

## **Vicky Oveson**

### **Vicky Oveson Memorial Award**

Pianist and vocalist Vicky Oveson was an exceptionally dedicated musician, of tremendous intellect and talent. She held a B.Mus. (distinction) in Theory and Composition and an M.A. in Musicology focusing on Afro-Cuban music.

Vicky was an in-demand performer, accompanist, music educator and examiner. Although she was an accomplished classical pianist, her true passion was the music, people, and culture of Cuba. She studied extensively on the island with some of the biggest names of the folkloric, popular, and jazz scenes.

While living in Cuba, Vicky attended the Instituto de Superior de Arte (I.S.A.) and was involved with the Centro de Investigacion y Desarrollo de la Musica Cubana (C.I.D.M.U.C.).

Vicky directed the Afro-Cuban Vocal Jazz Ensemble, CORO CANUBA, at the University of Calgary and founded THE MASACOTE SCHOOL OF AFRO-CUBAN MUSIC. She was also an examiner for Conservatory Canada, having helped develop their jazz idiom program.

As director, composer, arranger, pianist, and vocalist for the Latin Jazz ensemble MASACOTE, Vicky performed numerous times for television and radio appearing at Le Festival International de Jazz de Montreal and at the prestigious Teatro Nacional de Cuba. Vicky has recorded with some of Cuba's finest musicians having Executive Produced two CD's: "Nada Mas" (2002) and "Eyes of an Angel" (2005).

Always a tireless crusader for gender equality in the music profession, Vicky Oveson left a canon of compositions and set a new standard for musicians everywhere.

The Vicky Oveson Memorial Award was established in Vicky's memory to support trailblazing musicians who exemplify leadership, seek continuous improvement, take initiative to create opportunities, and demonstrate tenacity in pursuing their goals.

