

Where Are They Now?

KFPA ALUMNI PROFILE



Tony Cuzzetto – Participant 1982-90

A perennial Festival competitor throughout the 80s, in multiple divisions spanning jazz/pop/classical organ to speech arts, piano, and choral, Tony reminisces fondly of his time spent perfecting his craft on local venue stages.

“The festival was a huge motivating force for me. I definitely enjoyed competing and it served me well to have goals to work towards.”

Tony believes the confidence he gained through competing in the festival, and being successful, made his decision to pursue music professionally, that much easier.

As a teen, Tony was an active member of the Kamloops and region musical scene. For several years, as an official Blazers Hockey Club organist teamed up with good friend Todd Westphal, Tony capably fulfilled the task of juicing up the fans at the Memorial Arena.

Three decades after wowing Festival adjudicators with his organ playing skills, Tony still gets stopped by seniors who recall watching him in the Festival.

Tony earned a Bachelor of Music degree and Bachelor of Education in Secondary Music Studies from UBC. He currently serves as St. Ann’s Academy’s high school music director, and Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish’s music director. As an educator, Tony enters his choral groups in the Festival, and has long encouraged his students to enter the Festival as solo participants as well.

“The festival is a very special part of our community, and gives so many kids the opportunity to display their gifts and talents, and promote the performing arts. It will always have a special place in my heart!”