



MANITOBA OPERA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 15, 2020

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Darlene Ronald, Director of Marketing
204-255-0508/dronald84@shaw.ca

MANITOBA OPERA NAMES TANNIS M. RICHARDSON AS 2020 RECIPIENT OF THE GAIL ASPER AWARD

Manitoba Opera announced today that the company will honour Winnipeg champion, philanthropist, and volunteer Tannis M. Richardson C.M., B.Sc. (H. Ec.), LL.D. with The Gail Asper Award. The Gail Asper Award was created by Manitoba Opera in 2018 to honour individuals who demonstrate exemplary leadership in a field of endeavor or pursuit of a visionary goal.

Mrs. Richardson has made a significant difference in her hometown of Winnipeg and across the country through her decades of work and dedication to the arts, health care, and cultural organizations. She will receive The Gail Asper Award at a Gala Reception held in her honour Thursday, April 16, 2020, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the Manitoba Club, 194 Broadway, Winnipeg.

Mrs. Richardson cares deeply about her community and giving back. She has been a dedicated supporter of numerous health, cultural, and social service organizations. She has been especially committed to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation of Canada (JDRF), serving at the community and national levels, as well as with JDRF International.

In addition, she has contributed time and funds to many organizations including Manitoba Opera (for which she sat on the board from 1975 to 1978), the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Manitoba Museum, United Way of Winnipeg, and the Kidney Foundation of Canada, and played an instrumental role in the development of the Winnipeg Art Gallery, as well as other organizations. In recognition of her philanthropy and community service, and among other awards, Mrs. Richardson was invested in the Order of Canada in 2003 and awarded an honorary degree by the University of Manitoba in 2012. (Bio follows)

“I am very touched to be receiving The Gail Asper Award,” said Mrs. Richardson. “We can all work to make our community a better place. Philanthropy not only supports causes financially, but includes volunteering your time and exerting oneself for the well-being of others. It could be a gesture, a smile, or a kind word. We can all be philanthropists. To be recognized for my philanthropic and volunteer work with The Gail Asper Award is indeed an honour.”

2. MB Opera Honours Tannis M. Richardson with The Gail Asper Award

The role that Mrs. Richardson has played in shaping and growing the cultural and charitable sector in Winnipeg is significant. Volunteerism is a strong value, and she is always thinking about what she can do next to make our community better.

“We are delighted to honour such a fine, outstanding, and hardworking member of our community with The Gail Asper Award,” commented Elba Haid, Chair of Manitoba Opera’s Board of Trustees. “Tannis has been a staunch supporter of many organizations and causes over the years. We are so fortunate that this tireless, dedicated champion of our city and indeed, the entire country, has continued to call Winnipeg her home.”

For information on Gala Reception tickets and sponsorship opportunities, contact Tania Douglas, Director of Development, Manitoba Opera at 204-942-2163, or go to mbopera.ca

ABOUT MANITOBA OPERA

Manitoba Opera is the only professional opera company between Toronto and Calgary and is a vital part of the province’s rich vocal tradition. The company’s mission is to change people’s lives through the glory of opera.

The 2019/20 season marks the company’s 47th. It annually presents two fully staged mainstage productions which feature the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and are held at the Centennial Concert Hall, as well as numerous community engagement initiatives and education programming throughout the year. The company annually attracts more than 25,000 people to its productions and programs.

TANNIS M. RICHARDSON, C.M., B.Sc. (H. Ec.), LL.D.

Tannis M. Richardson is a volunteer leader and outstanding philanthropist, renowned for her community involvement. Born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Mrs. Richardson was educated at the University of Manitoba, from which she graduated with a degree in Home Economics. The wife of the late George T. Richardson, she is a pillar of the community and has helped shape many of the arts, culture and health organizations in our province and across the country.

Mrs. Richardson's dedication has spanned many decades, from serving as a Voluntary Aid Nurse at a young age during the Second World War to raising millions of dollars through her volunteer leadership. There are few communities, organizations or causes in Manitoba that have not benefited from Mrs. Richardson's generosity.

As a champion of arts, culture and health, Mrs. Richardson has served on the boards of directors of or spearheaded major fundraising initiatives for Manitoba Opera, the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Health Sciences Centre Foundation, Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research, Balmoral Hall, Assiniboine Park Conservancy, Rainbow Stage and the Royal Aviation Museum of Western Canada.

Following the death of their daughter at the age of 29, Mrs. Richardson, along with three couples with diabetic children, spearheaded the formation of the Manitoba chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation and the fundraising event Starry Starry Night Gala. She also played an instrumental role in the development of the Winnipeg Art Gallery.

For her outstanding leadership and community service, Mrs. Richardson was awarded the Order of Canada in 2003 and she has received many additional awards and accolades, including an Honorary Doctorate of Laws degree from the University of Manitoba, the HSC Foundation Laureate of Excellence Award, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International One Step Closer Award, and a Manitoba Philanthropy Award.

////////////////////