



Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



Established in 1908

December 2013

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President's Message

Karen MacCallum, President



*"Oh, the weather outside is frightful, but the fire is so delightful,
And since we've no place to go, let it snow, let it snow, let it snow."*

Doesn't this sound like Saskatchewan? It truly does! But this song was written on a hot July day in California by Sammy Cahn and Jule Styne. As I am writing this message, we have been experiencing -33 degree temperatures and blowing snow. The official beginning of winter is the Winter Solstice on Dec. 21, with the shortest day and the longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. Is it any wonder that we decorate our surroundings with extra colour and light! Every nationality and culture has traditions that celebrate the turning of the darkest, coldest time

of the year into the beginning of more hours of daylight. In 46 B.C.E., the solstice was on Dec. 25 in the calendar Julius Caesar established in Rome. One appealing feature of long, dark, winter nights is the beautiful constellations such as Orion (my favorite), Canis Major, Gemini, and Taurus. So, bundle up and do some star gazing!



In this modern age, we have discovered that the Southern Hemisphere is enjoying summer at this time of year and many people are able to escape to isles of white sand and clear, blue waters. How traditions change with progress!

Coming back to Fall, it was a "flurry" of activity for SMFA Board members. Our September Board meeting was held in Assiniboia and Gail Mergen will tell you all about it. Karen Unger and I were able to attend a SaskCulture event where we gathered a lot of information from the various workshops that were offered. I also attended a Saskatchewan Arts Board Meeting. The SMFA gratefully acknowledges the support of Saskatchewan Lotteries for Sport, Culture, and Recreation; the Saskatchewan Arts Board; and SaskCulture Inc; as well as our many donors and sponsors.

The Sask. Music Conference was once again a success although attendance was hampered again by bad weather and road conditions. Look for Donna Kreiser's report in this newsletter. I just have to tell you about meeting David Kaplan which was a thrill in itself, but see what I mean in the Getting to Know the Board article!

I know that all the District festivals are gearing up for 2014 and I wish you all the best in your endeavors. I hope the Musical Theatre entries will be exciting, especially those that are for recommendation to Provincial Finals and the new National Class.

The Provincial Board, office staff, and all the District Festival volunteers are a wonderful, cohesive group of people with which to work and I thank you for another great, successful year.



So, in closing, remember to "brighten the corner where you are". Safe travels over the holidays - may your car always start and your heater always run! Have fun!





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“Music For Life” - 2013 Saskatchewan Music Conference

Submitted by Donna Kreiser

The fifth annual Saskatchewan Music Conference was held at the Delta Hotel and Resort in Regina, November 7-9. “Music for Life” was the theme of this event, a joint partnership between 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 organizations had an opportunity to participate in a variety of pertinent workshops provided during this event.

Dr. Will Schmid, the keynote speaker, addressed a large SMC audience on “Sustainable Music for a Lifetime”. His enthusiastic, entertaining, and engaging presentation provided the message of the importance of making music active and alive. By doing so, this music will likely be sustained for a lifetime.

The Awards Banquet was held on Friday evening, emceed by the secretary of the Saskatchewan Band Association, David Popoff. Greetings were extended on behalf of Premier Brad Wall by Kevin Doherty, Minister of Parks, Culture, and Sport, and from James Engel, President of Saskatchewan Culture.

Individuals were honoured by their respective organizations for their contributions and achievement. Karen MacCallum, president of the SMFA honoured the following with Volunteer Recognition Awards: Shirley Andrist (Estevan Music Festival), Anita Kuntz (Estevan Music Festival), Toni Fiest (Kindersley & District Music Festival), Wilda Gardner (Kindersley & District Music Festival), Darlene Senn (Meadow Lake & District Music Festival), Robert Gibson (Prince Albert Kiwanis Music Festival), Colleen Kembel (Regina Music Festival), Jeanette Dawes (Yorkton Music Festival), and Gerry Harrison (Yorkton Music Festival).

A distinguished Service Award was presented to Morris Lazecki for his extensive and long-time volunteer work with the SMFA.

The SMFA provided workshops on Friday and Saturday specific to the organization. Joy McFarlane-Burton offered her expertise at a workshop on Musical Theatre; Harvey Linnen, on Privacy and Information Management as pertaining to the privacy and safeguarding of information collected; Larry Johnson, The Festival Organizer, on the use of his available software designed for on line registrations to the completion of a festival program; David L. Kaplan, The Well-Tempered Klezmerer, who candidly spoke about his music life experiences which was followed by a book signing. Roundtable discussions were held. The topics included were “Clarifying Misconceptions about Copyright” facilitated by Karen Unger; “Compliance” facilitated by Carol Donhauser; “Scholarship Policy for District Festivals” facilitated by Sandra Senga and Nancy Toppings; and a Question and Answer period facilitated by Joy McFarlane-Burton. These sessions were well attended by delegates who were enthusiastic with all the information made available to them.



Our AGM was held with delegates representing 17 district festivals. The 2012-2013 Annual Report was presented by Executive Director Carol Donhauser and 1st Vice-President Nancy Toppings gave a clear and concise financial report. The Best Program Award was presented to the Lafleche Music Festival and eleven district festivals were acknowledged for their consistent attendance at the AGM for the past five years. The attendance of Doris Covey Lazecki, Penny Joynt, and Janet McGonigle were acknowledged as Honorary Life Members of the SMFA.

Robin Swales and Sherry Sproule were elected to three-year terms on the Board of Directors. Gail Mergen and Robyn Rutherford were thanked for their commitment as board members for the past three years. The 2013-2014 Provincial Board is:

President – Karen MacCallum (Swift Current)

1st Vice-President – Nancy Toppings (Kipling)

2nd Vice-President – Karen Unger (Spalding)

Past President – Joy McFarlane-Burton (Saskatoon)

Directors – Anita Kuntz (Estevan), Sandra Senga (Meadow Lake), Donna Kreiser (Prince Albert), Robin Swales (Regina), and Sherry Sproule (Lafleche).

A huge thanks to Carol Donhauser, Sandra Kerr, all facilitators and hosts who efficiently and effectively organized and presented wonderfully well run SMFA sessions and AGM. Your enthusiasm and dedication is appreciated.





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Saskatchewan Music Conference – SMFA Sponsored Sessions

Where is it written? Scholarship Policy for District Festivals

Has your festival thoroughly documented its policies and procedures for awarding scholarships? Is this information readily available to teachers, festival participants and their families, scholarship donors and the general public? Is it available for new and prospective committee members? Are your policies and procedures communicated to adjudicators?

At one of the round table sessions at Fall Conference this year, two questions were posed to delegates. Their answers have been summarized below.

1. Musical Theatre has been added to the National Music Festival competitions, with the result that Musical Theatre is now a separate discipline from the Vocal discipline. For **Provincial Finals**, participants are required to enter **two classes in the same discipline** to be eligible for recommendation.

For **District** Scholarships and Awards, current SMFA Regulations state that “District Festivals are responsible for setting their own criteria for scholarships and awards. SMFA recommends that, in order to qualify for a district scholarship or award, each individual named on the entry form will have entered and competed in at least two classes in the same discipline when it is evident that there is provision of suitable classes from which to choose.”

If, for example, your festival offers scholarships for solo voice and for solo musical theatre, and participants typically enter one musical theatre class and one or more vocal classes, what will be your festival’s policy?

- *For the purpose of awarding scholarships at the local level, musical theatre and voice shall be considered as one discipline.*
 - *Competitors will be required to enter 2 solos classes in musical theatre to be eligible for a musical theatre scholarship, and 2 solo classes in vocal to be eligible for a vocal scholarship.*
 - *Prince Albert: Competitors must enter 2 musical theatre classes; one may be an ensemble as long as both have entered a solo.*
 - *Create a special scholarship that contains the terms (allowing one entry in voice and one entry in musical theatre) different from rules for other disciplines.*
 - *Add [musical theatres] classes to the local addendum if necessary.*
 - *Communicate well (to students and teachers) the new/changed requirements.*
 - *Regardless of your policy, make sure it is written down and available.*
 - ***It was noted that adjudicators will need to be carefully briefed on local scholarship policy AND reminded of the provincial rule that in order to be recommended to provincial finals, a competitor must enter and compete in two solo classes in any discipline.***
2. Your festival offers a piano scholarship for Canadian Music. According to past practice, eligibility for the scholarship has been confined to any competitor entering a class bearing the title “Piano Solo, Canadian /Canadian Repertoire”. Someone challenges this practice, stating that **all** performances of Canadian repertoire, entered in any other class (e.g. recital class, contemporary idioms/popular music) should be eligible for the scholarship. How do you handle this?
 - *List the class numbers that are eligible for this scholarship.*
 - *Regina: the proposed change to allow all performances is unworkable.*
 - *Rosetown: “Eligibility for RMF is any entry in the Canadian Test or Canadian Own Choice classes. Any other Canadian composition entered in any other class is not eligible. The Centennial Legacy Scholarship (for Saskatchewan music) is open to any SK composition entered in any class. The reason for this is that there is not a specific Saskatchewan Composition class.”*
 - *How practical is the second option to administer?*
 - *Leave it to the adjudicator’s choice.*



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Question and Answer Session

Another Round Table session posed a number of questions. Below is a sampling of those questions and answers.

- 1. If a student wants to enter a certain selection and it doesn't fit into an established class, can a class be created?**

YES – **any** competitor may enter for adjudication only. **Note:** If the class is created at least 30 days in advance of the entries being due (i.e. your festival's Addendum), then other competitors have the opportunity to participate in this class and marks /awards would apply to this class.

- 2. Do you think that the SMFA Office should approve the Addenda of the District Festivals?**

The majority of delegates felt the SMFA did not need to approve the Addenda Lists.

Did you know that all Addenda are to be sent to the SMFA Office? [These are posted on the SMFA Website]

- 3. A Musical Theatre entry is received that the committee believes is not suitable for family viewing. What do you do?**

Notice could be made at the door that "some performances may not be suitable for family viewing".

Should Musical Theatre performers consider that their choices are heard by general audiences?

Yes, due care should be given to the suitability of their choices.

- 4. How would your District Festival feel about a surcharge on each entry in lieu of fundraising?**

The Majority felt this might be a good solution to fundraising, but felt strongly that the funds should be kept separate from other costs such as affiliation fees and supplies.

- 5. Your Festival program has just been made available to the public and you receive a call from a parent saying that her daughter's entry has been missed. She insists that she mailed in the entry, but you have no record of it. What do you do?**

There needs to be a policy in place in case this should happen. If no policy is in place, then give the benefit of the doubt.

- 6. A member of the community approaches your festival with an offer to contribute a considerable amount of money toward scholarships. The prospective donor is insisting that the scholarships be awarded to "local" participants, but your festival has no restrictions on its existing scholarships. What do you do?**

Refer to the Directory Competition Regulations – Entry Requirements Rule #2: "Eligible competitors may enter any district festival. District Scholarship restrictions may apply. These restrictions must be published in the annual SMFA Directory on their designated page."

- 7. It has been the policy of your Festival not to include the home town of the competitor. One concern is that the adjudicator may be able to figure out who the teacher is and thus create a bias. On the other hand, the public is curious from where these students come to compete. What do your Festivals do?**

The majority of Festivals do not print the participant's home town, only their name, in the program.

- 8. What do Festivals do when the trophies have no places left for winner name plates? Add more base plates? Remove older name plates? Donate to the Local Museum.**

Most festival committees would add another base to the trophy to accommodate more names. Other suggestions were to provide keeper trophies instead, and place the older trophies in the local museum. One festival recently replaced some trophies with the previous winners names engraved on the trophy with the name plates reserved for the future winners.





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Speech Arts Workshop Report

Submitted by Karen Muir, Yorkton Music Festival

The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association approached us this fall to see if we would be willing to host a fully-funded Speech Arts workshop to promote interest in solo speech arts classes in our festival. Our clinician would be Heather Macnab from Maple Creek. We jumped at this opportunity. I sent email letters to all the schools and M.C.Knoll, Yorkdale Central and the Regional High School responded that they would be interested.

So on November 13th, Heather spent the day teaching a Grade 5 classroom, two Grade 7 classrooms and a combination of Grade 6 students for total of about 93 students. I attended the Grade 5 workshop and was very impressed with the quality of workshop that Heather gave. She explained about what Music Festival is and talked about what Speech Arts is and then she explained and demonstrated through personal modeling, and then working with the students, how to perform a poem or a piece of prose to an audience. The class was well presented and the children were very engaged in all the activities. She gave them all a handout to take to their parents, with our local festival information and a summary of the workshop. This summary included Why Speech Arts? How will speech arts help me? What exactly is speech arts? The handout offered links to websites and things to consider before you choose a poem. She also left a Speech Arts Resource book for the library.



November 14 she went to the Yorkton Regional School and worked with two Grade 9 English classes and a school choir made up of Grade 10-12 students. November 15 she worked at Yorkdale Central School teaching a Grade 7, Grade 8 and two Grade 5 classes with approximately 100 students attending.

Heather suggested I do a follow up letter to the teachers who attended just to remind them of the workshop and to encourage their students to participate. I will probably send out the letter in early January before our festival deadline.



Heather was a great clinician. She was personable, flexible, animated, engaging, and had a good way of connecting with children of all ages.

Thank you for offering this opportunity to our Yorkton Festival. I am hopefully that it will help to increase our participation in Speech Arts in the coming Festival season.





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Getting to Know Your Board Members

Your SMFA Board is made up of a very diverse group of people from all corners of the province. We would like to give you a peek into some of the influences in our lives – musically and otherwise. So, here we are!



Karen MacCallum, President

What is your earliest music related childhood memory? I think my earliest memory is dancing with my dad by standing on his feet! However, my first Piano Teacher holds a special place in my heart. This was Monte Anderson from Hazlet, SK. He was a young man starting his career and lived in the smallest house possible that could still hold a piano. My two brothers and I took lessons from him and I can remember playing from the Leila Fletcher books. I found out at the convention this fall that Dr. David Kaplan knew Monte!

Who had the greatest influence in your musical development? I would have to say my second Piano Teacher, Mrs. Bessie Row, had the greatest influence on me. She had such a passion for her students and their talents. Students from out-of-town often travelled for an hour or more to go to lessons so when it was exam time, two or three students stayed overnight at her house. She fed us, gave us lessons in etiquette, entertained us, and let us play on her grand piano! She was a professional violinist first and would often pick up her violin to demonstrate a melody line. I have fond memories of lessons with her except when she cut my fingernails too short!

Tell us about your favourite Saskatchewan “hidden gem”. My favourite place in Saskatchewan is Swift Current and area! I love to visit other places but I’m always glad to come home. Swift Current is big enough to have all the services anyone could need. It has sports, recreation and culture. With a small enough population, you can get to know a lot of people who are caring and devoted to great causes, projects and activities.

What is your favourite part of the Christmas season? The Yule-tide season makes me think of my Scandinavian ancestors and all northern hemisphere people who tried to brighten the dark days of winter by bringing more light and colour into their homes. So we do trees, lights, candles, bangles and baubles, ribbons, beads and all things that glitter and glow even when our modern homes are warm through central heating and electricity provides more light than we can possibly need! “Deck the Hall” says it all and of course speaks through music, another of my favourite things!

Nancy Toppings, First Vice President

What is your earliest music related childhood memory? Singing “Away in a Manger” in our Sunday School Christmas Program. I don’t remember how old I was, but I do remember that I had no idea what to do, where to stand, or why we were doing this.

Who had the greatest influence in your musical development? My mother, who “made me” continue with piano lessons until I could play well enough to want to do it on my own....and who wouldn’t let me switch to the accordion. Thanks, Mom!

Tell us about your favourite Saskatchewan “hidden gem”. St. Peter’s Abbey at Muenster, which was home to the Saskatchewan Choral Federation Camps for many summers. I have fond memories of my visits there; the quiet, orderly atmosphere and the hospitality of the community are good for the soul.

What is your favourite part of the Christmas season? Kids coming home, visiting with my nieces and their families, the music and the smell of apple cider.

(continued)



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Karen Unger, Second Vice President

What is your earliest music related childhood memory? I remember singing action songs in the Preschool “Cherub” choir at our church. And I still remember a few of the songs, too!

Who had the greatest influence in your musical development? My parents, definitely! They put all four of us into lessons and quitting was not really an option! We all achieved at least our grade ten in piano. We had two pianos, one upstairs and one down, and two of us would practice before school and two after. My lucky mom got to wake up at 6:30 am to the sound of four octave scales! I know it was a sacrifice to pay for all those lessons, not to mention all of the driving to lessons, recitals, festival performances, and exams. We also all participated in bands and choir, and we sang together as a family as well (both in church and in the car on road trips!). I’m so thankful that Mom and Dad made music such a priority in our home.

Tell us about your favourite Saskatchewan “hidden gem”. Our favorite place to camp is Greenwater Lake Provincial Park. When our kids were young, we loved it for the great playground, the nice beach area with options for sitting in either sun or shade, and the very gradual slope of the swimming area. Now that our kids are (almost) grown, we still love it. We enjoy the spacious campsites which are well-treed for privacy from the neighbours, specialty ice-cream at the restaurant, and the all-round great atmosphere!

What is your favourite part of the Christmas season? I love being with family, and I love Christmas music! I also love the reminder of God’s love for us.

Joy McFarlane-Burton, Past President

What is your earliest music related childhood memory? Singing “O Canada” along with the test pattern on the black and white TV.

Who had the greatest influence in your musical development? My first Singing teacher, Georgina Terry.

Tell us about your favourite Saskatchewan “hidden gem”. A place on my family farm where I have picked Saskatoon berries. It is so peaceful and natural I want it to remain a secret.

What is your favourite part of the Christmas season? The music – including watching “The Sound of Music” at least once.



Sandra Senga, Director

What is your earliest music related childhood memory? I remember my parents, aunts, and uncles at my grandmother’s house. Uncle would play the accordion and everyone else would join in singing traditional Ukrainian songs in four part harmony. I can still hear that wonderful sound in my memory.

Who had the greatest influence in your musical development? That would be my mom. She always encouraged my sister and me to sing together. She loved to hear us sing duets.

Tell us about your favourite Saskatchewan “hidden gem”. There is a place in the park where we go to pick blueberries. When you are wandering the hills you catch the occasional glimpse of the lake. There are birds and squirrels scolding because their territory is being invaded. And if you are very lucky you might see a deer standing on the crest of a hill. The peace and beauty just washes over you.

What is your favourite part of the Christmas season? I really enjoy the company of family and of course the good food that is always consumed in that company.



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Anita Kuntz, Director

What is your earliest music related childhood memory? Since I had 4 older sisters who sang together as a group...it didn't take long before I joined in as the 'baby sister'. We sang at church, weddings and other community events. I started piano lessons at 6. When I was 10, I was THRILLED to sing a solo at my sister's wedding!

Who had the greatest influence in your musical development? Without a doubt my parents!

Tell us about your favourite Saskatchewan "hidden gem". Kenosee Lake is a very special place both in winter and summer. The campground is second to none, and in the winter, they have great cross country ski trails. Although it is located in the south east part of our province, you drive from flat lands – to trees – and it feels like you are in a different world.



What is your favourite part of the Christmas season? Being together with family has to be my favourite part of Christmas. We do a lot of card playing, visiting, singing, and just plain relaxing!

Donna Kreiser, Director

What is your earliest music related childhood memory? The memories of music being played in the house whether it was someone practicing or records being played.

Who had the greatest influence in your musical development? Encouragement and acknowledgement came from many sources including school teachers, music teachers, and family.

Tell us about your favourite Saskatchewan "hidden gem". The northern forests and lakes!! They provide peaceful and relaxing times. There are so many beautiful and quaint spots waiting to be explored.

What is your favourite part of the Christmas season? The Christmas season has many favourites! A highlight is seeing smiling faces, family get together, all the twinkling lights, and the traditional Christmas carols.

Sherry Sproule, Director

What is your earliest music related childhood memory? I remember learning to sing "Alice Blue Gown" for my first school Christmas concert.

Who had the greatest influence in your musical development? My parents and my first music teacher, Sister Jeanne St. Paul encouraged, guided and mentored me.

Tell us about your favourite Saskatchewan "hidden gem". We have two unique regional parks in our area. Thomson Lake Park, near Lafleche, is a busy camping and boating area with a lovely 9-hole golf course along the lake. Wood Mountain Park, set in the natural grasslands of the Wood Mountain hills is a quiet refuge for campers. It boasts a historic Rodeo-Ranch Museum and a North West Mounted Police Post Museum. Both are worth a visit!

What is your favourite part of the Christmas season? My favorite part of the Christmas Season is attending and participating in all the seasonal concerts of live music by local individuals and groups. In our communities, Christmas music is a vital part of our public celebrations.



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Robin Swales, Director

What is your earliest music related childhood memory? My mother was a singer in what was then called 'concert groups' in the 1920s and 30s—concert halls, dances and hotels: she once deputised for Gracie Fields! My earliest musical memories are of her singing me to sleep as a very small thing and, perhaps, in the womb. Then there was her showing me the notes on the piano and my beginning to sightread from Hymns Ancient and Modern. *The King of Love my Shepherd Is* was a favourite but, when my father returned after seven years in the RAF – I had never met him – the piano disappeared, probably sold to assist his alcoholism and we were too poor for me to have lessons. I remain a non-playing fellow.

Who had the greatest influence in your musical development? The choir I belonged to from the age of 6 had 16 boys – eight aside – and this got me going, including my first solo wedding performance at the age of seven the profits of which led me to buy Biggles in Africa by Captain W C Johns, a book which I still have. I then sang solo in concerts around Sussex at the age of 10-12. Here my mentor was George Austin, a pupil of Sir Ivor Atkins at Worcester Cathedral, organist at St. Martin's in the Fields in London and a key member of the musical team at Glyndebourne Opera in its earliest days in the years 1936 to 1949 after which George became a peripatetic music teacher at my grammar school. From him I learned a huge repertoire at St. Bartholomew's Church in Brighton (he was the Director of Music in this huge building which is one foot taller than Westminster Abbey) where the 16-20 member choir – myself as a bari/tenor – sang 45 settings of the music every year: all the Haydn, Mozart (not quite all), and settings by Palestrina, Gounod, Puccini, Beethoven, Guilman, Lennox Berkely and more. Friday night rehearsal and Sunday shout. This gave me a very wide knowledge of the music for the church beyond my earlier experience and a deep sense of how to conduct it. Most recently my wife, Diana, has been another key source of knowledge and wisdom since 1983 when I actually did begin to conduct myself.

Tell us about your favourite Saskatchewan “hidden gem”. Not much good here either because everyone knows the obvious. I would, however, put forward Patrick Place bed and breakfast in Yorkton built in the early 20th-Century as a fine place to visit.

Carol Donhauser, Executive Director

What is your earliest music related childhood memory? My earliest childhood memory was singing along to the music theme from the “Batman” shows. The lyrics were easy to remember!

Who had the greatest influence in your musical development? My mother was the one who insisted that both my older brother and I have music lessons when we were young. Growing up in a middle-class family, my father wouldn't put the money into a piano, so he decided that accordion was the instrument that we would play. My accordion teachers, Mr. & Mrs. Benson also influenced in my musical development with their encouragement and support. My older brother and I took lessons together and I was very competitive with him when being marked at lessons. I regret that I never had the opportunity to enter music festivals. I am positive I would have loved every minute of it.

Tell us about your favourite Saskatchewan hidden gem. I would have to say my favourite Saskatchewan “hidden gem” would be the Shurniak Art Gallery in Assiniboia. My husband took me there about five years ago for the first time and we go at least once every year. Love it!

What is your favourite part of the Christmas season? I also agree with Joy, my favorite part of Christmas is the music – I can listen to Christmas music all day long. Watching the “The Sound of Music” at least once is also a Christmas season must!





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THE GORDON C. WALLIS MEMORIAL OPERA COMPETITION



The Wallis Memorial Opera Competition provides an opportunity for vocalists that could lead to a career in opera, thanks to the late Gordon C. Wallis. Mr. Wallis, a passionate devotee of opera, provided a trust fund for this biennial competition to be administered by the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association, in cooperation with the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras. The winner will receive \$5,000 to further his/her vocal studies as well as the opportunity to sing with the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras. Competitors will also participate in a masterclass with the judges.

FEBRUARY 22, 2014 (Competition)

FEBRUARY 23, 2014 (Masterclass)

Shumiatcher Theatre,
MacKenzie Art Gallery, Regina, SK

Presented by the
SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION

For more information, visit our website at
www.smfa.ca





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We Would Love To Visit You!

The SMFA's September Board meeting is not tied to an SMFA event so we are free to discover all corners of our beautiful province. This year we were very excited to visit Assiniboia at the invitation of Gail Mergen. During our Saturday luncheon we were able to meet representatives from festivals in the area. It is wonderful to put faces to the people who are the backbone of our festivals. We would love to come and visit you! Your festival would not have any financial burden. If you have any questions about hosting us in September, please contact the office.



Adjudicator Liaison Report

Sandra Kerr

Now that adjudicators have been hired for the 48 District Festivals, the Wallis Opera Competition, and Provincial Finals Competition, the "Adjudicator Report Forms" will be emailed in January. This not only lets each Festival know who their adjudicators will be, but also provides their contact information and bio. Once the Festival's entries are in and their session dates are finalized with us, the "Adjudicator Information Form" is emailed to adjudicator and festival – at least 4-6 weeks before the festival begins. This provides the adjudicator with confirmation of their dates, contact for the festival, and accommodation information. **Communication is essential!** If there are any changes or errors, the Provincial Office must be notified immediately, since we are the "hub" of information for all the District Festivals and the hundreds of adjudicators!

Adjudicator briefing is also a must – do not assume these professionals know the procedures of your committee and festival, even if they are an experienced adjudicator! Each festival has a little different way of doing things. Be sure to set aside the time for scholarship/award decisions, and let your adjudicator know in advance when that will take place. Make a note of which District Provincial Classes that feed into each Provincial Competition Class to assist them in making their recommendations.

Supplies orders have been or shortly will be sent out either from our office or directly from our printers (Allied Printers) – so if your festival ordered supplies (certificates, entry forms, marking sheets, promo items, etc.) you should be receiving them shortly, if not already.

There is much information provided for the District Festivals on the SMFA website (www.smfa.ca). Please refer to that or contact us if you have questions.



National Musical Theatre Class

The Federation of Canadian Music Festivals has established a **National class in MUSICAL THEATRE**. As a result, Musical Theatre is a separate discipline from Voice. (This may affect your local scholarship/award criteria). The following District Level National Class has been added to the SMFA

Syllabus:

CLASS 9 - National Senior Musical Theatre Class

For entry into the National Musical Theatre Class, competitors must comply with the general regulations and entry procedures contained in the National Music Festival Syllabus. To obtain a copy, contact the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA) Provincial Office or visit www.fcmf.org.

This National Class is the only eligible Musical Theatre Class that can lead to National Competition. No other classes will be considered. There will be no oral or written adjudication given but the first and second place marks will be announced.

At the district level, competitors are to perform two (2) selections consisting of a Ballad and an Up-Tempo. These selections may be used in other classes as outlined in the Syllabus. The winner of this class may advance to the Provincial Level of National Competition if recommended by the adjudicator. In Saskatchewan the qualifying mark is **88 or higher**.





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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."*

SMFA Friends List to date:

**Sandra Ellis, Garry Gable & Kathleen Lohrenz Gable,
Joy McFarlane-Burton, Dave Kalist, Flo Campbell,
Glenna Purdy, Jason Beutler Realty P.C. Ltd, Dorothy
Andrews, Nancy & Richard Toppings**



Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



Established in 1908

December 2013

A Night at the Symphony

October 26, 2013

Guest Pianist Samuel Deason performing *Piano Concerto in D-flat major, op. 38* by Aram Khachaturian



In 1979 SMFA, in partnership with the Regina Symphony Orchestra and Regina Cartage & Storage Co. Ltd., initiated a Concerto Competition. It was administered by SMFA and funded by Regina Cartage & Storage Co., and RSO provided the opportunity for the winner of the SMFA Concerto Competition to be featured as a guest artist. In 2000, the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra added their support by also providing the winner with a performance opportunity.

What a rewarding experience it is to attend a symphony concert and actually know the guest artist! Pianist Sam Deason has participated in many of the competitions offered by the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association. In 2007, he placed second in the SMFA Concerto Competition. In the 2008 and 2009 Provincial Finals Competitions, Sam was awarded first place in piano at the Grand Awards Competition. In addition, in 2009 he received the top prize of the Grand Awards Competition, the Sister Boyle Gold Award. In 2011, Sam won the SMFA Concerto Competition with the Khachaturian Piano Concerto with Bonnie Nicholson as collaborative artist. He shares that place of excellence with Tanis Gibson, Audrey

Andrist, Cherith (James) Alexander, Thomas Yu, Stephen Runge, Yuli Chen, to name just a few.

Cherith Alexander, having attended that night at the symphony, had this to say: "Sam performed like a true professional with the RSO. His playing was colourful, clean, and powerful. If I had to pick just one word, I would call his performance 'passionate'."

Sam's bio is already impressive considering his age. As we chatted with Sam after his performance, he commented that he was glad he had learned the Khachaturian Concerto when he was young! We know Sam has many great performances ahead in his future and wish him all the best.



SMFA Calendar of Events

February 22 - 23, 2014

Wallis Memorial Opera Competition – Regina

March - May, 2014

SMFA District Festivals (48 Locations)

June 6 - 8, 2014

SMFA Provincial Finals – Saskatoon

August 14 - 16, 2014

FCMF National Competitions – Kelowna, BC

November 13 - 15, 2014

Saskatchewan Music Conference and
SMFA Annual General Meeting – Saskatoon



SMFA is supported by grants from Sask Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture & Recreation, Sask Arts Board, and SaskCulture, Inc.



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2014 FESTIVAL DATE LISTING

Festival Unit	Dates	Entry Close
Assiniboia	April 28 -30	March 14
Battlefords Kiwanis.....	March 24-April 7.....	February 1
Biggar	March 10-14	January 25
Borderland at Bengough	April 13-16.....	February 22
Carnduff.....	March 9-13	January 24
Central Sask at Davidson	March 24-25	January 27
Estevan	March 14-21; April 6-12	January 31
Eston.....	April 7-10	February 14
Gravelbourg.....	March 30-April 5.....	February 17
Hafford	March 17-21	January 24
Humboldt	March 19-April 4.....	January 23
Kindersley.....	March 16-28	January 24
Kipling.....	April 7-12.....	January 31
La Ronge	March 31-April 2.....	February 5
Lafleche	April 6-12	February 21
Lanigan	April 29-May 1	March 1
Last Mountain at Earl Grey.....	April 7-10	February 7
Kiwanis Lloydminster.....	April 28-May 9	January 25
Mainline at Grenfell.....	March 30-April 5.....	January 31
Maple Creek	March 24-27	February 1
Meadow Lake	March 31-April 3.....	February 11
Melfort	March 9-21	January 22
Moose Jaw	March 31-April 1; April 7-11	January 25
Moosomin	March 10-20	January 30
Naicam	March 16-21	January 24
Nipawin	March 10-21	January 25
Outlook.....	March 9-22	January 31
Parkland at Canora	May 5-8	March 1
Potashville at Churchbridge	March 17-28.....	January 31
Prairie Sunset at Macklin.....	March 17-19	January 24
Prince Albert Kiwanis.....	March 16-April 10.....	January 18
Qu'Appelle Valley at Balcarres	April 28-May 2	February 14
Quill Plains at Kelvington.....	April 7-10.....	February 3
Redvers.....	March 31-April 10.....	February 1
Regina.....	April 10-17; April 28-May 4	January 31
Rosetown	March 18-27	January 17
Sand Hills at Leader	March 31-April 2.....	January 31
Sask Valley at Rosthern	March 15-21	January 24
Saskatoon	April 1-2; April 7-11; April 26-May 8.....	January 18
Shaunavon.....	April 7-10	February 21
Spiritwood	April 14-16.....	February 15
Swift Current	March 17-April 4.....	January 24
Twin Rivers at Dalmeny	March 24-28.....	February 3
Unity.....	April 7-11	February 1
Vanguard	April 7-10.....	February 7
Watrous.....	March 3-5	January 17
Weyburn.....	March 3-15	January 17
Yorkton.....	March 24-April 5.....	February 6



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Saskatchewan Lotteries is the fundraiser for over 12,000 sport, culture and recreation groups. These groups provide opportunities for people to participate in activities in every Saskatchewan community. Get involved today!

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Saskatchewan LOTTERIES

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Please Play Responsibly



Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



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From the Provincial Office

Carol Donhauser, Executive Director



After relocating and surviving the move last January, Sandra and I are still enjoying our new location (4623 Albert Street – PO Box 37005, Regina, SK S4S 7K3). We almost have all of the boxes unpacked. Please note the address change when sending mail to us. I would also like to extend an invitation to drop in for a visit. Coffee is always on!



You will be soon receiving the Annual Directory with contact information for each district festival committee, festival dates, rules and regulations, scholarship information and other important information pertaining to the current festival year. This information is also available on the SMFA website at www.smfa.ca. Please notify us as soon as possible of any changes or corrections to your webpage.

I would like to remind and encourage you to submit stories or newspaper articles about your festival throughout the year to be included in the Festival Focus which is issued four times a year (September 20, December 20, March 20, and June 20). Some of our festivals are celebrating special anniversaries this festival year, and we would love to hear your stories and see your photos.

The SMFA Board of Directors enjoyed our festival visiting last year and we hope that we receive invitations to attend your festival this year as well. Please see the new Board of Directors Liaison Map on this page which will help you direct that invitation to the correct SMFA Board Member.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff we extend a heartfelt thank you to our volunteers, donors, sponsors, funding agencies and associates. We trust this special time of year will be filled with warmth, family, friendship and compassion for others. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday season!

