



Visual and Performing Arts CODA Legacy Award

2023 Honorees

Donald Ambrosen



Don Ambrosen's early passion for music led him to Morningside College, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Music Education degree in 1966. He later went on to receive his Master's Degree from Claremont Graduate University in Violin Performance in 1972, followed by a Doctorate of Musical Arts degree in violin performance from the University of Southern California in 1977.

Ambrosen found his way to Morningside through Leo Kucinski. During just his sophomore year of high school, Ambrosen, who attended Central High School in Sioux City, auditioned for Kucinski and was accepted as a pre-college violin student. While on campus, he played in the Morningside College Chamber Orchestra, Sioux City Symphony Orchestra, and Sioux Falls Symphony Orchestra.

Throughout his years, Ambrosen has taught at many different colleges and universities around the country. During his senior year of college, he started his teaching career teaching violin at Briar Cliff College. After graduation, he taught simultaneously in the Sioux Falls, South Dakota Public Schools and part-time at Briar Cliff. By 1967, Ambrosen was teaching at Briar Cliff full-time. In the summer of 1968, Don received the opportunity to play in the American Symphony Orchestra League's conductor's workshop in California. He then went to Augustana College, where he taught from 1968-1970.

Ambrosen most notably served as full professor at California State University Pomona from 1975 until his retirement in 2004. During his time there, he was also an Artist in Residence at California State University Fullerton from 1989-1990. In addition to his work as a violinist, he has undertaken self-directed studies in ethnomusicology, focusing on the music of Norway, India, and Norwegian-Americans. He studied hardingfele (a folk fiddle from Norway) and Karnatic (South Indian) classical music.

Jean (Peters) Hickman



Dr. Jean Hickman, a 1981 Morningside alumna, serves as Professor of Choral/Vocal Music at Daytona State College, where she directs multiple choral ensembles and teaches applied voice and aural skills. Prior to her appointment at DSC, Dr. Hickman served as Assistant Professor of Music at Morningside College, where she taught graduate and undergraduate courses in music education and directed the women's ensemble. Hickman's advanced degrees include a Master of Music in Voice from the University of South Dakota and a PhD in music education/choral conducting from the University of Florida. While in residence as a UF Teaching Fellow, Jean directed the Women's Chorale and formed and directed graduate and undergraduate vocal jazz choirs. One of the highlights of her graduate studies was a conducting fellowship in Vienna, Austria, where she conducted the Brahms' Requiem with festival chorus and orchestra.

Prior to moving to Florida, Dr. Hickman served as Humanities Assistant Division Chair and Director of Choral Activities at Western Iowa Tech Community College. Hickman built a performing arts program from the ground up at WITCC, writing curriculum, instituting degree pathways and recruiting talented instructors and students for the program. Preceding her tenure at WITCC, Hickman taught in the public schools of Sioux City, Iowa, where she taught both instrumental and choral music at all levels K-12. Jean's work in the Sioux City Schools led to her selection as SCCS Teacher of the Year and the University of Iowa Outstanding Educator Award. Hickman is known for increasing both the level of participation and the quality of performance in each of her programs, and her choral ensembles have received numerous state and national awards. She is a strong proponent of vocal jazz and created new vocal jazz ensembles in her teaching situations. Her voice students have been consistent finalists in both state and regional NATS student auditions, and several have gone on to successful careers in musical theater, opera and music education.

Dr. Hickman is an active festival conductor, adjudicator and clinician. She continues to love teaching music.

Timothy Jepson



Timothy Jepson became principal timpanist of the Kansas City Symphony in August 1983. Jepson is a native of rural western Iowa and began his career as a professional timpanist in the Sioux City Symphony, (IA), at age 18. He graduated with honors from Morningside University in Sioux City, Iowa. Jepson played percussion and recorded with the Kansas City Brass from 1994-2011. He has participated as timpanist and percussionist with the Arkansas Music Festival, Fayetteville, AR, Sunflower

Music Festival, Topeka, KS, and the Western Slope Music Festival, Crested Butte, CO. He has been an active clinician, adjudicator and marching percussion specialist developing championship sections throughout metropolitan Kansas City. He served as adjunct faculty as timpani specialist at Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas from 1995-2002.

Elected by his colleagues, he has served on numerous Symphony committees including as musicians' representative to the Kansas City Symphony's Board of Trustees, Local 34-627 Kansas City Federation of Musicians Executive Board, and repeatedly served as delegate to the International Conference of Symphony and Opera Musicians, (ICSOM), a players conference of the American Federation of Musicians.

Tim enjoys collecting antique timpani. His oldest pair are German Baroque timpani built in 1750. He also owns several mid to late 19th century timpani from Brussels, Rotterdam, and Altenburg. In August of 2023 Tim received delivery of his unique pair of 1888 F. Van Cauwelaert Belgian timpani with brass bowls. They were medal winners at the 1889 World's Fair in Paris, the same Fair that featured the unveiling of the Eiffel Tower. They were also awarded medals at world expositions in Brussels and Antwerp. In the summer of 2022 he acquired four early 20th century pedal timpani built in Chicago IL. Tim uses these historical instruments and techniques on period appropriate repertoire with the Symphony.

Shannon Sargent



Shannon Sargent, a Morningside alum (2000), has been teaching art and managing the galleries at Morningside University for more than twenty years. He has collaborated on numerous art installations with different Morningside faculty members and continues to exhibit these installations to this day. Sargent has also been a Juror, Lecturer, and Artist Mentor for other universities such as the Iowa State University, University of Texas of the Permian Basin, and The Art Institute Boston at Lesley University.

Sargent is also the Exhibitions & Collections Coordinator at the Sioux City Art Center. He maintains the permanent collection and has installed exhibits such as *Jackson Pollock: Mural*. Sargent collaborates with other organizations to establish art events like Art Walk, Alley Art, and Sculpt Siouxland. He has been the Artist-In-Residence and an instructor at the Sioux City Art Center teaching a variety of classes to a wide range of students.

Sargent is an artist who exhibits in the region and has a studio at Art SUX Gallery. He holds an M.F.A. in Painting from the University of South Dakota, and his art is in the collections at the Washington Pavilion, Northwestern College, Arkansas Tech University, and many other private collections. He has been in various publications including the "Briar Cliff Review" and "The Morningside Kiosk". He has contributed art pieces for auction to support charitable organizations such as Boys & Girls Home, Crittenton Center, and the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

Past CODA Legacy Award Recipients

2019

John Bowitz
Herb Koerselman '63
Leo Kucinski '36
Betty Skewis-Arnett '84

2020

Lucy (Yoshioka) Buhler '56
Russel Clifford '69
Tyrone Greive '65
Kristine Jepson '84
John Kolbo '78
Gail Royer '56
Gary Slechta '64

2021

Gene Ambroson
Tom Gerking '90
Terri McGaffin
Paul Niebuhr '87

2022

Gloria (Rogalla) Corbin '63
Keith Dye '79
Karla (Engbard) Santi '98
Mark Schnaible '82
Eleanor (Everett) Tasker '49