



Marina Kun

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Marina Kun was born and educated in Ottawa where her entrepreneurial spirit was nourished by both parents who were successful entrepreneurs.

While raising four daughters, Marina entered the world of violins and shoulder rests. In 1972 her late husband, Joseph Kun, an Ottawa-based violin and bow maker designed and patented a revolutionary shoulder rest. When Marina joined the business in 1974, she took a tiny company selling only dozens of shoulder rests and turned it into a global market leader creating a household name in the international strings world. Creating the 'KUN' brand almost from scratch, her company now holds dozens of global patents and has the widest product range in the industry with no less than 80% of the world market for shoulder rests. The KUN name has become an icon in the music industry and is one of the only Canadian companies that is a major manufacturer in the music world. In 2005, Marina's company received the Design Exchange and National Post Gold Medal for Industrial Design for the *Voce* rest.

Beyond her obvious business acumen, Marina has many other talents and interests. She speaks four languages, English, Spanish, French and Arabic; is a collector of antiques; is an avid reader; and is involved in and interested in the arts.

Marina has been a major supporter of many charities including, Friends of Canadian Broadcasting, Civic Hospital Heart Fund, Amnesty International and Doctors Without Borders. She has also been an important contributor to the local arts community supporting countless arts and music events including Suzuki, the Ottawa Chamber Music Society, the Ottawa Symphony and the NAC.

Marina's business excellence and contributions to her community have been recognized. Marina was designated one of Canada's top 100 Women Entrepreneurs in 2006 by PROFIT, and Kun Shoulder Rest Inc. received the Business of the Year Award by the Canadian Lebanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (2004).