

Choral Arts Ensemble announces recipients of its new Choral Advocacy Award

In celebration of its 25th season, Choral Arts Ensemble has created a new **Choral Advocacy Award** to honor those supporters and volunteers who give time and resources to advocate for Choral Arts Ensemble and the choral art in general. On November 7th, at the Founder's Dinner honoring CAE founder Rick Kvam, current CAE Artistic Director Michael Culloton awarded the inaugural **Choral Arts Ensemble Choral Advocacy Award** to Rick and Jan Kvam for creating both Choral Arts Ensemble and its sister organization, the Honors Choirs of Southeast Minnesota, for commissioning new choral works, for leading and accompanying the ensemble for 18 years, and thus raising the bar for artistic excellence in southeast Minnesota and beyond. "What an honor it is to continue living out Rick's vision on a daily basis," said Michael Culloton. "Rick truly did make music that mattered to all who heard it."

Immediately following this announcement, Mr. Culloton then awarded the first annual **Kvam Choral Advocacy Award**, as it shall from now on be called, to Randall and Marcia Edson, longtime supporters of Choral Arts Ensemble. The Edsons have served on the board of directors (Randy Edson is currently a director), have been consistent donors, have advocated for CAE in the community and have given countless hours as volunteers, both behind the scenes, Mrs. Edson as benefit chair and committee member, and on the stage, Dr. Edson as pianist and timpanist for many concerts. Said Mr. Culloton, "The Edsons have been most generous with their time, talent, and resources to improve our organization."

The **Kvam Choral Advocacy Award** will be awarded each fall at the opening of the ensemble's season.