



Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



Established in 1908

March 2014

SMFA Provincial Office
4623 Albert St.
Mailing Address:
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"Classical Competitive Festivals"

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President's Message

Karen MacCallum, President



*Gretchen am Spinnrade; Quel Guardo il Cavaliere; Faites-lui mes aveux;
Non so più cosa son; ein Mädchen oder Weibchen; Durch Zärtlichkeit;
Reiz, allez; Frère! Voyez!; En Sourdine; Se vuol ballare;
Mab, la reine des mensonges; Tornami a vagheggiar;
Suleika; Chacun le sait; Una furtiva lagrima.*

- Song titles at the Wallis Opera Competition

When I was young, living in a rural community around a very small town on the prairie, I thought that "Opera" happened somewhere far away. Fortunately, that is not the case and I have experienced two privileges that have shaped and changed my opinion.

The first privilege has been to perform with the Swift Current Oratorio Choir which has a forty year history under the directorship of John Poettcker, originally, and Marcia McLean, presently. The Choir's Spring Performance has featured many well-known guest vocalists and has been accompanied by the Regina Symphony Chamber Players. This choir was invited to join a mass choir to perform at "Carnegie Hall" this last January. What an awesome experience for those members who were able to attend! Who would ever think to connect Swift Current, Saskatchewan and Carnegie Hall, New York?

The second privilege has been my involvement with SMFA. My local festival has seen an abundance of competitors pursue careers in music as performers and teachers. One of my favourite is Robyn Driedger. Why? Because I know her! I witnessed her as a young student, when a festival Adjudicator made her lay down on the floor for a breathing exercise. I know her mom, also a choir member, and her family. Now known as Robyn Driedger-Klassen, she is a graduate of the UBC voice performance program and a member of the faculty at the Vancouver Academy of Music and the Vancouver Community College. She is also in high demand in the opera and recital fields, specializing in contemporary works.

It has been truly delightful getting to know several of the young artists who have come through the Provincial and National festival systems. For them to know me as a familiar face in the audience is one way that I can show my support for them. To witness their growth in confidence and the maturing of their instrument, their voice, is remarkable. I am sure those of you who have been involved with music festivals over the years have had similar experiences.

Of course, the Opera Competition held last month, is only one facet of Saskatchewan's music festivals. This month many of the District Music Festivals were held involving hundreds of students and their parents, teachers, and adjudicators. Even more students are still preparing for the remaining competitions. My best wishes go to those who will be competing at the Provincial Finals in June.

As always, 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.

"Be Proud - Celebrate and enjoy being a partner in a great musical journey."





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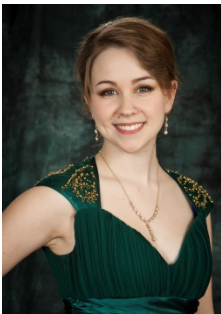


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Gordon C. Wallis Memorial Opera Competition

Submitted by Robin Swales



On the afternoon of Saturday February 22nd at 1 pm a merry band of opera buffs assembled at the Shumiatcher Theatre in the MacKenzie Gallery in Regina where seven Saskatchewan singers battled for the \$5000 award so generously donated for the winner's further studies by the late assistant director of the Regina Conservatory of Performing Arts. The winner also receives an opportunity to appear as a guest artist with the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras. Each competitor was required to sing two opera arias and one art song. The group of seven (an eighth competitor had unfortunately to withdraw due to illness) all clearly have professional ambitions and gave parents, relatives, teachers, observers and SMFA board members a most enjoyable afternoon of high quality. The twenty-one pieces – with no duplicates – took us from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries and from Austria, Italy and France to America and Canada (Regina indeed!).

That this breadth in time and space should be so was one of Gordon Wallis' intentions. The five pianists who accompanied the singers during the competition - Karen Klassen, Kathleen Lohrenz-Gable, Tanya Bergen, Karen Reynaud and Mark Turner - were splendid supporters of their charges. One notable feature of the 2014 year was the presence of three young men in the roster which comprised one coloratura soprano (Whitney Mather), two lyric sopranos (Jordanne Erichsen and Allison Walmsley), one mezzo soprano (Lindsay Gable), two baritones (Gabriel Benesh and John Johnston) and one tenor (Spencer McKnight).

Of the group several were students at the University of Saskatchewan, one at the University of Regina, one at Western Ontario University, and one at the Glenn Gould School in Toronto. It was evident from the performances that the singers were more comfortable in the operatic repertoire than the art song but, since they are likely to be active as recitalists in a variety of styles, this demonstrated how wise Gordon Wallis had been to urge them to keep art song in the forefront of their endeavours.

The adjudicators, Bonnie Cutsforth-Huber and Elizabeth Turnbull, more than lived up to their reputations as fine performers and teachers in the masterclass which was held on the afternoon following the competition. Emphasising technical issues such as on-stage presence, stance, body mapping and vocal production, they gave both singers and audience a truly outstanding lesson in the science of singing as well as in matters of interpretation and style. Every one of the competitors responded with enthusiasm, humour and real comprehension to the advice they were given and the results were highly commendable. None of the young singers will have left without renewed energy and commitment.



Back row (l to r): Allison Walmsley, Spencer McKnight, Gabriel Benesh, John Johnston, Lindsay Gable
Front row (l to r): Jordanne Erichsen, Whitney Mather

At the conclusion of the masterclass the announcement was made that Whitney Mather of Saskatoon, presently a graduate student at the Glenn Gould School in Toronto where she studies with Monica Whicher and our own Reginald, Peter Tiefenbach, was the deserving winner of the competition. Last year Whitney won the CFMTA National Voice Competition in Halifax and will be appearing this spring in the Saskatoon Opera School Tour and in the Glenn Gould School production of *The Cunning Little Vixen* by Janacek. The SMFA wishes Whitney and all those who entered the competition the very best of good fortune as they continue their studies towards professional careers.





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Speech Arts Workshop – Parkland Music Festival

Submitted by Anna Russell, President of Preeceville and District Branch

The speech arts workshops provided by Heather Macnab went very well! During the three days she spent with us, over 260 school students were involved in the workshops from Sturgis, Canora, and Preeceville, and one community theatre group invited interested people to a voice workshop which was very well received as well. Heather is a vibrant and well organized, very skilled educator. We certainly appreciated the talents she shared with us. Thank you so much to all of you at SMFA for providing this opportunity for us.



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



The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association continues to promote Speech Arts with plans for workshops next year in Gravelbourg and Assiniboia. Please contact us if your festival school districts are interested, so that we can add you to our list.



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Provincial Finals Overview Schedule – June 6-8 (U of S, Saskatoon)

	Quance Theare Education Building	Classroom 1036 Education Building	Room #1004 Education Building	Convocation Hall College Building (Green Room for warmup)
FRIDAY, JUNE 6 - CLASSES <u>SUBJECT TO CHANGE</u>, DEPENDING ON NUMBER OF ENTRIES				
MORNING 9:00 A.M.	Provincial Level of National Competitions			
AFTERNOON 1:00 P.M.	Provincial Level of National Competitions Announcement of Team Saskatchewan and Reception to follow competitions			Musical Theatre Intermediate
EVENING 7:00 P.M.	Intermediate Voice			Musical Theatre Senior
SATURDAY, JUNE 7 - CLASSES <u>SUBJECT TO CHANGE</u>, DEPENDING ON NUMBER OF ENTRIES				
MORNING 9:00 A.M	Percussion Senior Voice Grade B (Female) Grade B (Male) Grade A (Female) Grade A (Male)	Intermediate Piano Beethoven Chopin	Strings Int. Vla/Vc/DB Int. Violin Sr. Violin Sr. Vla/Vc/DB	Senior Piano Bach Haydn/Mozart Beethoven
AFTERNOON 1:00 P.M.	Senior Voice Lieder Grade B CG Grade A CG French Canadian	Intermediate Piano Haydn/Mozart Bach 20 th 21 st - Century/Canadian	Speech Arts Woodwinds Intermediate Senior Brass Intermediate Senior	Senior Piano (Lieder at Quance Theatre) Romantic 20 th 21 st Century/ Canadian French Chopin
EVENING 7:00 P.M.	Senior Voice Oratorio Operatic	Intermediate Piano Recital		
SUNDAY, JUNE 8				
1:00 P.M.	Grand Awards Concert Senior Competitors Announcement of award winners and reception to follow competition.			



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In Concert with the Saskatoon & Regina Symphony Orchestras



Gerard Weber

Past winners of our Concerto Competitions, Sam Deason and Samuel Milner, will be performing with the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra April 12 and May 3 respectively. Deason will perform Khachaturian's *Piano Concerto* and Milner will perform Bruch's *Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor, Op. 26*. If you have the opportunity, please join them and enjoy our home grown talent!!

Also performing as the Shurniak Concerto Competition winner, Gerard Weber will play Creston's *Saxophone Concerto* with the Regina Symphony Orchestra on October 25. Gerard is the 2013 winner of this prestigious competition.



SMFA Logo



As an SMFA Affiliated Festival, we ask you to please use the SMFA logo on all your correspondence and publications. This emphasizes the fact that we are all part of a larger provincial body. When we use our logo, we show pride in our association and in the province of Saskatchewan.



Creative Kids

SaskCulture's Creative Kids program provides financial assistance for children to participate in the same art and cultural activities as their peers, regardless of a family's social and financial barriers. Families may apply to Creative Kids for up to \$750 per child, per year to participate in creative activities. We believe every child should have an opportunity to participate in creative activities, which are fundamental to the positive growth and development of children and youth; and that cultural programming is critical to a healthy, vibrant community.



We are a charitable program, initiated in Saskatchewan by SaskCulture and a group of dedicated volunteers. Creative Kids is funded by donations and corporate sponsorships, with one hundred per cent of all dollars raised funding creative activities for children. SaskCulture covers all administrative expenses and a partnership with the Saskatchewan Arts Board and the Give Kids a Chance charity for allow additional administrative support.

Since the fall of 2010, we've provided over \$500,000 for families and created opportunities for applicants in 100 Saskatchewan communities.



*Missing the Journal of
the Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers' Association (SRMTA)?*

OPUS can be found on at: www.srmta.com



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Take advantage of the new first-time donor's super credit

Did you know?

The new first-time donor's super credit gives you an extra 25% non-refundable federal tax credit when you claim your charitable donation tax credit. This means that you can get a 40% credit for up to \$200 in cash donations and a 54% credit for the part of the cash donations that is over \$200 but not more than \$1,000. This is in addition to the provincial credit.

Important facts

- An individual qualifies as a first-time donor if neither the individual nor the individual's spouse or common-law partner has claimed the charitable donation tax credit since 2007.
- The credit will apply only to cash donations made after March 20, 2013 up to a maximum of \$1,000 in donations.
- As a temporary credit, you can only claim it once from the 2013 to 2017 taxation years.
- Only donations made to registered charities and qualified donees are eligible. To check if an organization is registered, go to the Canada Revenue Agency Charity Listings: www.cra.gc.ca/charitylists. The Charity Listings also provides information about registered charities' activities, revenues, and expenditures. If you are looking for a charity to donate to, **SMFA is a registered charity as well as many of the district festivals.**

For more information on the first-time donor's super credit, go to www.cra.gc.ca/fdsc



Calendar of Events

March - May, 2014

SMFA District Festivals (48 Locations)

June 6 - 8, 2014

Provincial Finals – Saskatoon

August 14 - 16, 2014

National Music Festival – Kelowna, BC

November 13 - 15, 2014 – PLEASE NOTE DATE!

Saskatchewan Music Conference and
SMFA Annual General Meeting – Saskatoon

February 2015

Shurniak Concerto Competition – Saskatoon

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



FUNDING
PROVIDED BY





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Ryan Cole Interview

Many fine musicians who now reside in all parts of the world have their roots here in Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Music Festival has often been an integral part in their development.

Meet Ryan Cole, a native of Saskatoon, who tells us what role music festivals have played along the road to his career as a professional musician.



- 1. When did you start playing the trumpet?** I started in Grade 6 band.
- 2. From whom did you take lessons?** During high school, my band teacher John McGettigan was very influential. He was also a trumpet player and inspired me a great deal. He helped me get in touch with my first trumpet teacher Frank Harrington in my grade 11 year. When I started at the University of Saskatchewan, I started taking lessons with Dean McNeill. He was a great teacher who helped me in so many ways as a trumpeter, musician, and person. I still keep in touch with all my teachers and am grateful for all of them.
- 3. Were music festivals an important part of your musical life? Why?** I got involved in the music festival scene during my undergraduate years. The process of learning and memorizing different pieces for competition is a difficult and important one to go through. It helped me understand that I wanted to pursue a career in music. There were so many talented people while I was competing in festivals. Even now, I see and work with people in a professional setting who I first met while we were competing in music festivals.
- 4. What were some of the highlights from your Music Festival career?** Being part of Team Saskatchewan and competing at Nationals was definitely a highlight. I got to know some amazing musicians and organizers. However, one memorable night was competing against my future wife, soprano Kayleigh Harrison. That night, we both won our respective categories in the Kinsmen Finals of the local festival. We both really enjoyed seeing each other compete and grow as musicians over the years in music festivals, even if it was against each other!
- 5. Where did you take your Post-secondary education and what were some of the highlights of your time there?** I did a Masters in Orchestral Performance at McGill University. My teacher and mentor there was Paul Merkelo, who is the Principal trumpet of the Montreal Symphony. My experience at McGill was intense but very inspiring, and that is why I have continued with a career in music. A highlight for me during my time in Montreal was performing Vivaldi's *Trumpet Concerto for Two Trumpets* with the Montreal Symphony.
- 6. When and where did you represent Saskatchewan at Nationals?** I went to Nationals in Edmonton in 2008.
- 7. How did you feel about that experience and how did you fare during the competition?** It was a big learning experience for me. I'm thankful for Team Sask. and the representatives that came along with us. They are your family for those few days while you are trying to compete at the highest level possible. I played well and was happy with my performance. That doesn't happen after every performance. But the process of performing at the local festival and the provincial festival really prepared me for this moment. I got second place. At that moment I was a little sad because I enjoy winning and I always have the highest expectation for myself. But to be honest, I probably learned more from not winning that day. It's not always about winning, but the process along the way and what you can learn from it. I was driven after Nationals to find a way to get to that next level of performance. I learned to love practicing and performing. I also learned that winning didn't define who I was, but that having something meaningful to say musically was the most important thing.
- 8. What are you currently doing and how long have you had this position?** Right now I am Principal Trumpet in the Victoria Symphony. I'm coming to the end of my second season. It is a wonderful orchestra with fabulous musicians and great people. I love my job. It's such a pleasure to perform different music each week. Next season, I will be performing the Arutunian *Trumpet Concerto* with this orchestra, which happens to be the concerto I took to nationals for Team Sask!

(continued)



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9. **In February you gave a concert in Saskatoon. Where was it held and what was the reason for the concert?** It was held at Castle theatre, Aden Bowman. George Charpentier had contacted me with an idea to perform some of Rafael Mendez's music as a tribute. Mendez had performed in Saskatoon many years ago and had a relationship with the Saskatoon Concert band. He had left some manuscripts with the Concert Band, so the stars aligned and the concert came to be.
10. **What did you play?** *La Virgen De La Macarena* by Czardas.
11. **How did the audience respond to your performance?** I think they really enjoyed it. I got to talk with some people afterwards in the lobby and got some very nice comments.
12. **How did you feel about coming back 'home' for this occasion?** I haven't performed in this way in Saskatoon for some time now. I've started my professional career and I hope to make more stops in Saskatoon along the way. I enjoyed it so much. Seeing family, old friends and colleagues and being able to share what I have to say artistically. That doesn't mean I wasn't nervous though!

The SMFA thanks Ryan for sharing his story with us. We are all proud of your accomplishments and wish you continued success in your musical career.



celebrate
EXCELLENCE...
enter your local music festival!



National Music Festival
August 14 - 16, 2014
Kelowna, BC
University of British Columbia, Okanagan Campus
For more information visit
www.fcmf.org

Colleen Venables, 2012 National Music Festival Strings Winner



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Thank You to Our Wonderful Volunteers!

As festival season hits full swing, we would like to acknowledge and thank the many volunteers who give of their time, talent, energy, and resources to make our 48 District Festivals successful. Donating money to a non-profit organization is a way to show your support for an organization, but donating your time and knowledge is also another way to contribute. We couldn't do it without you! You are appreciated.



"According to Statistics Canada, 58 per cent of Saskatchewan people aged 15 and over did volunteer work in 2010 — the highest rate of all provinces and territories."

"How can we expect our children to know and experience the joy of giving unless we teach them that the greater pleasure in life lies in the art of giving rather than receiving." - James Cash Penney (1875-1971); Founder Of J.C. Penney Corporation



Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following festivals celebrating "milestone" anniversaries!

Redvers **50 Years**
Last Mountain ... **50 Years**
Kipling..... **60 Years**
Shaunavon..... **80 Years**



Adjudicator Liaison

Sandra Kerr

Thank you to all District Festival personnel for keeping the Provincial Office informed. It is crucial that we have all information here – exact session dates for each adjudicator, accommodation arrangements, festival contacts, and so on.

Upon completion of your festival, collect comments from students and teachers as well as committee members for the Adjudicator Evaluations. These are submitted to the Provincial Office for our use only. The evaluations are a great asset in the hiring process.

Hiring will soon begin for 2015 Festivals, Provincial Finals, and the Concerto Competition. All but 7 festivals have submitted their 2015 Festival Date Preference, so this is the perfect time to send me your "Adjudicator Time-Frame Requirement" form for next year's festival! Indicate any preferences for people, instrumentation, and/or what levels you expect to have (i.e. junior, intermediate, senior). This helps in placing the best adjudicator for your festival.

All information and forms can be found on the SMFA website (www.smfa.ca) and, as always, do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.





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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,
Lillian Mitchell
Glena Purdy
Dave Kalist
Flo Campbell
Nancy & Richard Toppings
Dorothy J. Andrews,
Jason Beutler Realty P.C. Ltd.,
Jean Bews (Eileen Carlson)
Theresa Brost



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Festival Year Timeline

Communication between the Provincial Office and the District Festivals is ongoing throughout the year. Many items are sent to or received from the Festivals. The "Festival Guide" that is posted on our website (http://www.smfa.ca/pdf/2013/Festival_Guide.pdf) provides a list of what is sent from Provincial Office, what is required of District Festivals, and when.

Whether you are new to Music Festivals or have been involved for years, the following list should help you to navigate through the year.

Green* = District Festival Committee Action Required (send to SMFA Provincial office - unless otherwise stated)

Red = Provincial Office Action Required (send to Corresponding Secretary for proper distribution)

Concerto or Opera Competition Information	September
Fall Conference/AGM Information	September
Festival Focus	September 20
*Money Form with Financial Statement	by October 1
*Annual Meeting Minutes	by October 1
*Volunteer Award Nomination Form	by October 1
*Board Nomination Form	by October 1
*Supply Order Forms	by October 1
*Orders for Promotional Items	as required
*Directory Page	by October 1
Annual Directory, SMFA Annual Report, Festival Supplies/Promotional items	December
Festival Focus	December 20
Adjudicator Report Form & Adjudicators' biographies/contact information	January/February
*Revisions to Adjudicator Report Form	immediately as known
*Adjudicator Accommodation Information	at least 4 weeks prior to your Festival
*2 Festival Programs	as soon as they are printed
Adjudicator Information Form	approx. a month prior to your Festival
*Festival Program (email draft) to adjudicators	well before (at least 3 weeks) Festival
*Program or listing with competitors' names and marks	immediately following Festival
*District Winner Recommendation Charts	immediately following Festival
*Adjudicator Evaluations	immediately following Festival
*People-Stats Form	immediately following Festival
*Festival Reports (for publication in SMFA Annual Report)	immediately following Festival
Festival Focus	March 20
Statement (Affiliation Fees, Supplies, Promotional items)	May
Festival Focus	June 20
*Adjudicator Time-Frame Requirement Form	by June 30
*Affiliation Fees Payment	upon receipt of your statement (before June 30)
*Festival Date Selection Form (at least 1 year in advance)	(ASAP after your year-end meeting)



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From the Provincial Office

Carol Donhauser, Executive Director



At the time of this publication, eighteen of the forty-eight District Festivals will have finished their competitions, and thirteen more will have just begun or will be beginning very soon. It is hoped that students, parents, accompanists, teachers, and committee members have gone away with a sense of accomplishment.

Please remember to send the "District Winner Charts" **directly to Provincial Office** (email, fax, or mail). The deadline for Provincial entry is May 15. **Late entries will not be accepted!**

Also please remember to send **two (2)** copies of your festival programs to the Provincial Office as soon as they are printed. Thank you to those festivals that have already done so! **Immediately after your festival** please send us the **marks**, either in a program or spreadsheet/database form.

As many of our district festivals wind up their festival seasons, we turn our attention to Provincial Finals, June 6 to 8 (U of S, Saskatoon). Provincial entry forms can be found on the website at <http://www.smfa.ca/entryforms.php>. Once again we are using an online entry form with a payment option. We found this to be a huge time saver. We use Adobe Forms Central which is an online form builder service that makes it easy to create, distribute, and analyze professional quality online forms and works well with Paypal. If you are interested in being a part of Provincials, please contact us. There is always need for volunteers (we will buy the coffee and cookies).

We are grateful to our long-time Provincial Final sponsors SaskEnergy, SaskTel, and PotashCorp for their support and we look forward to building new partnerships. We are also grateful for the support we receive from the University of Saskatchewan, Music Department, Roger Jolly of Yamaha Piano Centre and the operational support from the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation, SaskCulture, and the Sask Arts Board. We are very fortunate to live in a province with government and private industry that supports the arts at such a high level. Without this much-needed support we would not be able to deliver the programs we do. THANK YOU!

You may have noticed the province's changing demographics and its effect on the delivery of cultural programs and services in communities across our province. Our province's First Nations and Métis youth demographic is growing and the ongoing arrival of newcomers to Saskatchewan present new opportunities to the cultural sector. We need your input to ensure that SMFA can respond to the impact of the growing diversity in communities around the province. As work begins now on the 2016 – 2018 Provincial Syllabus, we encourage your committee to contact us as soon as possible with suggestions for additions.



Happy Spring Everyone!



Where the Money Goes

The proceeds from Saskatchewan Lotteries ticket sales are distributed by the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation. Here is how the Lottery Dollar is spent in Saskatchewan (based on the March 31, 2013 fiscal year):

HOW THE LOTTERY DOLLAR IS SPENT

