

Nomination of **Linda Witchie** for 2021 Indiana Teacher of the Year

Linda Larson Witchie, NCTM, with a degree in Piano Performance from the University of Colorado - Boulder and a Masters in Piano Performance from University of Michigan, was President of the South Bend Area Music Teachers Association from 1997-1999 and again in 2016-2018. In 1999, she was honored as "Member of the Year" by SBAMTA.

Throughout her involvement with SBAMTA, Linda has served in various capacities including President, Vice-President, Program Chair, and Treasurer, and most recently as Community Outreach Coordinator to bring music education to the forefront in the greater Michiana area. She created a link with the South Bend Symphony wherein Stickley Piano Competition Winners play in the lobby before concerts, obtained Yoshi vouchers giving free symphony admission to local students, created a presence at the local Art Beat Festival, and an information booth at the Halloween festivities at the local Zoo. As a program director and advisor, she has brought in multiple grants allowing us to bring in well-known presenters and clinicians such as Randy Faber, Melody Bober, Catherine Rollin, Jane McGrath, Robert Vandall and Marvin Blickenstaff.

Linda was an Adjunct faculty member at IUSB and routinely teaches a seminar at St. Mary's College for budding music teachers, and has been instrumental in numerous festivals and recitals. She has been a member of Indiana Music Teachers Association for more than 25 years and served as State Composition Chair of that organization for two years. Linda is a nationally certified member of Music Teachers National Association, earning her "Permanent Professional" status in October of 2007. She is also a faculty member of the National Guild of Piano Teachers. Linda piloted new piano teaching materials for Faber & Faber of F.J.H. Publishing for more than twenty years. She also served as both Consulting Editor and New Publication Evaluator for F.J.H. Publishing from 1992-2003. She now serves as a performance adjudicator for local and regional competitions.

Modest and unassuming, Linda has a private studio that has consistently produced winners and honorable mentions at the annual Stickley Piano Competition every year for the past 20 years! Linda provides a steady voice of reason, is always quick with helpful information, and is even quicker with a thank you. It is a marvel to see so much energy expended for music education across multiple decades while raising a family of her own. Her colleagues at SBAMTA find it a real pleasure to serve with Linda Witchie in the profession of music teaching.

Submitted by Kelly Havens, past President of SBAMTA
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