

Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival

Awaken Your Inner Artist

June 2022

A Note From the Director:

Each year FSAF membership takes some time at our Annual Meeting to vote for our new Festival Hall of Fame class. They consider individuals who have given of themselves over the years in order to build FSAF into what it is today. If you have spent much time around festival, these names are going to be very familiar. If not, allow me to introduce you to some amazing people:

Byron McGilvray. There are some conductors who can make a choir sound good. There are some who can work with an individual in order to make their voice better. There are some who instill skill and confidence into people and change the trajectory of their lives. This man does all three and more. Dr. McGilvray's work with the FSAF Chorus has produced amazing performances as well as launched several singing careers. His students laud his skills and character and travel from far and wide in order to sing with him.



Ron Drotos. For over 20 years, Ron Drotos has been coming to Fairbanks and using his skills as a teacher, a piano player and an encourager to unlock the vocal talent of his students. Imagine having a song in your head and then finding someone who could teach you how to sing it and accompany you so that you sounded your absolute best. That is what Mr. Drotos does every summer in Sing Your Song Cabaret. An accomplished pianist, teacher and entertainer, he embodies everything that we look for in FSAF faculty.



Joy McDougall. Joy is the first Volunteer/Board Member that we have inducted into FSAF's Hall of Fame. She began taking classes in 1991 then volunteering in 1997 and then joined the Board in 2002. She has served the Festival in a variety of ways including Housing and Transportation Coordinator and Gaming Coordinator, but mostly she is known as an advocate and encourager who shows up every year to sing in the Cabaret program who welcomes everyone in to Festival with a hug.



We get a chance to celebrate each of these 3 amazing individuals this year and invite you to join us.

- First up, July 17th at 4pm. The Festival Chorus Concert at the Pioneer Park Civic Center Theatre. We will kick off the 2022 Festival with the concert and have a time to honor Dr. Byron Mcgilvray.
- July 24th at 7pm at the Westmark Hotel Gold Room. FSAF has its annual Fundraising Gala where we will honor Ron Drotos and Joy McDougall.

I cannot express how deeply appreciative I am for their hard work and dedication to this Festival over many years. I hope you will find time in your busy summer schedule to join me in showing our gratitude for all the ways they have helped make FSAF a better place.

James

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