The G. Herbert Clarke Award

The Plymouth Philharmonic was founded in 1913 by Kingston violin teacher G. Herbert Clarke. This award, named in his honor, celebrates the work of individuals who have gone above and beyond to support the Phil and to help make the orchestra what it is today. This award was presented on September 12, 2017 at the Phil’s Bravo Breakfast.

The Plymouth Philharmonic is pleased to award the G. Herbert Clarke Award to Kathy McMinn in recognition for her leadership as the founding and long-time director of our Plymouth Children’s Chorus, as well as the creator of the Phil’s Music Immersion Program for Plymouth elementary students. Her collaborative work with the Phil has enriched both the organization and the greater Plymouth community for many years.

A Plymouth native, Kathy retired in June 2017 from the Plymouth Public School district after 32 years of service as a music educator at the Federal Furnace Elementary School. Kathy has inspired thousands of children through her mentorship, dynamic leadership and dedication to the joys of making music. The high quality of children’s choral performances on the South Shore is due to Kathy’s involvement in a wide range of musical activities for youth.

More than thirteen years ago Kathy created a unique program of bringing Phil musicians into Plymouth elementary school classrooms, and then bringing 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students to Memorial Hall for a full Plymouth Philharmonic concert designed expressly for them. Through grant writing, fundraising, and her unflagging energy, Kathy inaugurated the first Music Immersion Program in collaboration with Music Director Steven Karidoyanes in the fall of 2005. Today, that program remains the centerpiece of the Phil’s outreach programs. Thanks to Kathy and her long-time association with the Phil, every child in the Plymouth Public Schools can graduate having had direct experience with this unique program.

Outside the classroom Kathy regularly worked with the Federal Furnace School Chorus at our Holiday Pops concerts, the Plymouth International Children’s Chorus and the African Children’s Chorus. In the fall of 2017, Kathy is traveling to Uganda to join a choir team from Australia to work with the African Children’s Choir. Brava Kathy!