

Bill Dimmer has been described as a “cornerstone” of Edmonton’s music scene. The structural metaphor explains his selection as an Artist/Builder in Edmonton’s Arts and Culture Hall of Fame 2014. Between his arrival in 1971 and his retirement from the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra in 2014, Bill served as a teacher, mentor, administrator, conductor, and performer, including a potential Canadian record 43 seasons as ESO assistant principal trumpet. Bill played a seminal role in creating the ESO’s educational concert series, which he was involved in for over 20 years and introduced a generation of Edmontonians to the orchestra. The ESO has been at the forefront of educational programming in North America and much of the credit is due to Bill’s talent for engaging young people – he’s been known to don eye-popping theme costumes, from green cats to aliens, to win their attention.

Bill has shared his musical knowledge with countless private students, teaching at post-secondary institutions such as the University of Alberta and Grant MacEwan University, acting as clinician and adjudicator at workshops and festivals in Western Canada, and, with students at the MusiCamrose summer music camp, where he served as managing director for several years. He has performed with many groups including the Tommy Banks Band and the Plumbers Union, and is music director of the Nova Musica Concert Orchestra and has recently conducted The Edmonton Youth Orchestra, The New Edmonton Wind Symphonia and the Mill Creek Colliery Band .

A skilled pilot, he teaches ground school at the Edmonton Flying Club and is an active air crew member and instructor with the Civil Air Search and Rescue Association. He has been known to fly colleagues to remote northern communities as part of the National Arts Centre’s music outreach clinics.