



THE STAN MORRIS EXCELLENCE IN HANDBELL TEACHING AWARD

Information Sheet

Background

Stan was a charter member, later a life member of the Alberta Guild of English Handbell Ringers (ALGEHR). He was a valued resource for music teachers in Calgary and the driving force behind the handbell programs and Youth Handbell Festivals in Southern Alberta. He was a kind and generous colleague who supported education, educators and the Alberta Guild. Stan loved teaching, and his ringers and choirs were among the finest in Canada.

Stan challenged Alberta teachers to push for excellence. When the Fifth International Symposium was held in Edmonton in 1992, Stan was invited to bring a choir to play at the Opening Ceremonies. The Swanson Elementary School Bellissima Ringers played five selections and the world was introduced to the 'Bells in the Schools' program, begun by Cyril Mossop and John Nelson. Our international guests were extremely impressed and still come to Albertans for advice on how bells can be used to teach music. Stan Morris' hard work gave Alberta a place of respect in the handbell community. Stan's attention to the musicality showed others what could be done on this incredible instrument with youth ringers.

Purpose

This Award celebrates Stan Morris' efforts to help teachers develop the skills, knowledge, ability, experience and proficiency required to create school handbell programs and to develop extra-curricular choirs. It also celebrates his efforts to help create ALGEHR, which continues to help promote the development of the handbell arts in Alberta. This award acknowledges teachers who continue to develop handbell artistry and instil the joy of music making in their students.

Criteria

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

1. The teacher is being nominated for their current Handbell or Chime ringing program.
2. The nominated teacher must be someone who promotes learning and passion about music and bells in their program/choir.
3. The nomination letter should include examples of how this person inspires musicianship in their students.
4. Anyone can present a nomination but it should be supported by another colleague or choir members.
5. A nominee can only win the award once.

Award Details

The Award will include:

1. A monetary gift of \$150 to be spent at the winner's discretion for further enrichment/training or attending another event
2. Framed Certificate with Name, Date and Award
3. Free one-year membership of ALGEHR
4. A letter from the Guild president to the recipient's Superintendent of Schools and Principal informing them of the Award and the criteria for selection
5. An opportunity to share their handbell teaching methodology at the subsequent ALGEHR Discovery
6. Free registration to the subsequent ALGEHR Discovery
7. Published photograph (with recipient's permission) and article in the Peal
8. Photograph (with recipient's permission) and name listed on the ALGEHR website

Application Process

1. Nominations are due by March 31 of the current year. Decisions are made shortly after this; the winner and all nominated teachers will be notified of the results.
2. A teacher may be nominated by fellow colleagues or students. A completed application must be submitted to the Stan Morris Award chairperson at smaward@algehr.org.

Selection Process

1. All applications received by the March 31 deadline will be reviewed by the Stan Morris 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.
2. The committee will review the submissions and forward a recommendation to the ALGEHR Board for approval.
3. The recipient of the award and the nominator will be notified by the Stan Morris Award committee.
4. The name of the winner of this Award will be published in the Peal and listed on the ALGEHR website.
5. All nominees will receive a letter indicating their nomination, and a certificate to celebrate their role in promoting handbells in Alberta.