



Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



1908 - 2009

100 Years of Festivals

Fall 2009

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President's Message



I hope that you are enjoying the summer we are finally experiencing. It is a little late, but better late than never! Everyone is getting back into their routine and students have returned to school and their extracurricular activities. Music teachers are ready and lessons are commencing for the

season too. I wish each of you a fantastic experience and a very successful year.

Our 2009 festival year has been very busy and successful. Beginning in March, 49 district festivals were held and history was made "Celebrating 100 Years of Festivals" that included special events in many of our communities. We were pleased that SMFA was the recipient of the Building Pride Grant from the provincial government that enabled these district celebrations as well as the presentation of the Re-enactment Concert. Thank you to Doris Covey Lazecki and her committee for the planning of this special event and making a dream a reality. We are grateful for the donations from the F.K. Morrow Foundation, Dr. Jacqui Shumiatcher, and the SMFA Century Club donors.

Forty-three district festivals were represented at Provincial Finals in Regina that included the Provincial Level of National Competitions and the Intermediate level Centennial Classes. The Grand Award winner this year was pianist Samuel Deason from Saskatoon. Thank you to our sponsors, SaskTel, SaskEnergy, and the City of Regina, as well as our many award donors.

This year we hosted the National Music Festival. Our Saskatchewan team members were great ambassadors for our province. Congratulations to Natalie Fuller (1st place - brass), Meagan Milatz (2nd place - piano), and Juventus Concert Choir (2nd place - George Mathieson Choral Class). I thank Joanne Messer and Penny Joynt for their leadership of the host committee. Thank you also to the Potash

Corporation, Dr. Jacqui Shumiatcher, Don & Claire Kramer, and the donors of the SMFA Century Club for their support of this event.

I encourage each Festival to send representatives to the AGM and Fall Conference being held in Regina November 6 & 7. We've been invited to join the Sask. Choral Federation, Sask. Band Association, and Sask. Music Educators Association in the Saskatchewan Music Conference. The theme is "Riding the Wave of Change". This is a new format for SMFA so check our website (www.smfa.ca) for further information.

The 2010-2012 Syllabus is now available for purchase in music stores and from our office. Past President Gloria Nickell will do an in-depth workshop on the new syllabus at the Conference. I appreciate and thank Gloria for her commitment and competition of this intense two-year project.

The Concerto Competition will be held November 14 in Regina. Our judges are Victor Sawa, Tannis Gibson and William Van der Sloot. Our sponsor for this event is the Lorne and Evelyn Johnson Foundation in co-operation with the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras. See the SMFA website for more details.

The music festival movement survives on the huge volunteerism by committed people at the local, provincial, and national levels of music festivals. Thank you for your dedication and support!

We appreciate and gratefully acknowledge our many corporate sponsors, patrons and local businesses across the province for providing substantial financial support. Thank you to our funding agencies Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation, the Saskatchewan Arts Board, SaskCulture, and the Department of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport.

In closing I want to thank the Board and Staff for their commitment to Saskatchewan's young musicians.

Theresa E. Brost, President





Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



1908 - 2009

100 Years of Festivals

Fall 2009



2009

Saskatchewan Music Conference

Ride the Wave of Change!



Have you registered to *Ride the Wave of Change* yet?

The 2009 Saskatchewan Music Conference is shaping up to be THE musical event of the year. For the first time ever, the five major music organizations in Saskatchewan (Saskatchewan Music Educators Association, Saskatchewan Band Association, Saskatchewan Choral Federation, Saskatchewan Orchestral Association, and Saskatchewan Music Festival Association) will be teaming up to provide you the very best in professional development opportunities across the board.

Do your interests lie with band, choral, music festivals, orchestra or perhaps you're a music educator? Don't miss the opportunity to work with and hear from stars in the field including Dr. Will Schmid, renowned for his work re-establishing the importance of active music-making in American schools, who will be presenting this year's keynote address. Visit www.smfa.ca to register.



Nominations for Provincial Board Position

Consider nominating someone from your district festival to serve on the Provincial Board of Directors or consider running yourself.

The Board consists of nine elected members. This year there is one (1) three-year position available.

Board Members will always be on one or more committees and although there are some very busy times, we have a great deal of fun. Knowledge of music is not mandatory – a good board is made up of people with a wide range of strengths, backgrounds, and areas of expertise. Everyone has something to offer.

Please send the nominations to:

Gloria Nickell
P.O. Box 1793, Rosetown, SK S0L 2V0
Phone: (306) 882-2410 or E-mail: nicki4@sasktel.net

SMFA CONCERTO COMPETITION

SPONSORED BY THE LORNE & EVELYN JOHNSON FOUNDATION

In co-operation with the Regina Symphony Orchestra and the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra

Saturday, November 14, 2009

For more information or to enter, please visit our website (www.smfa.ca.)

SMFA Provincial Finals

Visit the website for a complete listing of winners and to view photos from the 2009 Provincial Finals.

The 2010 Provincial Finals will be held in

Prince Albert, June 4 – 6.



Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



1908 - 2009

100 Years of Festivals

Fall 2009

2009 National Music Festival



The 2009 National event is now part of SMFA history and the Saskatchewan Host Team is very satisfied with the way in which it unfolded.

The funding support that was received from Mr. Don and Mrs. Claire Kramer, the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan, Mrs. Jacqui Shumiatcher and members of the Century Club enabled us to stay within the budget we established.

We are grateful for the gifts that Premier and Mrs. Wall provided for the delegates and adjudicators and pleased that they were both able to attend the Federation Dinner at which Premier Wall was the guest speaker.

The Hancock Lecture, in recognition of Mossie and Gordon Hancock's outstanding contribution to SMFA, was extremely well received. The address, which was given by RSO conductor Victor Sawa and generously sponsored by Mrs. Jacqui Shumiatcher provided a motivational yet humorous message that the competitors, as well as the delegates, appreciated.

Delegates were provided the opportunity to hear one of Saskatchewan's festival stars. Karen Charlton, National Vocal Winner in 2002, was guest speaker at the AGM following which she and Kathleen Lohrenz Gable delighted listeners with a short but outstanding performance.

The University of Saskatchewan campus was an ideal site for the event and the weather, in spite of rain on the final day of competition, was perfect.

The support that was received from the University of Saskatchewan Music Department was immeasurable. Performance and practice venues as well as pianos, piano tuning and technical assistance comprised this significant donation.

Lastly, but of most importance, was the contribution made by the volunteers. It takes a huge team of dedicated people to stage the Federation of Canadian Music Festival AGM and Competition and I thank everyone, in particular Co-Chair Penny Joynt, who helped to make this a memorable, successful event.

All of the results for the competition may be found on the FCMF website www.fcmf.org or visit our website (www.smfa.ca) to see more results of the 2009 National Music Festival.

Joanne Messer, Chair

Western Canadians Dominate Music Festival

Reprinted with permission by StarPhoenix Staff

Regina trumpeter Natalie Fuller helped Saskatchewan share in dominating performances by Western Canadian entries at the 2009 National Music Festival, which concluded Saturday night at the University of Saskatchewan's Convocation Hall.

Fuller won top prize in the brass category, winning the approval of the judges for her performances of Haydn's *Trumpet Concerto in E Flat Major* and Enescu's *Legende*. She was accompanied by Maria Fuller.

She became the first Saskatchewan winner since 2006 when Meara Conway won in the voice category and Kimberly Allan won in the woodwinds category.

Individuals from the three western provinces were outstanding in the festival.

Pianist Andrew Wang of British Columbia won the grand award, a competition between all category winners on the final night, and an award which comes with a \$5,000 gift from the NRS Foundation through the Victoria Foundation. Wang also won \$1,500 as champion in the piano category.

Isaiah Bell of British Columbia won first prize in the voice category and also captured the Jan Simons award for song interpretation.

Three other individual prizes went to Alberta – violinist Jing Zheng in strings, Peter Powell in guitar and saxophonist Michael Morimoto in woodwinds.

The only major prize to escape the west went to the Ensemble Flute Alors, a Quebec combination of Vincent Lauzer, Marie-Laurence Primeau, Alexa Raine-Wright and Caroline Tremblay in the chamber music category.

Saskatchewan's other placing came in piano where Meagan Milatz, the 15-year-old from Weyburn, took second.

The event, sponsored by the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals, attracted 63 artists from 10 provinces during the three days of competition from Thursday through Saturday.



Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



1908 - 2009

100 Years of Festivals

Fall 2009

Masters of Music

Reprinted with permission by Ned Powers,
The StarPhoenix

Allen Harrington, Barbara Milner, Janice Paterson and Thomas Yu are among the Saskatoon musical artists who have soared among the stars on the Canadian festival scene.

Each developed their talents through the Saskatoon Music Festival process, mastering the challenges of long rehearsal times, the nervousness of facing of the adjudicators and finding their own measures of competitive edge.

Each still has the quality to lead by example in performing venues. But in the times leading up to the 38th National Music Festival, they have played different roles. Harrington and Yu were adjudicators who selected the Saskatchewan talent worthy of advancing to the nationals. Harrington and Paterson have their students among the national participants and Milner is the mother of a voice contender.

The National Music Festival comes to Saskatoon, beginning Thursday, recognizing and celebrating the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association's 100 years of history. The three days culminate with the grand award competition at the University of Saskatchewan's Convocation Hall on Saturday, Aug. 15, at 7:30 p.m.

On the eve of competition, what can the past champions share with the current contenders?

Harrington won the grand award at the 1999 national festival in Winnipeg, only the second saxophone player ever to accomplish the feat. He followed in the footsteps of another Saskatchewan performer, Susan Cook, who won in 1987. He also won in 2000 in the chamber music division, sharing the stage with Troy Linsley, Jason Caslor and Jeff Tang as members of The Scherzo Quartet.

He currently teaches saxophone, bassoon and chamber music at the University of Manitoba. One of his students, Keegan Dill, will be an entry in the woodwinds category and Dill, Mary Ellen Packer, Alena Arnason and Andrea Wills form *Mise A Sax*, an entry in chamber music.

"Part of each learning experience," says Harrington "is dealing with the nervousness and accepting the challenge to play in stressful conditions. The keys are learning the repertoire and committing to memory. On the festival stage, it's all about performance and the music you make. Keep the spirit of the performance, engage the audience and convey the music to them."

Milner went to the national festival finals twice, once in Regina and once in Medicine Hat in 1988 where she came off the stage with top honours in voice. She has pursued more opportunities to sing, most notably with the Saskatoon Opera Association, but she takes greatest pride in the family that she and husband, Cam, have raised – three boys, Benjamin, Samuel and Jacob.

Music has rubbed off on each of the boys but, during the days to come, Milner will be watching as son Samuel, soon to be 17 years old, competes in the national strings category.

"He's been building valuable experience this year, winning at the Saskatchewan festival, attending a three-week Young Artists program in Ottawa and just coming home from Morningside Music Bridge program where the students went to Poland," says Milner.

"He's been to the nationals before. I tell him to go and enjoy the music and be the best you can be. He's a perfectionist, very sensitive, very musical and deep down, he has a strong faith and believes strongly in what God wants him to do and be."

Paterson sang at the national festival once – in Regina in 1991 – but once was a magic charm as she overcame her nervousness and, as the last performer in the final concert, pulled everything together to win the grand award.

She has maintained her connections with Saskatoon, with the University of Saskatchewan and private teaching, and out of her crop of 56 students this year came Kayleigh Harrison, Saskatchewan's contender in voice.

"I've been telling Kayleigh to overcome the nervousness, get past the surge of adrenalin, and relax," says Paterson. "She is a very conscientious and intelligent student, a hard worker who takes her music seriously. She's a coloratura soprano, a fireworks-type of singer who lights up the stage and the room."

What is somewhat surprising is that Yu, arguably the most heralded Saskatoon pianist on the international stage, attended four national festivals, three times as a soloist and once with a chamber orchestra, but never came away with a victory. Once he finished second and twice he finished in third place.

He made his mark elsewhere, notably by winning the 17th International Competition for Outstanding Piano Amateurs in Paris in 2006 and becoming the first Canadian to win the Bosendorfer International Piano Competition for amateurs in Vienna in May, 2009. He will also compete in the Warsaw International Chopin Competition in September, fresh from an important tour which takes him to Rio De Janeiro.

"I have thrived on competition," says Yu. "Practice is the biggest thing. When I was young, I sometimes dreaded it. As I got older, I craved it because it is all about dedication. What people don't realize, as they watch you, are the countless hours you've spent alone in front of the piano. I tell students to play for the people, activate the brain, don't be shy."

"I learned some lessons from watching divers, skaters and the Olympic athletes. They never seemed to sit still as they were getting into the zone. My way of getting into the zone is with stretches, push-ups and listening to loud music."



Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



1908 - 2009

100 Years of Festivals

Fall 2009

Harrington, Milner, Paterson and Yu tell similar stories of encouragement and guidance from parents, the lessons they learned from a remarkable collection of teachers in Saskatoon, the opportunities to enter the festivals at any age, and lifting their own skills to consummate artistry.

Harrington's earliest music lessons came courtesy of his father, Andrew, at the piano in their Saskatoon home. When school band programs were launched at Greystone Heights, Russ Brown was the director. Harrington laughs that his choice of instruments were clarinet, oboe and trumpet, in that order but he wound up on tenor saxophone.

He later played in school bands and jazz bands at Aden Bowman, was given the opportunity to play bassoon by Wayne Toews after Grade 9 in the Youth Orchestra, and took private lessons from Doug Gilmour.

Harrington continued his music studies at the University of Saskatchewan, drawing more inspiration from Marvin Eckroth. He competed in the national music festival in 1996 and 1997, opted for a National Youth Orchestra tour in 1998, and returned to the festival for his victory in 1999.

"I felt each year I was a better player and more experienced. At the grand award concert in Winnipeg, I played a concerto by Lars-Erik Larsson. During the first movement, I had a memory slip so I improvised. I'm not sure the judges caught on. For the second and third movements, I played my heart out and won."

Harrington considers the 1999 victory as a starting point. Another came in 2000 when he was first in the Canadian Music Competition finals. There was another in 2004 when he won the grand prize at the International Stepping Stone competition. In 2006, he became the first Canadian and only the second North American to reach the final round of the International Adolphe Sax Competition in Belgium where he was fourth. He has just returned from playing at his third World Saxophone Congress.

Milner was singing in a school choir, "never thinking that music would be something I wanted to do" and she was 10 when she first took voice lessons from Marilyn Whitehead. She credits Whitehead with making "singing a real pleasure." At the University of Saskatchewan, she studied with Dorothy Howard and achieved her Bachelor of Music in voice performance.

She remembers her first appearance at the national festival "as quite devastating but it gave me a lesson in managing the languages and searching through my music." The second time, when she won in Medicine Hat, she was much better prepared.

She married Cam before the nationals, they agreed to settle in Saskatoon, and music became a focal point for the family, with all three boys taking their first piano lessons from their father.

"Sam was five years old when he saw two nieces playing violin and cello in the Suzuki program. We

enrolled and it was an opportunity to study with Philip Kashap. In the program, a parent has to take lessons as well, usually 20 minutes for the adult and 10 for the child. After three months, Sam surpassed me and the violin was coming to him so naturally."

Sam and Meagan Milatz, a Weyburn student who is Saskatchewan's festival entry in piano, both attended the Morningside program in Poland. Originated at Mount Royal College in Calgary, it has become an international camp where 50 students are accepted annually on audition and they train with world-wide instructors for a month.

Paterson was singing in a church choir, too, when Lillian Thompson suggested she take voice lessons from Marilyn Whitehead. She learned from Whitehead, sang with the Fireside Singers, and as she enrolled at the University of Saskatchewan, fell under the influence of Dorothy Howard. She came out of university with a Bachelor of Music and a Masters and later earned an opera diploma in Toronto. After free-lancing with the Canadian Opera Company, she came back to Saskatoon in 1996.

"I went to the nationals during the year I was working on my Masters," recalls Paterson. "I always enjoyed the festivals. I loved getting up and competing. I enjoyed the comments from the adjudicators. They tended to be intelligent, very encouraging and I learned so much from them. It was the same at the provincial finals.

"At the nationals in Regina, I was the last of the finalists to go on stage for the grand award event. The organizers decided each individual should be piped onto the stage. So much piping was a little unnerving. I was really nervous as I walked out. But once there, the nerves were gone.

"Dorothy Howard had me extremely well-prepared. She chose pieces which showed off my voice, including Schubert's The Young Nun. The secret is knowing the words inside out, delivering what you know, trusting what you know and communicating with the audience."

An interesting sidebar this year is that Howard, who now lives in Winnipeg, has a grandson, Alexander Howard-Scott, competing for Manitoba in the same category as Paterson's student.

Yu, who is now settling in Calgary where he will join periodontal office, remembers his introductions to the music scene.

"I was four years old and was mimicking my sisters at the piano. My parents decided I should learn to play. When I was five or six, we'd drive down College Drive on our way to the Saskatoon Music Festival and it seemed like such a nerve-racking experience I could hardly breathe. It was the start of something good," says Yu, who won as many as 50 competitions during his Saskatoon days.



Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



1908 - 2009

100 Years of Festivals

Fall 2009

"One of my goals was to get my picture on the front page of the StarPhoenix lifestyle page where they honoured the Kinsmen award winners every year."

His first teacher was Margaret Richards; his second was Louise Macpherson; and the third was Marilyn Harrison.

"One day Marilyn reached the point where she said it was time to go upstairs to see Robin, her husband who was an established concert pianist. I was 12 when I started to work with Robin, stayed with him four years, and then before moving to Toronto, I was taught by Bonnie Nicholson for 10 years."

A major Saskatchewan triumph was in 1996 when he won the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association's Concerto Competition. More doors opened, and the rich experience of being judged by Jon Kimura Parker, happened when he won in the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers competition. He also won at the Canadian Music Competition level. He also trained at the Glenn Gould Professional School of Music in Toronto.

Yu returned to Saskatchewan in June as one of the judges for the provincial festival, noting that "we don't have a shortage of talent on piano. We have many wonderful players in the developmental stage. When I was doing nationals, quality seemed to be the guide but now we're achieving the quantity as well."

With the trips to Rio de Janeiro and Warsaw on his calendar, he knows he's not going to stray very far from the piano bench.

"I always worried about making the choices between music and dentistry. I know now that the two will have to mix and I'm never going to devote full-time to one or the other," says Yu, who has a dentistry degree from the University of Saskatchewan and a masters degree in periodontics from the University of Toronto.

City Hosts National Music Festival

As part of Saskatchewan's 100th anniversary in music festival annals, Saskatoon moves front and centre as hosts for the National Music Festival, which begins Thursday and continues through Saturday.

Sixty-three participants, representing all 10 provinces, will be competing for major prizes in voice, piano, strings, guitar, woodwinds, brass and chamber groups. All preliminaries build to a grand awards final at the University of Saskatchewan's Convocation Hall on Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

Joanne Messer of Tisdale, the Saskatchewan host team chair, says planning for the festival has been in the works for three years.

"The festival usually moves around Canada on a rotating basis and our last one in Saskatoon was in 1997," says Messer. "We started campaigning early for this event because it helps Saskatchewan celebrate its

history, which dates back to 1909 when the first provincial finals held in Regina."

Messer says it is a unique opportunity to showcase Saskatchewan artists, facilities and volunteers.

Saskatchewan performers will be Kayleigh Harrison of Saskatoon in voice, violinist Samuel Milner of Saskatoon in strings, Meagan Milatz of Weyburn in piano, flautist April Wooley of Regina in woodwinds and trumpeter Natalie Fuller of Regina in brass.

"It seems the talent is getting younger and more accomplished because of the global opportunities. Samuel and Meagan are just back after spending the last month in Poland at the Morningside Music Bridge program. They have to be richer for the experience. There are some from other provinces who are flying directly to Saskatoon from international studies," says Messer.

"If there were global boundaries before, they're disappearing and everyone benefits from a sharing of musical knowledge.

"From a volunteer's viewpoint, you're inclined to stay with the festival process when you see the immense benefits the students are getting."

Messer has been active with the Saskatchewan festival association since 1992, joining at a time when the association was looking for sponsorship money.

"I happened to be married to Jack, who was president of Sask Power, and that was the beginning of a 10-year commitment at \$10,000 a year. The gift allowed us to finance the Sister Boyle scholarship, our major provincial prize of the year, as well as working on other initiatives," says Messer, who eventually became Saskatchewan president.

Virtually all of the festival activities will be on the university grounds.

Convocation Hall is a centrepiece stage. Other competitions will occur in Quance Theatre and the Neatby Timlin Theatre. Rehearsal areas are available throughout the department of music rooms in the Education Building. Competitors will be housed and fed at Athabasca Hall.

Penny Joynt of Saskatoon is co-chair of the committee and other leading roles are being filled by Diane Bestvater, Theresa Brost, Carol Donhauser, Eleanor Epp, Garry Joynt, Sandra Kerr, Karen MacCallum, Joy McFarlane-Burton, Janet McGonigle, Gloria Nickell, Darren Schwartz and Audrey Watson. Each brings their own team to the table, too.

Cindy Rublee, the executive director of the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals, recognizes the value of the volunteers.

"We need that fantastic volunteer base on the ground. Everything is made easier because of them," says Rublee, a former Saskatonian who is pleased but not surprised by the commitments.

Rublee, who is now based in Winnipeg, was with the Saskatchewan Intercultural Association for four years and was on the board of Persephone Theatre.



Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



1908 - 2009

100 Years of Festivals

Fall 2009

Century Club Report



The Century Club, a fund-raising project of SMFA that began in 2006, was completed at the close of the National Music Festival on August 15, 2009. The project was established as an endowment fund to provide the following:

- ♫ Funding for the Centennial Class Scholarships at the Provincial Music Festival in 2009.
- ♫ Assist with the costs of the SMFA Centennial Re-enactment Concert on May 24, 2009 in Regina.
- ♫ Assist with the funding needs as Saskatchewan hosted the 2009 National Music Festival in Saskatoon on August 13 – 15.
- ♫ Fund other special one-time projects.
- ♫ Build for the future of SMFA.

The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association is grateful for the support it has received. We sincerely thank all donors. The contributions have totalled \$30,192.89. These donations have allowed the SMFA to celebrate 100 Years of Note, and continue to be a dynamic and contributing member to the cultural fabric of the Province as we move into our second century.

Thanks to all whom have supported and promoted this project.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy McFarlane-Burton



2010 District Festival
dates can be found
online at
www.smfa.ca



**The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association
Century Club sincerely thanks the following
people for their generous donation:**

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Lore Ruschiensky, Bill Shurniak, Robin Swales,
Don and Donna Thomson,
Maple Creek Music Festival
Saskatoon Music Festival
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Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



1908 - 2009

100 Years of Festivals

Fall 2009

Re-enactment Concert Sunday, May 24, 2009



The 100th Anniversary of the first Provincial Music Festival was celebrated in great style Sunday afternoon at historic St. Paul's Cathedral in Regina. Members of the Regina Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Maestro Victor Sawa, filled the sanctuary with a rousing *Festival Fanfare*, commissioned for SMFA by Saskatchewan composer, Elizabeth Raum, followed by a luscious Wagner Overture from *Tannhauser*. Then 40 members of a Centennial chorus prepared by Robin Swales for this event, sang *Festgesang* by Felix Mendelssohn, accompanied by pianist Alison Purdy. MC for the afternoon was Dr. Lynda Haverstock, who told the audience that Ms. Purdy was the grand niece of Harriet Purdy who sang in the massed chorus in 1909.

The second half of the program was a pastoral *The May Queen*, by Sir William Sterndale-Bennett, for orchestra, choir, and soloists. The four soloists, soprano Robyn Driedger Klassen, Contralto Lisa Hornung, Tenor Michael Harris and Bass-Baritone Garry Gable, all former festival participants, sang brilliantly and the choir was a delight to the ears – tuneful and well prepared.

Dr. Haverstock introduced Gloria Nickell, past president of SMFA, The Very Reverend James D. Merrett, Dean of St. Paul's, The Hon. Christine Tell, Minister of Saskatchewan Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport, and Byrna Barclay, chair Saskatchewan Arts Board. All the speakers brought greetings and commended the Music Festival Association for its commitment to music education and excellence of performance. The afternoon concert ended with everyone singing *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* a hymn tune written by Mendelssohn which would have been sung (to different words) in 1909.

Following the concert everyone enjoyed a reception in the Ballroom of the Hotel Saskatchewan. The 100th Anniversary cake was cut with great ceremony by Honourary Life Member Lillian Mitchell, formerly of Grenfell and now of Saskatoon. Background music was supplied by Regina festival winners the Anderson Trio, Roxanne, Paul and Eric.

Doris Covey Lazecki



A Letter from Honorary Life Member Lillian Mitchell

Dear Doris, Robin, June, Marlene, Beverly and Carol,

Lisa, Verna and I were on Cloud Nine all the way to Saskatoon. In fact, I am still on Cloud Nine.

What can I say? I cannot remember being so excited and inspired as I was during the three hours together on Sunday, May 24. I hope this letter reaches you before the post-celebration meeting.

Congratulations, Doris, on your people skills, your insight, and organizational skills as you master minded this centennial event. Congratulations, also, to Robin, June, Marlene, Beverly and Carol. The six of you constituted a great team.

I was highly honoured to hold that knife with Gloria as we cut the anniversary cake. Thank you, Gloria for honouring me as you spoke. There was sadness in my excitement that Mossie, Shiela and the others were not present. I will call Jean Martin to tell her all about it.

A perfect choice it was to dedicate the concert to Gordon and Mossie Hancock. The event was truly an overwhelming success.

And, although I missed biting into the cake, I was honoured again when Doris gave me one of the beautiful floral arrangements as we left. It is gorgeous – I continue to ask residents here to drop in to see it. A friend took a picture.

So Saskatchewan is that arrangement with the Western Red Lilies, the golden rod, the daisies, the bearded wheat, the cat tails – and yet, with the maple leaves, the arrangement recognized, also, the National Music Festival.

I think the spirits of the 1909 musicians were with us, especially during the presentation of *The May Queen*. I commend you on patiently researching and finding that music.

Congratulations to all. A privilege it was to be there and to be part of the celebration.

Sincerely, in appreciation,

Lillian Mitchell





Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



1908 - 2009

100 Years of Festivals

Fall 2009

SMFA Centennial Concert

History and music were in the air as the Saskatchewan Music Festival celebrated its centenary with an afternoon concert on Sunday, May 24 at St. Paul's Cathedral, Regina. The programme, which featured orchestra, choir, and soloists under the musical direction of Victor Sawa and Robin Swales, re-enacted portions of the original concert from 1909.

The event was beautifully emceed by Dr. Lynda Haverstock, who also introduced several guest speakers.

The opening *Festival Fanfare* by Elizabeth Raum featured the full orchestra, with some especially rich brass playing. Wagner's *Tannhauser* Overture followed. Although the orchestra was more 'chamber' in size, the sonorities were warm and full, thanks in part to the cathedral's excellent acoustics.

The first half concluded with the recently-discovered *Festgesang* by Mendelssohn, written for piano accompaniment and chorus. Alison Purdy was the pianist, continuing a family tradition of music festival participation. (Alison's great aunt Harriet sang in the 1909 concert choir). The choir was excellent, with many clear, vibrant and trained voices evident.

The second half featured the programme's main work, Sterndale-Bennett's *The May Queen*. Composed in 1858 and extremely popular in its day, it is now a rarity. Light-hearted and pastoral in nature, it featured the excellent choir, orchestra and four soloists: Soprano Robyn Driedger-Klassen, Tenor Michael Harris, Contralto Lisa Hornung and Bass Garry Gable. All singers, either formerly or currently from Saskatchewan, were most convincing. Soprano Robyn Driedger-Klassen's voice was especially clear, warm and full, with a very wide and even range. She and Garry Gable also brought appropriate comic elements to their roles.

The concert concluded (somewhat eccentrically!) with Mendelssohn's *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*, part of a *Festgesang* that would have been sung in 1909 albeit with different words, with the audience joining in to "raise the rafters". The afternoon was thoroughly enjoyed by the performers and capacity audience, alike.

The Saskatchewan Music Festival Provincial Board & Staff is to be commended for its efforts in presenting this concert, thereby highlighting the importance of classical music in our province's history and Saskatchewan's outstanding leadership in the music festival movement across Canada.

Submitted by Janice Elliott-Denike



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 6 & 7, 2009

Saskatchewan Music Conference & SMFA AGM – Regina

November 14, 2009

SMFA Concerto Competition – Regina

March - May

SMFA District Festivals (48 locations)

June 4, 5, & 6, 2010

Provincial Finals – Prince Albert

August 12 – 14, 2010

National Music Festival – Montreal

*SMFA is supported by grants from
Sask Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport,
Culture & Recreation,
The Saskatchewan Arts Board, SaskCulture,
and Department of Tourism, Parks,
Culture and Sport*

Visit the SMFA website
for Photos of the
100th Anniversary
Re-enactment Concert



Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



1908 - 2009

100 Years of Festivals

Fall 2009

What Do You Get When You Cross a Bassoon and a Trumpet?



(Toronto, Sept. 4, 2009) Most would never think of making this combination work, but with the artistic acumen of Canadians Nadina Mackie Jackson, bassoon and Guy Few, trumpet, it just won them the **2009 Just Plain Folks Best Classical Orchestral Album** for their recording BACCHANALE with the Toronto Chamber Orchestra. The JPF Awards are the largest international music awards in the world and included hundreds of musicians from 165 countries. The ceremonies held in Nashville, Tennessee on August 28 and 29, 2009, celebrated 95 genres of music, including Nadina and Guy's first recording with full string orchestra, BACCHANALE.

An exciting milestone in these artists' careers, bassoonist Nadina Mackie Jackson said *"that the recognition and award for her CD was exhilarating given the high level of competition but the biggest thrill of all was to perform at the Wild Horse Saloon in the company of incredibly talented musicians from other walks of our profession. It was both humbling and inspiring to meet and hear so many extraordinarily dedicated and enthusiastic musicians."*

Over the awards weekend there were over 100 performances, from Classical to Metal to Native American. In the spirit of the Just Plain Folks celebration, Nadina pulled on her boots and performed BASSANGO, one of the title tracks from BACCHANALE, at the Awards Concert held in the grand Wild Horse Saloon in Nashville on August 29, 2009. The sole classical performer featured at the awards concert, organizers said that this was the first time that a solo bassoonist has ever performed at the Wild Horse Saloon.

BACCHANALE passed through 5 rounds of screening and an 18-month jury process by the Just Plain Folk's panel of 10,000 judges to emerge the first place winner in the Classical Orchestral category. One third of one percent of all entries made it past the initial nomination phase. BACCHANALE is the first CD ever to present two double concertos for trumpet and bassoon along with solo works for each instrument, including music by Hindemith, Mathieu Lussier, Persichetti and Shostakovitch. With this recording, Canadian composer Mathieu Lussier also won third place in the **Best Classical Contemporary Song** for his composition 'Bassango' for bassoon and string orchestra (Track 10).

Just Plain Folks has a membership of 50,000 independent musicians from around the globe. The judging criteria are based on music and performance that moves the listener. In total, 42,000 recordings spanning 95 genres were submitted for consideration to the 2009 awards. These CDs represent independent musicians of all ages, musical styles and nationality.

The production of BACCHANALE was generously supported by a Sound Recording Loan and a Marketing and Promotion Grant from FACTOR (The Foundation to Assist Canadian Talent on Recording).

As they say in Nashville – *'That's great. Keep 'em coming. Spread the word.'* For Nadina and Guy, let's spread the music!

Nadina and Guy continue to commission new double concertos for trumpet and bassoon. They have also recorded an album of nineteenth century concerti (ROMANZA) and are slated to record an album of new works by Quebecois and French composers (FRANCOPHONIA). They were appointed the artistic directors of the Grand River Baroque Festival in 2008.





Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



1908 - 2009

100 Years of Festivals

Fall 2009

From the Provincial Office

WOW! What a year (or two years) for the SMFA. Celebrating two 100th Anniversaries in a row is huge undertaking. Many components contributed to the success of our celebrations; the most important being our volunteers. **THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS.** We are so lucky to have a large group of people who are supportive and passionate about the music festival system in our province. From the local level, provincial level and national level, I can't thank you enough. Volunteers are a human resource and an asset to any organization. The SMFA is very rich in assets.



Saskatchewan's five music Provincial Cultural Organizations (PCOs) have a long and distinguished history of meeting the needs of the province's music community. These organizations (Saskatchewan Music Educators Association, Saskatchewan Choral Federation, Saskatchewan Band Association, Saskatchewan Orchestral Association, and Saskatchewan Music Festivals Association) have helped the people of Saskatchewan access, perform and enjoy music by providing advocacy, workshops, resources, communications and programming. Each of the organizations receives funding support from Saskatchewan Lotteries through SaskCulture and the Saskatchewan Arts Board in the form of global grants. There are currently 31 (PCOs) funded in the system, serving the areas of Arts, Heritage, Multiculturalism and Cultural Industries.

In October 2008, [SaskCulture Inc. completed a funding/eligibility review of lottery beneficiaries which indicated that the music associations should investigate ways to share resources.](#) After numerous meetings, it was determined that an [organizational review](#) of each music PCO from an independent consultant would take place. The consultant will study their existing structures [of each association](#) to determine if [Saskatchewan residents the can be better served in the delivery of music programs in the province current structures can be enhanced to provide improved service delivery of music programming in the pro](#)with recommendations to be presented in March 2010.

One of the first steps in the sharing of resources by the music PCO's is the Saskatchewan Music

Conference with this year's theme, **"RIDING THE WAVE OF CHANGE"**. The SMC Conference 2009 will be held November 5-7, in Regina at the Travelodge. It will bring together more than 300 music educators and volunteers from around the province. For more information or to register please visit our website. **SMFA delegates are asked to register through our organization and not through the SMC.** I hope that you are able to attend and take part in the SMFA Syllabus Workshop, one-on-one session with David Melax and the Melax Festival System or to take advantage of some of the great workshops made available by our fellow music organizations.

I know I say this every year at this time, but here it goes again. If you have not already sent in the following forms, please do so as soon as possible:

- ✓ **Adjudicator Time Frame Form**
- ✓ **Officer Form/Directory Information**
- ✓ **Supply Form**
- ✓ **People/Stats Form**
- ✓ **Money Form/Financial Statements**

These forms enable us to help you deliver your programs.

As we **RIDE THE WAVE OF CHANGE**, I would like to point out that the SMFA website (www.smfa.ca) has gone through a makeover. One of the improvements is the addition of a photo gallery with photos of SMFA events for your enjoyment. Please "surf the web" and let us know what you think. We welcome any feedback (good or bad) that you may have.



Many of you may have noticed that the Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers' Association (SRMTA), as an experiment, have published the fall 2009 newsletter as an e-journal (<http://srmta.com/opusfall09.php>). The SMFA has decided to follow along, once again **RIDING THE WAVE OF CHANGE**. A notice will be sent out that the newsletter is posted on the website. If you would like a printed copy of the newsletter, please notify our office and one will be sent out to you.

The theme of this year's conference seems to be the theme of the year. Let's hope it is a good ride!

Carol Donhauser, Executive Director

