



Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



Established in 1908

December 2015

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President's Message

Nancy Toppings, President



"What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace." ~Agnes M. Pahro



It is my great pleasure, on behalf of the Board of Directors of SMFA, to bring Christmas greetings to our District Festivals, volunteers and festival participants across the province.

A successful Fall Conference and AGM was held in Regina in November, in conjunction with the annual Saskatchewan Music Conference. One of the highlights was the official launch of the 2016-2018 SMFA Syllabus. This publication is the product of countless hours of serious consideration, and we hope you enjoy using it over the next three years.

We are pleased to offer the new Syllabus online; visit our website at <http://smfa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/2016-2018-Syllabus.pdf> to download the Syllabus or to order a print copy. You will notice the website has a fresh new look; please visit it often for updates to the Regulations found in the syllabus, as well as our forms and other important information

A huge thanks to retiring Board members Sandra Senga and Donna Kreiser for their contributions and friendship over the past three years. Welcome to Tammy Villeneuve and Kari Mitchell, whose terms began in November. We encourage District Festivals to communicate with the Board member assigned to your area; we are here to help.

Congratulations to Joy McFarlane-Burton, Vice-President of the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals (FCMF) and to Karen MacCallum, Director of FCMF. We are thrilled to see our own past and present Board members also contributing significantly at the National level. Joy and Karen will be a great asset to the Federation.

We are eagerly anticipating the 2016 Wallis Opera Competition on February 20 & 21 at the University of Saskatchewan, Convocation Hall. Thanks to the generosity of the late Gordon C. Wallis, this unique competition is held biennially to encourage and assist young Saskatchewan singers in furthering their vocal studies in opera. The Wallis Opera Competition is administered by SMFA in cooperation with the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras.

Congratulations to our District Festivals celebrating anniversaries in 2016. We encourage you to submit photos and stories about your celebrations to the Provincial Office, for publication in the Festival Focus.

We are deeply grateful for the support of SaskCulture Inc. and the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation. Funding from the Lotteries Trust allows SMFA to continue its high standard of programming at all levels

and in all areas of the province. We also acknowledge the support of SaskEnergy, SaskTel, PotashCorp, Mr. Lube Regina, Business for the Arts (ArtsVest), the University of Saskatchewan Music Department, and the many donors and patrons whose generosity ensures that music festivals continue to thrive in communities across Saskatchewan.



FUNDING
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Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



Established in 1908

December 2015



The 2016 Provincial Finals will be held at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon June 3-5. We will return to Edmonton for the National Music Festival, August 11-13. I encourage serious musicians at the senior level to consider entering the National Class at their District Festivals.

Thanks to our incredible office staff, Carol Donhauser and Sandra Kerr, who keep our organization and our network of volunteers running smoothly. Please help them to help you, by submitting your forms in a timely manner and answering communications promptly.

Best wishes to each of our District Festivals as you carry on the important work that you do! I wish you all a joyous Christmas and a successful Music Festival season.



SPEECH ARTS

Heather Macnab of Maple Creek , an active singer, teacher, speech artist, accompanist and adjudicator presents a fun-filled, informative workshop on Speech Arts. Not only does this art build confidence, improve speaking ability and communication skills; It is also FUN!

Contact the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association to book a workshop in your school or festival area.

www.smfa.ca





Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



Established in 1908

December 2015

2015 Saskatchewan Music Conference

Wendy Thienes, SMFA Director

The 7th annual Saskatchewan Music Conference was held at the Delta Inn Regina from November 6-8. "Experience the Harmony" was the theme of the conference, 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). Members of each organization had an opportunity to participate in a variety of relevant workshops provided during the event.

Workshop presentations began on Friday afternoon with an Introduction to Classical Guitar presented by Kevin Ackerman, BA, RMT. The new syllabus now includes Provincial classes in this discipline and Kevin was instrumental in helping SMFA design these classes. Kevin took participants through the development of the guitar from its ancestor, the lute, to its modern day. This led to an introduction to some of the guitar classes in the syllabus. The expanded guitar classes are intended to prepare a student toward the National level.

Harvey Linnen presented the next workshop on Board Governance, introducing participants to the basic concepts of governance as applied to community-based organizations, including what effective governance is and how to apply it in practice to improve your organization's effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability.

The Awards Banquet was held Friday evening. Lin Gallagher, Deputy Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport brought greetings on behalf of the Ministry and the Government of Saskatchewan. Greetings from SaskCulture were brought by Vice President, Adrian Halter. Saskatchewan Arts Board CEO Michael Jones brought greetings from the Arts Board. Entertainment was provided by Wascana Voices and a silent auction took place throughout Friday and Saturday morning with all proceeds going to Creative Kids.

SaskEnergy is proud to be an on-going major sponsor of the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association and this year they also sponsored the SMFA Volunteer Awards.



Trish Watier, Assistant Manager of Community Relations for SaskEnergy presented special recognition gifts to each volunteer being honoured as Nancy Toppings, SMFA President, introduced each honouree. 2015 Volunteer Award Recipients were: Danielle Evenson and Laura Baryluk (Estevan Music Festival), Glendi Day (Eston Music Festival), Marla Frison and Joy Assmus (Kindersley & District Music Festival), Edmond Belcourt and Leona Reader (Lafleche & District Music Festival), Tammy Villeneuve (Meadow Lake & District Music Festival), Alice Abrahamson and Lois Tanner (Moosomin & District Music Festival), Karen Hill (Nipawin & District Music Festival), Karen Bell (Prince Albert Kiwanis Music Festival), Margaret and Betty Brennan (Saskatoon Music Festival), Joe-Ann Ruetz (Shaunavon & District Music Festival), and Mae Ann Chilman (Yorkton Music Festival).

The Federation of Canadian Music Festivals (FCMF) Provincial (Saskatchewan) Volunteer Award was presented to Penny Joynt. Honorary Life Memberships were bestowed on Sharon Penner and Marlene Cherry and our Sustaining Patron recognition was given to William Shurniak.



Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



Established in 1908

December 2015

Saturday continued with a full day of SMFA activities. Delegates participated in the Networking session while sharing a continental breakfast and meeting new and long-time colleagues. A Festival Manual was provided to each festival and Carol Donhauser, Executive Director, gave a brief overview of the contents designed to assist festivals in their important work.

Karen Unger, SMFA 1st Vice President and Chair of the Syllabus committee, presented an overview of the new SMFA Syllabus, highlighting the major changes and updates.

This committee worked very hard to bring festivals a new and improved syllabus and the response to revisions and changes has been very favorable.



Sherry Sproule, 2nd Vice President of SMFA, presented a summary of a Scholarship Review that she undertook to determine areas of similarity and differences among festivals.

The keynote speaker for the Conference was Brenda Robinson a speaker, trainer, writer and consultant who has been addressing groups for over 20 years on topics related to communications, humor, laughter, positive working skills and wellness in general. Her keynote address, *"Motivating and Managing Generation Y: A Leadership Challenge"* provided a great deal of laughter but some serious food for thought about how the various generations operate and interact with each other, and the impact and possibilities that has for our organizations. She also closed out the SMFA portion of the conference with her *"Wonderfully Busy!"* presentation at the end of the day, emphasizing the idea of being busy doing *important* things, rather than just busy doing things, and not letting structure and habit get in the way of function and work.

The SMFA Annual General Meeting was chaired by President Nancy Toppings with 25 out of 48 festivals represented. The 2014-2015 Annual Report was presented and 1st Vice President Karen Unger presented the financial statements. Leander Dueck, Beyond Wealth Management, reported on the performance of the SMFA Investment Fund over the past year.

Laureen Kells brought greetings on behalf of the Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers Association and greetings from Jerry Lonsbury, President of the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals, were read.

Carol Donhauser gave an update on the progress of the new website. Please check out the new format at www.smfa.ca. The new Syllabus is also available on the website.

The winner of the Best Program Award for 2015 was presented to Sask Valley Music Festival. Consideration is given to programs that have included the SMFA logo on the front cover, have included all required ads and logos, have not previously won, and have pleasing aesthetics and extra details that set them apart.

Two positions on the Board of Directors were vacant; Karen McCallum, Chair of the Nominations Committee presented two names for election: Tammy Villeneuve (Meadow Lake Music Festival) and Kari Mitchell (Carnduff Music Festival). Following the third call for nominations from the floor, nominations ceased and Tammy Villeneuve and Kari Mitchell were elected by acclamation.

President Nancy Toppings thanked departing board members Sandra Senga and Donna Kreiser and Ad Hoc Member Joy McFarlane-Burton for their years of service on the SMFA Board. Nancy also thanked staff members Carol Donhauser, Executive Director and Sandra Kerr, Administrative Assistant and Adjudicator Liaison for their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

SMFA has enjoyed the collaboration with the Saskatchewan Music Alliance in planning the Saskatchewan Music Conference since 2009 and will continue to collaborate with these other groups where possible. However, it was



Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



Established in 1908

December 2015

announced that the next conference for SMFA will be a stand-alone event to be held on October 28 & 29, 2016 in Swift Current.

Following the AGM, Cherith Alexander provided a presentation for delegates entitled, "What I Have Learned from 20 Years of Adjudicating" (see page 7 for details). Cherith is a well-known Saskatchewan pianist and sought-after adjudicator. Her anecdotes and tips for festival committees were heartfelt and humorous and left delegates with much to think about when working with their adjudicators. An excellent speaker and presenter, it was clear to see why Cherith has reached such a high level of success in adjudicating!

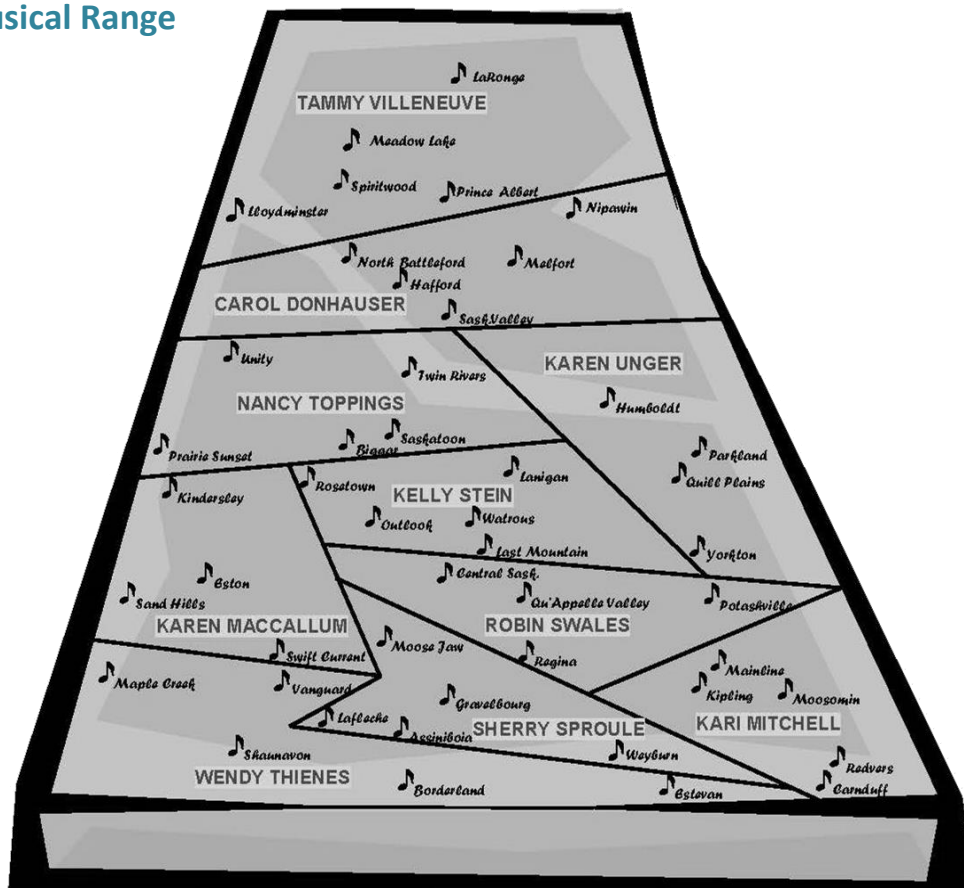
Karen McCallum, Past President of SMFA, then led delegates in a brief exercise to highlight the importance of minute-taking and the details that should be included. Participants received a take home with reminders and suggestions for proper minute-taking.

Larry Johnson, designer and operator of the Music Festival Organizer program, was on hand throughout the day to meet one-on-one with delegates.

Once again we need to remind each of the District Festivals of the importance of having representation at the annual meeting. This is where your voice can be heard and you can be part of the decisions we need to make year after year. We hope that your festival will make this a priority in 2016 when we once again host our own conference and AGM in Swift Current!



Our Musical Range





Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



Established in 1908

December 2015

Meet the New SMFA Board Members

Kari Mitchell - Carnduff



My name is Kari Mitchell. I live in Oxbow and I am blessed to have 5 beautiful grandchildren living quite close by. Family and music are the most important parts of my life, and I am very happy that they go together so well.

I have studied piano since I was 7 years old and by the time I was 15 I was an active church organist. I am currently the musician at St. Paul's United in Oxbow, and I have accompanied various choirs over the years. I have been teaching private piano lessons for 18 years and I am proudly starting my 10th year of teaching Music For Young Children. I currently serve as the RCM Centre Representative for the Estevan area and I am an affiliate member of SRMTA.

I have been attending my local festival, the **"Carnduff & District Music and Arts Festival"** since 1996 when my daughters first started performing. The 2007 Festival was my first year as Entry Secretary for Carnduff, and this position I still hold today. Through my years on our local board, I have seen our Festival go from almost folding due to lack of help, to having almost too many volunteers (knock on wood) and over 300 entries. We have gone from hand writing entries and program booklets to having computerized programs. It hasn't always been easy, but we are lucky to have a great group of dedicated people.

I have reached the point in my life where I would like to become more active at the Provincial level. I believe my experience on our local board will be a benefit.

Is music a passion of mine? YES, and I hope to continue sharing that for many years to come.



Tammy Villeneuve – Meadow Lake

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve on the provincial board of the SMFA. I first became involved in music festivals as a teenager, when a festival committee was formed in my hometown. I competed in the first Meadow Lake & District festival. It's amazing to me when I think back, but that one experience was enough for me to decide I was going to study music at university and that I was going to major in voice. Although I had never had any formal lessons, the SMFA had provided some coaching that first year. It was enough for me to believe I could do it. I did pursue that education, teaching classroom music at the beginning

of my career and then operating a small voice studio for several years. Singing remains one of the greatest joys of my life.

This is the power of the music festival and why I am so pleased to offer my skills and time to support it. Who knows how many other kids have found their path because of the work of this valuable association!



Note: A recent motion was passed to have National Percussion entries adjudicated by recording only. SMFA will continue to have live percussion at District and Provincial competitions.





Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



Established in 1908

December 2015

What I Have Learned in 20 Years of Adjudicating

- *Cherith Alexander*

It was my honour to give a presentation at the SMFA Convention in November. Some of the talk was a tribute to music festivals and the encouragement they can be to young musicians at any level of proficiency. However, I also focused on some of the practical lessons I've learned during my days on the adjudicating circuit. I was asked to condense some of these ideas into point form for those who weren't able to be there.



FOR ADJUDICATORS:

- Don't try to be who you are not. Instead, adjudicate according to the strengths of your musical knowledge and personality.
- What you say is more important than what you write.
- Be consistent in demeanor and marks. Don't let the marking scale slide up as the festival progresses. In Saskatchewan an 87 is required to proceed to Provincials. Use this standard as a guideline for all classes and levels. For example ask yourself, "If there was a provincial class for eight year olds is this performance deserving of participating in it?"
- Work with the time you're given. If you are pressed for time, don't say as much. If you have lots of cancellations and extra time, give a masterclass.
- People care about whether or not you are on time more than what you have to say.

FOR FESTIVAL COMMITTEES

- Set your adjudicators up for success by scheduling well. Give them plenty of time to speak to each student.
- Scheduling in themes is very helpful to adjudicators. For example, if your festival often has only one or two entries per class, consider having five sonatina classes in a row OR all the Canadian music in one afternoon.

Competent secretaries are very helpful to adjudicators. The perfect secretary should someone who is able to sit still and listen while the students perform, is not easily flustered, and is confident in public speaking but not interested in upstaging the adjudicator. ☺ Having the same good secretary for multiple sessions is very helpful to adjudicators and simplifies procedure at the adjudicating table.



Gordon Wallis Memorial Opera Competition

February 20 & 21, 2016, Saskatoon



The Wallis Memorial Opera Competition and its \$5,000 first prize is one of a kind in Canada. It was established by the late Gordon C. Wallis, former Assistant Director of the University of Regina Conservatory of Music and Dance, to encourage and assist young Saskatchewan singers in furthering their vocal studies in opera. Wallis, a passionate devotee of opera, and patron of the arts, provided trust funds for this biennial competition to be administered by the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association in cooperation with the Regina and the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras.

In addition to the prize money, the winner may be featured as guest artist with the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras.





Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



Established in 1908

December 2015

Moosomin & District Music Festival – 50 Consecutive Music Festival Years

In 1965 a committee of 30 members from areas of Wapella, Wawota, Kelso, Maryfield, Fairlight, Rocanville, Fleming, Whitewood, and Moosomin met to reorganize the Moosomin & District Music Festival after a 15-year absence. One of the important aims of that committee was to promote and encourage interest in and appreciation of music in the district and to provide an opportunity for music students to participate in a competition.

Our present festival committee chose to celebrate this 50th Consecutive Music Festival anniversary by hosting a concert at Bethel United Church. An audience of over 100 gathered on October 3 to hear 18 performances, which included singers, pianists, guitarists, and the community band. Darren Green, past president, was the MC for the evening. Throughout the evening Darren acknowledged former executive, shared historical information and anecdotes from past festivals. Nancy Topping from the SMFA presented President Rosanne Kelly with a certificate in celebration of 50 consecutive festivals in Moosomin and District.

Following the performances, cake and refreshments were served. Memorabilia items including programs, Syllabi, and newspaper clippings were on display for all to peruse. We appreciate the efforts of all performers who came to play, sing, or recite poetry. The evening was enjoyed so much by returning students, that it was suggested we should celebrate every five years. We look forward to continuing to making the music festival experience available to all students in the area.



Enter to WIN an iPad

It's as easy as...

- 1 Visit Saskatchewan Music Festival Association's Facebook page.
- 2 Upload a photo of yourself preparing for your district music festival.
- 3 Like the page.

You're entered!

Winner will be announced June 3, 2016.





Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



Established in 1908

December 2015

2016 - 2018 SMFA Syllabus Changes and Corrections

Overall:

- Rules and Regulations have been added directly into the Syllabus
- Classes have been reordered for consistency (eg. in all disciplines Recital classes will appear before Canadian Classes)
- Intermediate Age category has been extended to include 17 and under
- Added Age Division categories in with class titles
- RCM/CC classes have been added within each discipline

National:

- National Classes now has its own tab
- **Change on page 25: Percussion will be adjudicated by audio/visual recording at the National level**

Choral:

- Some new classes have been added (p 29)
- New recording regulation (p 14)

Vocal:

- Additional test piece classes have been added at every age level instead of alternate years
- **New Provincial class: Intermediate Concert Group (p 46)**

Piano:

- Some reorganizing of classes for consistency between disciplines
- National Anthem class now includes new 17 and under (p 63)
- Addition of National Anthem classes for other countries (also in Band and Organ)
- **Change on page 50: Class 2000, 4th selection should read *Ballade, Opus 118, No. 3* by Brahms.**

Strings/Brass/Woodwinds:

- **2 Senior Provincial classes for each of these disciplines (Sonata/Concerto classes feed to a Provincial Concert Class Scholarship and all other classes feed into the Provincial Recital Class Scholarship)**

Guitar:

- Provincial classes added for both Senior and Intermediate
- Expanded list of classes

Percussion:

- New classes (Sonata, Canadian)

Band/Ensemble:

- Reordered classes
- All "Family Music" classes are now in this section

Musical Theatre:

- This is now its own section (own tab) with new classes/categories.
- **Change on page 110: In the 2nd paragraph of the rubric, the dates of the eras have been changed to the following: Tin Pan Alley era (1920 – 1942); The Golden Age (1943 – 1964) Contemporary Musical Theatre repertoire (1965 – present day)**

Speech Arts:

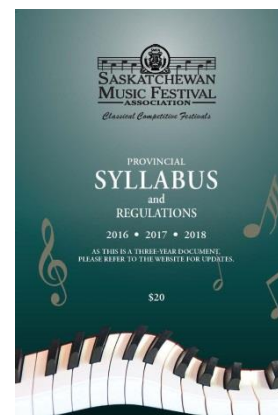
- **New Intermediate Provincial classes added**
- Solo Poetry (p 118) divided into 20/21st Century, and 19th Century and earlier
- New Canadian classes added: Prose (p 119) – Test Piece OR Own Choice and Storytelling – English, French, and Multicultural (p 122 and 127)

Organ:

- Pipe Organ - "Novice" Classes are now listed with individual classes as 1st/2nd year instruction (p 130)

School Music:

- Special needs classes now included within this tab





Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



Established in 1908

December 2015

This email came to me on December 15 from Brent Barootes, President and CEO, Partnership Group - Sponsorship Specialists and I wanted to share it with our Festival followers. I too am a user of the word "just" and have now adopted a new policy of dropping it from my vocabulary and I hope you will too. – Carol Donhauser, Executive Director

The Word "Just"!

I have tried to stop using the word "just" in my correspondence. It doesn't fit-and it is used incorrectly in the cases where I have used it too often or have heard/seen others use it. I don't mean using it in a grammatically correct fashion. I leave that to proofreaders and editors. I am talking about something far more important!

Too often, I hear "just" from the mouths of volunteers or front line staff. Volunteers say, "Oh, I can't do that" or "I don't know the answer to that." Then they follow with, "I am just a volunteer!" In this case, "just" is demeaning and putting down our volunteers or it is they doing it to themselves. I hear the same from front line staff at events-in the back rooms of sponsorship or marketing departments, etc.-and it is wrong!

Volunteers are an important part of our organizations. They are often the vision developers or the ones who deal directly with sponsors and guests, clients, and customers. They need to quit referring to themselves as "just a volunteer" or "I am just a support worker here." A while ago, I began making sure that, when I hear this, I say, "You are an important part of this organization. You are not 'just' a volunteer. You are a volunteer and you should be proud of it. We are proud of all that you do here."

We need to take it a step further. Many of you are already aware of the above. We should also recognize this error is in our "sales" correspondence. I went back and looked at my emails from a few years back before I became conscious of this. When I reviewed emails I had sent in follow-up on proposals, requests for meetings, etc., about 90% of the time, I tended to insert that awful misnomer "just" into my sentences. If I was following up on trying to get a meeting, it might have read like this: "Good morning, John. I am just reaching out once again in follow-up to my email of last Monday about setting up a meeting when I am in Winnipeg next week." Note that I used the word "just."

When I think about it, what that word implies or says is "I am sorry to intrude. I know this is not really important and not a priority for you, but I wanted to get in front of you if you would be so kind as to grant me some of your precious time!" That is wrong! I have a product and value that they can use and that will benefit them. I should be proud of the assets I own and should be saying, "Good morning, John, I am reaching out once again in follow-up to my email of last Monday to set up a meeting when I am in Winnipeg next week." Note that I did not use the word "just."

That revised approach says or implies, "I am available and have something of value to you. If you want to meet with me, I will allocate the time. If not, I will move along and talk to your competition instead." It is pretty amazing the difference one little word can make!

I encourage you to be proud of what you have and your organization. Drop "just" from your vocabulary and correspondence, both from a volunteer and a front line staff perspective, and in your sales follow-up. Also, if I follow up with you on something and say, "I just wanted..." be sure to send me a reply saying, "It sounds like you are desperate and not too sure of your product. When you feel differently, please feel free to reach out to me again. Until then, I am not interested in your lower quality product."





Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



Established in 1908

December 2015

2016 Festival Date Listing

District Festival	Dates	Entry Close
Assiniboia.....	April 24-28	March 13
Battlefords Kiwanis	April 16-23	February 6
Biggar	March 7-10	January 30
Borderland at Coronach.....	April 17-23	March 1
Carnduff.....	March 6-10	January 24
Central Sask at Davidson.....	March 21-22	January 26
Estevan	March 11-15; March 21-23; April 10-15	January 29
Eston	April 11-14	February 12
Gravelbourg	April 10-14	February 26
Hafford.....	April 4-7	January 22
Humboldt.....	April 11-13; April 18-29.....	February 11
Kindersley	March 6-17	January 22
Kipling	April 11-14	February 19
La Ronge	April 11-14	February 4
Lafleche.....	March 13-19	February 1
Lanigan.....	April 25-28	March 1
Last Mountain at Southey.....	April 4-7	February 13
Kiwanis Lloydminster	April 11-13; April 18-22.....	January 23
Mainline at Grenfell.....	March 14-19	January 31
Maple Creek.....	April 24-28	February 26
Meadow Lake.....	April 18-23	March 1
Melfort.....	March 6-16	January 20
Moose Jaw	April 11-12; April 16-22.....	January 24
Moosomin.....	March 7-18	January 30
Nipawin.....	April 18-24	January 30
Outlook	April 11-15	February 12
Parkland at Canora	February 7-12	December 15
Potashville at Langenburg.....	March 6-19	January 15
Prairie Sunset at Luseland.....	April 5-7	February 9
Prince Albert Kiwanis.....	Feb. 22-March 1; March 7-18	January 9
Qu'Appelle Valley at	TBD	TBD
Quill Plains at Foam Lake	April 18-21	February 1
Redvers	April 12-19	January 28
Regina	April 11-14; April 19-21; April 30 – May 8	January 30
Rosetown	March 14-22	January 22
Sand Hills	NO FESTIVAL IN 2016	
Sask Valley at Rosthern.....	March 12-18	January 22
Saskatoon	March 15-17; April 11-21; April 27-May 3	January 23
Shaunavon	April 18-21	March 4
Spiritwood	March 21-22	February 15
Swift Current.....	March 6-23	January 22
Twin Rivers at Dalmeny	March 13-17	January 15
Unity	April 11-15	January 29
Vanguard	April 4-7	February 5
Watrous	March 7-11	January 22
Weyburn	February 29-March 11	January 15
Yorkton	April 7-21	January 28



Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



Established in 1908

December 2015



Provincial Board of Directors:

Nancy Toppings, President
Karen MacCallum, Past President
Karen Unger, 1st Vice President
Sherry Sproule, 2nd Vice President
Directors:

Robin Swales
Wendy Thienes
Kelly Stein
Tammy Villeneuve
Kari Mitchell

Executive Director: Carol Donhauser
Administrative Assistant &
Adjudicator Liaison: Sandra Kerr

Calendar of Events:

February 20 - 21, 2016
Wallis Memorial Opera
Competition (Saskatoon)

February - May, 2016
SMFA District Festivals
(46 Locations)

June 3 - 5, 2016
Provincial Final
Competitions (Saskatoon)

August 11 - 13, 2016
FCMF National
Competitions
(Edmonton, AB)

October 28 - 29, 2016
SMFA Convention/AGM
(Swift Current)



SEASON GREETINGS



Carol Donhauser, Executive Director

Each New Year brings a sense of hope – new ideas, new friends, and new commitments. Across the Province students are learning new repertoire for the upcoming Music Festival season and District Festival Committees are finding new efficient ways to deliver 46 festivals across this vast province.

Speaking of new, I hope you are enjoying the look and feel of the new SMFA website (www.smfa.ca). Updates and changes are now coming regularly and we strive to make all required updates that are sent to us within 24 hours.

Please note the iPad contest (page 8). Our goal is to use the power of social media to increase public awareness of the association. We invite you to take part and become our *Facebook* friend. You may even be the lucky winner of the new iPad.

Many of our District Festivals are registered as a Non-profit Corporation and/or Canadian Registered Charity and with that comes an added responsibility to conduct business accordingly (ensure adequate financial management, ensure treasurer's reporting at each meeting, financial and operational resolutions

passed with quorum, holding adequate meetings and recording proper minutes, following proper receipting practices, filing the Information Return to Revenue Canada, etc.). I encourage the use of the Festival Manual that was distributed this fall to each Festival Committee. It is full of important information and tools that will help guide and educate you with these tasks. Please contact our office if you have any questions.

We wish you all the best during the holidays and in the upcoming festival year. Please don't hesitate to invite the Board Liaison member (see page 5) to your festival's final concert and/or AGM. As the SMFA programs are funded by the Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation, be sure to acknowledge the funding we receive in your programs and verbally at your festivals. You may want to consider inviting your local MLA to your final concert to see the good work that you are doing and to say a few words on behalf of the Provincial Government.

Sandra and I would like to thank you all for your commitment this past year to the festival movement in Saskatchewan. We look forward to working with you all in the New Year.

