

MBCI

2015 Grade 12 Music Award



Hannah Doerksen

Hannah Doerksen has distinguished herself in many ways at MBCI over the past seven years, but our music program has especially benefited from her formidable talent, a fact made very evident by many nominators. As a singer, Hannah has been an important member of the soprano section of both the Concert Choir and Chamber Singers, performing many important solos, and serving as a role model for other singers to emulate. She has sung in Talent Chapels, worship bands, the WSO Musicians in the Making pre-concert recital series, NestFest, and in many other co-curricular situations. As a horn player, Hannah subbed in the Concert Band even before officially joining the ensemble in Grade Ten, and eventually became the section leader. She also played horn in both Junior and Senior Jazz Bands for several years. Outside the school, Hannah successfully auditioned for three Manitoba Honour Bands as a horn player, two at the Junior level, and one Intermediate. In MBCI's musicals, back in Grade Six, Hannah was both a Winkie and a Munchkin in *The Wiz*, and then two years later played a daughter in *Fiddler on the Roof*. In Grade Ten she performed the role of Liesl in *The Sound of Music*. This year, Hannah played the title role of Belle in *Beauty and the Beast*. All four productions received a Rainbow Stage High School Musical Award. Her performance of Belle drew a favourable response both from audience members and fellow performers, who wrote that she always came prepared to rehearsals and could be counted on to encourage those around her. Nominators spoke of Hannah having an amazing voice, and being an active participant in every musical ensemble and opportunity available at MBCI. An exceptional performer, both as a musician and an actor, Hannah was never one to brag about her talent. She loves what she does, and works hard to make every group she is a part of better. Hannah, we wish you our best as you continue to use and develop your God-given musical abilities beyond our walls!

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Tanner Gesell

*Although a latecomer to MBCI compared to his fellow Music Award recipients, **Tanner Gesell** has done much to catch up, playing euphonium, trombone, and singing in the Concert Choir and Chamber Singers. In Grade Eleven, Tanner achieved the highest euphonium sight-reading score on record at MBCI, the second-highest brass score ever, and the 10th highest score overall. His two years as euphonium section leader in the National Youth Band of Canada point to him being one of the finest in the country. He has also been a part of the Denis Wick Canadian Wind Orchestra in Toronto, the University of Manitoba Concert Band and Jazz Orchestra, and a group of advanced players called the Brass Collective. Tanner has also successfully auditioned for the Manitoba Intermediate and Senior Honour Bands several times, as well as the various Honour Jazz Bands, where he played trombone. At school, Tanner has had many important trombone solos in the Senior Jazz Band, and was named the Top Brass Soloist at the 2013 Brandon Jazz Festival. Tanner has always been willing to give of his time to help others, mentoring and teaching several young players, and being a support to his classmates. In Grade Ten, Tanner was part of the cast for MBCI's award-winning production of *The Sound of Music*, and this year performed the role of Maurice in this year's award-winning production of *Beauty and the Beast*. In everything he does, Tanner is gifted, confident, charismatic, highly empathetic to those around him, tenaciously dedicated to doing his best, and deeply intelligent and aware of the larger picture in any ensemble situation. Tanner has taken advantage of every opportunity to use his considerable gifts. He works on a professional level in terms of musical understanding, consistency, and ensemble sense. Tanner makes it his business to be an asset to every musical situation he is in, and is unfailingly kind and encouraging to everyone around him. Comments from his many nominators included "an all-around musical mastermind", "filled with a boisterous joy for music making", "inspires us all to play better", and "makes his ensembles better while having fun". Tanner, we wish you God's choicest blessings in all your future activities!*

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Paul Klassen

Paul Klassen ranks among the top tier of percussionists to come out of MBCI, but has made his mark in many areas of school musical life. He received an impressive number of nominations from students in every grade, reflecting contributions in both the instrumental and choral programs, and extensive involvement outside the school as well. Paul has participated in virtually every music opportunity available to him, including band, jazz band, choir, vocal jazz, worship teams at school and at church, combos, and musical productions. Paul has successfully auditioned for a staggering number of honour ensembles dating back to Grade Seven, including multiple years with the Manitoba Junior, Intermediate, and Senior Honour Bands, each time as percussion section leader, various Manitoba Honour Jazz Bands, and the National Youth Band of Canada. Paul has been a member of the Winnipeg Youth Orchestras, Provincial Honour Choirs, the Winnipeg Youth Chorus and its select core group, Enharmony. He has volunteered and instructed at the Elmwood Junior Band Summer Camp and has been a mentor, private teacher, and inspiration to many students younger and older than him. At MBCI, Paul has twice been a member of Stuco, organized and played in Talent Chapels, played on chapel worship teams, helped organize, arrange and perform in this year's NestFest, and been a part of all four musical productions that occurred during his time here. In Grade Six he was part of the chorus for *The Wiz*, then two years later played one of the sons in *Fiddler on the Roof*. In Grade Ten he performed the role of Baron Elberfeld in *The Sound of Music*. This spring, Paul performed the role of Gaston in *Beauty and the Beast*. All four productions received a Rainbow Stage High School Musical Award. His nominators wrote comments such as "an unreal percussionist", "extremely talented", "willing to share his abilities and help others improve", and "a great person - always helps out when called upon". Paul, you have set the bar high for future musical leaders at school. God be with you as you continue to inspire beyond our walls!

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Naomi Peters

Naomi Peters received nominations for this award from students in every grade, in numbers which exceed any other recipient in memory. These nominations can partly be explained by her exceptional vocal ability and musicianship, and her willingness to be involved and serve in so many areas of our music program. But a closer read reveals a truer picture - that she is equally held in such high esteem for who she is as a person. Typical of the comments are “always friendly with everyone whether they are on her musical level or not”, “compassionate”, “always brings a smile to your face”. Naomi has been a cornerstone of every ensemble she participates in, from the Concert Choir and Chamber Singers, where she sang many important solos, to playing trumpet in the Concert Band and Senior Jazz Band. She has been a part of Talent Chapels, worship bands in both school and church, and WSO Musicians in the Making pre-concert recital series. Naomi has attended several vocal jazz camps, locally and at places such as the International Music Camp, and has been offered an unprecedented amount of scholarship money for her post-secondary music studies. In MBCI’s musicals, Naomi was part of the chorus for *The Wiz*, and then played the role of Shprintze in *Fiddler on the Roof*. In Grade Ten Naomi performed the lead role of Maria in *The Sound of Music*. This year, Naomi played the role of Mrs. Potts in *Beauty and the Beast*. All four productions received a Rainbow Stage High School Musical Award. Naomi is one of those individuals whose very presence and bearing can sell a performance, and she brings out the best in the people around her. She is dedicated, focused, responsive, empathetic, always prepared, and musically mature beyond her years. She has a calming effect in ensemble rehearsals, and is unflappable under pressure. Her peers look up to her, and she is seen as a role model to students in every grade. Naomi, your service to our school is beyond comprehension. We trust that you will continue to give honour to the One who gave you your creative gifts!

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Michael Segstro

*Over his six years at our school, **Michael Segstro** has revealed a passion for performing, one that did not go unnoticed by those who nominated him. Michael can command the attention of an entire audience, whether singing, playing piano, or acting, and has shown a commitment to getting involved in whatever performing opportunities are available. In the Concert Band, Michael was a key member of the percussion section, and could always be counted upon to play on any instrument at a high level. As a tenor in both the Concert Choir and Chamber Singers, Michael contributed intelligence, subtlety, depth, and consistency to the ensembles. In earlier years, he was a member of the clarinet section in the band before turning his focus to percussion, and also drummed on worship teams at church. Michael is also an accomplished pianist, and was a part of the Pit Orchestra for MBCI's award-winning production of Fiddler on the Roof, playing keyboard accordion and celeste. Over his years at MBCI, Michael has played many important piano parts in ensembles, ranging from Chick Corea's Spain with the Senior Jazz Band opening for the Winnipeg Jazz Orchestra and again at the Brandon Jazz Festival, to Children's March and Turkish Delight with the Concert Band. In his Grade Ten year, Michael was again a part of the school musical, this time on stage as part of the cast of the award-winning Sound of Music. Michael was also a member of the Stuco Music Committee in his Grade Eleven year, showing a keen sense of comic timing as an emcee of the Talent Chapels. After many years of being involved in so many areas of performance at MBCI, Michael's most impressive accomplishment perhaps came in Grade Twelve with his stellar performance of the role of Lumiere in the award-winning Beauty and the Beast, a part that called for a larger-than-life persona as an actor, singer, dancer, and not to mention, a French accent. Michael, your unique talents will be missed after graduation this June, but we know you will continue to use your God-given gifts to inspire others!*

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Ezra Taves

*“What hasn’t Ezra done?” asked one nominator. Good question! **Ezra Taves** has been at the centre of MBCI’s music program since Grade Six, enriching our school beyond measure as a singer, tuba and euphonium player, trombonist, guitarist, and singing in four musical productions. A naturally-gifted tenor, Ezra was an anchor in both the Concert Choir and Chamber Singers, completely transforming the sound of those around him by his sheer talent and musicianship. One of the top-ranking MBCI singers of all time, Ezra has performed countless solos and made it possible for the ensembles to perform all sorts of repertoire that would have otherwise not worked. In the band, Ezra began on euphonium, switched to tuba on request, then later picked up trombone when that was the greater need, then went back to tuba for his graduating year. He also played guitar in the jazz bands for several years. Ezra could always be counted on to perform in everything MBCI has to offer, from Talent Chapels to worship teams, NestFest, the WSO Musicians in the Making pre-concert recital series, the Manitoba Music Conference, fundraising banquets, and practically everything else. In MBCI’s musicals, back in Grade Six, Ezra was both a Winkie and a Munchkin for The Wiz, and then two years later played one of the papas in Fiddler on the Roof. In Grade Ten he performed the role of Max Detweiler in The Sound of Music. This year, Ezra played the title role of the Beast in Beauty and the Beast. All four productions received a Rainbow Stage High School Musical Award. Nominators wrote of Ezra’s love of music, his amazing vocal range, his dedication and determination, how he pushes others to succeed, and how he works hard to make sure he does well in everything he does. Watching Ezra create and perform music, whether as a soloist or with others, it is evident that he has a heart for what he does. His contribution to the musical life of MBCI will resonate for many years. Ezra, we wish you God’s blessings as you chart your course for the future!*