



THE JOHN NELSON, Sr. MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Information Sheet

Background

John Nelson Sr. introduced handbells to Alberta by placing the first Schulmerich 2-octave bell set at the First Baptist Church in Calgary in 1963. Since then, John has placed more than 180 bell sets in Alberta schools. John was a visionary who saw the value of handbells in music education and it is because of him that there are so many handbell sets in elementary schools in Alberta and western Canada. His contribution has given Western Canada a place of respect in the international handbell world.

John Nelson, Sr. began his career as a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police but a love of handbells and carillons finally drew him to a sales position for Schulmerich in 1953. He introduced Schulmerich's Carillonic Bell instruments to churches, universities, colleges and other significant buildings, including the Alberta Legislature building.

Purpose

This scholarship recognizes the contribution of John Nelson, Sr. to handbells in music education and provides funding for eligible ringers to attend an ALGEHR Handbell Discovery or a recognized ALGEHR handbell event.

Criteria

An award will be made each year provided an applicant meets the following criteria:

1. The ringer must demonstrate a desire to improve his or her musical ringing skills
2. The ringer must have some experience playing handbells as a member of a handbell choir
3. Each adult applicant must be a regular member of the Alberta Guild of English Handbell Ringers (ALGEHR)

Application Process

1. A musician may apply for the John Nelson, Sr. Scholarship by completing the application form.
2. A letter of reference from his or her choir director should also accompany the application. Applications for this scholarship should be sent to the John Nelson Award chairperson (johnnelsonaward@algehr.org) by June 30 of the current year.
3. Direct any inquiries to the John Nelson Award chairperson.

Selection Process

1. All applications received by the deadline will be reviewed by the John Nelson Award committee. The committee is chaired by the Award chairperson and includes a minimum of two ALGEHR Board members with no conflict of interest with the applicant. The committee will review the submissions and forward a recommendation to the ALGEHR Board for approval.
2. The award will be presented to the recipient in the form of a pre-paid scholarship (to a maximum of the cost of the registration fee). The funds will be taken from the interest generated by the principal in the John Nelson, Sr. scholarship account.
3. A recipient can only be awarded the scholarship once. Following the ALGEHR approved event, the recipient will forward a report on his/her experience to the PEAL editor for publication in the PEAL. (peal@algehr.org)