Katherine May Quilliam Memorial Scholarship

In memory of Katherine May Quilliam (A.M.M./70), who was involved in music education all her life, an endowment fund of $100,080 has been established (in 2010) through a bequest left by her husband, Leonard Quilliam. The fund will provide scholarship support in the Marcel A. Desautels Faculty of Music at the University of Manitoba. One scholarship valued at the available annual income from the fund will be offered to a student who:

1. is entering the Marcel A. Desautels Faculty of Music at the University of Manitoba as a full-time student and has met all requirements for direct entry to the program;
2. is the most deserving entering student in the Piano major as determined through audition and selected by the Marcel A. Desautels Faculty of Music scholarship committee.

The scholarship is renewable provided that the recipient maintains a 3.0 sessional grade point average, proceeds into the next year of study as a full-time student and remains in the Piano major. A new recipient will be selected when the current recipient graduates. In the event that a recipient does not meet the criteria for renewability, a new recipient will be selected in that year.

The selection committee for this scholarship will be named by the Dean of the Marcel A. Desautels Faculty of Music (or designate).

Established: Senate, May 19, 20104

About Katherine May Quilliam (1928 - 1996)

Born on the Isle of Man, May started her musical career at an early age, competing in musical festivals in the Isle of Man, where she won many piano and duet competitions.

In 1953, May moved to Winnipeg with her husband Len and son Michael. She continued her musical career in Winnipeg, teaching piano and studying organ with Mr. Shinn and Barry Anderson. She obtained her Associate in Music, Pianoforte Teacher and Certificate of Membership in the Manitoba Registered Music Teachers Association.

May’s association with Kirkfield Park United Church began in 1956, when she and Len attended the portable church that stood to the south of the present building (472 Kirkfield St., Winnipeg). The Rev. Don Ross was minister at the time and May would help out with the music by playing the piano.

The present church, which was completed in 1963, was further served by May as organist with Dorothy Goertzen as choir director. When Dorothy retired in 1977, May became organist and choir director and held this position until her retirement in 1987. During this time, May organized and directed a 40-member choir in many variety concerts and Christmas and Easter cantatas.

May had a great love of life, which was evident in both her musical and personal life. She had a special talent for working with people; from her young piano students to the church choir, she was able to instil a sense of enthusiasm and desire to perform at the highest level.