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## VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE TO SMFA'S MISSION OF PROMOTING MUSIC

The theme for the October 26 & 27, 2018 Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA) Conference & AGM was "110 Reasons to Celebrate!", as representatives from 21 of the 47 affiliated District Music Festivals gathered at the Kerry Vickar Centre in Melfort, to network, learn and share experiences. Presentations, Annual General Meeting, and roundtable discussions took place with the theme revolving around events in celebration of SMFA's 110<sup>th</sup> year. Guest speakers and presenters included Lyndon Linklater (Cultural Inclusivity Through the Arts), Barb Keck (Solarislive!), and Joel Windsor (Music Festival Suite). Karen Unger presented the new 2019-2021 SMFA Syllabus, and board and staff shared information on risk management, fundraising, the 2019 National Music Festival, creating an impactful festival program, festival reporting, and guidelines for musical theatre repertoire.

The Volunteer Award Luncheon is a Conference highlight, and this year Todd Goudy, MLA (Melfort) was the keynote who spoke about the importance and the benefits of volunteering. Karen Unger, SMFA President, presented volunteer awards to: **Pam Dechief (Estevan), Valentina May (Mainline), Sandra Senga (Meadow Lake), Bernice McCosh (Melfort), Rosemarie Oddie (Regina), Irene Hildebrand and Martha Pankratz (Saskatoon), and Pattee Flett (Yorkton). SMFA Past Presidents Theresa Brost and Joy McFarlane-Burton were awarded Honorary Life Memberships for their work at the District, Provincial and National Levels of Music Festival. Darren Schwartz was awarded a Distinguished Service Award (posthumously) for his dedication to the music festival movement. Darren was instrumental to the operations of Saskatoon Music Festival and served a three-year term on the SFMA Provincial Board of Directors, acting as Public Relations Chair for the 2009 Nationals Host Committee.**

Delegates were entertained by Melfort musicians, Angela Hoffman and Stephanie, Baylee and Lucy Turner. The Melfort Host Committee went above and beyond, with theme decorations, treats, gift bags and door prizes.

Two new directors, **Krista Brost (Prairie Sunset Music Festival) and Valentina May (Mainline Music Festival)**, were elected for three-year terms at the AGM. Krista graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in 2016, with a Bachelor of Music (Vocal Performance) and Bachelor of Education (Music Education). She teaches band at Luseland School and operates a private studio teaching voice, piano and guitar to students from Macklin, Luseland and Kerrobert. Krista is an experienced competitor in the SMFA system, both at local and provincial levels. She is current President of Prairie Sunset Music Festival. Valentina began her musical studies in Oshawa, Ontario and moved to Saskatchewan in 1993, where she began teaching piano and voice and has maintained an active studio for the past 25 years with many students participating in Mainline Music Festival, as well as at the provincial level. Valentina is President of the Mainline Music Festival. Valentina and Krista are excited to join SMFA board members: Sherry Sproule (President), Karen Unger (Past President), Wendy Thienes (1<sup>st</sup> Vice President), Tammy Villeneuve (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President), Bonnie Nicholson (Director), Dianne Gryba (Director), Jeri Ryba (Director) and Carol Donhauser (Executive Director).

Past President Karen MacCallum (Swift Current) and retiring Director, Kari Mitchell (Carnduff) were thanked for their service on the Provincial Board.

SMFA, now in its 110<sup>th</sup> year of operation, is funded by grants from Sask Lotteries Trust for Sport, Culture & Recreation, administered by SaskCulture Inc. SMFA is grateful for the sponsorship received from SaskEnergy, Champion of Volunteers, and to SaskPower for the donation of a raffle item. Proceeds from the raffle support young musicians through provincial scholarships.