

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

LOUIS PANACCIULLI



It is not surprising that the son of Pauline and Joseph Panacciulli now makes his livelihood teaching young children how to cultivate their musical talents. Although both of Louis Panacciulli's parents, who were Italian immigrants, were trades people, his mother was also a pianist while his father a guitarist and violinist. Following the birth of his brother, Gennaro and sister, Elissa, Louis was born in 1950 in Astoria, New York. His older brother and sister dabbled with piano lessons but Louis took his studies much more seriously and continued his training from the age of 7 to 16 years old. He exhibited early signs of a career direction toward music which seemed to come quite naturally to him. He attended Astoria's Most Precious Blood School from the first to eighth grade at which time he moved on to Power Memorial Academy from 1964-1968 following in his brother's footsteps who graduated in the class of 1959. In Louis' freshmen year, he took up clarinet and played in the band for four years receiving numerous music awards at graduation. When college was on the horizon, he became a student at Pace/NYU in a unique two college program for Music Education in 1972 and went on to receive his Master's Degree from NYU in 1973.

After moving to Franklin Square on Long Island, while being employed in the corporate world, Louis missed a steady diet of music in his life and in 1984 while playing his clarinet in a local show, cultivated the concept with co-founder Dawn Manuel to create their own orchestra. This proved to be a turning point in Louis' life as his 65-piece group, The Nassau Pops Symphony Orchestra, has not only just celebrated its 31st year but also has had the privilege of working with such notables as Marvin Hamlisch, Joe Piscopo, Linda Eder, Jimmy Webb, the original members of The Brooklyn Bridge, and The CAST of Beatlemania. The Nassau Pops performs a summer concert series and many benefit concerts, most recently for United Cerebral Palsy. In April of 2014, the orchestra was privileged to perform a concert with Bill O'Reilly of FOX News for the benefit of The Independence Fund which provides hi-tech track chairs to our severely wounded veterans affording them the mobility they deserve when returning from the battlefield.

In 1991, Louis was appointed Conductor of the Nassau Community College Concert Band where he still serves as an Adjunct Professor. He also served as the Conductor of the Valley Stream Community Orchestra from 1991 until 2001 and for many years conducted the choir at Bible Baptist Church in Syosset, New York. In 1996 his corporate work-life came to an end when Louis was fortunate to become the Band Director at Howell Road Elementary School in Valley Stream District 13 where he enjoys exposing the youngest of musicians to the wonderful world of music. In 2006 Louis received the "Make a Difference Award" from the Town of Hempstead and was further honored in the same year with the "Excellence in Community Service Award" from United Cerebral Palsy. In 2002 The Nassau Pops enjoyed performing with Michael Amante at a concert which was used as the centerpiece of a PBS special shown in forty cities across the United States and nominated for a New York Emmy Award. Louis married Elaine in 1975, has two children, Michael and Lauren, two grandchildren, Matthew 4 and Daniel 1, and still resides in Franklin Square.