

Dianne Baird

Biography

Dianne was born in St. John's, Newfoundland where she began studying music at the age of six. By sixteen, she had completed the Associate piano examination with Trinity College of Music in London, England and had sung on several radio and television programs. She has since sung in chorus and as a soloist with the McGill Concert Choir, the Memorial University Concert and Chamber Choirs, Opera Lyra Ottawa, the Cantata Singers of Ottawa, Seventeen Voyces, the Ottawa Choral Society, the Christian Chorale, the Savoy Society, the University of Ottawa Orchestra and Concert Choir, the Avalon Trio, the Bach Choir, the Kingston Chamber Choir, the National Arts Center Orchestra and Cambridge Early Music. As a member of the Association of Television and Radio Artists, Dianne has also performed recitals together with on-air interviews for CBC radio. She performed solo roles in both opera and oratorio, some of which include, "Dido" in Dido and Aeneas, "Mademoiselle Warblewell" in Mozart's Der Schauspieldirektor, the "Abbess" in Puccini's Suor Angelica, "Euridice" in Gluck's Orpheus and Euridice, "Hilda" in Henze's Elegie für Junge Liebende and soprano soloist in Handel's Messiah, Mendelssohn's Elijah, Vivaldi's Gloria and Bach's St. John and St. Matthew Passions.

Dianne completed four degrees, a Master of Music in Voice Performance, from the University of Ottawa, a Bachelor of Arts in Communication from McGill University, and a Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Music Education from Memorial University, where she won the University Medal and Award for academic achievement. She was accepted into the Ph.D. program in Musicology at the University of British Columbia and was awarded the graduate fellowship, but decided not to complete the program and returned to Ottawa in 1996 to set up a private Voice Studio. She attended the Ottawa Summer Vocal Academy and the Oberlin Conservatory of Music Summer Institute of Vocal Performance and Pedagogy with Richard Miller. She has participated in workshops and conferences in San Diego, Los Angeles, New York City, Salt Lake City, State College, Pennsylvania, Charlotte, North Carolina and the Sarteano Choral Conducting Workshop in Italy with Simon Carington. She also completed Choral Conducting Graduate Courses at the Eastman School of Music and at the Rod Eichenberger Choral Conducting Workshop in Cannon Beach, Oregon. She has attended the National Opera Association Conference in New York, the Teaching Professor Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, a workshop in the Jo Estill Method of Contemporary Singing in Winchester, Pennsylvania and received Certification from the Contemporary Commercial Music Institute at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia.

Dianne has over fifty years combined teaching experience as a private voice teacher, a school music teacher, a choral and instrumental conductor and university voice professor at both Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland and at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. She thoroughly enjoys teaching all styles of music and especially working with students at the advanced level. She is the Voice Area Coordinator (Classical) at Queens and was the Opera Ensemble Director for five years from 2012 - 2017, has taught Vocal Methods and teaches Lyric Diction. She was the Artistic Director of the Brockville Community Choir from 2017 - 2023. In addition, she is a member of the College of Examiners for the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, and a member of NATS, ORMTA, NOA and ACTRA.