

ANDREW MACDONALD

1958 –

Andrew MacDonald was born in Guelph in 1958. He was the third of five children born to Donald and Elaine MacDonald. He attended the GCVI from September 1972 until January 1977. While at the GCVI he was a member of the Theatre Arts Program, the Music Club, and the Concert Band. During his years at GCVI, MacDonald learned to play the French horn, and he still writes music for it. After graduating as an Ontario Scholar, he attended the University of Western Ontario where, in 1981, he received a Bachelor's degree in Music with honours in guitar performance. In 1982, MacDonald completed his Master's degree in Music, and in 1985, he received the Doctor of Musical Arts in Composition, both at the University of Michigan, where he was a multiple scholarship recipient. After that, MacDonald returned to Canada.

MacDonald's first teaching position was at Brandon University in Manitoba. The following year he taught music theory at Wilfred Laurier University. MacDonald's present position is Professor of Composition and Music Theory and Department Chair at Bishop's University in Lennoxville, Quebec.

While MacDonald has won many awards, perhaps his greatest achievement took place on March 10, 1996 when he won the Juno Award for Best Classical Composition for his Violin Concerto, op 22. He also won the grand prize at the 1994 Alienor Harpsichord Composition Competition in Atlanta, and first prize in the 1997 Fifth Annual International Clarinet Association Composition Competition.

In both 1982 and 1983, MacDonald was the recipient of the Floyd S. Chalmers Fund Award. In 1984 MacDonald won the Gold Sir Ernest MacMillan Award from PROCAN and CAPAC; in 1985 and 1987 he was awarded the Rodolphe Mathieu Award; in 1987 he won first prize in the Omaha Symphony Guild New Music Competition; and in 1988 he again won the Gold Sir Ernest MacMillan Award, as well the William St. Clair Low Award.

Today Dr. MacDonald is the founder and artistic director of Ensemble Musica Nova, and the vice-president of the Canadian League of Composers. He continues his work at Bishop's University in the Music Department where he teaches composition, music theory and electronic music. In 1981 MacDonald married Eleanor Gang, a concert singer, and they have two children, Ilana and Cameron, who play violin and piano respectively.

Janna Gazzola, Stacey McCarthy
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