

Piano 2010

Loren Hiebert grew up in rural Saskatchewan, Kansas, and Manitoba. His early musical influences were hymn-singing and southern gospel music. His piano teachers have included Glenn Loewen, Donald Henry, Jenny Regehr, and Joan Passey. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in music, and A.R.C.T. diplomas in Piano Performance and Piano Teaching.

Since 1980, Loren has been a music teacher in the Altona/Morden/Winkler area, with a studio of approximately sixty students. His students have excelled at local festivals, and have been awarded numerous scholarships at the provincial level. Loren has adjudicated in music festivals across the province.

Loren has been the accompanist for various individuals and groups, including the Faith and Life Male Choir and the Southern Manitoba Choral Society. He sang with the a cappella vocal ensemble "An Even Seven" and as a chamber musician performs with the piano ensemble "Ivory Five," the Agassiz Beach Trio, and in other classical and jazz combinations.

Loren has made three recordings with violinist Rosemary Siemens: one of hymn improvisations titled "Take My Hand," and the second a recording of Christmas music "All is Calm, All is Bright." In November of 2009, Loren and Rosemary performed in several concerts to release their brand-new CD "Gospel" as well as to raise funds for and promote the cause of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Rosemary and Loren have joined with Vancouver soprano Robyn Driedger-Klassen to form the improv gospel trio "Faspa." Their first CD, "Faspa's Gospel Songs" was released in late 2007. Also released in November of 2009 was a CD of German Hymns sung by the acclaimed choral ensemble "Canzona" with Loren at the piano.

Loren and his wife Lori live in Altona and have two grown-up kids, Amy and Paul, and also a slightly insane black and white cat named Miles.

Beginner Piano 2010

Kara Dixon was born and raised in Boissevain, Manitoba. Studying both voice and piano, she attained a Bachelor of Music from Brandon University in 1993. She went on to further her studies at the University of Western Ontario where she received a Masters in Piano Performance (Accompaniment and Chamber Music) in June of 2000. Ms. Dixon returned to Manitoba in 2002 and has been active as a collaborative pianist, vocal coach, choral conductor, teacher and adjudicator.

Ms. Dixon is currently in her sixth season as the assistant conductor and official accompanist for the Brandon Conservatory Chorale under the direction of Dr. Elizabeth Grant. She was the accompanist for the prestigious *National Youth Choir of Canada* in May of 2004 and for the *Western Manitoba Youth Choir* from 2005-2007. Most recently she played for the Brandon University Opera Workshop production of *Albert Herring*. Ms. Dixon was honoured to be the conductor for the Mecca Productions Community Choir that performed at the Olympic Torch Relay celebration in Brandon on January 8. She is also in her second year as the vocal director for two of Mecca's performing troupes, "Pride of Westman" and "Charisma."

Since 2007 Ms. Dixon has been involved with five Musicals presented by Seven Ages Productions in Brandon. She was also the Vocal/Choral Director for Neelin High School's 2009 Production of *Little Women*, and has been the Vocal Director for two of Vincent Massey High School Major Productions, *Bye Bye Birdie* and *Pirates of Penzance*.

Ms. Dixon had a baby girl in August of last year and is enjoying some time off being a new mom. She teaches piano and voice through the Eckhardt-Gramatté Conservatory of Music in Brandon and continues to be sought after as a vocal coach, accompanist and adjudicator. Ms. Dixon is pleased to be adjudicating the Beginner Piano sessions of the Deloraine Border Festival.

Vocal 2010

Melanie Whyte is a singing teacher and actor working and living in Winnipeg. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of British Columbia, and an acting diploma from FTS Film and Theatre School. She has taught singing for many years in Manitoba, and adjudicates at festivals around the province. Ms. Whyte looks forward to performing in the Winnipeg productions of The Light in the Piazza this spring, and in Strike! The Musical in the summer.

Speech Arts 2010

Ann Hodges is an opera and theatre director who has worked all across Canada at companies including the Manitoba Theatre Centre, Vancouver Opera, Manitoba Opera, Neptune Theatre, Calgary Opera, Shaw Festival, Prairie Theatre Exchange, Persephone Theatre, Pacific Opera, Theatre Projects Manitoba and others.

Career highlights include directing over 1,000 performers as Artistic Director of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the North American Indigenous Games, and being invited as one of 10 international directors to participate in a workshop with Peter Brook at the National Theatre in London. Also an accomplished librettist, Ann has written and directed numerous adaptations for Vancouver Opera, including the acclaimed *Naomi's Road* (composed by Ramona Luengen), which also toured to the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa. Last season, Ann's gold rush adaptation of the Barber of Seville (*The Barber of Barkerville*) was produced by Vancouver, Calgary and Saskatoon Opera Companies.

Ann is a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada.

Dance 2010

Barbara Withey Ehnes received her dance training in New York City. She danced professionally as a member of the Ruth Page International Ballet Company, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, and the Chicago Ballet Company. She also danced in operas, numerous professional musical theatre productions and for CBC television.

Barbara Ehnes is the founder and artistic director of the Brandon Dance Ensemble for whom she has choreographed over 80 ballets. Other choreographic credits include over 40 musicals and commercial choreography for broadcast and special events.

Mrs. Ehnes taught for the School of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet for 15 years and also worked as a guest dance teacher in Chicago, Boston, New York, and Portsmouth, N.H. Since 1976 she has been the Co-ordinator for the Dance Program of the International Music Camp at the International Peace Gardens.

Barbara Ehnes is the owner and director of the Brandon School of Dance and works extensively as a free-lance choreographer and adjudicator.

Visual Arts 2010

Joan Trott is well-known locally for her versatility in the arts, Joan is a trained writer and photographer, and a self-taught artist and crafter who has parlayed her various interests and skills into a lifetime vocation of developing art opportunities in the area.

Currently contracted by the Southwest Horizon School Division to develop art integration projects for the curriculum, Joan also is currently involved in mentoring high school students interested in seeking careers in the arts through the provincial ACI Rural Mentorship Program, runs an After School Arts Enrichment program for Pierson School students as a volunteer, and throughout the year offers numerous art classes and workshops in local communities and from her home studio.

She is an award winning writer and published photographer; twice selected as an Assessor for the provincial Arts Smarts awards; received the 2004 4-H Leaders' Appreciation Award; and in 2005 was named a YWCA Westman Woman of Distinction.

She is committed to encouraging and developing youth arts opportunities in our area and is delighted to have been invited to participate in this year's festival.