



Saskatchewan Music Festival Association FESTIVAL FOCUS

Fall Conference & AGM

Members of the SMFA gathered in Swift Current on October 28 & 29, 2016 for the Annual Conference and AGM. The theme of the conference was "Classical Connections". After several years of holding the conference in conjunction with the larger Saskatchewan Music Conference, a return to our more intimate conference setting made this an appropriate theme. Delegates were greeted by board and staff, with registration beginning on Friday evening at the Days Inn.

The first session opened on Friday evening with Harvey Linnen, as he cultivated common ground throughout the group by having each delegate share their roles in their local festival and existing knowledge of governance. He clarified the job and purpose of our District Festival Boards and committees and how governance works on both levels to improve each District Festival's effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability. A President's Reception followed with an ice-breaker to further connect delegates. Michael Eckert-Lyngstad provided entertainment on his guitar and lute, while delegates and board members mingled.

Saturday began with a continental breakfast and a time of networking. The second session had Sherry Sproule, 2nd Vice-President, report on Diversification. Two weeks earlier, the SMFA Board walked through the first steps of a Diversification Strategy sponsored by SaskCulture, Inc. Sherry reported on the process, emphasizing this as an opportunity for SMFA to reach out to, and include, our newcomers and Aboriginal people in our programming. There exists a tremendous opportunity for growth in our programs, in so doing. Dean Kush, bringing greetings from SaskCulture, also spoke to the value and opportunities of diversity from the SaskCulture perspective.

Wendy Thienes, Director, educated the members on artVest, a sponsorship training and matching incentive program which assists arts organizations in developing new and mutually beneficial partnerships with local businesses, and how it can also expand and improve our programming through financial assistance.



Best Program Award (Carol Donhauser, SMFA Executive Director presenting to Karen Klassen, Regina Music Festival Coordinator)

The SMFA Annual General Meeting followed. Nancy Toppings, President, chaired with 21 out of 47 festivals represented. Tammy Villeneuve, Director, lead in singing O Canada, accompanied by Kari Mitchell, Director. The 2015-2016 Annual Report was presented and Karen Unger, 1st Vice-President, presented the financial statements. Michael Lyngstad brought greetings on behalf of the Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers' Association.

The winner of the Best Program Award for 2016 was presented to Regina Music Festival.

SMFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Karen Unger
1st Vice President: Sherry Sproule
2nd Vice President: Wendy Thienes
Past President: Karen MacCallum
Directors: Kelly Stein, Tammy Villeneuve, Kari Mitchell, Bonnie Nicholson, Michael Lyngstad

SMFA STAFF

Executive Director: Carol Donhauser
Program Coordinator/Adjudicator Liaison: Karen Klassen
Administrative Assistant: Nancy Toppings

HONORARY PATRONS

The Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield,
 Lieutenant Governor of Sask.
 The Honourable Brad Wall, Premier of Sask.

REPRESENTATIVES BY APPOINTMENT

Saskatchewan Band Association
 Saskatchewan Choral Federation
 Saskatchewan Music Educators Association
 Saskatchewan Orchestral Association
 Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers' Assoc.



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Fall Conference & AGM (continued)

Michael Eckert-Lyngstad from Swift Current Music Festival and Bonnie Nicholson from Saskatoon Music Festival were elected by acclamation as new Directors serving 3-year terms.

Karen Unger took the floor to thank retiring board member Robin Swales for his service as Director. She expressed our appreciation to Sandra Kerr, who has resigned from her position as Administrative Assistant and Adjudicator Liaison, and thanked Sandra for her years of service to the Association. Karen explained the hiring process that subsequently took place and announced two changes in office staff:

Karen Klassen has been hired as Adjudicator Liaison and Program Coordinator. Nancy Toppings has been hired as Administrative Assistant and resigns from the SMFA Board effective immediately. Karen MacCallum has agreed to remain on the Board as Past President for the following two years. Karen thanked Nancy for her eight years of service on the Board.

The 2016-2017 Provincial Board was introduced as follows:

President – Karen Unger (Spalding)
 1st Vice-President – Sherry Sproule (Lafleche)
 2nd Vice-President – Wendy Thienes (Shaunavon)
 Past President – Karen MacCallum (Swift Current)
 Directors – Kelly Stein (Simpson), Tammy Villeneuve (Meadow Lake), Kari Mitchell (Oxbow),
 Bonnie Nicholson (Saskatoon), Michael Lyngstad (Swift Current)

Delegates and honored guests at the Volunteer Luncheon heard Dr. Craig Menzies deliver the keynote address on volunteerism. Dr. Menzies is an active volunteer in the City of Swift Current, with a strong family connection to the music festival movement. He spoke passionately about the benefits of volunteering, not only to the cause served, but also experienced by giving freely of one's time. The following people were nominated by their District Festivals and recognized with SMFA Volunteer Awards: Robert Blair (Saskatoon Music Festival), Linda Burch (Shaunavon & District Music Festival), Allison Holser and Lesa Seipp (Estevan & District Music Festival) and Tami Wall (Swift Current & District Music Festival). Honorary Life Memberships were presented to Gloria Nickell, Rosetown & Joanne Messer, Tisdale, in recognition of their years of service at the District, Provincial and National levels of music festival. Wonderful entertainment for the Volunteer Luncheon was provided by the Swift Current Jazz Orchestra, directed by Greg McLean.

Session #3 was presented by Greg and Marcia McLean, giving a festival perspective from an adjudicator's point of view. For the most part, they were both very appreciative of how they have been received and cared for by festivals in their history of a combined 40 years of adjudicating. Practical suggestions were given and questions from festivals were answered.

The final session of the day saw delegates split into small groups for festival roundtables. Scenarios were enthusiastically discussed and shared. A Trade Fair and Silent Auction was held throughout the weekend.

Many thanks to Karen MacCallum and the Swift Current committee for organizing such a wonderful conference weekend. The 2017 Conference and AGM will be held Oct 27-28, 2017, Watrous, Manitou Springs Resort.

Submitted by Kelly Stein



"SMFA Honorary Life Members" (Gloria Nickell and Joanne Messer receive Honorary Life Memberships from SMFA Executive; Nancy Toppings, Karen Unger, and Karen MacCallum)



SMFA Board of Directors & Staff: (back l to r) Nancy Toppings, Karen Klassen, Kelly Stein, Carol Donhauser, Michael Lyngstad, Kari Mitchell, (front l to r) Tammy Villeneuve, Karen MacCallum, Sherry Sproule, Karen Unger, Wendy Thienes, Bonnie Nicholson

President's Message



Greetings, Happy New Year and best wishes for 2017! It is with anticipation and gratitude that I begin my term serving as the 73rd President of this fine organization.

There is something about closing one year's calendar and beginning another that always brings a sense of hope and promise. As we turn to 2017, the Saskatchewan Music Festival Board of Directors is feeling excited and purposeful about the year that lies ahead!

October 28-29, 2016, we held our annual general meeting and conference at Days Inn in Swift Current with the theme "Classical Connections". It was a wonderful, worthwhile weekend of information sharing and networking with delegates from across the province. The Swift Current team, led by Karen MacCallum, did a superb job of hosting us!

At the AGM, we welcomed two new board members to our group – Bonnie Nicholson of Saskatoon and Michael Lyngstad of Swift Current. We always appreciate the new insights, experience, and perspectives that new members bring to our table! You will find their bios in this newsletter. We bid a fond farewell to Robin Swales, who served as Director for the past three years. We appreciated Robin's intellect, sense of humour, and love of music. Nancy Toppings, who completed her term as President, has served with devotion and passion and attention to detail that have been invaluable to our Association. It has been a privilege to serve under her fine leadership! Nancy has resigned from the Board in order to step into a new role, as Administrative Assistant in our Provincial Office. We are so pleased to welcome Nancy to our staff as we know she brings a wealth of knowledge and dedication, as well as great fervour for this organization. We thank Karen MacCallum, past President, for agreeing to remain on the Board in that role for an additional two years.

We are looking forward to the 2017 Shurniak Concerto competition as our first major event of the year. It will be held in Regina on February 25. In addition to the monetary scholarships awarded, the first place winner has the opportunity to appear as a guest artist with both the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras. We are grateful to William Shurniak for his generous sponsorship of this event.

The 2017 Provincial Finals will be held at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon June 2-4. As we celebrate Canada's 150th birthday this year, it is fitting that we will be heading to Ottawa for the National Music Festival, August 10-12. I encourage musicians at the senior level to enter the National Class at their District Festival.

We are grateful for the funding we receive from the Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation administered by SaskCulture Inc., as well as for all the sponsors, donors, and patrons of the District, Provincial, and National Music Festivals. Their continued support is integral to the continuation of our competitions and programs.

Congratulations to our District Festivals that are celebrating special Anniversary events in 2017. We would love to have you submit photos and a write-up of your activities to the office to be published in the Festival Focus. Best wishes to each of our District Festivals as you carry on the important work that you do! I wish you all of you a successful Music Festival season!

Karen Unger, President



Music is a higher revelation than all wisdom and philosophy

- Ludwig Von Beethoven

An Adventure in Music

Godwin Friesen

I, Godwin Friesen, am a musician, a student, an artist, a brother, and most notably, a Christian. Although I am all these things, my musicianship is becoming more and more the best known aspect of my character. The main reason for this is that I am now in my first year at the Glenn Gould School of Music in Toronto, studying piano performance with John O'Connor, in the four-year Performance Diploma Program. I started taking piano lessons at age seven, with the hopes of eventually becoming a saxophonist. But I quickly grew to love the piano so well that the two years of playing saxophone in school band were enough to satisfy that desire, and piano became my main instrument. Although I love all other instruments, it is the piano's ability to emulate the harmonies and fullness of an orchestra which makes it my definite favourite.

Those early lessons as a seven-year-old were certainly not the beginning of music for me, but only one step along the adventure. My music-learning began before I could speak, and I am told that as a baby I would bob my head to any rhythm, including my dad's sawing. Because both my parents are very musical, there was already a foundation of music before I or any of my five siblings were born, and as young children we were already practising our singing, harmonizing, and other music-making just by doing it for fun with family. This family music became more significant when my dad started teaching us songs he composed or arranged, and we became the Friesen Family Band – recording three albums and performing over a hundred concerts of this music we call "eclectic faith-folk for heart, mind, and soul".

Another step was having an amazing piano teacher in Edmonton, Sheila Wright, who had each of her students compose a piece for a recital each year. This taught me that composing wasn't something only done by old, ancient people, but could be done by anyone. Since then I have composed mostly solo piano pieces, but this past summer I finished composing my first piece for orchestra, entitled *Pilgrimage*, which won the Saskatoon Youth Orchestra's Young Composers Competition. Because of this, they will be performing it in their next season!

So as a young musician, I realized that composing was a unique talent of mine, but believed that as a performer, I was nothing special. I never competed in any music festivals – except in classes for original compositions – until 2012, after my family moved to Saskatchewan. We lived outside of Saskatoon, but I was able to join the studio of Bonnie Nicholson, who has been an incredible mentor and encouragement for me for the past five years. After the first year of her guidance and inspiration, I entered the Sask Valley district festival – the nearest one at the time – where I played in a few classes and was utterly amazed to receive the Rose Bowl for best pianist of the festival! It was then that I really realized that I do have a special talent for performing, and this was the beginning of many achievements in music festivals over the next few years.



Adjudicator Boot Camp

Where: University of Regina, Education Department, ED 619

When: February 11, 2017 | 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Admission is free and open to all interested parties.

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



The material presented will be helpful to anyone considering working as a music festival adjudicator in the future and may also be of interest to those already working in the field but looking for some new ideas or a refresher course. There will be plenty of time for questions and many specific challenges of adjudicating will be addressed.



The workshop will be facilitated by Cherith Alexander who has more than twenty years of experience adjudicating throughout Western Canada at festivals large and small.

Please RSVP by February 1, 2017 to Karen Klassen at karen.smfa@sasktel.net

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Shurniak Concerto Competition
February 25, 2017 (University of Regina)

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

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

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

SMFA Fall Conference and AGM
October 27 - 28, 2017 (Manitou Springs Resort - Watrous)



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Welcome our new SMFA Directors



BONNIE NICHOLSON

Bonnie Nicholson is a pianist, teacher and chamber musician from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. Her degrees include a Bachelor of Music (Performance) and a Master of Arts Degree from the University of Saskatchewan, as well as an ARCT in Piano Performance from the RCM. Teachers and influences are varied and include mentor, Robin Harrison.

Since 1985, Bonnie has served as a Sessional Lecturer in Piano, at the Department of Music, U of S, in Saskatoon. As part of her solo and teaching career, she has received the Florence Bowes Piano Pedagogy Scholarship (1993), the Dwaine Nelson Teaching Award for Excellence from the U of S Association of Student Musicians (2000) and the Sylvia Wallace Award for Sessional Teaching Excellence at the University of Saskatchewan

(2004). In their recommendations and evaluations, students and colleagues have commented on Bonnie's "innovative and insightful teaching methods", and her "enthusiasm and encouragement". In August 2015, Bonnie's student Godwin Friesen was awarded first prize in the piano category at the National level of Canadian Music Festivals.

Bonnie Nicholson appears on CD with Bass-Baritone Henri Loïselle, the Saskatoon Children's Choir, the Saskatoon Fire-side Singers, trumpeter Dean McNeill's disc entitled "Melange", and saxophonist Glen Gillis' discs entitled, "SaxSpectrum" and "Saxspectrum 2". Most recently, "Les Quatre Mains 1" was released with Bonnie's long time collaborator and friend, pianist Dianne Gryba.

MICHAEL LYGSTAD

I am pleased to be involved in the SMFA as a board member and I hope to bring my past experience as a teacher, performer, and committee member to this organization.

My specialty is in the realm of the guitar. I have taken lessons since I was 6 years old, following up my private study in Swift Current with a Diploma in Jazz Performance from MacEwan University in 1997 and completing a joint BMus/BEd degree from the University of Alberta in 2003 specializing in Classical guitar and Secondary Education. Upon graduation from the University of Alberta, I taught at MacEwan University in their outreach department from 2005-2013 when I moved to Swift Current and opened my own private instruction studio.



As a performer, my early experience was in rock and jazz bands in Edmonton from 1995-2010 where I played regularly at nightclubs, cafes, and corporate events. In 2001 I formed the Rosette Guitar Duo with fellow university student Kevin Marsh. The Rosette Guitar Duo went on to record 4 albums which saw regular rotation on CBC radio across the country. We also toured Western Canada 3 times, playing hundreds of concerts across BC, Yukon, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. This group retired after 12 years of activity when Kevin moved to Shanghai, China to pursue performance and teaching opportunities there and I decided to move back home to Swift Current.

Since moving to Swift Current, I have kept up a busy performance schedule as a solo player on Classical Guitar, Renaissance Lute, and Chinese Zither at local art openings, as support music for local corporate and fundraising events, and at high profile functions such as the Premier's luncheon in honour of HRH Prince Edward's visit in 2014 and the New West Summit in Regina in the same year. I also perform jazz in a number of ad hoc local groups including the Swift Current Jazz Orchestra as a guitarist and bassist.

My board experience began in 2009 as a director on the board of the Edmonton Classical Guitar Society where I also served as the webmaster. Upon moving to Swift Current, I joined the local Registered Music Teachers branch where I have served as a director, Vice President, and President-currently sitting as Past President. As of 2015 I have been a director on the board of the Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers where I also work as the webmaster. Since joining the local Swift Current Music Festival Association in 2016 I have contributed through webmaster duties and am currently the Scholarships director.

I look forward to working with the SMFA board and continuing my contributions to music in Saskatchewan!

CANADA'S VOLUNTEER AWARDS



Don't miss your chance to bring recognition to someone who is doing important work in your community! The call for nominations for Canada's Volunteer Awards is now open, and we encourage you to nominate a not-for-profit organization, an individual/group of volunteers or a business.

Help celebrate Canada's culture of volunteering! You have until February 3, 2017, to give Canadian volunteers the recognition they deserve. Award winners will be recognized at a ceremony and will be able to choose a not-for-profit organization to receive a grant of \$5,000 (regional award) or \$10,000 (national award).

For more information, please visit Canada.ca/volunteer-awards or call 1-877-825-0434.

Submission deadline: February 3, 2017

Canada 

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

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

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

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

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

Beware of Phishing



Phishing is a general term for e-mails, text messages and websites fabricated and sent by criminals and designed to look like they come from well-known and trusted businesses, financial institutions and government agencies in an attempt to collect personal, financial and sensitive information. It's also known as brand spoofing.

Be suspicious of any e-mail or text message containing urgent requests for personal or financial information (financial institutions and credit card companies normally will not use e-mail to confirm an existing client's information). In some cases, the offending site can modify your browser address bar or email address to make it look legitimate.

Contact the organization by using a telephone number from a credible source such as a phone book or a bill. Never e-mail personal or financial information. Avoid embedded links in an e-mail claiming to bring you to a secure site. Get in the habit of looking at a website or email address line and verify if it displays something different from the address mentioned in the email.

Regularly update your computer protection with anti-virus software, spyware filters, e-mail filters and firewall programs.

Shurniak Concerto Competition

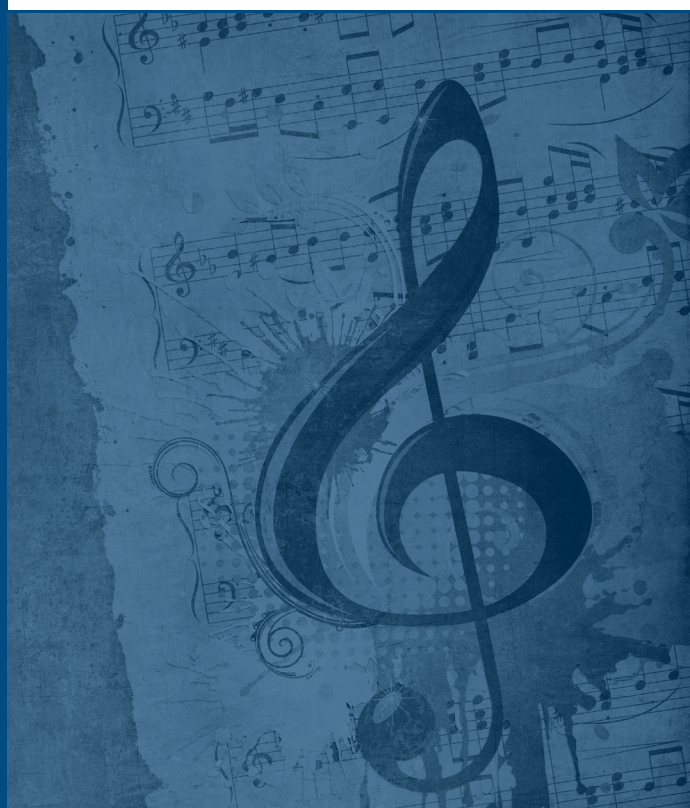
February 25, 2017 – Regina, SK

The SMFA's Concerto Competition is held in conjunction with the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras; University of Regina - Music Department, and sponsored by William Shurniak. Originally an annual event, the competition is now held every two years, alternating between Saskatoon and Regina. This year's competition will be held February 25, in Regina (U of R, Riddell Theatre).

The first place winner receives a \$2,000 scholarship and has the opportunity to appear as a guest artist with the Regina Symphony Orchestra and the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra. Second-place and third-place scholarships of \$750 and \$500 may also be awarded.

The competition is open to non-professional* musicians, between 14 and 30 years of age. Age restrictions are as of December 31 of the year preceding the competition. All solo instrumental categories will be considered. Previous first-place winners of the Concerto Competition are not eligible to enter. Only those of talent and industry, who have the necessary potential for a possible career in music, should consider entering the competition. Visit our website for more details and to enter <http://smfa.ca/>

**ENTRY DEADLINE:
JANUARY 31, 2017**





Getting to Know Your Board

Wendy Thienes (Shaunavon)

- What are your favorite genres of music? 1980's Pop and classical and I pretty much like anything played on the piano regardless of genre.
- What musician solos/bands did you idolize as a teenager? While everyone on the school bus was listening to 'hair bands', I had my 'walkman' on playing Whitney Houston and New Kids on the Block.
- Where is your favorite place to visit? We camp every year at Douglas Park on Lake Diefenbaker.
- What is one item on your music bucket list? See more Broadway shows, hopefully in New York with my kids.

Sherry Sproule (Lafleche)

- My favorite genres of music are Classical and Rock.
- I enjoyed the movie tracks from Saturday Night Fever and Grease.
- I have had many memorable visits to Montreal. Would love to go again!
- Would love to attend an opera in Italy to mark off on my music bucket list.

Michael Lyngstad (Swift Current)

- My favorite genres of music include Indie Rock/Pop, Baroque & Renaissance "Art Music" Bop, Hard Bop, and Modern Jazz.
- What musician solos/bands did you idolize as a teenager? Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton, Led Zeppelin, Pearl Jam
- The backcountry in any of Canada's National Parks is my favorite place to visit.
- One item on my music bucket list is to hear some of Bach's organ works live on a real period pipe organ.

Bonnie Nicholson (Saskatoon)

- I enjoy all genres of music and go to concerts of all styles. This year, my husband and I have seen the symphony concerts in Saskatoon, some opera, some country shows, some jazz events and some rock and roll shows. We simply love live music.
- As a teen, I loved Donny Osmond – he was my crush. Also ABBA and Alfred Cortot and Maurizio Pollini.
- My favorite place to visit is New York - for the live classical music and for the live theatre.
- To cross off one thing off my music bucket list would be to go on a cruise that includes a visit to St. Petersburg and Moscow.

Kelly Stein (Simpson)

- My favourite music genres are Classical, Romantic, Jazz, and Contemporary Christian
- I idolized as a teenager Barbara Streisand, Karen Carpenter, Barry Manilow, ABBA, Chicago, ~ others along these lines!!
- I love visiting the East Coast of Canada!!
- On my music bucket list is to record a Vocal CD.

Karen Unger (Naicam)

- I love Baroque keyboard works, Classical symphonies, and Romantic piano music. I also enjoy smooth jazz, pop, and a whole variety of other genres, depending on my mood.
- I was a teen in the 80's, best music decade ever! I'm not sure I idolized anyone, but I enjoyed Corey Hart, Michael Jackson, Bryan Adams, Michael W Smith, Amy Grant, the Police, and Chicago to name just a few!
- I love to be anywhere that I can see the ocean! One of my favorite vacations was to Uculet/Tofino on the west coast of Vancouver island.
- One item on my music bucket list is to see a Broadway musical in New York.

Kari Mitchell (Oxbow)

- I don't really have a FAVORITE genre of music, but I currently lean towards jazz and classic rock. Of course, I still love classical music too!
- As a teenager, I loved Prism, Trooper, and Little River Band.
- I have a new favorite place to visit: Cabo San Lucas, in Mexico! Beautiful temperature, weather, and wonderful friendly people!
- One item on my music bucket list is to see Billy Joel or Elton John perform live. I also want to see a live performance of "The Nutcracker".

Tammy Villeneuve (Meadow Lake)

- Although I find myself listening to classic rock most of the time, I have been learning to sing some new (to me) Baroque pieces and rediscovering a love for that era.
- I was a little younger than a teenager, but David Cassidy was it for me.
- I love Eastern Canada. I have been fortunate to travel that way three times, the last being this past fall to enjoy the fall foliage. Amazing!
- I need to find a new item on my music bucket list, because in the last year I stroked off the main one when, after 30 years, I started working regularly with a voice teacher again.

Karen MacCallum (Swift Current)

- Big band & orchestral music are my favorite genres.
- Teenage music idol was Bobby Vinton singing Blue Velvet.
- Calgary is my favorite place to visit because my son lives there.
- On my music bucket list is to attend an Opera in New York City.

Carol Donhauser (Regina)

- I have a diversified taste in genres. I like everything from classical to pop.
- As a teenager, I idolized Olivia Newton John in "Grease". Loved the movie/music and must have went to the drive-in movie theatre to watch it at least 50 times.
- My favorite places to visit are anywhere warm in the winter (Hawaii, Costa Rica, Las Vegas, etc.).
- On my music bucket list is a visit my husband's family in Italy and husband's family in Italy and touring his cousin's guitar store in Milan.



From the Provincial Office

What an exciting time of year! Repertoire has been chosen, students are busy preparing, while teachers and parents guide them toward their goals. We are extremely grateful for the hours invested by volunteers, on each of our 47 District Festival Committees, who continue to make music festivals a reality in their communities.

I am thrilled and thankful for the opportunity to serve SMFA in this new capacity. Among the best aspects of the job has been communicating with, and getting to know, many of our festival volunteers throughout the province. I look forward to meeting many more!

Many thanks to the District Festivals who have been submitting their Report Forms in a timely manner. Please consider submitting your reports as soon as possible following your festival. It is so much easier when the information is fresh and enthusiasm is high. I would like to remind you of the following:

- Send an electronic copy of your program to Provincial Office as soon as possible.
- Mail 2 hard copies of your program to the Provincial Office as soon as they are printed.
- Keep ALL competitors' marks (in a program, database, or equivalent) and, immediately following your festival, send to the Provincial Office.
- Updated District Winner Charts can be found on our website. Send the charts to our office immediately following your festival.
- Complete the Adjudicator Evaluations as soon as possible. These evaluations are required in our hiring process.
- The People Stats Form will look a bit different this year. It will be available in Excel format for easier calculations. Please do not leave information blank. If the answer is "nil" indicate it with a "0". If you don't have actual numbers, please estimate. Your estimate will be a much better guess than ours. We will be gathering newcomer information on this year's People Stats Form (How many participants are Aboriginal, or newcomers to Canada in the past five years?). Please have a system in place to capture this information. The information gathered from our People Stats Form helps us acquire sponsorship, award donors, and is required for our Lottery grant.
- Appoint a committee member to write the festival report and submit it to our office as soon as your festival is completed. Tell us an interesting story about something unique that happened at this year's festival!
- Revenue and Expense Forms can be completed after we have sent you the statement (by the end of May) with the affiliation dues and supply invoices...not before! These expenses must be included in your current year-end.
- Choose dates for 2018, if you have not already done so. Follow up with the Adjudicator Time Frame Form.
- Notify us of the date and location of your AGM so that we can post it on our website.

Do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance. Best wishes for a successful 2017 Festival!

Nancy Toppings, Administrative Assistant

From the Executive Director



Here we are mid-January and the Provincial office is in full swing (applying for sponsorships, sending out Adjudicator Report Forms, answering emails from festival committee volunteers, and participants). Karen Klassen and Nancy Toppings are doing a fantastic job in supporting the work we do. Please send all of your email queries to the main SMFA email account (sask.music.festival@sasktel.net) and we will direct the email to the appropriate staff member.

We are looking forward to our first ever Adjudicator Boot Camp on February 11 facilitated by Cherith Alexander, one of Saskatchewan's most sought-after adjudicators. The session will explore many aspects of adjudicating and provide some practical advice. You will not want to miss this fun-filled, informative workshop.

I thank the festival volunteers for sending in your report forms and information for the upcoming festival season on a timely basis. It makes our office more efficient when deadlines are met.

The member funding program was recently launched with almost 10 festivals applying for the allocated \$10,000. I was happy to see three requests for Speech Arts Workshops. I continue to believe that getting Speech Arts into the schools will benefit everyone. The SMFA Board of Directors will be accepting applications again on October 15, 2017.

We continue to work on finalizing our strategic plan focussed on diversity. Some of the key areas that we will focus on when assessing diversity within our organization are: awareness, perception, access, relevancy, engagement, and contribution to evolution/future. One of our missions over the next few years is to keep this diverse population knowledgeable, culturally wise and informed about the programs we offer, while at the same time making everyone feel welcome. Please be prepared to provide statistical numbers (number of Aboriginals or newcomers in the past five years) on your People Stats forms. Whether you have the question on your entry form, or plan to send out an email to the teachers/participants, we will request this information in order to get a benchmark.

I look forward to visiting some of you during festival. If you would like a Provincial Board member to attend your final concert or have a special anniversary this year, please let us know. We would welcome an invitation and a chance to visit your community and see the good work you are doing.

Carol Donhauser, Executive Director










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!

[Learn more at www.sasklotteries.ca](http://www.sasklotteries.ca)










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LOTTERIES**
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Expect the best, plan for the worst, and prepare to be surprised!



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(*Performance, Music History, Composition, Comprehensive*)
- **Bachelor of Mus.Ed/Bachelor of Music (5-yr)**
- **BA of Media, Art, and Performance (Music)**
- **Master of Music**

For more information please call 306.585.5532

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