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school's semi-professional level to our performances." From creating new looks for the madrigal and musicals to repairing the department's tuxedos and gowns, Hopton served as a creator, worker and mentor to students and volunteers involved in many performances.

Hopton said, "Thank you everyone for honoring me, because I have had years of thrill getting this costume shop to the place it is now. Iowa Lakes has been very generous, and they have been very receptive with our ideas, so we have a lot to be thankful for. If you ever have a chance, stop by and take a look - you'll see how much nicer it is now than when everything was piled on top of the table. So, thank you."

Lorie Irwin said in Hopton's nomination, "I have had the pleasure of working with Trudy during two productions. She is creative and has amazing attention to detail. I've heard the shopping excursions with Trudy are 'shop until you drop,' and spotting things that weren't necessarily on the list, but which turned out to be the perfect addition to the set or the costumes. Trudy always has a positive attitude backstage, which seems to be laced with a bit of spunk."

Irwin added that Trudy has a way of making performers feel good about how they look in their costumes.

Bobbie Sue Marth said, "[Trudy's] calm and pleasant demeanor was especially welcomed during the hectic, stressful hours leading up to performances. Her ideas for organizing, along with her



The 2020 Sforzando inductee is Trudy Hopton. Instrumental director Carol Ayres Steuven holds the microphone for Hopton.

Photo by Amy H. Peterson

gentle, kind manner with kids have been greatly appreciated. Her willingness and eagerness to help in whatever way she can, no matter how big and small, sets a great example for others. She has generously donated countless hours of her time and talent behind the scenes, both at the college as well as at home sometimes doing the menial, not-so-glamorous jobs that go unnoticed, but are as important as any other in making these amazing performances come to life. She is truly one of those unsung heroes."

Trish Morphet said, "There are few people that I've worked with who are as welcoming, funny, or kind. It's true that I always laugh a little bit when she refers to me as 'our Trish,' but we really do become a family backstage."

2020-Tom Spalding Coda

The Commitment (Coda) award is for a nominee who has committed an endless amount of time and energy to the Iowa Lakes music department. Tom Spalding was a music teacher in Wisconsin who moved to a career as a college registrar, both in Wisconsin and at Iowa Lakes from 1981 until his retirement in 2002. Spalding passed away just over 15 years ago on March 23, 2008. Sons Rob and Dave joined Spalding's wife, Grace, to accept his award posthumously. Spalding would step out of the registrar's office to play in the Iowa Lakes Jazz

Band when needed. Though the Spalding family took numerous family vacations, Tom often would not schedule a vacation during the college's performances.

Lair said, "He worked tirelessly in the music library, sorting and filing music. He taught every type of instrumental lesson, and in addition, he was involved in numerous musicals, playing in the pit orchestra."

The Spaldings have set up a music scholarship that they continue to fund.

Grace Spalding said, "I just want to thank you on behalf of Tom. I'm going to shed a few tears tonight, but it was very important to Tom for these kids here at the college. He thought it was important as administrator. He was the registrar here and they see administration people in a different light. He thoroughly enjoyed this department and this wonderful facility that we have here. Thank you."

Sean Miller said, "Tom was a great man and a huge contributor to the Iowa Lakes jazz band program. While I was there, he always worked with unbelievable pride and honor. He was so proud of us and always encouraged us to be better."

Ashley McDonald said, "The fun thing I remember about Tom Spalding was that he had a cool car. From time to time when I would walk to school, he would pick me up. I couldn't pass up the offer to ride in that cool car. He was



The Iowa Lakes Community College Jazz Band played at the Hall of Fame Banquet held last Friday. At left, Mark Lair sings with the band.

Photo by Amy H. Peterson

always supportive and helpful to me as a drummer, and as the bass player. I will always remember his big, bright smile and caring heart."

Michael Wilber said, "From the moment I stepped foot into the doors of the Iowa Lakes music department, Tom was always very welcoming and always willing to help his students. I had my first music lesson at Iowa Lakes with Tom, and his kind and warm-hearted demeanor made me feel like I belonged. I remember every time I had a question for him, he would smile and say, 'well, let's figure that out together.' Even though he already knew the answer, he wanted me to learn."

2021 - Tony Gulizia, Joe Gulizia, and Andy Hall Virtuoso

From the induction: "The jazz trio has made an extraordinary impact on the development and growth of Iowa Lakes Music Department through their dedication to the Reggie Schive Jazz Camp and the Iowa Lakes Jazz Festival for over 30 years, teaching area students and providing outstanding performances. During COVID, they gladly participated in the first-ever online Jazz Festival. They

came to campus, recorded their sessions, and gave clinics over Zoom to help keep the festival going. They always encourage Iowa Lakes students with their patient and gentle ways and their sense of humor and joy."

Tony Gulizia, brother to Joey, passed away in July, 2022. The Gulizia Brothers band played on over 40 cruise ships over the years, as well as numerous shows in Omaha, throughout the U.S., and beyond. Tony and his wife, Liane, moved to Vail, Colorado where Tony was a fixture in music education. Tony was a keyboardist, known for his seemingly effortless performance style, and Joey noted that he was a multitasker and had any musician who came to sit in on a gig go away feeling like they had a new friend.

Lair said, "We're still so sad about the passing of Tony, but still thankful for all the memories he gave to us."

Joey Gulizia and Andy Hall heard from numerous jazz camp and jazz festival alumni, parents, and participants, as well as from Carol Ayres Steuven.

"I don't know how to begin to thank these incredible, incredible musicians for everything they've done for the college, for my students and me. I met Tony and Joey when I was in college; they were the clinicians for our jazz festival, and they were so patient and kind to me. That year we started the jazz camp, and we have been close friends and colleagues. They're the hardest-working people I know," Ayres Steuven said.

Among their contributions, they never say no to working with students, they put in long hours at the camp and festival, never complaining, and they always greet students with a smile and an openness to help them.

"Thank you for everything you have given to help the program grow and flourish. You are very special people," Ayres Steuven said.

Wilber said the trio's contribution helped him both as a musician and as a music educator.

"Growing up learning from them and watching them teach has been very influential to how I approach my own program,"

Wilber said.

Naomi Egdsahl said, "Working with them over the years has improved my playing dramatically as well as my appreciation for jazz."

Greg Forney said, "There are a lot of fine musicians in the world, but there aren't many that perform this well and can teach and connect with students like Tony, Joey and Andy."

Lincoln Larsen said, "Jazz camp was one of the main reasons I chose to attend Iowa Lakes Community College. Learning from [the trio] has been a cornerstone of my jazz education, as they always took the time to answer my questions and grow me as a musician and as a human. Their kindness and generosity will always be appreciated, and will be forwarded to generations of jazz musicians."

Lair added a personal note. "I went to college here and got to experience these guys. I even got to sing with them once at the winery, which was really a highlight of my life, honestly. I mean, you guys are super fun to play with and you're great guys. If I could say even outside of music, what I learned from you guys is that if you truly love something, and you work hard at it, you can be successful at it."

Hall touched on the joy of working with young students.

"The first day, so many of them are so new at this and they've never performed a solo before in their lives. They're so nervous. They say, 'I can't!' I just encourage them and show them the proper notes to play. By the end of the week, they'll be on this stage doing a performance for all their friends and family, and when they walk off that stage, you can't believe the smiles that I watch and see, and it just does my heart so good to see these young people experience how to improvise and perform some jazz music."

2023 - Dave Petrick Virtuoso

Dave Petrick has spent 24 years documenting every production at Iowa Lakes, starting in 1999. A professional photographer who teaches photography at Iowa Lakes, Petrick has given the music department the use of his photos in all of their social media and marketing materials. His induction described him as happy and encouraging to students at Iowa Lakes.

Petrick said, "It's just a great honor to be getting this award, and to get to do two things. I like listening to great music performances by all of the

students here and then taking pictures and putting them up for people to enjoy."

2023 - Barb Nissen Coda

Barb Nissen was among the inductees who performed with Iowa Lakes music ensembles. Nissen performed, "I Dreamed a Dream," as the soloist with the Iowa Lakes concert choir. With her involvement in the college's musicals, she has become known as Queen after her performance of Queen Concertina in Cinderella.

Trish Morfitt said, "Barb is a true patron and participant of the arts. After working with her on Iowa Lakes musicals, it was no surprise that her commitment to supporting her community extended outside of her talents on stage...She is a prime example of music being a lifelong skill, joy and opportunity to create a lasting impact on those she shares with."

Nissen is part of numerous musical groups in the community. "Nissen has contributed significant time and energy to make the Iowa Lakes Music Department thrive," her induction said.

In 2024, the Iowa Lakes Music Department will celebrate the inductees for 2022 and 2024.



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Joey Gulizia and Andy Hall perform at the Hall of Fame Banquet at Iowa Lakes last Friday.

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