

# Niagara Falls Music Hall of Fame reveals 2022 inductees



The Niagara Falls Music Hall of Fame board of directors has announced the Class of 2022: Ron Altbach, Gary Baker, Michael Civisca, Chris Tedesco, Pete Zito Sr., The Thurman Brothers Band, The Veltones Band, Marva Frails, Charles Reedy and Lawrence Ghougasian.

In honor of the late Dr. Samuel "Saxman" Morreale, this year's Lifetime Music Support Award will be presented to Lee Wallace.

To celebrate and honor their dedication, support and successful accomplishments, a ceremony is being planned for

Thursday, Nov. 17, at the Rapids Theater. Details will be announced soon. Check out the group Facebook page or website (<https://nfmusicof.org>) for the most up-to-date information, or to download a nomination form. Nominations for 2023 Inductees are being accepted now through April 30.

A press release noted, "The Niagara Falls Music Hall of Fame is a nonprofit organization created to preserve and protect the diverse musical culture and heritage of the greater Niagara Falls, New York, geographical area, while recognizing individu-

als who have made a significant contribution to performance, education and promotion of music in our community.

"Nominations are encouraged from musicians in all genres of music, as well as businesses and individuals who have had a significant impact on the local music scene and the music industry in general. We appreciate all those who applied and were nominated this year for their dedication in enhancing our local music heritage. We depend on the public's input to ensure that the most deserving are recognized."

## Multi-genre star returns with Hallmark movie 'Marry Go Round'

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As the network describes it, "Abby Foster (Schull) and Luke Walker (Brennan Elliott) were high school sweethearts and had a short-lived marriage after high school. Many years later, Abby is a successful executive who is planning to move to Paris with her fiancé, Edward Timsdale (Zak Santiago). Everything in her life seems to be perfect. That is until she gets

a letter explaining her divorce to Luke is not exactly official. When Abby arrives back in her hometown for a court hearing, she runs into Luke and quickly learns he has no intention on finalizing this divorce anytime soon. Emily, (Mary-Beth Manning) Abby's mother, finally reveals a secret she has been keeping from her daughter that explains what really happened so many years ago. Abby now has a choice

to make. Does she face the truth about what she has always felt for Luke, or stick to the plan when she thought her life was so perfect?"

Schull shared more in this edited Q&A.

**Q:** *It seems like you've had some pretty good experiences with Hallmark. Tell me a little bit about "Marry Go Round," and what was appealing to you about this project?*

**Amanda Schull:** I have had really great experiences with Hallmark, and this is no exception.

I think what was initially really appealing about this one, was it had some heavy material. You know, it had some heavy themes and content, which I thought were sort of refreshing.

It sounds like a strange word to use for that, but to be able to navigate still with a lighthearted – somewhat of a lighthearted overall kind of blanket – which people tend to expect with Hallmark – there were still scenes and moments and revelations throughout that people can relate to, even if they were a little bit darker.

**Q:** *It's interesting that you mentioned "heavy" and "darker" because, of course, the previous movie you were in with Hallmark, your character was actually dead – which is not something that you see often.*

**Amanda Schull:** That's about as dark as you can get, right? (Laughs)

**Q:** *Well, it's not something you typically see in a Hallmark movie.*

**A:** *It's interesting, because it seems like your Hallmark films have been a little bit out of the ordinary. It's not just girl meets boy, and that's the end of it. There always seems to be interesting settings, whether it's thematically or geographically – or like you said, maybe some heavy or different types of tones.*

**Q:** *Is that something that you're actively looking for? Are they coming to you, knowing you can handle these different types of projects? What is the genesis of taking on these different types of Hallmark movies?*

**Amanda Schull:** Well, these were all offers. I don't know that

people necessarily think of me when it comes to something darker, but I get excited by it. I love it. I love a little bit more of a challenge. And not to say that girl meets boy isn't a challenge, because making that interesting and making that watchable and enjoyable, it can present challenges in itself. But when I saw that there was going to be a revelation and some dark emotion bubbling up in this, I got very excited; and I got very excited that our director, David Weaver, was willing to allow us to be more vulnerable, and not just gloss over those things and, you know, forgive as easily.

And to be honest with you, I'm drawn to things that just seem more honest. It's possibly easier for me, maybe given my career history, I guess, with "Monkeys" and stuff, that just being a little bit more emotional is appealing to me.

**Q:** *I would say it's not so much that people would think of you for darker roles, but I think certainly the network – like the audience – knows you are capable of playing a lot of different roles, first and foremost. But I think also, like you said, even a straight girl meets boy is not necessarily something that's easy. And let me tell you, it's not necessarily something that everyone does equally ... or well ... in every case or every situation.*

**A:** *You and I have talked about so many of your projects over the years. I find that you, as an actor, you're lovely as a romantic lead; you're fierce in more action-oriented parts; you've been (vicious) as a villain. I've not seen you give a bad performance; and really what strikes me is that you seem to be someone who works hard – who really puts a lot into their craft, and creates interesting characters.*

**Q:** *How do you approach the work, and how do you approach your craft, in giving these performances that I find – and so many people find – to be really exceptional?*

**Amanda Schull:** I love what I get to do for a living. And I think maybe it was meant to be that I was

an actor, because I don't know that there's any other career I could have been satisfied doing – because I love the opportunity to learn about all of these different careers, and to zip on other people's suits and experiences – and not have to settle on my own.

I'm the kind of person, when I go out to eat, I like to have lots of appetizers. I like tapas rather than settling on one big thing.

I feel like acting can often be just not settling on one career. You know, I've gotten to be a doctor, a virologist – yes, many crazy people – a lawyer, several times. And I learn about all of these different career paths and vocations and personalities and experiences, when I get to be other characters. And that's, for me, something that's so intriguing.

It's sort of like the most intimate of people watching – and I am a big people watcher. And one of my favorite things, when I lived in San Francisco, I used to take my dog for walks at twilight when it was getting dark, but people were just coming home from work. And in San Francisco, in the neighborhood where I lived, people would turn on their lights in their big picture glass windows. And I would take my dog for walks – and this is going to make me sound like a little bit of a creep – but I would see them coming home, and I would see routine. You know, just walking by. I never lingered. But I love seeing a day in a life of somebody else, or just a little snapshot.

And I think that's how I approach different characters, is that I get to create a whole other life – and not just a snapshot. Like, I get to build the past, which is infused into the person so that I'm able to react authentically on camera with the dialogue that's written.

And I just feel very, very fortunate that people think of me to be able to do these – that they give me the opportunity and hire me.

"Marry Go Round" airs at 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10, on the Hallmark Channel.

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