



**Emily B. Fraser**

## **Award for Most Enthusiasm, Inspiration, Dedication to the Chorus**

### **Most Enthusiasm, Inspiration, Dedication**

It's the spirit in how we live that often makes the difference.

### **About Emily B. Fraser**

Emily Bryant was the third child born to Samuel and Georgia Bryant of Lakewood, NY. Standing only 5'1", the shortest member of her high school basketball team, it was either her skill or charm that got her elected as captain of the team. She attended Fredonia College in Buffalo, NY for Bachelor and Master Degrees in Music. In 1929 Emily became the first director of music for the Seneca Falls School District. In 1932, she married John Fraser and started a family. The Depression put a great financial strain on the Seneca Falls School District and at one point, they told the couple that they could only afford to pay one salary. Emily and John knew how much the students benefitted from both the band and choral music programs. Rather than choosing one, they told the district that they would both continue to work for one salary. To support their family, John took additional jobs in the community, teaching private lessons at night and on weekends. Emily became the organist and choir director at St. Patrick's Catholic Church. Their second salary was reinstated by the school district after a couple of lean depression years. Emily with John raised three children. In addition to her roles as wife, mom, and vocal music educator, Emily served the needs of the local community throughout her lifetime. For many years, she and John hosted evenings at their home to prepare and produce the annual spring Rotary Minstrel Show, a community fundraiser that benefitted local social programs. In her retirement, she participated in organizations such as the National Women's Hall of Fame, Seneca Falls Historical Society, and Meals on Wheels. We honor her life and contributions with this annual award.