

Award # 25689  
FOP # 251057 344000 5000  
Award type: scholarship

### **Margaret Toal Scholarship in Voice**

Mr. Robert Toal provides an annual contribution of \$1,000 to offer the Margaret Toal Scholarship in Voice for students in the Marcel A. Desautels Faculty of Music at the University of Manitoba. One scholarship, valued at \$1,000, will be offered to an undergraduate student who:

- (1) is enrolled full-time in the Marcel A. Desautels Faculty of Music, in a Bachelor of Music program;
- (2) has achieved a minimum degree grade point average of 3.0;
- (3) is a talented contralto who has demonstrated strong potential as a vocalist.

In any given year that there is no eligible contralto, the award may be given to a talented mezzo-soprano. In any given year that there is neither an eligible contralto nor an eligible mezzo-soprano, the Scholarship will not be offered.

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

Established: *Senate, March 2, 2011*

#### **About Margaret Toal:**

Margaret “Peggy” Toal was born to Samuel J. and Anna Hanna in Belfast, Northern Ireland on June 20, 1926.

Peg graduated secondary school with honours. She studied at Pitmans Shorthand Institute and the Society of Certified Teachers of Pitmans where she passed all the required examinations. She also proudly received her certificate with credit from the Royal Society for the Encouragement of the Arts.

Her life’s ambition was to become a wife and mother. This was admirably achieved. Peg married Robert Toal in June 1949 and eventually gave birth to children Alison and Ian. They have also given her four beloved grandchildren.

In the late 1950s the young family knew that they would have few chances to see anything of the world if they remained in Northern Ireland. On the toss of a coin, Peg and Bob chose to emigrate to Winnipeg, Manitoba in Canada.

Peg had a natural contralto voice, and though untrained, she was welcomed into several church choirs, including: Woodvale Presbyterian in Belfast; First Presbyterian and Windermere United in Winnipeg; and Grace Presbyterian in Calgary, AB. The Toal household was “alive with her singing,” according to her family.

She loved to listen to and sing along with a CD by Kathleen Ferrier, her fellow contralto, especially Ferrier’s rendition of the song “Blow the Wind Southerly.” As part of the First Presbyterian church choir, Peg became a recording artist in her own right as the choir created a fundraising CD *With a Voice of Singing* in 2001.

Peg was also a talented painter and was a member of the Manitoba Porcelain Artists Association and the Manitoba China Painters Association. It is less well known that Peg helped organize the festival now called Folklorama, which exposes so many people to the arts and culture Peg loved so much.

What those of you who receive this scholarship should understand is that you, like Peg, have talent and a lifelong love of music. You may not have received accolades or attention along the way, but do not let that stop you. Peg did not have the opportunity to study at university, and she would encourage you to continue your journey in music.

