



DOROTHY WAKEFORD MEMORIAL DONATION 2021

Dorothy Wakeford, 1917-1999

Dorothy Wakeford [nee Rendall] loved and was influenced by music throughout her life.

During WWII, while leading a men versus women "loud singing contest" modeled on the song, "Anything You Can Do, I Can Do Better", she met her husband-to-be, George Wakeford.

We are not sure who won the contest but, Dorothy and George married and raised three children all of whom loved music.

Dorothy's musical endeavors threaded throughout her life. In the thirties, she sang both in Toronto with Dr. Healey Willan and in Owen Sound with a dance band at the Balmy Beach Pavilion. In Owen Sound she continued to sing both as a soloist and with many groups, including: the Sweet Adeline's, the Owenaires, the Singing Mums and for the longest time, Division Street United Church Choir.

Her service to our community, among other things, included directing a choir of the youngest church children, helping them to prepare for their initial entry into the Junior Choir and of course, for over 25 years fulfilling her role as the Secretary/ Manager of the Owen Sound Festival of Music; now known as The Grey County Kiwanis Festival of Music. She has recently been described by a long term festival participant as the 'Queen' of the festival back then.

As the Festival Secretary/ Manager, with computers not yet invented, she set up large 4'x8' cork "story boards", which consumed her family's dining room; table, walls and all. The family was relegated elsewhere. By hand, participants were registered, compiled, matched to their venue, conflicts were noted, accommodated and in the end the program was readied and sent to the letter-set printer. In May, her family singing her praises got their dining room back.

Dorothy's legacy of love of music lives on in both within her family and in the heritage of The Grey County Kiwanis Festival of Music.

Thanks to this generous donation, the Grey County Kiwanis Festival of Music is able to offer REDUCED CLASS FEES for the 2021 Virtual Festival.

Letters of appreciation may be sent to:

Bert Wakeford
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