

FASO MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP SALUTE TO IRMA KORDINAK

(B. February 27, 1930 – D. December 20, 2021)

The Friends of the Amherst Symphony Orchestra would like to share a memory with the Amherst community about a very important member of the Symphony family. Irma Kordinak, who passed away on December 20, 2021, was a piano teacher for many years, having studied at the Conservatory of Music of Oberlin College, as well as studying at Eastman School of Music and the University of Buffalo.

Over 37 years ago, in 1985, Irma Kordinak invited some members of the ASO Women's Committee (now called Friends Committee) to her home to discuss an idea about a music scholarship to be sponsored annually by the group. Irma, Marion Fay, Peggy Wincenc (wife of ASO Conductor Dr. Joseph Wincenc) and Joan Fishburn sat around Irma's kitchen table and hashed out the student requirements, rules and regulations for an annual music scholarship to be awarded to a high school senior music student planning to major in music in college. The student was to be from the Town of Amherst, going to a public or private school, or related to an orchestra, Association Board or Women's Committee member. These meetings were the beginnings of the present FASO/Williamsville Rotary Music Scholarship, (the Rotary of Williamsville joined with FASO in 1990) now valued at \$2000, that is won through audition and judged by professional musicians of Erie County.

The meetings around Irma's kitchen table have been fruitful and full of promise for 37 years of students of all musical instruments, including voice. The Friends Committee has Irma Kordinak to thank for this annual help to students planning music careers.

We are grateful to Sharron (Jo) Rich for her dedication and leadership as Chair of the present FASO/Williamsville Rotary Scholarship program.

