

Introducing our 2023 Foundation Fellow Nominee Darla Sheldon!

Darla was raised in a musical family in rural Bowdon, ND where her love of music began at an early age. She began her teaching career after graduating from Valley City State University in 1967 with a BS Degree/Composite Major in Music. She taught instrumental and vocal music grades 1-12 in North Dakota Schools. She has taught private piano for over 40 years!

Darla is an NDMTA certified teacher of music and was awarded the NDMTA Teacher of the year in 2012. She has served on the NDMTA state board as well as the UVMTA board. She retired to Fargo, ND in 2014 where she is an FMMTA member and presently serves on their board of directors.

Darla has dedicated her life to furthering Arts and Education in schools in several ND/MN communities. She has composed vocal/instrumental arrangements for special groups her entire career. She served on the Board of Directors for the Park River Community Theater and was also musical director and pianist for 12 major summer musical productions.

Darla has done extensive accompanying for her church music worship teams, church choirs/cantatas, school concerts, music contests, weddings, and funerals. She has adjudicated music contests, rallies, talent shows and pageants. Since her move to Fargo, she has been an accompanist for Carl Ben Eielson Middle School, South High School and Davies High School for their music contests and concerts. She finds great joy in working with students of all ages and sharing her love of music and the piano.

Darla has been married to her husband Claude for 56 years and together they raised 3 children and are blessed with 6 grandchildren.