



Canadian Music Educators Association
L'Association canadienne des musiciens éducateurs
Promoting Excellence in Music Education

Ninette Babineau, DHumL

--a teacher, administrator, arts education consultant, musician, adjudicator, lecturer--

Ninette Babineau started her teaching career in West Hartford Connecticut after obtaining a Bachelor of Music Education from the Hartt College of Music and a Masters of Music at Boston University. She moved to Boston where she taught strings in the public schools while pursuing advanced studies in music education, string pedagogy and performance at Boston University and Oberlin College. She continued to broaden her experiences in school and business administration at the University of Hartford and Arizona State University.

In 1968, Ninette accepted an invitation to develop a string program for the Halifax City Schools and became consultant for the instrumental program until her retirement from the public schools in 1989. As an administrator and teacher, Ninette enriched hundreds of lives - young people who are now active in many walks of life - many of whom stay in touch and relate just how much their experience with music has meant to them. They all speak with sincere admiration and tremendous respect for her caring and fine teaching. Through numerous workshops, outreach activities and mentoring sessions with teachers, string programs emerged in a number of Maritime centres. She continues to mentor string classes and be a consultant for boards and programs across Canada. During this period of her career, Ninette served on numerous educational and community boards including: Symphony Nova Scotia, Musique Royale, The Education Steering Committee for the Nova Scotia Coalition for the Arts, Scotia Festival of Music, Canada Music Council and both the Nova Scotia Music Educators and Canadian Music Educators Associations. She has chaired many provincial and national conferences and participated on the Curriculum Task Force for Music Education for the Nova Scotia Department of Education.

Since her retirement from the public schools of Nova Scotia, Ninette remains active as a musician, playing with several Maritime symphony orchestras and as an adjudicator, clinician, lecturer and arts education consultant.

She has been a presenter at ISME World conferences in 1994 and 2000; at World Congress of Jeunesses Musicales in 1998; at the National Symposium on Arts

Education in Cape Breton in 1997 and at national and provincial conferences. Additionally, she has been a facilitator for school renewal projects for the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Halifax District Schools; a member of several regional, provincial and national boards and advisory committees on arts education including the Canadian Conference of the Arts Education Advisory Committee and Arts in Transition Committee. She was a member of the Nova Scotia Arts Council from its inception to April 2000 having served as chair from 1998-2000 and as interim director while a search for a new Executive Director was conducted. She was editor of the Canadian Music Educators Newsletter.

Presently, Ninette is chair of the Board of Directors, Orchestras Canada, the national service organization for Canadian Orchestras and Ensembles. Previously she served as their Board Director for Education and Outreach. Canada's UNESCO Sectorial Commission on Culture, Communication and Information benefit from her experience, wisdom and interest around their discussion table as does the Mount Saint Vincent University's Education Advisory Committee. She also is an assessor and advisor for various public and private sector arts agencies including the Canada Council for the Arts, the Department of Canadian Heritage, and the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation ArtsSmarts Program. She is the events coordinator for the Music Room, Halifax's newest state of the art recital hall and recording facility operated by Scotia Festival of Music.

With this extensive work and community involvement in regional, provincial and national levels, Ninette has published articles which have gained international recognition.

For her work in music education and the arts in education, Ninette has been the recipient of major awards including:

Distinguished Alumni Award, University of Hartford

Doctor of Humane Letters, Mount Saint Vincent University

Honorary Life Membership of NSMEA

Cultural Life Award in education, Cultural Federations of Nova Scotia

Queen Elizabeth II, Silver Jubilee Medal, Government of Canada

Indeed, Ninette Babineau is one of the most outstanding contributors to music education and the arts in education in this country and it is with great pleasure the Canadian Music Educators' Association presents her with an Honorary Life Membership.