

# MMHF News

October 2018

www.mnmusichalloffame.org

## Minnesota Music Hall of Fame 2018 Inductees:

**Frances Densmore:** The Dakota and Chippewa songs could have been lost forever if not for the efforts of a pioneer Minnesota woman who decided these American sounds must not be silenced. Thanks to Frances Densmore, early Indian music from throughout the country is preserved forever. She became one of America's most important ethno-musicologists. She was a "songcatcher". Frances was just a girl growing up in Red Wing, Minnesota, a small but thriving community becoming a port for grain shipments but still considered a frontier town. She studied music at Oberlin College for three years. During the early part of the twentieth century, she worked as a music teacher with Native Americans, while also learning, recording and transcribing their music and documenting its use in their culture.

**451<sup>st</sup> Army Band:** The 451<sup>st</sup> Army Band is an Army Reserve unit that has proudly served for 70 years across the country and around the world performing in public concerts, parades, civic events and military functions. The band is recognized as one of the finest organizations in the military band program and has been coined as "...the best in the Reserve". The mission of telling the army story through music has encouraged, educated, entertained and inspired service members and civilians alike through its pride in performance. In September 2018, the 451<sup>st</sup> Army Band was inactivated, but the legacy and impact of the band still lives on at Fort Snelling, Minnesota

**Arne Fogel:** Arne Fogel has written, produced and appeared in over two dozen concert presentations in such venues as Orchestra Hall, Bloomington Center for the Arts, Hopkins Center for the Arts, 3M History Theatre, the Capri Theatre and many other venues throughout the upper Midwest and has appeared in countless others. The Nancy Harms Show "Ellington at Night", which he wrote, co-produced with Harms, has been presented in The Dunsmore Room, Lincoln Center in New York, Albert Hall in London and New Morning in Paris. He participated in countless live radio concerts including three years as a regular performer on Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion".

**The Replacements:** The Replacements' history began in Minneapolis in 1978, when 19-year old Stinson gave his 11-year old brother Tommy Stinson a bass guitar to keep him off the streets. That year Bob met Mars, a high school drop-out. With Mars playing guitar, and then switching to drums, the trio called themselves "Dogbreath". But they needed a singer. One day Westerberg walked past Stinson's house on his way home, heard them in a jam session, liked what he heard, and joined them as the singer. "Dogbreath" changed their name to the "Impediments". Before disbanding in 1991 they changed their name to the Replacements. In June of 2015, while performing in Portugal, Westerberg announced onstage that this was their final show.

**Dean Billmeyer:** Award winning organist, Dean Billmeyer has appeared as a recitalist throughout the United States and Western Europe. His performances have included a number of world premieres and numerous broadcasts. Born in 1955, he began his musical studies at the age of five. In 1973, he entered the Eastman School of Music on an academic scholarship, followed by studies in organ and the harpsichord at the Southern Methodist University in Dallas; and then on to Vienna as a Fullbright Scholar at the Universitat fur Musik and darstellende Kunst. Following his return to the USA, he has since become one of the most highly respected teachers in the Midwestern United States. After a recital at Southern Methodist University, *The Dallas Morning News* reported, "...Billmeyer can make an organ sing and shout in jubilation..."

**Johnny Helget:** A New Ulm native, Johnny Helget began playing a button accordion at age 8 and played at bars and wedding receptions when he was in his teens, including a few gigs at Shorty's Bar in New Ulm. He remembers, "My mother, Mary, taught me to play. She played the organ and button accordion". His Dad, John, bought him a double-reed concertina when he was 11 and said if he learned to play it, he would buy him a better one. And he did, a triple-reed Pearl King. He and his band traveled far and wide throughout the Upper Midwest playing their music. Audiences loved him for his antics and much more while playing his concertina. Helget has taught many students how to play the concertina, including Peter and Paul Wendinger, Ed Palmer, and many more. *New California Waltz*, written Polka while performing in California, *Einer's Polka* and *Helget's Waltz* are some of his original compositions. He is still active in the music business playing for many events and nursing homes throughout MN.

## Minnesota Music Hall of Fame Museum

Hours: 10 – 2; Thursday - Saturday

Starting Nov.15 - April 15  
Call for Appointment.

Address: P.O. Box 1  
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Email: mmhf@newulmtel.net



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**Assistant Executive Director: Bonnie Ubl – 507-766-4115  
& Museum Administrator**

## In Memoriam

**Leon "The Dude" Helget:** Leon Helget, age 73, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, July 8, 2018, in Sleepy Eye. He was born on August 2, 1944, attended and graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1962. He farmed for a few years and then enlisted in the US Army, serving from 1965 to 1968 stationed in Germany. In 1971 he married LaDonna Heiderscheidt in Sleepy Eye and they were blessed with two children, Lloyd and Lila. Settling in Stark Township in Brown County, he farmed until his retirement. Leon was a gifted musician, learning to play the concertina by ear at a young age and playing many weddings and barn dances as a teenager. In 1978, he formed the Leon Helget Band. The Dude loved to play his concertina, his sound and style recognizable and like no other. He was inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame in November of 2016.

**LeRoy P. Flor:** Leroy Patrick Flor, Sr., age 88, died peacefully on Wednesday, June 27, 2018 at the Good Samaritan Home in Winthrop. He was born May 8, 1930 and attended a country school, District 68, in Sigel Township, Brown County. On November 25, 1952 he married Delores Ellig and together raised three daughters and a son on their farm in Sigel Township. They retired in 1981 and moved to New Ulm. LeRoy loved to share his talent for playing the concertina, performing at countless anniversaries, church celebrations, festivals, and at senior living communities over the years. He was honored with the Outstanding Senior Citizen's Award and inducted into the World Concertina Hall of Fame.

**Susan C. "Sue" Sands:** Sue was born December 26, 1946 and graduated from Goodhue High School. She attended the University of Minnesota and completed her education at Concordia University in St. Paul, receiving a Bachelors Degree with a Major in organ and music. She married Ray Sands on December 12, 1970 and were blessed with 2 daughters. Sue spent her life sharing her incredible talent as a musician, writing, arranging, teaching and performing various genre of music; in addition to being a church organist for 58 years (starting when she was 13). She taught music at Lourdes, Goodhue and Kenyon-Wanamingo High Schools as well as private piano lessons. Sue enjoyed performing with other groups including The Polka Dots, Ray Sands Combo, Sweet Dreams, Julie Lee's White Rose Band, Whoopee John, church choirs and many more. She died on September 9, 2018 from complications of diabetes.

**Lorren C. Lindevig:** From Scanlon, MN was born May 1, 1932 in Lambert, MT. He passed away on Tuesday, September 25, 2018 at the age 86. Lorren served in the MN National Guard and worked for the Potlatch Corp. in Cloquet for 44 years. He started his musical career at the age of two, playing on a Button Box, and then on the accordion at the age of eight. He played in the Westernaires Band, the Chmielewski Fun Time Band for 60 years, and with Myron Floren. Lorren played for many community events including Senior Centers and senior events, nursing homes, churches and was inducted into the Polka Hall of Fame at Ironworld USA in Chisholm in 1998, the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame in New Ulm in 2013 and was the Grand Marshall for the Cloquet 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade in 2016. Lorren also received the Outstanding Senior Citizen Award in 2002.

**Thank you:** A big thank you to Jeff and Becky Braegelmann for their donation of picture frames. If any of our members have something that needs a home and think it will fit in with our Museum, give us a call.

## **Upcoming Events:**

- Annual MMHF Induction Ceremony & Banquet – **Friday, Nov. 2, 2018**
- Showcase Day: **Sat. Nov. 3 – 10-2**
- Annual Meeting: **Jan. 3, 2019** at the St. George Parish Center
- Fundraiser, featuring Reunion Band of Earl Schmidt & Jerry Schuff **March 3, 2019** – Turner Hall, New Ulm



## **Minnesota Music Hall of Fame, Inc.**

### **\$1,000 Music Scholarship**

Download the application form:  
[www.mnmusicalloffame.org](http://www.mnmusicalloffame.org)

Contact the Museum for Eligibility Criteria

*Scholarship funded by the  
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