

# Saskatchewan Music Festival Association FESTIVAL FOCUS

## Saskatoon Pianist wins 2017 Shurniak Concerto Competition

The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA), Karen Unger, President is pleased to announce that the 32<sup>nd</sup> SMFA Concerto Competition was won by Saskatoon pianist Godwin Friesen, with his performance of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor, Op. 37. He was accompanied by Bonnie Nicholson. Godwin received the first prize of \$2,000 and the opportunity to be a featured soloist in an upcoming season with the Regina Symphony Orchestra and the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra.

The white snow glistened in the morning rays. As normal as things appeared, it was anything but normal for the twelve musicians who would compete at the Shurniak Concerto Competition at Riddell Centre Theatre, University of Regina. Rebecca Weger, violinist from Regina placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sophie McBean, pianist from Saskatoon placed 3<sup>rd</sup>. The competition was judged by Thomas Cosbey (Concertmaster of the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra and winner of the 2000 Shurniak Concerto Competition), Thunder Bay; Elizabeth Raum (composer and oboist, formerly of Regina), Toronto; and Gordon Gerrard (Music Director of the Regina Symphony Orchestra), Regina.



2017 Shurniak Concerto Competition winner: Godwin Friesen

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### Saskatchewan Music Festival Association

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## Concerto Competition (continued)

Competitors, and their collaborative artists, in this event were:

Bradley Little, piano, (Cherith Alexander) Joanne Peng, violin (Natalia Chabukiani) Charlee Wielgoz, cello (Cherith Alexander) Rebecca Weger, violin (Cherith Alexander) Christopher Kostyshyn, bassoon (Cherith Alexander) Fraser Krips, percussion (Matthew Praksas) Thomas Hu, piano (Bonnie Nicholson) Dominic Ghiglione, trombone (Jennifer Crawford) Eric Bews, piano (Kathleen Solose) Sophie McBean, piano (Bonnie Nicholson) Cole Knutson, alto saxophone, (Dianne Gryba) Godwin Friesen, piano (Bonnie Nicholson)

Godwin Friesen began piano at age seven and quickly realized his love for performance and composing. He placed first in piano at the 2015 National Music Festival, received the national Senior Mary Gardiner Award the same year, and has been named top pianist in Saskatchewan's provincial finals for the past two seasons. In 2016, Godwin presented a Bach concerto with the Amati Quartet, a solo recital in the Lyell Gustin House, and Saint-Saëns' Carnival of the Animals with pianist Thomas Yu and the SSO in their Firebird concert. He has performed regularly with the Caspian Trio and the Friesen Family Band. Godwin is currently in his first year at the Glenn Gould School of Music, studying on full scholarship with John O'Conor.

Event Sponsor: Mr. William Shurniak Special Acknowledgement: Brent Ghiglione, U of R Music Department

Respectfully submitted. Kari Mitchell





2017 Shurniak Concerto Competition Participants: Eric Bews, Charlee Wielgoz, Bradley Little, Fraser Krips, Sophie McBean, Godwin Friesen, Rebecca Weger, Thomas Hu, Cole Knutson, Dominic Ghiglione, Joanne Peng, and Christopher Kostyshyn

## President's Message



Happy April! Spring is such a joyful time of year. How can one help but smile as the weather begins to warm, the first robin appears, snow melts, and slowly but surely other signs of life emerge! For many of us, Spring is also inextricably tied to music festival season. Most of our district festivals will have wrapped up for another season by the time this newsletter is published. I hope that this year provided a positive experience for all of our performers, teachers, and audience members! A big thanks goes out to the amazing volunteers who give so willingly of their time and abilities to our festivals.

This year, I really enjoyed keeping track of our District Festival dates through the updates on our Facebook page. There were also many wonderful photos of competitors. I encourage you to look up Saskatchewan Music Festival Association on Facebook and like and follow us! Our website is also an important tool in keeping our membership informed, so please visit it often.

After district festivals come to an end, the next big event on the calendar is Provincials, coming up in Saskatoon June 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>. We as your Provincial Board look forward with great anticipation to welcoming all

of the District competitors recommended to compete during this weekend! I invite you to consider coming out to support your District winners and to see and experience all that goes on! In addition to the Provincial competitions, you may wish to come on Friday to hear those competitors competing for the chance to represent our province at Nationals this August in Ottawa.

We appreciate all the sponsors, donors, and patrons of the District, Provincial, and National Music Festivals. Their continued support is integral to the continuation of our competitions and programs. We also gratefully acknowledge the continuing support of SaskCulture Inc. and the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation.

The 2017 Shurniak Concerto competition in February was a day of many fabulous performances. We congratulate Godwin Friesen, who was the first place winner. In addition to the prize money, Godwin will have the opportunity to perform with the Saskatoon and Regina Symphony orchestras.

Work on the 2019 - 2021 is now underway. If you have requests for Syllabus changes or additions, please forward them to our office for discussion and possible ratification by the SMFA Provincial Board of Directors.

In closing, I ask that you consider attending our SMFA 2017 Fall Conference, October 27-28 in Watrous, SK. Bring your swimsuits to enjoy the mineral pool, but also look forward to some exciting and informative sessions. We'd love to see your district festival represented, and you will find there is invaluable benefit from the chance to connect with other festival delegates. I wish all of you a wonderful Spring!

### Karen Unger, President







We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.



- WINSTON CHURCHILL

## **2017 Provincial Final Competitions**

### June 2 to 4, 2017 (Saskatoon, U of S) | Entry Deadline is midnight May 15

### Tentative Overview - CLASSES SUBJECT TO CHANGE, DEPENDING ON NUMBER OF ENTRIES

Start Time	Location	Discipline		
FRIDAY, JUNE 2				
9:00 am	Quance Theatre	Provincial Level of National Competitions		
10:00 am	College Building (Convocation Hall)	Musical Theatre (Intermediate Level)		
1:00 pm	Quance Theatre	Provincial Level of National Competitions		
1:00 pm	College Building (Convocation Hall)	Musical Theatre (Intermediate and Senior Level)		
7:00 pm	Quance Theatre	Provincial Level of National Competitions		
7:00 pm	College Building (Convocation Hall)	Musical Theatre (Senior Level)		
SATURDAY, JUI	NE 3			
9:00 am	Quance Theatre	Percussion (Intermediate and Senior Level)		
9:00 am	Education Building (Room #1031)	Piano (Intermediate Level)		
9:00 am	College Building (Convocation Hall)	Piano (Senior Level)		
9:00 am	Education Building (Room #1033)	Strings (Intermediate and Senior Level)		
10:00 am	Quance Theatre	Voice (Senior Level)		
1:00 pm	Quance Theatre	Voice (Senior Level)		
1:00 pm	Education Building (Room #1031)	Piano (Intermediate Level)		
1:00 pm	College Building (Convocation Hall)	Piano (Senior Level)		
1:00 pm	Education Building (Room #1033)	Strings (Intermediate and Senior Level)		
3:00 pm	Education Building (Room #1031)	Speech Arts (Intermediate and Senior Level)		
3:00 pm	Education Building (Room #1033)	Guitar (Intermediate and Senior Level)		
4:00 pm	Education Building (Room #1033)	Woodwinds (Intermediate and Senior Level)		
7:00 pm	Quance Theatre	Voice (Senior Level)		
7:00 pm	Education Building (Room #1031)	Voice (Intermediate Level)		
7:00 pm	Education Building (Room #1033)	Brass (Intermediate and Senior Level)		
SUNDAY, JUNE 4 - 1:00 P.M Quance Theatre: Grand Awards				

Detailed final program information will be posted after May 25. If you have any questions, contact us at sask.music.festival@sasktel.net



## **Adjudicator Boot Camp**

The inaugural Adjudicator Boot Camp was held at the University of Regina on February 11, 2017. The 31 attendees were taken through their paces by Cherith Alexander, who did an admirable job of detailing what it means to be an adjudicator for the SMFA. Her enthusiasm and skill was inspiring to the attendees who came from around the province and ranged from complete beginners to highly experienced adjudicators. Several brand new adjudicators were in attendance and have already reported finding the information to be invaluable during their subsequent assignments.

BOOT CAM

The workshop explored the philosophy behind music festival adjudicating and provided plenty of practical advice about constructive adjudication, assigning marks and awarding scholarships, as well as working with local festival committees.

Facilitated by Cherith Alexander, who has more than twenty years of experience adjudicating throughout Western Canada at festivals large and small, the boot camp is helpful to anyone considering working as a music festival adjudicator in the future and may also be of interest to those already working in the field but looking for some new ideas or a refresher course.

A great deal of interest was shown by others who were unable to attend due to distance or timing. The good news is that another SMFA Adjudicator Boot Camp is being planned for Saskatoon in January of 2018 – so stay tuned for details!

Karen Klassen

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

SMFA District Festivals March - May 2017 (47 Locations in SK)

SMFA Provincial Finals Competitions June 2 - 4, 2017 (Saskatoon)

FCMF Conference/AGM and National Music Festival August 8 - 12 (University of Ottawa)









## Celebrating National Volunteer Week 2017 April 23-29

In Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> year, volunteering comes in many forms and is as diverse as Canada itself. Celebrate the vibrancy and impact of volunteerism in your community and across our country.

## 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration

Mrs. Bernice McCosh, an SMFA Award recipient, is celebrating her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday Former students and colleagues are invited to attend her tea on Saturday, June 24th from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the Melfort United Church, C.E. Centre, 220 Burrows Avenue West, Melfort, SK.



Please help us celebrate her birthday. Former students are invited to perform at the tea.

Bernice is still involved in promoting and working at the Mefort Music Festival, leading the United Church Handbells and occasionally playing for the United Church choir.

## **CREATIVE KIDS**

Creative Kids provides financial support so all Saskatchewan children and youth have an opportunity to participate in artistic and cultural activities. They support costs for music lessons, dance classes, art camps, traditional First Nations art instruction, and many other creative and cultural activities, including band camps. Please note the new application dates. For more information visit: http://www. creativekidssask.ca/

### Application Deadlines: June 9, August 18, December 8



## Canadian Music Festival Adjudicator's Association (CMFAA) - "Duet Challenge"

"The Duet Challenge"- A prize of \$500 to be awarded to the Music Festival with the most duet entries in Canada.

CMFAA has launched a new initiative! We want to find the Duet Capital of Canada! We know "the loneliness of the long-distance runner" applies to piano students, as they practice alone. They have fewer opportunities to be part of ensembles in the way singers and instrumentalists do. We believe in the value of duet playing, and hence this award.

Requirements: Any Music Festival in Canada (belonging to the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals) is eligible. To apply we need two pieces of information: the total number of solo piano entries, and the total number of duet entries in the Festival for a calendar year. The festival with the highest ratio of duet entries to solo entries will be awarded the Duet Capital of Canada and receive a \$500 scholarship.

The Application form is available at CMFAA.ca. It must be signed/dated by a member of the Executive of the Festival, and submitted to our Registrar by June 1, 2017. (This date accommodates all "local" Festivals which are completed by the end of May. For Festivals that are held in the Fall of 2017, they can submit as soon as their Festival is over.)

### The W-5s of an Annual General Meeting

<u>Who:</u> Provincially incorporated non-profit organizations, charities and/or affiliated SMFA festivals are required by law and/or SMFA Constitution to hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM).

What: The purpose of the AGM is to:

- Read and correct the minutes of the previous AGM
- Approve the current year audited (or unaudited) financial statements, including reports to the board
- Receive committee reports not included in the financial statement
- Approve amendments and additions to bylaws
- Call for nomination for the board and/or receive the report of the nominating committee
- Elect new directors
- Elect the auditor
- Transact any other business

<u>Where:</u> Choose a suitable, accessible public meeting location for the expected number of members.

When: Ideally, between June 1 and September 30. According to the SMFA Constitution "The annual meeting of the District Festival Association shall be held by September 30th". District festival year-end is June 30th and the AGM is to occur not more than 90 days after the year-end but <u>not before all of current year financial records have been reviewed/audited and are in a suitable</u> format to present to the membership. Festival statements, which include the current year affiliation dues (based on the number of entries in the festival program) and stationery supplies invoices, are issued from Provincial Office on or before May 30. Unless a payable is setup, with the estimated amount of this invoice, your records are incomplete and you are stating your operating expenses incorrectly.

<u>Why:</u> Ensuring that this statutory business takes place is part of good governance (non-profit/charity status could be revoked). An AGM is an important part of the democratic life of an organization. Transparency and accountability are critical if the public is to continue funding the good work done by small, grassroots organizations.

Notice, to your members/stakeholders, calling an annual meeting, shall be published as may be determined by the Executive (publishing the meeting date/time/location in your program is a good idea). Written notice (including date, time location and any special resolutions), minutes of the last AGM, and Financial statements/auditor's report, must be sent to the membership 15 days prior to the meeting. Postpone your AGM if your current year Financials are not ready to be presented or if you do not have a recording secretary. The law requires minutes to be kept.

Failure to comply with reporting or disclosure requirements could render the corporation and its directors and officers liable to certain penalties, including the cancellation of the corporation.

## Getting to Know the SMFA Staff



Karen Klassen, Adjudicator Liaision and Program Coordinator

When, why, and how did you get involved with SMFA music festivals? While in working on my BMus, I was accompanying

in Diana Woolrich's studio and so started playing for students at festival. Sometime in then, Robin Swales also got me to join the RMFA board.

Who is your favourite musician/band? Angela Hewitt – I saw her play live when I was first getting interested in classical music and she was very inspiring.

What musical instruments do you play or have played? I am a pianist, but have played a little flute, guitar and harp over the years as well as singing in choirs.



#### Nancy Toppings, Administrative Assistant

When, why, and how did you get involved with SMFA music festivals? My first festival experience was playing piano in the

Kipling Music Festival, age 7 or 8 (I won't say what year). I don't remember much about it, but I do remember that the piano classes were HUGE back then! I had no idea this would be the start of a life-long relationship with SMFA.

Who is your favourite musician/band? Really hard to pick a favorite because I enjoy so many genres, but today it's Sarah McLachlan.

What musical instruments do you play or have played? I play piano, organ (not well) and love choral singing. One of the best things about moving to Regina has been joining two choirs!

What is one item on your music bucket list? Going to a kitchen party on Cape Breton Island, hopefully this summer.

## **2018 District Festival Dates**

Festival Unit	Dates	Entry Close
Assiniboia	April 22-28	ТВА
Battlefords Kiwanis	April 15-21	January 27
Biggar	March 4-10	January 30
Borderland at Coronach	April 29-May 2	March 7
	March 4-8	
Central Sask at Davidson	March 18-23	, January 23
Estevan	March 11-24	, January 26
Eston	April 16-19	
	Ápril 15-21	•
-	March 18-24	
	April 16-27	,
	March 11-23	
	March 18-24	•
	March 19-22	•
	March 21-27	
	тва	,
	April 22-28	
Kiwanis Llovdminster	April 22 – May 5	lanuary 27
	April 23-26	
	April 15-21	
	March 4-14 March 26-27; April 21-29	-
	March 11-24	
	March 11-24	,
	April 16-20	
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	April 29-May 5	
•	March 15-24	•
	TBA	
	April 22-26	
•	March 12-13	•
	April 22-May 5	
-	March 18-24	
-	April 15-21	
-	April 8-14	-
	April 16-19	
-	March 5-17	
Yorkton	March 5-25	January 25

## From the Provincial Office



Welcome, spring! It has been a busy few months since our last newsletter. Thank you to those who have been following up on your District Festivals already completed, and best wishes to those Festivals still happening.

It is very important that we receive your District Winner Charts immediately following your festival. Please check that the forms are complete and legible, including a phone number and email address for both the competitor and alternates, where applicable.

Speaking of report forms...immediately after your festival is the best time to complete and submit your People/Stats Form, Adjudicator Evaluations and Festival Report. The People/Stats Form contains important information required by our funder, and without our funding we would cease to exist! Please note the new field on the People/Stats form regarding participation by Aboriginal and newcomer populations.

What are we looking for in terms of a Festival Report? A brief summary of your festival, including highlights and newsworthy items. Try to include something that made your 2017 Music Festival unique and special.

Following, your AGM, we require a copy of your AGM Minutes and an update for your webpage on our website, including any change in Executive and Committee Members, entry fees, scholarship policies, etc. It is imperative that this information be correct and up to date!

If you have not yet submitted your 2018 Festival Date Choice Form, please do! Once we confirm your 2018 dates, you can submit your Adjudicator Time-Frame Requirement Form (due June 1). Please consider carefully the number of days required for each adjudicator and try to estimate as closely as possible. This is also the time to include requests for particular adjudicators, if you wish. Both the 2018 and 2019 Festival Date Choice Forms are on the website.

Revenue and Expense (Money) Forms are due October 1. Please wait until you have received and paid your invoice for affiliation dues and all other expenses for this festival year, before submitting this form. Statements are issued on or before May 30.

Can we talk about Supply Order Forms? We ask that you take inventory of your supplies following your festival, estimate your needs for the coming year, and PLEASE submit your Supply Order Form by October 1. This allows us to order in bulk from the printer and operate in the most efficient and cost-effective manner. We do not keep a large inventory of supplies in the office, so if the orders trickle in after the end of the year, or if you call with an emergency order close to your festival, we may not be able to help you in time. Thank you in advance for your co-operation!

One more thing...and I will stop nagging about paperwork! Please remember that in order to be eligible to apply for Member Funding in the fall (for the 2017-2018 festival year), District Festivals must be members in good standing. All reporting must be up to date and affiliation dues paid.

Visit us on Facebook – we have received some great photos from some of our District Festivals. Thank you! We invite all District Festivals to send a few photos from your Awards Concert or any other photos of special interest from your festival, and we will be happy to post them for all to see. Please ensure that you have signed permission before sending any photos.

I look forward to communicating with you over the next few months and hope to meet many of you at Provincial Finals.

Respectfully submitted, *Mancy Toppings*, Administrative Assistant

## From the Executive Director



As we near the end of another festival year (9 festivals plus Provincial Finals - June 2 to 4 left to complete), we can't help but have a sense of satisfaction and gratitude. We are grateful for our many volunteers, adjudicators, parents, music educators, collaborative artists, and participants all of whom help us complete our mission. We must also be grateful for the funding we receive in the form of corporate sponsorship, scholarships donations, and Lotteries Grant for Sport, Culture, and Recreation administered by SaskCulture. Without this much-needed contribution, the association's mission/ mandate would fall short.

In this trying time of declining Provincial revenues and budget cuts, both at the provincial and civic level, we are fortunate that our funding has remained stable this year. We are happy to announce that SaskTel has renewed their three-year corporate sponsorship with SMFA and which will qualify

for our matching artsVest grant. For those who may not be familiar with artsVest, artsVest is Business for the Arts' national flagship program. It works directly with small to mid-sized arts organizations, equipping them with in-depth training, tools and mentorship relationships. These components build sustainable partnerships between arts organizations and businesses to spark sponsorship opportunities. As an added incentive, artsVest participants can apply for matching grants - for every one dollar raised in sponsorship, Business for the Arts will match it with another dollar - doubling their sponsorship potential. The matching grant money is provided by the Federal and Provincial government.

Also left in our festival year, is the National Music Festival, August 8 to 13. The National Music Festival competitions will be held in Ottawa this year. With Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, it might be a time for you to visit Ottawa and take in some of the competitions. Observers are welcome at the AGM as well. Please contact the office if you are interested in attending and I can provide you with more details.

As this is our last newsletter publication before September, I wish you a wonderful Spring and Summer. I hope to see some of you at Provincials in Saskatoon and possibly Nationals in Ottawa. Yours in the promotion of music across the Province of Saskatchewan!

### Carol Donhauser, Executive Director



The greatest achievements were at first, and for some time, dreams! - James Allen

## A few of our "Noteworthy" Sponsors

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