



Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



Established in 1908

December 2012

SMFA Provincial Office
PO Box 37005
Regina, SK S4S 7K3



"Classical Competitive Festivals"

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President's Message

Karen MacCallum, President



*"There's a long, long trail awinding into the land of my dreams,
Where the nightingales are singing and a white moon beams.
There's a long, long night of waiting until my dreams all come true;
Till the day when I'll be going down that long, long trail with you."*

- Stoddard King



Several years ago, I decided to start on a journey as a Director on the Board of the SMFA. I had been active for many years on the Swift Current Festival Executive. When I was young, I enjoyed my own festival experiences and have considered it a privilege to enter my piano students and accompany vocal and instrumental solos. When I accepted the invitation to move into the position of Second Vice-

President, I knew it was the beginning of that "long trail". There have been some dreams come true and the occasional nightmare with which to deal! Ah, the nightingales of every discipline that I have heard at Provincial and National Competitions have been outstanding. I have a much higher appreciation of the musical talents of the young musicians of our province and our country.

As all the volunteers at the District levels are diligently working towards the 2013 Festival season, I sincerely thank them for their perseverance and sharing their own talents. To past Board members, Theresa Brost and Darren Schwartz, who have finished their terms, thank you for your input over these years. Our Board now consists of Executive Director Carol Donhauser, President Karen MacCallum, Past President Joy McFarlane-Burton, First Vice President Nancy Toppings, Second Vice President Karen Unger, and Directors Gail Mergen, Robyn Rutherford, and newly elected Donna Kreiser and Sandra Senga. I have every confidence that the SMFA will go forward with the dedication and contributions of the new Executive and Directors. In our provincial office, Sandra Kerr is the Interim Adjudicator Liaison and Assistant to the Executive Director. She is a lady of many talents and we appreciate the knowledge that she brings to this office.

On the following page, you will see the Liaison Map of the province. Each Board member is responsible for the District Festivals in their area. I know each of them will be contacting you throughout the year. If you are on a District Festival Board, why not send a quick email to your Liaison and get acquainted!

Every year, several exciting events at the provincial level are planned and come to fruition through the generous support of our donors and funding from the Sask. Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation administered by SaskCulture and the Saskatchewan Arts Board. Our website contains all the details of these programs so be sure to check it often and visit Facebook, too.

If you want to have amazing experiences, to have the opportunity to promote a cause dear to your heart, and to participate with goal-oriented team players, do consider joining us on the Provincial Board. We can walk the trail together!





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Saskatchewan Music Conference

Robyn Rutherford

"Get a Grip" was the theme chosen for the fourth annual Saskatchewan Music Conference, a joint partnership with the Saskatchewan Choral Federation (SCF), the Saskatchewan Band Association (SBA), the Saskatchewan Music Educators Association (SMEA), the Saskatchewan Orchestral Association (SOA), and the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA). The 2012 Saskatchewan Music Conference took place November 2-4, 2012 at the Saskatoon Inn.

Friday, November 2

Several festival delegates were registered to choose from twenty-nine sessions offered on Friday. Ian Nelson gave an informative presentation on "The Art of Adjudicating" which was well attended. It was really encouraging to have many young people in attendance. David Melax and Darren Schwartz presented a session regarding online entries. There was great interest in this area which was shown by the large audience in attendance. This has the possibility of saving our volunteers many hours of work.

Greetings were brought from Mayor Don Atchison, James Hawn (Sask Culture), and Chris Morin (Saskatchewan Arts Board). The Awards Banquet was held on Friday evening with Joy McFarlane-Burton as emcee. Thirty-four individuals were honored by their organizations for their contributions and achievements, including the following SMFA Volunteer Award Recipients:

- Tom and Karen Meszaros – Biggar Music Festival
- Virginia Finstad & Don Kindopp – Estevan & District Music Festival
- Colleen Oscar-Swan and Steve Mealey – Kindersley Music Festival
- Monica Dayman – Kipling Music Festival
- June Draude and Vi Presber – Naicam Music Festival
- Karen Hill – Nipawan Music Festival
- Kelly Ewson-Lefevre – Prince Albert Kiwanis Music Festival
- Kendra Townsend – Quill Plains Music Festival
- Brenda Hamilton and Melanie Wickett – Rosetown Music Festival
- Mimi Lam – Saskatoon Music Festival

Honorary Life Memberships were awarded to Janet McGonigle and Penny Joynt.

Saturday, November 3

Eighteen sessions were listed on Saturday's schedule. SMFA delegates met in the Saskatoon Room for breakfast before Theresa Brost gave an informative session on the new syllabus for 2013-2015.

Festival delegates joined with a large crowd of SMC attendees for the keynote address given by Patricia Katz. Patricia spoke convincingly on the importance of taking the time to "pause" in our busy lives in order to be able to continue to enjoy our work.

The AGM was held over the lunch break running concurrently with the other AGMs, 52 delegates were in attendance, representing 23 district festivals. Also attending were 9 board members and two staff members. Many thanks to our Executive Director Carol Donhauser for preparing the 2012 Annual Report and for organizing the great door prizes and beautiful decorating. Donna Kreiser and Sandra Senga were elected to three-year terms on the Board of Directors. Darren Schwartz, retiring director, and Theresa Brost, Past President, were thanked for their service on the board.

The 2012-2013 Provincial Board:

- President – Karen MacCallum, Swift Current
- 1st Vice President – Nancy Toppings, Kipling
- 2nd Vice President – Karen Unger, Spalding
- Past President – Joy McFarlane-Burton, Saskatoon
- Directors – Gail Mergen (Limerick), Robyn Rutherford (Unity), Anita Kuntz (Estevan), Sandra Senga (Meadow Lake), and Donna Kreiser (Prince Albert).

The afternoon sessions were in the form of roundtable discussions on "like-size festivals" and "like committees", moderated by Nancy Toppings and Anita Kuntz respectively. Joy McFarlane-Burton, Darren Schwartz, and Carol Donhauser then hosted an informative Q & A session. The Conference concluded with the Honour Groups Concert at Circle Drive Alliance Church, a wonderful showcase of young Saskatchewan musicianship.





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Honorary Life Members

Janet McGonigle



Teaching piano and theory was a second career for Janet McGonigle. She had previously worked as a nurse for fifteen years. Under the instruction of Sheila Shinkewski, Janet earned an Associate Diploma from Trinity College in 1984. Music Festivals were an enigma to her when she began teaching in 1983. Involvement as a volunteer began with the Saskatoon Music Festival in 1990 when the position of Secretary/Treasurer became vacant. Having no experience with the festival movement, Janet volunteered, not realizing that this connection would lead to twenty years of volunteering with "the best organization with which I've ever been involved". She acted in this capacity until the position was divided and continued as Secretary, managing the Saskatoon Office for ten years. Following this, Janet became Entry Secretary, serving seven years.

Janet attended many events with the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals, and served on the host committee when the National Music Festival was held in Saskatoon.

Janet was elected to the Saskatchewan Music Festival's Board of Directors in 1991, serving for 13 years, including a term as President. *"I met some of the most fascinating people: adjudicators, government officials, board members, and other volunteers from throughout the province. More importantly, I met hundreds of young musicians for whom I developed admiration and respect. I was constantly amazed by their talent, dedication, humility and their ability to celebrate the success of others. I witnessed what music festivals provided for these young musicians and the skills they acquired that enable them to deal with life's challenges. I have received more than I have given to this vital organization. The Music Festival Association has meant more to me than words can express; I have a connection to it that will never be severed".*

Until 2011, Janet adjudicated throughout the province but she continues to volunteer for the Saskatoon Festival in the office and as an Adjudicator's Assistant.

Penny Joynt

Penny Joynt grew up in Winnipeg and was part of the Music Festival there as a performer. After some time – after marriage, children, and many moves – she became involved with the Lanigan Music Festival and helped with the programming once her two youngest children started attending Lanigan Festival. In 1988 Penny began her involvement with the Saskatoon Festival, first on the Scholarship Committee and the year after that on the Provincial Board.

Those were good years but busy years. She was President of the Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers' Association, The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association, and The Saskatoon Music Festival Association all at the same time.

Penny was on the SMFA Provincial Board for three terms and also was the Executive Director of the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals (FCMF) from 2000-2006. She is currently an Honorary Life Member of FCMF. She also served from 1988 to the present on the Saskatoon Music Festival Committee with the exception of the years 2000-2006. She is currently Co-President with Diane Dodds.





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SMFA Board Welcomes New Board Members

SMFA is pleased to welcome Donna Kreiser and Sandra Senga to the Board of Directors. Both were elected to a three-year term at the AGM on November 3.

Donna Kreiser

Donna was born and raised in Regina surrounded by the sound of piano music being practiced by three older siblings. She began piano at the age of seven studying with Sister Joan Miller and then studying pipe organ with Mr. Gordon Wallis.

Donna has been an active volunteer in all communities in which she has lived, striving to provide a variety of culturally enriching experiences for young children. These communities have included Regina, Weyburn, Uranium City, La Ronge, and Prince Albert. A huge part of this volunteer experience was music liturgy as an organist.

Music festivals have been a positive part of Donna's life experience, initially as a participant, then watching her two daughters perform, becoming president of the La Ronge Music Festival and currently serving as vocal scholarship chairperson for the Kiwanis Prince Albert Music Festival.

Donna is educated as a teacher having worked in elementary classrooms and has also taught piano privately. Following her teaching career, Donna embarked on a new endeavor working in health care. She now works as an early childhood interventionist who has opportunity to provide musical experiences to developmentally delayed preschoolers.

Donna spends a great deal of leisure time with her family that has grown with the recent addition of two active grandsons, the oldest of which participates in the Music for Young Children Program. She treasures her summer vacations spent at a wilderness cabin on Lac La Ronge. Donna is thrilled to participate on the SMFA Board and looks forward to fostering the musical experience of young musicians.

Sandra Senga

Sandra is a retired classroom teacher. During her career she taught at the upper elementary where about a third of her time was spent teaching music. She also directed the School Choir and many, many school musicals. Her music classes and choir were always entered into the Music Festival.

When the Meadow Lake festival was being organized, Sandra was invited to the first meeting and she has been involved ever since. She has served the organization in many different capacities over the years.

Though retired, Sandra still works as a substitute teacher and especially enjoys it when the occasional day lands her in for the music teacher. She is also active in the Music Ministry of her church.

In winter, Sandra enjoys curling. She curls regularly one evening a week and drops in for the casual afternoon curling as often as she can. During the warmer months she can be found outside digging and planting in her garden, keeping the grass trimmed or sitting in the shade of a tree with a book. Sandra is proud to be serving her second term as an SMFA Board member.



We are Moving!

Effective January 1, 2013 the SMFA Provincial Office will be located at 4623 Albert St. (Regina)

Our Mailing Address is:

PO Box 37005

Regina, SK S4S 7K3

Phone Numbers and E-mail remain the same.



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Round Table Discussions

This year's Fall Conference included two round table discussions. For the first, Generating Excitement and Passion at your Local Festival, we met at tables with others from like-sized festivals. For the second, we met with others who had similar volunteer job-descriptions (Presidents, Secretaries, etc). Each group had specific questions to consider. There was much great discussion and feedback as we shared ideas. Here are the compilations of those discussions:

Generating Excitement and Passion at your Local Festival – compiled by Anita Kuntz

How to support and encourage participation from private teachers:

- Send email to keep teachers informed
- Sponsor an event especially for teachers and band and choir directors such as a 'Wine and Cheese'
- Provide a teacher scholarship to recognize a teacher who goes above and beyond
- Make sure you have personal contact with each teacher
- Have a teacher incentive based on number of entries
- Invite the teachers to attend or work at a festival session to learn what it is all about
- Ask for feedback from the teachers

How to support and encourage participation from organizations such as schools, choirs, church groups, etc:

- Waive entry fees for groups (4 H speech)
- Give a personal presentation to group
- Invite teachers or leaders of group to be on committee so they have representation
- Communication so they are aware of what classes are available to enter
- Go directly to school and speak to teachers about speech arts and classroom classes and talk about how the festival might benefit them and their students
- Show enthusiasm and appreciation when they do make that effort. Make sure you follow up after the festival is over
- Invite School Art programs to have a competition for Program Cover
- Ask a member of these groups to act as MC for Awards evenings or fundraisers

How to raise awareness and encourage participation from community:

- Newspaper advertising and articles directly relating to upcoming events
- Take advantage of the fact that the radio stations need to have a certain amount of Canadian content
- FACEBOOK and other social media
- Ask church, civic or local organizations to provide coffee/cookies, etc.
- Encourage speaking clubs and service clubs to attend and advertise the event
- Partnership with local Home and School organizations
- Have a social event prior to festival to invite community to attend without the adjudication process
- Take advantage of Digital boards in your community events

How to create a positive festival experience for volunteers:

- While giving service a volunteer should enjoy what they do! Be polite, friendly and make sure you provide clear instructions
- Show appreciation for volunteer. Offer free tickets to final concert or sessions
- Send a hand written thank you card or make a personal phone call to thank them
- Have a silver collection rather than have someone at the door (Less volunteers)
- Have no admission until final concert
- Newsletter to parents outlining expectations and rewards of becoming a festival volunteer

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Discussions in “like” committees: conclusions – compiled by Nancy Toppings

President/Past President/Vice President – a job for life? How does your festival committee handle succession planning? Delegating the work load – ideas that work.

- Co-presidents. Need an organizer, not necessarily a musician
- Job description handbook and time-line for all positions
- Letters to parents describing specific small jobs (workers vs planners)

Entry Secretary/Programming – on-line registration: the way of the future?

- Meadow Lake has saved 20-30 hours administration time with on-line registration. Reduces frustration caused by illegible entry forms. Entry forms should be standardized.
- Family maximum fee will need to be addressed.
- Options to pay by credit card, from chequing account by PayPal (or to send a cheque?)
- How to catch errors? Checking would take place at a different point in the process.

Treasurer/Finance/Fundraising – how do we achieve financial security for our festivals?

- Assistance from local service organizations. Canvass local businesses; recruit a major sponsor
- Dress-down days with proceeds to the festival or charity
- Post that receipts are available (festivals must have a charity registration number). Silver collection

Recruiting volunteers – how do we engage and retain new volunteers in today’s world?

- Approach local service organization, and people of influence: elected officials, church, school board, principal, superannuated teachers
- Mentor for volunteers taking on a new role. Involve the whole family. Recruit people who grew up at the festival
- Co-chair positions
- Send out duty lists to those who aren’t attending meetings
- Give tokens of appreciation and public recognition. Free admission to final concert for all volunteers
- Evening/weekend sessions where possible

Public relations – raising the profile of the music festival in your community. How do we get school music/speech arts back in the festival?

- Sponsor events throughout the year: workshops, concerts, carol festivals, strawberry social prior to festival (free food & entertainment)
- Hold workshops during festival
- Waive entry fees for first-year participants or target group (e.g. solo speech arts)
- Regular column in local newspaper, continuous promotion
- Direct contact/mentorship for new piano and voice teachers. Recognize a teacher at the awards program
- Recognize long-time participants and long-service volunteers
- Wine and cheese events (important committee meeting, informational meeting for music teachers or prospective volunteers)
- Involve local 4-H groups (public speaking); try to accommodate their schedule
- Target drama groups
- Presentation at school staff meeting; talk to administration about designating one staff member for speech arts
- Participate in Open House at the school
- Find one key teacher contact, someone with the knowledge and passion. Get a teacher on the committee
- Utilize talents of teacher interns
- Take the adjudicator to the school
- Encourage speech arts as an extra-curricular activity (e.g. noon hour poetry club)
- Promote the cost-efficiency of your event
- Take advantage of any free advertising (e.g. digital community sign), facebook, twitter, community website, church bulletins, radio announcements
- Poster contest





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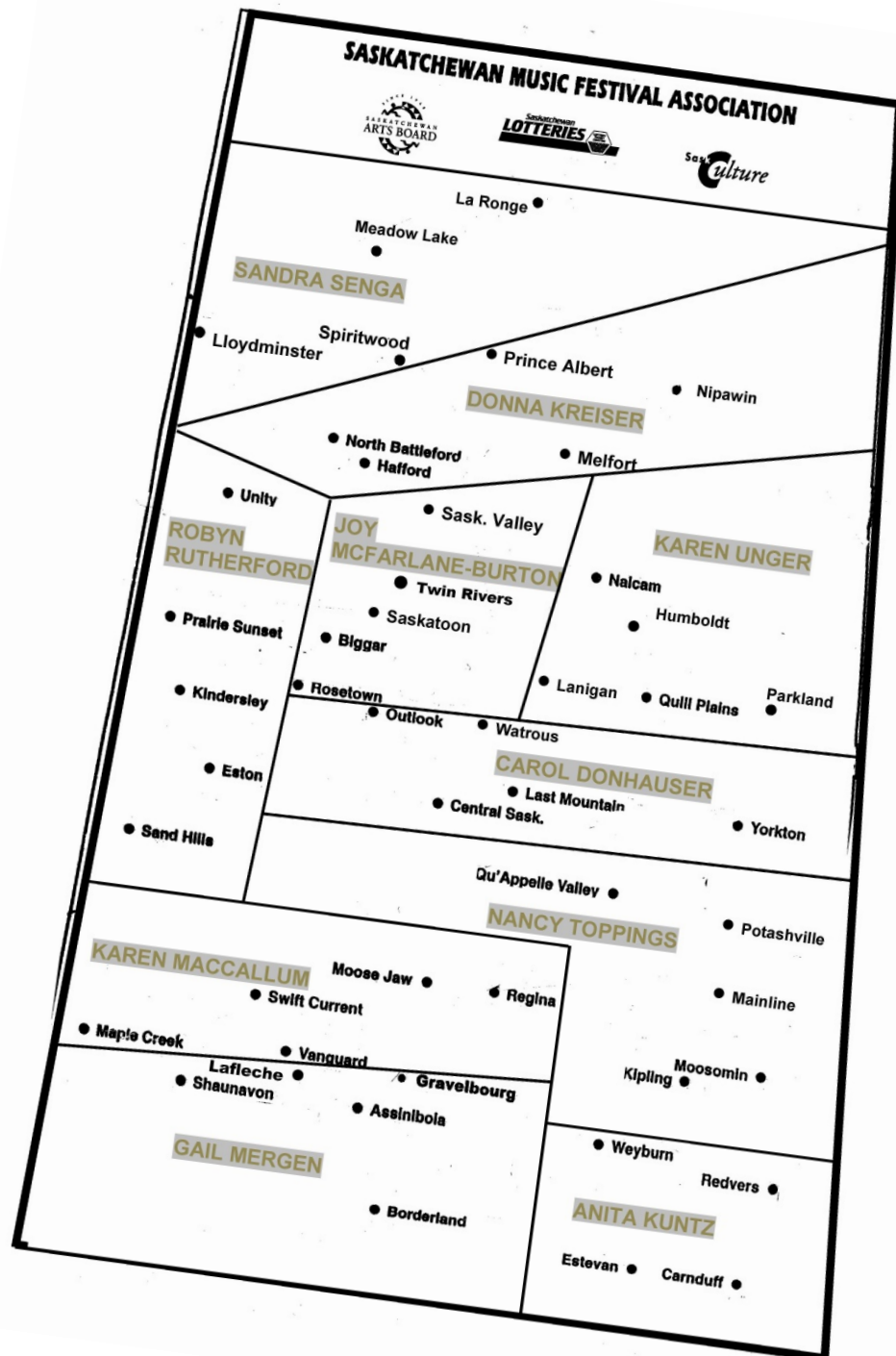
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SMFA Board Liaison Map





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Getting to Know Your Board and Staff

Submitted by Karen Unger

We thought you might enjoy getting to know a little bit more about those who serve the SMFA, so a series of questions was posed for each Board member to answer. You may find some interesting things in common with us, or perhaps a few surprises! Here are the questions, and our answers!

Anita Kuntz

- City/Town: *Estevan*
- Where in the world would you go and why? *Now that I have a daughter living in Australia – that is an easy question! Since I come from Norwegian heritage, I would love to visit that country someday.*
- What is your guilty pleasure? *Taking a nap on Sunday afternoon, going to see the same Broadway musical 2, 3 or 4 times! Going out for dinner or lunch – at least once a week.*
- Your most memorable musical experience: *There are so many of them – In High School, performing in ‘The Music Man’ (I was one of the 4 old ladies) was a great experience, but when I got to go to my first professional Broadway musical (Phantom of the Opera) it was MAGICAL! I think my mouth was hanging open the entire time. I have been to so MANY since then. Seeing 5 Broadway musicals in 5 days in New York City was also pretty memorable.*
- Best book recently read: *Still Alice, Water for Elephants, I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced*
- One thing your festival friends would be surprised to learn about you: *I was born in a car on the way to the hospital. That was a pretty big deal back then!!!*

Donna Kreiser

- City/Town: *Prince Albert*
- Where in the world would you go and why? *Iceland - the geography and culture of the people intrigue me.*
- What is your guilty pleasure? *Watching Ice Pilots on TV*
- Your most memorable musical experience: *Receiving the silver medal for pipe organ*
- Best book recently read: *Sarah’s Key*
- One thing your festival friends would be surprised to learn about you: *I enjoy the challenge of felling the dead trees around our wilderness cabin and cutting it up for firewood.*

Gail Mergen

- City/Town: *Limerick, SK*
- Where in the world would you go and why? *New York, for the great music of all sorts*
- What is your guilty pleasure? *Chocolate, of course!*
- Your most memorable musical experience: *James Ehnes performing Brahms Violin Concerto with Regina Symphony this fall was tremendous. I’ve also enjoyed various musicals that have toured through Saskatchewan – Fantastic!*
- Best book recently read: *Sarah’s Key*
- One thing your festival friends would be surprised to learn about you: *We will be grandparents in April. YAY!! The baby is due during our festival week.*

Joy McFarlane-Burton

- City/Town: *Saskatoon*
- Where in the world would you go and why? *Sweden and Norway - because I haven't been there yet.*
- What is your guilty pleasure? *Ice cream in the summertime*
- Your most memorable musical experience: *Earning my RCM ARCT Diploma in Singing Performance*
- Best book recently read: *Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese*
- One thing your festival friends would be surprised to learn about you: *I enjoy re-finishing furniture*

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Karen MacCallum

- City/Town: *Swift Current*
- Where in the world would you go and why? *I would love to visit the British Isles because there are so many historical buildings and sites that I could view personally. A picture may be worth a thousand words but I like to say that I've been there!*
- What is your guilty pleasure? *Bailey's Irish Cream over milk and ice or any reasonable facsimile*
- Your most memorable musical experience: *My worst was accompanying a tuba solo at festival. As the piano part was horrendous, I basically stopped at one point and the tuba-player had to continue on his own for a short time. My best, other than all the wonderful students and festivals that I have experienced, would be when I was invited to perform at a special celebration in my home town of Hazlet.*
- Best book recently read: *In the last 12 months, I have read approximately 45 novels. In a box of books that I received from a neighbour, I came across the first three books in a series "The Whiteoaks of Jalna" by Canadian author Mazo De La Roche. She wrote thirteen books in this series and I was able to get the other ten through the library. This is amazing because these novels are from the 1940's and have been re-published. One book was so new that I think I was the first to crack it open. These stories are about a young family that came to Canada in the mid 1800's and were pioneers somewhere by one of the Great Lakes and continues through four generations. The CBC made a television series based on this saga. I wish that I could see it!*
- One thing your festival friends would be surprised to learn about you: *I love to be a passenger on my husband's Honda Goldwing in my full leathers, boots and full-face helmet.*

Karen Unger

- City/Town: *Spalding*
- Where in the world would you go and why? *I've always thought it would be fascinating to go on a Mediterranean cruise. So much early world history began there!*
- What is your guilty pleasure? *Playing Scrabble on my iPad, mostly against my sister Lynette*
- Your most memorable musical experience: *Going back to music lessons in my 30's to attain my Associate and Licentiate diplomas in piano. It was very satisfying to study as an adult.*
- Best book recently read: *The Book of Negroes, Still Alice, The Happiness Project*
- One thing your festival friends would be surprised to learn about you: *I was recently asked to play drums at our church ladies Christmas party. So I went to YouTube for a lesson, practiced for a few days, and made my debut! I had a blast!*

Nancy Toppings

- City/Town: *Kipling*
- Where in the world would you go and why? *Anywhere warm.....Cozumel is high on the list.*
- What is your guilty pleasure? *Relaxing in the sun with a good book*
- Your most memorable musical experience: *Summer choir camps at St. Peter's Abbey – great people, beautiful music and wonderful hospitality!*
- Best book recently read: *The Time Keeper by Mitch Albom*
- One thing your festival friends would be surprised to learn about you: *Growing up, my passion was figure skating – I even spent my summers on the ice. Odd that I now prefer warm temperatures!*

Robyn Rutherford

- City/Town: *Unity*
- Where in the world would you go and why? *I would love to tour Scotland, Ireland and England to research family history.*
- What is your guilty pleasure? *Reading, walking and music*
- Your most memorable musical experience: *Just a few weeks ago I was asked to accompany Sylvia McDonald who was visiting her sister in Unity. Sylvia has studied with many famous vocalists at Julliard and in Germany and taught University in Nova Scotia for many years. She is now enjoying retirement.*
- Best book recently read: *The Secret Lives of John Wilson (I like history.)*
- One thing your festival friends would be surprised to learn about you: *I have enjoyed white-water rafting, and I would love to try bungee jumping and sky-diving!*

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Sandra Senga

- City/Town: *Meadow Lake*
- Where in the world would you go and why? *I would love to visit Newfoundland. I would love to see the ruggedness of the coastline and all of its natural beauty.*
- What is your guilty pleasure? *Listening to ABBA music*
- Your most memorable musical experience: *The live performance of "Les Miserables"*
- Best book recently read: *The House at Riverton by Kate Morton*
- One thing your festival friends would be surprised to learn about you: *I am a first class procrastinator.*

Carol Donhauser

- City/Town: *Regina*
- Where in the world would you go and why? *I would love to go anywhere warm in the winter. We have family in Costa Rica and Italy so those would be my top choices.*
- What is your guilty pleasure? *Dairy Queen ice cream cones and watching Survivor.*
- Your most memorable musical experience: *Taking our eldest daughter to "Mamma Mia" for her 18th birthday (we both love ABBA music) and seeing Bon Jovi live.*
- Best book recently read: *I don't have much time for recreational reading but I try to read one novel in the summer. The Lucky One by Nicholas Sparks was my most recent novel.*
- One thing your festival friends would be surprised to learn about you: *I played the accordion as a child and often think of taking it up again. An old-time Polka Band would be fun.*



Hats off to Carol! (It's her 10th Anniversary)

Submitted by Sandra Senga

Carol began working for SMFA in December 2002 under the tutelage of Sandra Donison. Then in January 2006 she took the reins from Doris Covey Lazacki. During her tenure, Carol has kept the organization moving – literally!! She has worked from three different locations and on December 19 SMFA will be moving into a new office at 4623 Albert St. Of course, she has also kept the SMFA moving forward in more important ways. Her dedication has kept the SMFA at the forefront of Music Festivals in Canada.

Two highlights shine for Carol and they both occurred during the SMFA's 100th Anniversary year. The most memorable was the Centennial Re-enactment Concert held at St. Paul's Cathedral in Regina in May 2009. The other high point was hosting the Nationals in August of that year.

The traditional gift for a 10th Anniversary is tin. Carol, you are worthy of diamonds and gold but unfortunately that is not in the budget!! So, on behalf of all the District Music Festivals please accept this tip of the hat, our warmest congratulations and our undying gratitude for all that you do for us.



Festival programs

Each year SMFA acknowledges a "Best Festival Program" at Conference. Much of the selection process is somewhat subjective, much like adjudications, with the following taken into consideration:

- **Must** contain all ads or logos for our donors/sponsors, such as SaskTel, SaskEnergy, and PotashCorp, SMFA ad, SaskArts Board & Lotteries Logo and Ad, Federation greetings.
- Overall appearance: cover, assembly
- Layout – ease of finding disciplines
- Creativity – a bonus if there are interesting fillers





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Interim Adjudicator Liaison

Sandra Kerr

Hiring for District Festivals, Provincial Finals, and the Shurniak Concerto Competition are well underway – and almost complete. Thank you to all the festivals who promptly submitted their Adjudicator Time-Frame forms! It is most important to also provide us with the details of your Accommodation arrangements as this may affect the hiring of adjudicators.

In January and February I will send out the “Report Form”. This report lists the adjudicators that have been hired for your festival and will be accompanied by the adjudicators’ bios and photos. As soon as possible after your entry deadline be sure to advise us if there are to be any changes, so I can pass that information on to the adjudicators. Once the dates have been confirmed, an “Adjudicator Information Report” is sent to the adjudicators and festival secretary. This contains the contact information of all concerned. At that point festivals and adjudicators may correspond directly, however, please ensure that Provincial Office is informed of any changes!

Please remember to properly brief your adjudicator before sessions begin so they are aware of your particular practices with regard to announcements, procedures for scholarship meeting, and so on. Communication is crucial! As always, do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. Forms and guides can also be found on our website (www.smfa.ca).



Shurniak Concerto Competition

February 23, 2013
Shumiatcher Theatre (TC Douglas Building) Regina

Sponsored by Bill Shurniak
Presented by the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association in partnership with
the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras

For details visit **www.smfa.ca**

C. BECHSTEIN

SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
Classical Competitions Festivals

LOTTERIES
Culture
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Promotional Items

The Provincial Office has a number of Promotional Items – great for providing visibility of music festivals in your community and as prizes or gifts for festival participants! In addition to Certificates of Participation and Appreciation, SMFA Music Cases, and lanyards we have a few new items. Take a look!



Musical Note Stress Balls
with SMFA logo
Price: \$2.00 each



SMFA Notebook with matching pen
7" X 6"
Price: \$10.00 each



SMFA Pen with LED
flashlight beam at the top.
Price: \$5.00 each



SMFA Padfolio
11" X 13"
Price: \$20.00 each



SMFA Blank Cards
5 1/2" X 4"
Price: \$1.00 each



Book marks – 5 1/2" X 1 1/2"
(both sides are shown)
FREE



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Speech Arts Workshops a Huge Success!



This year, speech arts workshops were held in the southeast corner of the province, in schools at Kipling, Kennedy/Langbank, Whitewood, Broadview and Grenfell. Heather Macnab, speech arts specialist from Maple Creek, conducted 4 days of workshops for students from Grades 2 to 9. A total of 311 students were exposed to the speech arts during those 4 days, as well as 24 staff members and 6 festival volunteers and community members.

Heather's presentation is highly interactive and adapted to each age group. (Even a reluctant class of Grade 8 students was drawn in with a lively game of Zip Zap Zop!) The students participate in exercises to develop confidence and communication skills. They are exposed to different poetry styles and learn how to express themselves through spoken words, gestures, and facial expression. They learn how to use their voices in a healthy way, and Heather applies her training in Alexander Technique to demonstrate the importance of good posture. She introduces the students to the variety of speech arts opportunities available to them in the festival syllabus, and in these particular workshops, focused primarily on poetry, storytelling, and public speaking. First Nations poetry and stories were included in the repertoire.



Photo by Laura Kish, Kipling Citizen
Student acting out opening a present



Photo by Laura Kish, Kipling Citizen
Heather talks about communication from brain to brain

Each school was presented with a copy of the SMFA Syllabus, as well as multiple copies of the speech arts manual. Students were given handouts at the end of the presentation, which included information on how to enter their local music festival.

"Heather was great and everyone really enjoyed the workshop. Thanks again." Ailsa Swanson, Grade 3/4 Teacher, Broadview School

"Yes, it was GREAT! I wish we had more time and I think our older students would have enjoyed it also. My class of 4/5 was quite thrilled by it and still 'practicing' on Friday." Kerri Bachtold, Whitewood School

SMFA Speech Arts Workshops are supported by the Program Enhancement Fund. Contact the provincial office if your festival is interested in hosting a workshop in the future.



Photo by Laura Kish, Kipling Citizen
Students are given a sentence to read, with instructions to place different emphasis on specific words, to show how a sentence can have a different meaning.





Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



Established in 1908

December 2012

Testimonial

The Regina Music Festival recently hosted a wine & cheese to promote the benefits of music festival, in particular to those teachers and students new to the idea. In addition to the social aspect, there was a short presentation by a student, a teacher, and an adjudicator. The following is one student's perspective:

"Good afternoon. My name is Emma Grace Cameron. I am eleven years old and I have been singing since I was five years old. I began singing in Music Festival six years ago. I also take piano lessons and have been playing piano in Music Festival for three years. Music festival is very challenging and lots of fun. I absolutely love it! I am very excited to share my experiences with all of you.

Music Festival is a learning experience. There are many lessons I've learned from participating in Music Festival. First, I've become a confident singer and piano player in front of an audience. I've learned that being in first place is really nice but not the most important thing. I've learned to slow down and enjoy the music too. Each time I sing or play piano the adjudicator always gives me positive feedback and tips to help me improve my technique. For me, it's four to five days of great advice. Finally, the importance of practice. It's way more fun when you are prepared to do your best.



Music Festival is a fun experience. I love making new friends at Music Festival. It doesn't matter how old you are or what your role at festival is, everyone is smiling, trying his or her best and encouraging. It's also lots of fun getting dressed up to perform in front of an audience. Another fun part of music festival is winning a certificate. Not that it matters whether you win every time. It's just satisfying to know that you practiced, tried your best and that the adjudicator recognized that.

I've had lots of success at music festival and I've had years that really challenged me. I've been very fortunate to have won three scholarships. It was wonderful to meet the generous donors and to share my love of music with them. Last year, I was given an extra special opportunity. I was asked to perform one of my songs for the Music Festival Gala. It was a great honor to have been asked and very exciting to sing in front of everyone.

Music Festival is a wonderful event. I love performing and I love being in the audience to clap and celebrate my friends and fellow performers. I am very lucky to have this opportunity every year."



A complete list of
2013 District Festival dates
can be found at
www.smfa.ca



Festival Focus

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Invitation

BECOME A "FESTIVAL FRIEND"!

This is your invitation to join us in becoming a "Festival Friend". Since 1908, Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA) has delivered programs that fulfill our mission. Your donation will help to ensure these programs will continue and that the festival movement in Saskatchewan will continue into the next Century! For every donation of \$10 or more, the SMFA will give half of the donation back to the District Festival of your choice or, if requested, the entire donation will remain with the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association.

YES, I would like to become a "FESTIVAL FRIEND"! Please accept my donation of: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

YES, I would like to receive a copy of the **FESTIVAL FOCUS** newsletter

e-mail: _____

Donation to Local (please specify SK festival): _____

Please make your cheque payable to the
Saskatchewan Music Festival Association and send to:
Saskatchewan Music Festival Association

PO Box 37005
Regina, SK S4S 7K3

*Tax receipts will be issued for all donations over \$10.00
Charitable No. 11914 0267 RR0001*

*"TO PROMOTE EXCELLENCE IN MUSIC AND SPEECH ARTS
THROUGH COMPETITIVE MUSIC FESTIVALS."*



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From the Provincial Office

Carol Donhauser, Executive Director

Thank you all to those who attended fall conference. It was wonderful to meet new committee members as well as renew acquaintances with "seasoned" committee members.

After a very busy fall, I am happy to report that Sandra and I are on the move once again to a new office location. The provincial office has been located on the third floor of a residential apartment building and we are now moving to a more conventional office space (without stairs and cigarette smoke). We hope to be settled by the New Year. If you are ever in Regina, be sure to stop in for a visit and hot cup of coffee. We have a small office space located at 4623 Albert Street which has plenty of parking and is easy to find. Please note our mailing address is PO Box 37005, Regina, SK, S4S 7K3.

The supply orders, including the 2012 Directory, have been shipped. The new website has been launched with some kinks to work out and forms to be updated with the new address. We have an Adobe fillable online entry form developed which can be adapted if necessary to suit your needs. Contact us at the office for more details.

Sandra is working hard to hire those last few adjudicators' spots and, as each festival is completed, Sandra will send out the Report Form to the corresponding secretary of each festival, confirming adjudicators and providing you with the adjudicator's contact information and biography. Once the entry close date has come and gone for each festival and you have had a chance to look at your schedules, **please notify us as soon as possible of any changes.**

We wish everyone a happy holiday season and a successful festival season! If Sandra or I can assist you in anyway, please do not hesitate to call the office toll free at 1-888-892-9929.

The assistance of the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation, Saskatchewan Arts Board and SaskCulture Inc. is gratefully acknowledged.



HAPPY  HOLIDAYS



Back row (l to r): Joy McFarlane-Burton, Anita Kuntz, Nancy Toppings
Front row (l to r): Carol Donhauser, Theresa Brost, Karen Unger

