

May 21, 2016

Presentation to Lance Besharah

to celebrate his 20 years as the Musical Director of the Brockville Concert Band.

Speaker – Karen Frech

The Brockville Concert Band wishes to thank and congratulate Lance Besharah for twenty years as our musical director.

I'm one of the people who has been in the band for that long as well, so I have the honor and delight of hitting some high spots – and Lance I promise you two minutes max.

He's entered us in the Lion's Club Music Festival every year ... for one silver and nineteen golds. Most of the time he's chuckling behind the curtain during the adjudication because at least half of the remarks are exactly what he's been telling us to work on during rehearsal.

We've performed: in the New Year's Eve concerts for as long as I can remember, every year at least one summer concert in the park, and at special events in the community such as the gala concert for the reopening of the Brockville Arts Centre.

Lance has a reputation for starting and finishing concerts on time.

He saw the value of having a trailer to carry our gear, and helped make that a reality.

He brought in workshops for us, including one of the band's favorite composers, Frank Ticheli. He once took us to **be** a workshop at the Ontario Music Educators Association conference, to highlight for the province's Music Teachers that music class can and should prepare any of us for a lifetime of music ... that Band can continue for anyone, not just those who go on to study music.

We've made two CDs.

And the Band was inducted into the Brockville and Area Music and Performing Arts Hall of Fame.

To all of us, even more important than the performances and other highlights is that Lance keeps our rehearsals musical and fun, week after week.

He constantly puts a variety of music in front of us ... you've heard some of the range of styles this evening.

He has us sight-read A LOT, almost every rehearsal. Sometimes we read music for our own learning, pieces we will never perform, because he knows it's good for us musically to do that too. And because it's fun!

He has brought in over 400 new scores – more than doubling the size of our music library since 1996.

The band has always had students as members, sometimes as young as grade 7 or 8, and usually some musicians in their 70s or 80s. Lance supports and encourages us all.

Lance, as a thank you, the Executive is making you a Lifetime Member of the band, and commissioned this watercolor from Diane Godwin-Sheridan.

For those of you in the audience who can't see it, it's a whimsical rendition of Lance the conductor.