

The 2018 Kiwanis Music Festival will be my sixth and final festival as chair. It is time for new fresh eyes and new energy to take the lead of this important initiative of the Kiwanis Club of St. Catharines.

Over my six years as chair we have witnessed substantial growth in the number of students participating and change such as adding online registration and the Festival of Stars.

It has been rewarding to watch many students return year after year and to see their growth not just in physique but growth in their performance and their "stage presence." I have said in previous chair's messages that the discipline learned while studying music will serve these students their whole lives; this is recognized by members of the Kiwanis Club, with their focus on children and families in the community. The club provides substantial support to the festival, both in volunteer hours and in funding.

It has been my honour to serve as chair for six of the eighty-seven years that the music festival has been part of the community and I would like to thank the Kiwanis Club of St Catharines for the unwavering support I have received. I must also thank the chairs for each discipline, they are listed in the syllabus and elsewhere in this website. The chairs are volunteers who bring their special knowledge and love of their art to benefit future generations of artists. There would be no festival without their dedication and talent. There would also be no festival without the administrative talents and dedication of Claudette the festival administrator. I have watched with admiration the hours and the caring she delivers each year. The festival I leave is thriving due to the dedication of these people.

Finally, and most important, is the commitment of the students each to their craft, their parents and their teachers who make the music possible.

It has been a privilege to serve as chair, I have memories that I will carry forever, I look forward to supporting the next chair and watching more students benefit from the opportunity to perform in front of a professional adjudicator and a live and loving audience.

Thank you