

Anna James '19 graduated from St. Bonaventure's College with remarkable academic success, and in true Jesuit form, as a woman for and with others. During her days at St. Bon's, Anna was a highly motivated student, known for her exceptional leadership skills, compassionate service to others, and strong work ethic in the classroom, across extracurricular activities, and within the community.

At St. Bon's, Anna was a valued member of the Instrumental Music Program- Wind Ensemble from Grade 6-12. She had a large leadership role in the program, mentoring younger members and assisting with tuning instruments at concerts. Anna was also a member of the Choral Program and Conductor of the Camerata Choir. She was often called upon to lead rehearsals and had the honour of directing some of the choirs at the Rotary Music Festival. Anna was the recipient of the Lillian and Don Wright Travel and Study Scholarship with Conservatory Canada in 2017, as well as a prestigious Kiwanis Music Festival award- Junior Vocal Rosebowl in 2018. In 2019, Anna was awarded the Rotary Coin for Excellence in Choral Leadership, and in the same year, was the recipient of the City of St. John's "Youth of the Year" award.

During her days at St. Bon's, Anna was Student Council Secretary from 2017 to 2018, and Student Council President in her graduating year. She took part in many faith-based activities, including cantoring at school Masses, leading spiritual retreats, and dedicating her time and service at the Gathering Place Breakfast Program, which continued beyond graduation. She completed her Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award in 2019, and had much success in oral speak offs with the Rotary and Lions Clubs. Anna took part in numerous Leadership Conferences travelling to Ottawa, Montreal and Washington. Notably, in Grade 11, Anna embraced the opportunity to visit El Salvador on a school service trip, where she assisted in rebuilding a washed-out road to the school. While there, she was immediately connected to the people, realizing that even with a language barrier, with music and God, there was a beautiful universal bond.

Upon her return from El Salvador in 2018, Anna founded the non-profit organization "ShareMusic". Her organization aims to share the gift of music with vulnerable members of the community, who may not otherwise have access, by providing them with monthly music concerts and performances.

Athletically, Anna was heavily involved in soccer for many years. As a member of Team Newfoundland and Labrador from 2015-2020, she represented our province at Atlantic and National Championships.

Upon graduating from St. Bon's in 2019, Anna was the recipient of the Charles J. Bown Memorial Entrance Scholarship in Music as well as the Dr. Leslie Harris Memorial University Alumni Association Scholarship from 2019-2022. Anna, a Dean's List student, studied voice performance and opera under the direction of Dr. Caroline Schiller, and completed her Bachelor of Music (Hons) at MUN in 2023.

During her time at Memorial University, Anna served as undergraduate representative on the Academic Council and Strategic Planning Committee at the School of Music, and Community Engagement representative with the MUN Music Society where she helped

organize a virtual concert series featuring performances from music students and younger students from the community that was sent to 30 retirement homes and long-term care facilities in the province. Anna worked and volunteered with the Student Experience Office, where she organized the “Café Concert Series”. These concerts aimed to build community on campus, providing students with an outlet to perform. In addition, during the height of the pandemic when volunteers were not able to provide their service in person, Anna forged forward in her commitment to help others and organized a drive-in movie on a MUN parking lot that raised \$2500 for The Gathering Place. Additionally, since 2020, she has been an Aide-de-camp to the Lieutenant Governor.

Anna is passionate about the therapeutic benefits that music provides and is intrigued by the power that music has to foster connections, bridge gaps and cross barriers. Since 2020, Anna has been an active volunteer with the Memorial University’s Internationalization Office Family Program. As a music teacher and mentor, she brings her passion and knowledge of music to children of international students by organizing and providing regular music lessons. Since 2021, Anna has also been the volunteer choir conductor at Bishops Gardens Seniors Living Home. Anna has spent the past two summers as a counsellor and music programmer with Brigadoon Village in Nova Scotia. Brigadoon Village is the first facility of its kind in Atlantic Canada, and the largest pediatric medical camp in Canada, designed to accommodate children living with chronic illness or other life challenges.

Presently Anna is a private voice, piano, and music theory teacher and is a member of the Newfoundland and Labrador Registered Music Teachers Association. Anna hopes to pursue a career where she can continue combining her passions of music and health.