBER 16 HONOUREES



Craig Tompkins (*Capilano University*)

At Capilano University, Craig Tompkins was able to provide inspiration and hope to his students. Craig has this extraordinary way of communicating strength and hope to his students. Not only by letting them know the sky's the limit and that with practice and determination you can achieve your goals, but by allowing those students to be people first - to help them with life's challenges and be an ear for them when times are tough. Craig not only impacted nominator Connor Hogg's life as a performer but also inspired him to become a teacher himself.



Tracey Riggillo (*St. Mary's Academy*)

Tracey Riggillo embodies what it means to be a leader. As Deafblind Intervener at St. Mary's Academy, Tracey has dedicated years to empowering and supporting the DHH students at her school. As Tracey's nominator, Shurly Arnold can attest that this had an incredible impact, particularly over the Pandemic where she proved that her support was limitless. Tracey's incredible patience and compassion for her students is extraordinary, and The DHH Department considers themselves lucky to have her on their team.



Rachel LaChanse (*Gabi Epstein Private Voice Studio*)

Rachel LaChanse, a trained dancer with hardly any musical training, started taking singing lessons with Gabi Epstein in the fall of 2019 when she was in Grade 11.

Dance being her passion, she was determined to study musical theatre post secondary school. But of course, this would involve learning how to sing. With her eye on the prize she dove into weekly lessons and worked to train her voice and ear as well as her acting. Then, the

pandemic hit. Without missing a beat Rachel continued weekly lessons virtually with Gabi, sometimes even twice a week to make sure she kept up her training, continuing to work tirelessly on her craft.

We are happy to report that Rachel is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Musical Theatre at Roosevelt University in Chicago thriving in the program she worked so hard to get into.



Amanda Clarke, Matt Rodnick, & the GBDSS Music Students (*Georgian Bay District Secondary School*)

Once the pandemic hit and the music program at Georgian Bay District Secondary School was all but shuttered, Amanda Clarke and

Matt Rodnick pivoted brilliantly. In an effort to make music Covid-safe they transformed the program into a percussion program. They found as many instruments they could and students were able to learn a new instrument. Amanda and Matt are being honoured tonight for their incredible tenacity, grit and resilience in making music continue to happen for students. We are also honouring the students themselves, who accepted the challenge and rose to the occasion as instrumentalists!



Megan Cheng (York House School)

Our next nominee, Megan Cheng, is a graduate of the music program at York House School in Vancouver, BC. She is dedicated and passionate about music, the performing arts and theatre. She inspires those around her and has shown her teachers and peers that with hard work and perseverance, anything is possible when you follow your dreams. Megan always looks out for others and makes them feel safe in the classroom and beyond. Tonight we tribute Megan with the song *This Time Next Year* from the musical *Red Letter Day*

by Scott Christian and Leslie Wade. This song epitomizes all that Megan is as a performer. Through music she has realized that you really are capable of anything, if you really dream, and strive, and work for what you want.



Jessica Belanger (Renfrew County Catholic District School Board)

Jessica Belanger is a music teacher with the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board and the director of the Renfrew County Children & Youth Chorus. But long before that, she was a student within that board and a member of the very same choir herself, under the direction of Sister Joan Pecore. When Sister Joan passed, her loss was felt throughout the county and it would take someone very

special to fill her shoes. That someone was Jessica. Throughout the pandemic she transformed her home into a classroom and worked tirelessly to keep her students engaged. From organizing fundraisers for the Renfrew hospice in honour of Sister Joan to having her beloved golden retriever, Rory, assist in online teaching, Jessica is not only a leader in the community but an inspiration to everyone she meets.



The Cast of “Magic of Zoom” (Nomad Stages Performing Arts Studio)

One for all and all for one! These castmates from Nomad Stages Performing Arts’ Triple Threat group came together in these incredibly tough times to create a show over zoom, aka *The Magic of Zoom*. It’s a beautiful thing when a group of students can lift each other up and decide to choose joy over everything else. Knowing you are stronger

together shows the sense of community and family that has been built at Nomad Stages.



Keira Louis (York House School)

Keira Louis is a music teacher at York School House in Vancouver, BC. She is encouraging and kind. A teacher who creates a warm and inclusive space for her students to learn and thrive in. She always goes above and beyond what is expected to support and inspire her students to practice and achieve their dreams and goals. She is a dedicated teacher who knows that with hard work and determination her students can conquer all that they desire, against all odds. Keira helps

her students create themselves as performers who are professional as well as passionate within their music performance classes and recitals.



Julie-Rae King (Bravo Academy)

Julie-Rae King was the Production Manager at Bravo Academy nominated by Melissa Bencic. Right from the very beginning of the pandemic Julie-Rae learned new skills everyday and did everything she could to help keep theatre classes running for Bravo's students and schools. She became masterful at creating live digital theatre and she was a hero and saviour to so many. A "one of a kind arts educator", says Melissa. She was the unsung star behind all of Bravo's online musicals. Even behind the scenes, she would hop into a zoom breakout

room and help any child in need at any time. Julie-Rae sadly passed away last year but her memory and legacy lives on.



Sarah Quick (Globus Theatre School of Dramatic Arts)

Sarah Quick is the artistic director of Globus Theatre as well as Globus Theatre's School of Dramatic Arts in Bobcaygeon, Ontario. Even in the small community of Bobcaygeon, Sarah has been able to do the impossible by continuing to foster arts education inspiring students every step of the way. Sarah was nominated by Globus colleague Rebecca Anne Bloom who sees first hand the effect our honouree has had on their community. Sarah works tirelessly to provide theatre access

to all parts of Bobcaygeon and beyond. She was able to seamlessly pivot to online learning with young drama students and ensure that everything was safe to move back to an in-person environment. Sarah is an actor herself and clearly shows her love for the theatre by fostering a group of young budding artists who love it just as much as she does.



Savannah Dowell (Westminster Junior High)

We pay tribute to Savannah Dowell tonight with the song "Nothing Left to Lose" from the musical *Newfoundland Mary* by Scott White and Peter Fenton. This song epitomizes the idea that life is hard, yes, but you have a choice to fight for the good stuff or else you let the bad stuff take over. There is indeed, always hope, and if you have nothing, then you really have nothing to lose.



I hope to spread kindness and positivity, while living a life of love, compassion, and gratitude.

Samantha Basian (Anne Frank Public School)

Viewed as a superhero by her students, Samantha Basian is a teacher at Anne Frank Public School who is passionate about and dedicated to creating safe, inclusive spaces for her students to grow and thrive. She makes learning exciting and fun for her students while leading with compassion and empathy, guiding her students to become great humans. When the pandemic hit, Samantha worked tirelessly to keep her students engaged and inspired online. Now a new mother to

twins, Samantha has most definitely earned her superhero title and continues to shine a big, bright, beautiful light for each and every student who walks through her beautifully decorated and welcoming classroom door.



Elaine Boulanger (*Music From The Heart*)

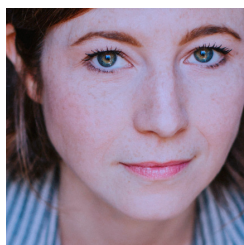
Elaine is from Saint John, New Brunswick, and is a staple in her arts community. Elaine wears many hats at all times, one of the biggest being when she jumped in mid summer to take over as Musical Director of *Anne and Gilbert* in Charlottetown at a moment's notice. In a time when others gave up, Elaine found solutions. During the pandemic she held mini festivals, concerts and recitals to keep spirits alive and the community engaged! Elaine lives for music, and that is

expressed through her love, dedication and energy she puts into all her students.



Matthew Rodnick (*Georgian Bay District Secondary School*)

Matthew Rodnick is a champion of education. It is a common belief among his students that none of the yearly productions at GBD could happen without his incredible dedication and tireless work ethic. But most of all, because he has an unwavering belief in these students and proves this time and time again. Just last year, he conducted FOUR bands at the school, while at the same time musical directing their successful production of *Matilda*. He goes above and beyond, staying at school longer than anyone else all the while advocating for the needs of his students both in and out of class. His passion for arts and education continues to inspire colleagues and students alike.



Britt Bailey (*Nuvo Music School*)

Britt Bailey is an actor, singer, and music teacher extraordinaire. She teaches music and theatre classes with Nuvo Music School in South Surrey, British Columbia. She has been nominated because of her passion and love of the performing arts and how she inspired her singing and theatre students during the pandemic. Britt trained at The American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York City and holds a Bachelor of Performing Arts which is a joint program between Douglas College, Capilano University and Langara College in the Vancouver area.

Her students rave about her classes and how much she inspired all of them to keep practicing and to achieve their goals. When Covid hit and the students couldn't be in the same room together Britt moved all her classes online and the students continued to thrive.



Brennan Bielefeld & the Youth Cast of the Springwater Production of *Into the Woods* (Talk is Free Theatre Youth Company)

Making pandemic theatre is hard. So many of us know that. What's even harder is seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. These nominees are a shining example of how theatre can inspire even in the darkest times. They could have kept their heads down until it was all over, but instead, they found the fire within themselves and put on a

show. (Pictured in foreground is Derek Kwan as The Narrator.)

NOVEMBER 18, 2022

Directed by Saccha Dennis

Musical Direction by Mark Camilleri

OPEN THE WINDOW

by Norman Campbell, Don Harron & Mavor Moore

Performed by Kelly Holiff

THROUGH THE GATES

by Scott Christian & Daniel Cummings

In honour of **Diane O'Dell**

Nominated by Jennifer Walls

Performed by Justin Stadnyk

WHEREVER YOU WILL GO I WILL GO

by Colleen Dauncey & Akiva Romer-Segal

In honour of **Anastasiia & Roman Rudenko**

Nominated by LouAnn Davis

Performed by Krystle Chance & Jamie McRoberts

FIND ME

by Fatuma Adar

In honour of **Jane Burkman**

Nominated by Natalia Sorbara

Performed by Masini McDermott

CHANGE THE WORLD

by Allison Wither

In honour of **Neptune Theatre's Youth Performance Company**

Nominated by Laura Caswell

Performed by David Ball, Jamie McRoberts, Justin Stadnyk & Jennifer Walls

CLOSEST THING TO HOME

by Corey Payette

In honour of **Ian Locke**

Nominated by Lily Smallwood

Performed by Jacob MacInnis

THERE WILL BE ANOTHER RAINBOW

by Richard Ouzounian & Marek Norman

In honour of **Suzanne Bourque**

Nominated by Robyn Esson

Performed by Chilina Kennedy

PART OF A TEAM

by Daniel Abrahamson

In honour of **Innovative Arts Students**

Nominated by Mary-Margaret Annab

Performed by Jamie McRoberts

CMTdB Tribute featuring Michael Torontow

I'M GONNA DIE DANCING

by Daniel Abrahamson

In honour of **Matthew Pinkerton & Jade Percival**

Nominated by Tenley Racicot & Stephan Dickson

Performed by Jennifer Walls

INTERMISSION

RELATIVITY

by Neil Bartram

In honour of **Hillary McCarrel and Sharaza-de Vahid**

Nominated by Ruthie & Winfield Gilgan

Performed by David Ball, Kelly Holiff, Justin Stadnyk & Jennifer Walls

WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

by Brooke Maxwell & Jacob Richmond

In honour of **Jessica Vandenberg**

Nominated by Rebecca Perry

Performed by Masini McDermott

IF IT TAKES ALL I AM

by Ted Dykstra

In honour of **Amanda Donaldson-McFarlane**

Nominated by Keira Louis

Performed by Chilina Kennedy

MAYBE NOW

by Kevin Wong & Ali Joy Richardson

In honour of **Avery-Jean Brennan**

Nominated by Jennifer Walls

Performed by David Ball

TO HELP

by Jonathan Monro & Adam Mathis

In honour of **Lorraine Lawson**

Nominated by Jennifer Walls

Performed by Kelly Holiff

JACK'S HOUSE

by Cathy Elliott

In honour of **Maryanne Marsh, John Blakey, & Maria Reidstra**

Nominated by Joel Gottlieb

Performed by Krystle Chance

THE BUTTERFLY

by Neil Bartram

In honour of **Adriano Burgo**

Nominated by Ruthie Rennie

Performed by Adam Brazier

SMILE

by Paul Sportelli & Jay Turvey

In honour of **Heather Braden**

Nominated by Alessia Sorbara

Performed by the Ensemble

NOVEMBER 18 HONOUREES



Diane O'Dell (*Lambton Youth Choir*)

For over 25 years, Diane O'Dell has been the driving force behind the Lambton Youth Choir in Petrolia, Ontario. What started as a two year commitment during her time as a school board arts consultant, Diane and her team provide joy and comfort for others through the choir's musical performances at events, long term care facilities and on stage at the Victoria Playhouse, just to name a few. To Diane, the choir is about more than music. It's an opportunity to nurture and inspire its' members to become kind and compassionate members of their community. From hosting fundraising garage sales to concerts in support of Hospice in memory of Diane's late sister Ruth, who was also instrumental to the fabric of the choir, Diane has been a shining light not only to the members of the choir but to her entire community.



Anastasiia and Roman Rudenko (*Nomad Stages Performing Arts Studio*)

Anastasiia and Roman took a huge leap of faith in the middle of this global pandemic! In September 2020, they uprooted their lives to a new country. They moved to Stephenville, NL to join the team at The Nomad Stages Performing Arts Studio. They have been a huge asset to the arts community and have gone above and beyond to bring joy to the studio. Anastasiia and Roman jumped in head first and were able to adapt to all the changes. Whether it be teaching in masks or switching to zoom, they never let it phase them. Always game for any situation, with smiles on their faces to lead the charge for their new community. It is such a great quality when you can make everyone around you better, and that's a quality these two possess in spades.



Jane Burkman (*Jane Burkman Private Studio*)

Jane's career in music began at an early age. Her parents noticed how easily she played simple tunes and put her into lessons at age five. She received the Chopin Award upon graduation from High School and continued her studies at Duquesne University in her hometown of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. During her years at Duquesne, she became the principal accompanist for graduate students and the university choir. Jane then moved to London, Ontario, and became a full-time music instructor and performer. Within a short time she was well known in Southern Ontario and was soon in demand to perform background music for a variety of venues. It was during this time that she also began sharing her gifts as a composer, with such songs as "Helen's Theme", "Yoya", and "A Song For Meredith" (written for her daughter).

Neptune Theatre's Youth Performance Company (*Neptune Theatre YPCo.*)

Laura Caswell is the director of the Youth Performance Company at Neptune Theatre in Halifax and nominated the outstanding students and performers of the program.



It's one thing to facilitate online artistic endeavours. It's quite another to be the ones performing in this unnatural way. It would have been easy for a group of students to give up when their stage was taken away. But, in an extraordinary act of perseverance the young performers at YPCo not only kept going but they thrived in their craft using the online medium to reach out to seniors in their community. In a time when art was closed, their efforts opened the window to what was possible. Through the skills they had learned they were able to perform, create, and inspire so many.



Ian Locke (*The Graham Academy*)

As the Artistic Associate of the Graham Academy in Corner Brook, NFLD, Ian Locke is no stranger to being a leader. During these past few years, that role has looked very different. His students are lucky they have someone as caring and engaged as Ian. The King of the pivot, he found a way to create new lesson plans that work with zoom or creating all new games, dance/improv activities, etc. Ian's students felt he deserved to be nominated because of the sense of community he has been able to provide for them. He didn't run when times got

tough, putting their needs above his own time and coming through for them.



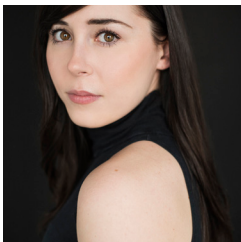
Suzanne Bourque (*Academy of Classical Ballet*)

A studio owner during the pandemic would be a scary thought for anyone. Not only did Suzanne stay put, she planted her feet firmly in the ground facing things head on. She most certainly rose to the challenge of keeping her community alive and engaged! Suzanne was able to create a safe space where students could continue to learn and connect. She is the example of someone who leads with love and care, true qualities needed during these troubled times! Hailing from Moncton, NB Suzanne is the owner of Academy of Classical Ballet.

She is adored by her students for the family she has been able to create at the studio and for providing a nurturing space to learn and create.

The Innovative Arts Students (*Innovative Arts*)

The students at Innovative Arts love the creative arts and love to perform. Not only are they talented, professional and kind but they continue to inspire and astound their teachers with their tenacity and passion, especially during the pandemic when their performing arts practice moved out of the rehearsal hall and onto the computer. They are described as open, vulnerable and hard-working. They love their theatre and music practice because it is the place where they truly feel at home and where they can really be themselves.



Jade Percival & Matt Pinkerton (*Legends Academy of the Performing Arts*)

Lockdown happens. World is shut down. What do you do? Well, most would get back under the covers and wait until the nightmare is over. Newlyweds and dance educators Jade Percival and Matthew Pinkerton took matters into their own hands over the Pandemic and started developing their own dance studio in Cambridge, ON.

Tenley Riccot and Stephan Dickson who nominated these two outstanding artists say that lockdown was made a little easier knowing their favourite teachers were there to inspire. These extraordinary leaders and go-getters made the unimaginable happen by remaining resilient and strong, finding a way to make online learning seem just as fun and motivating as in person. They went the extra mile to make sure their students succeeded by providing extra one on one conversations about perseverance and confidence. These two firecrackers have talent, passion, and through their extraordinary skills show the power of dance.



Hillary McCarrel & Sharazade Vahid (Swansea School of Dance)

Through their work at Swansea School Of Dance in Toronto, Miss Shar and Miss Hillary recognized the numerous challenges that young people were facing these past few years. By using the many forms of dance, they helped these kids rediscover their own sense of confidence, helping them to re-emerge after lockdown and share their creativity. With their encouragement and inspiration, the students there found motivation and positivity. This is the culture that Miss Hillary and Miss Shar foster for their students. They both have the incredible gifts at channeling the students' energies with exercises that are fun as well as disciplined, and through which they can share their innate personalities.



Jessica Vandenberg (The Pink Studio)

Sometimes we study music or theatre or dance because we want to pursue it as a career. Sometimes we are working on a specific project. Sometimes we do it to learn a new skill. And sometimes we do it simply because it's fun.

That is what Jessica Vandenberg has done so wonderfully while teaching dance at Pink Studio in Toronto. Because at the end of the day, when you are sad and alone and locked up in your house it is just as important to learn the choreography to Jingle Bell Rock in Mean Girls as it is to take an open level beginner ballet class. Through the magic of believing and play, Jess has enriched the lives of so many children, including her own 1-year old daughter.



Amanda Donaldson-McFarlane (York House School)

Amanda Donaldson-McFarlane goes above and beyond the call of duty as a student at York House School in Vancouver, BC. She is a fantastic leader with endless enthusiasm for her work as a music theatre performer. She is an accomplished and talented actor, singer and dancer. A true triple threat. She is energetic, multi-talented and versatile. She always steps up to the plate with a smile and a positive attitude.

Avery-Jean Brennan (Sheridan College/Neptune Theatre)

Avery-Jean Brennan is an award-winning Canadian Transfeminine actor, director, music director, teacher, playwright, and producer who is dedicated to Trans-inclusive, responsible storytelling and community building through live performance. Recently, she completed a year as RBC Apprentice Artistic Director with The Musical Stage Company and was nomi-

nated for the Bra d'Or Award from the Playwrights Guild of Canada for her work advocating for Trans & Non-Binary artists in Canadian theatre. They have studied Avery-Jean's first original musical, *The Pansy Craze*, was the recipient of Queer Theatre Toronto's inaugural LGBTQ Fringe Award for pushing boundaries in representation for Queer & Trans characters in musical theatre. Avery-Jean has worked in a variety of positions as a multi-hyphenate arts worker & educator with organizations across the country including Neptune Theatre, Young People's Theatre, Sheridan College, The Musical Stage Company, Tarragon Theatre and Bad Dog Comedy Theatre.



Lorraine Lawson (Lawson Vocal Studios)

Lorraine Lawson is an established Canadian recording artist and vocal coach. Working with clients including the cast of *Schitt's Creek*, Juno Award winner *Jessie*, Grammy Award winner *Alessia Cara* and a coach on CTV's *The Launch*, her passion for coaching and dedication to enrich the lives and careers of the artists she works with is undeniable. After establishing Lawson Vocal Studios in 2015, Lorraine began to create her empire, spreading her love of music through music programs both in studio and in schools and bringing on additional vocal coaches who shared her passion for inspiring others. When the pandemic and a fire forced the closure of the studios brick and mortar space, Lorraine didn't miss a beat moving online and creating a whole new era for the studio, keeping artists inspired, coaches working all the while expanding the LVS community not only across the country but around the world.

Maryanne Marsh, John Blakey, & Maria Reidstra (Rosedale Heights)

Arts educators Maryanne Marsh, John Blakey, and Maria Reidstra at Rosedale Heights were nominated by their colleague and fellow Rosedale Heights teacher Joel Gottlieb.



Maryanne, head of dance, John, head of musical theatre, and Maria, head of vocals did something quite extraordinary when their students switched to online learning - They made a musical theatre program thrive. They created video productions. They catered to students' needs. Teaching is one thing, being a true source of inspiration is quite another. The extraordinary online shows that the

Rosedale Heights arts students were able to perform came together because of the dedication of these three individuals. Today, Rosedale Heights is thriving more than ever and with the help of Maryanne, John, and Maria continues to inspire the next generation of artists.

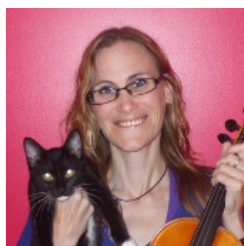




Adriano Burgo (*The Grand Theatre High School Project*)

As a drama teacher with the Thames Valley District School Board, Adriano Burgo has the rare gift of empowering his students, and guiding them towards finding their confident, true selves.. Through his drama classes, Adriano introduces his students to a whole new world of possibilities, whether it's taking on the main role in a class workshop or tackling the challenges of the technical sides of theatre. But the strongest message that he drives home in his classes is that, if only you can believe in yourself, anything can be possible. Adriano's

teaching reminds us that it's within us all to make a difference.



Heather Braden (*Heather Braden Private Studio*)

Since picking up her first violin at age 5, Heather Braden has never looked back. She graduated from Mount Royal College with a Diploma in Music Performance and later from the University of Western Ontario with both a Bachelor of Music and a Bachelor of Education. Although Heather teaches both violin and viola, she is found most frequently performing on the viola. Over the years, she has played with many groups including Orchestra London Canada, the London Concert Players and her string trio, Festivo Strings. Currently with

a studio of over 30 students, Heather has found her passion teaching music. In working to develop the whole person beyond her studio, she has become certified in Reiki, Healing Touch and Yoga. In her process of living, loving and learning, you may also find her snuggling with her two black cats, Shadow and Sylvester.

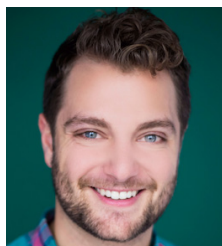


In 2020, Talk is Free Theatre, with the support of Patrick Street Productions in Vancouver, was awarded a Canada Council grant to research, develop and create an interactive website to support and promote Canadian musical theatre; specifically, to encourage increased production of existing works, and connect works in development with more producers, creatives, and enthusiasts throughout the country.

The idea began simply as a catalogue of existing Canadian works that could be a resource for producing organizations of any kind (educational, community, and professional). However, through our work, we realized we could potentially address other needs such as information sharing, facilitating or spearheading professional development initiatives, and promoting works in development to potential producers and even educational institutions.

CMTdB is ready to welcome everyone to have a look and see what an exciting tool this can be for the future of Canadian musicals. We look forward to receiving many more submissions from artists across the country, giving users the best opportunity to find Canadian musicals so we can share our home-grown art with one another and the world!

OUR PERFORMERS



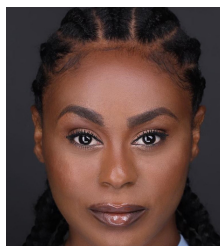
David
Ball



Tess
Bengner



Adam
Brazier



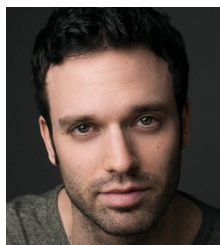
Krystle
Chance



Arlene
Duncan



Gabi
Epstein



Jake
Epstein



Griffin
Hewitt



Kelly
Holiff



Evangelia
Kambites



Chilina
Kennedy



Madelyn
Kriesse



Cyrus
Lane



Jacob
MacInnis

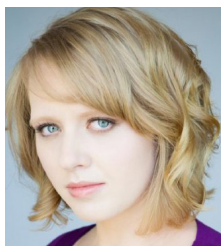


Andrew
McAllister



Masini
McDermott

OUR PERFORMERS



Jamie
McRoberts



Tracy
Michailidis



Mike
Nadajewski



Richard
Ouzounian



Alison J.
Palmer



Glynis
Ranney



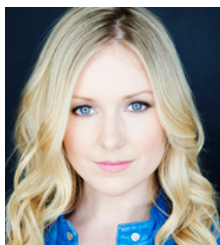
Jackie
Richardson



Justin
Stadnyk



Jennifer
Stewart



Alicia
Toner



Michael
Torontow



Tan
Vu



Jennifer
Walls

OPEN THE WINDOW

WAS MADE POSSIBLE WITH
THE GENEROUS FUNDING OF



Canadian
Heritage

Patrimoine
canadien