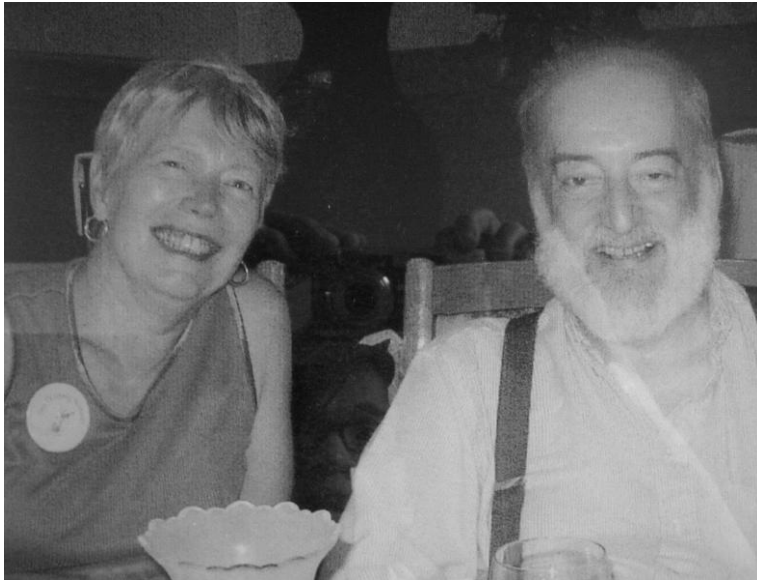


Bill and Daphne Hughes (2002)



Bill and Daphne Hughes were moving forces in the development of the vibrant Guelph music community for more than three decades. Their knowledge and enthusiasm have benefitted community members of all ages, but especially young people.

Daphne and Bill were key members of a small group which founded the Suzuki String School of Guelph in 1972. Daphne was its founding Artistic Director and dynamic leader for many years. The Suzuki String School of Guelph is widely recognized as one of the leading examples of the application of Suzuki pedagogy in North America. The philosophy of the Suzuki movement and the Guelph school reflects Daphne's fierce belief that given the proper environment and nurturing, all children can learn to play a musical instrument, and that music should provide for young people an enjoyable group activity free from the negative aspects of a too competitive environment.

The energy, enthusiasm and commitment of Bill and Daphne Hughes were also key to the creation of the Guelph Youth Orchestra, the Guelph Chamber Choir of which Bill was a member for many years, and the Guelph Chamber Music Society. In the 1990s, they were keen supporters of the initiative which ultimately created the Guelph Youth Music Centre.

In 1981, the Chamber of Commerce of the City of Guelph recognized the contributions of this couple with a citizenship award.

In May of 1998, Daphne was a recipient of the Outstanding Teacher Award given by the Suzuki Association of the Americas. Only seven Suzuki teachers worldwide have been so honoured.