

# 34th Annual Mayor's Awards for the Arts

## Winners

### Artist of the Year

**Christopher Alexander** is a local who has grown up in St. Joseph, Christopher has spent years playing the piano, teaching music, and creating his own orchestrations. This upcoming September, he will be collaborating with the Saint Joseph Symphony to provide an "Animated Adventures and Family Favorites" concert.



### Arts Educator of the Year

**Beth McLenaghan** exemplifies the heart of arts education through her unwavering love for and commitment to the growth and empowerment of her students. As a piano and vocal coach, Beth goes far beyond teaching musical technique - she shapes her students' confidence, character, and lifelong passion for the arts, which allows them to have so many life-changing experiences.



### Outstanding Volunteer of the Year

**Martial Thevenot's** unwavering dedication, visionary leadership, and countless hours of behind-the-scenes support have made an extraordinary impact on our organization. Whether serving on the board, lending his expertise to strategic planning, or simply stepping



in to help wherever needed, Martial consistently goes above and beyond with humility and grace. Even after completing his term as Board President, Martial has continued to inspire, comfort and uplift with his commitment to the arts and our mission. That's why we believe he is more than deserving of this recognition.

### Individual Leadership

**Christy George** exemplifies the transformative power of leadership grounded in creativity, collaboration, and community pride. Under Christy's visionary guidance, Main Street Saint Joseph has brought one of the most compelling international public art installations to our city. In connection with Mural Mosaic Global Roots Project, St. Joseph became home to the Mural Mosaic: America Connects Home and Family. Christy's leadership was instrumental in ensuring that St. Joseph would be a part of this prestigious global art movement.



### Organizational Achievement in the Arts

**St. Joseph Youth Chorale** stands as a shining example of artistic excellence and educational impact in our community. They are dedicated to providing advanced choral education experiences for exceptional young singers in grades 2-12 throughout St. Joseph, Missouri. They not only elevate the talents of their members but also enrich the cultural fabric of our region.



Special thanks to our judges  
Jennifer Wampler, Michael Gaines  
and Phyllis Paisley.

### Youth Artist



**Gage Phroper**, throughout his high school career, has demonstrated exceptional musical skill, earning all-district cellist honors and qualifying for the state music contest every year. He served as principal cellist for the SJSD Honor Youth Orchestra and has participated in St. Joseph Symphony's Side-by-Side concert since it's inception. His commitment to the southside orchestra program is evident in his leadership as President of the BHS Orchestra Council, where he took an active role in mentoring younger students, recruiting future orchestra members, and assisting with concerts. Gage is also an outstanding and well-rounded individual. He was selected as the Distinguished Cotillion Award winner for achievement, named valedictorian of his class, earned a Seal of Biliteracy, and was recognized as a Benton Drug-Free Superstar.