

SMFA Provincial Office

"Classical Competitive Festivals"

MUSIC

Established in 1908

SMFA Provincial Office 4623 Albert St. **Mailing Address:** PO Box 37005 Regina, SK S4S 7K3

President's Message

Nancy Toppings, President



"It is spring again. The earth is like a child that knows poems by heart." - Rainer Maria Rilke

As I begin this message, there is warmth in the sun and the birds are singing. Yes, spring has arrived and all across the province, music is in the air! In communities large and small, the ritual of an annual music festival is a welcome sign of spring.

Whether your 2015 Festival was an early-bird event or is yet to come, I offer my congratulations on the collaborative effort that makes your music festival so successful. You are treasures in your community, and it is because of your passion and energy that this important work continues to thrive in Saskatchewan.

We are grateful for the support of the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation, as well as the Saskatchewan Arts Board and SaskCulture Inc.

The board of directors and staff have been hard at work over winter. A successful Shurniak Concerto Competition was held in Saskatoon in February, with 13 competitors and a full day of performances by our wonderful young musicians and their collaborative artists. Congratulations to violinist William Boan, winner of this prestigious competition. A full report on the Concerto Competition is included in this issue. We are deeply grateful to Mr. William Shurniak for his generous sponsorship of this biennial event.

The syllabus committee, under the leadership of Karen Unger, has been working diligently on the 2016-2018 SMFA Syllabus, which will be available by fall.

SMFA Provincial Finals is the next major event, at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, June 5-7. On behalf of the board of directors, I invite you to the Bridge City, where our province's finest young musicians will gather to compete for scholarship prizes and challenge themselves at this next level of competition. It is truly a celebration of excellence, and if you have never experienced Provincials, please come. Volunteers are welcome and the jobs are not difficult. If you have an interest in joining the team for this event, please contact the Provincial Office.

Our website remains an important tool in keeping our membership informed, so please visit www.smfa.ca often. Also, find us on Facebook and like our page! Among other things, you will find some lovely photos of the competitors in the 2015 Concerto Competition.



In closing, I ask that you give early consideration to attending our SMFA 2015 Fall Conference, held in conjunction with Sask. Music Conference, November 6 & 7 at the Delta Regina. We have some exciting and informative sessions planned, including an official unveiling of the new syllabus. It is so important to have good representation from our district festivals, and the opportunity for festival delegates to learn from one another is invaluable.

Happy Easter to you and your families! May the coming of spring bring renewed hope, health and happiness to us all.



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Shurniak Concerto Competition

Submitted by Kelly Stein

The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA) hosted the **31st Shurniak Concerto Competition** in cooperation with the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra (SSO) and the Regina Symphony Orchestra (RSO), and sponsored by Mr. William Shurniak of Assiniboia. The competition was held in Quance Theatre, U of S in Saskatoon on Saturday, February 21.

The illustrious judges were **Jasper Wood**, Associate Professor of violin and chamber music at the University of British Columbia; **Karen Finnsson**, Associate Professor of Music and Head of the Department of Music at the University of Regina; and **Mark Turner**, Executive Director of the Saskatoon Symphony.

Thirteen competitors entered this year:

Sofa Mycyk, piano, Saskatoon (Bonnie Nicholson); Kevin Chen, violin, Saskatoon (Yuli Chen); Godwin Friesen, piano, Saskatoon (Bonnie Nicholson); Rebecca Weger, violin, Regina (Cherith Alexander); Megan Bauman, alto saxophone, Saskatoon (Bonnie Nicholson); Hans Deason, violoncello, Saskatoon (Bonnie Nicholson); Nickolas Whitelaw, trumpet, Saskatoon (Chris Kelly); Sophie McBean, piano, Saskatoon (Bonnie Nicholson); Simone Ma, violin, Regina (Cherith Alexander); Brenda Catalano, alto saxophone, Saskatoon (Jaya Hoy); William Boan, violin, Saskatoon (Bonnie Nicholson); Eunhyun (David) Kim, piano, Regina (Kathleen Lohrenz Gable); Charlee Weilgoz violin, Regina (Bev Dyck).



From this incredible group, three winners were chosen: 1st Place - William Boan; 2nd Place: Godwin Friesen; and 3rd Place: Sophie McBean.



Back Row, L to R: Sofia Mycyk, David Kim, Hans Deason, Brendan Catalano, Nickolas Whitelaw, Kevin Chen Front Row: Rebecca Weger, Simone Ma, Charlee Wielgoz, Godwin Friesen, William Boan, Sophie McBean, Megan Bauman





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William, with collaborative artist Bonnie Nicholson, performed Shostakovich's *Violin Concerto No. 1 in A minor, Op.* 7. He received the first prize of \$2,000 and the opportunity to be a featured soloist in an upcoming season with the Regina Symphony Orchestra and the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra.

William is an accomplished musician with extensive training in solo, chamber, and orchestral violin performance. He became the Assistant Concertmaster of the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra at the age of seventeen. He has been Concertmaster of the Saskatoon Youth Orchestra and Saskatchewan Provincial Honour Orchestra for three years. In summer 2014, William attended the Meadowmount Summer Music Institute, New York, where he studied with Sally Thomas, violin professor at Juilliard, and Ivan Ženatý, violin professor at the Cleveland Institute of Music.

For three years William has been the provincial champion for senior strings and has placed third in the Provincial Music Festival's Grand Awards Competition. William was the 2013 winner of the Kinsmen Competition, Saskatoon's most prestigious competition. He currently studies violin at the University of Saskatchewan, in the studio of Robert Klose.

For the Concerto Competition, thanks to the University of Saskatchewan, William played a Nicolo Amati violin, made in 1637. He is the first ever student at the university to be given the opportunity to perform on the beautiful instrument.





L to R: Nancy Toppings, Jasper Wood, Karen Finnsson, Godwin Friesen, Sophie McBean, William Boan, and Mark Turner



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Board Governance

The Non-profit Corporations Act

Most festivals are incorporated under *The Non-profit Corporations Act*, which provides organizations of all types a framework under which they can operate. The department responsible is Saskatchewan Justice, Corporations Branch.

When a non-profit organization is incorporated, it becomes a legal entity with virtually the same powers as an individual. An incorporated organization can enter into contracts, buy land, borrow money, have bank accounts, etc., in its own name. One of the main advantages to incorporating is that liability of the members and directors is limited (for example, they are not personally liable for debts of the corporation).

Non-profits must submit annual financial statements showing the assets, liabilities, revenue and expenditures to the Director, Corporations Branch. <u>As well, every non-profit corporation shall hold an annual meeting of members.</u> Every non-profit corporation must submit an annual return and fee to the Corporations Branch, Saskatchewan Justice each year. It is important to keep the corporation in good standing by submitting the documents required. A corporation that does not file the required annual returns, financial statement and other prescribed notices may be struck off the register and eventually dissolved.

DID YOU KNOW:

- Annual meeting <u>must be held within four months after the fiscal year-end</u> to present the financial statements and the auditor's report to the membership.
- In a membership corporation, <u>any member</u> is entitled to access the records. In a charitable corporation, <u>any person</u> is entitled to access the records.

Budgeting and Finance

The financial management of any non-profit organization is a reflection of its administrative capabilities. Too often non-profit organizations neglect budgeting and proper recordkeeping and soon find themselves in financial difficulty or worse, a victim of fraud.

Some specific areas of concern when it comes to financial matters are:

- Cash flow
- Meeting the requirements of *The Non-Profit Corporations Act* (as described above) as well as Charities Directorate (Annual Return).
- Ability to budget for grant applications and fundraising activities.
- Regular financial reporting at ALL meetings (copies of bank statement, profit/loss reports etc.) with an independent person reviewing the finances
- GST record keeping and reporting.

Accurate budgeting, record keeping and reporting will help organizations be aware of any cash flow situations ahead of time. Sound financial management also projects a professional image to sponsors and members.

Festival Executive Committees are also accountable for the use of funds. *The Non-Profit Corporations Act* clearly spells out the duties of an incorporated organization regarding the use and reporting of finances http://www.qp.gov.sk.ca/documents/English/Statutes/N4-2.pdf

DID YOU KNOW: A non-profit corporation can earn a profit, but the profit must be used to further the organization's mission/mandate rather than to pay dividends to its membership.



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Financial Management Quiz	
Are your books and records kept up to date and stored in safe place?	🗆 Yes 🗆 No
Do you have (and follow) a Financial Control Policy which includes two signing authorities on all cheques?	□ Yes □ No
Is the responsibility for record keeping clearly delegated to specific individuals and are they aware of the duties required?	□ Yes □ No
Are the required financial statements produced on a regular basis and presented <u>at every</u> meeting (bank statements, Profit/loss reports, Projections to year-end, investment account statements)?	□ Yes □ No
Does the district festival usually have a balanced budget or surplus in its operating budget?	□ Yes □ No
Is the organization's incorporation documentation, Charity/GST returns up-to-date?	□ Yes □ No
Are your finances audited or reviewed by an independent person?	□ Yes □ No

If you answered "NO" to any of the above questions, it is time to examine your fiscal management procedures.





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Speech Arts Report from Meadow Lake



Heather Macnab travelled from Maple Creek to Meadow Lake and spent January 26 - 30 in five schools, teaching the students about Speech Arts. She interacted with nearly 600 students from Grades 4 to 7 during her stay in our city. Her easy going style soon had even the "coolest" person taking part and learning all about the art of speech.

Through her presentation, the students and teachers learned about their voice and the importance of taking care of it. Using many techniques students, both individually and as a group, discovered the skills needed to become a speech artist.

Through her demonstrations, Heather showed everyone the types of classes that are available in the Music Festival and gave the students an idea of what Speech Arts in the Music Festival would look like. (The students' favourite was her presentation of *Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf* by Roald Dahl.)

By using excerpts from a number of poems, Heather had the students discover how meaning is given and can be changed by using different emphasis, dynamics and speeds in a piece.

Comments made by some of the Participants:

- We learned not to be afraid to stand in front of everyone and speak. (student)
- It was a very fun and exciting presentation and I recommend that you watch it. (student)
- I learned to use more expression when I act and to project my voice louder so everyone in the room can • hear. I also learned to enunciate my words more clearly. When I act in front of other people I can use all of these tools to make my performance as good as it can be. (student)
- We have a lot of presentations in our school. It was wonderful to have this one because it really enhances • the Language Arts curriculum. *(teacher)*
- Heather spent two full days in one of the schools. At the end of the second day, one of the teacher's • commented to Heather "My class was the very first one that you worked with yesterday and they are still talking about it. That shows how much of an impression you made on them."

We have no idea if or how much impact Heather's visit will have on the Speech Arts entries in our Festival. Regardless, her presentation was welcomed by all who attended. The students spent a fun-filled hour learning about Speech Arts and we do hope that a few of them will be inspired to join us at the Festival.



A Special "Thanks"

DESTRICT Julius LePoudre, a farmer from the Davidson area, recently passed away. As a music lover, Mr. LePoudre asked that donations made at his memorial celebration be donated to the SMFA. We sincerely thank him and his friends for the donation. A Provincial Scholarships will be presented in memory of Mr. LePoudre.

To "Leave a Legacy" in the form of a Provincial Scholarship, contact our office.



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Estevan and District Music Festival looking for minimal support



The following Letter to the Editor appeared in the January 20, 2015 issue of the "Estevan Mercury".

The Estevan and District Music Festival received a letter this past week with a notice saying the City of Estevan will be discontinuing a scholarship to the festival worth \$200. The letter ended with the following statement:

Although council is sympathetic to the cause they feel they must maintain a fiscal responsibility to reduce the existing debt load. Please remove the City of Estevan from the 2016 and subsequent mailing list for sponsorship.

As a long-standing member of the volunteer Music Festival committee, I can assure you, our organization is only looking for minimal support from the City of Estevan for an event that has only benefited them.

The Estevan and District Music Festival is a non-profit organization run by unpaid volunteers (taxpayers) and serves not only our city, but also the surrounding district. For 51 years, our festival has provided our community an opportunity to participate, perform and compete in several different music disciplines. Our participants include community groups, schools and individuals, not exclusive to age, race, gender, ability or financial status.

Besides the added activity revenue created by the actual event itself, we host and welcome to our city at least four professionals each year who educate, teach and adjudicate our students while spending time and money in our community.

Our organization functions entirely on volunteers, entry fees, door admission, program sales as well as generous donations from our business community and individual taxpayers. We are in the top five of 48 festivals in our province for entries (over 3,500 in the past five years) and scholarships given back to the participants (over \$10,000 a year). We have never run a deficit.

Besides the annual festival, we host other events. Just last week, the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association provided our city with a Speech Arts Workshop. Over 350 students from all six elementary schools participated in this workshop. This was provided at no cost to our schools, our taxpayers or the City of Estevan.

We do not receive any funding from the City of Estevan for operations, venues, clinicians, teachers, volunteers, or organizers. Nor do we 'cost' the city any money on supplements for rental charges, forgiveness of taxes, transportation costs, door prizes or grants.

The only thing our organization has requested from the City of Estevan is to be represented by providing a small token of support each year in the form of a scholarship. As of 2016, this will be removed.

After reading the article, 'Council debates future of summer ice' in last week's *Mercury*, the City's cost for one day of summer ice would surpass the total monetary support the Estevan and District Music Festival has received in its 51-year history.

If the City of Estevan is looking to reduce the 'debt' and be 'fiscally responsible' by cutting back on support to organizations such as ours, they are in much deeper trouble than it appears on the surface.

Perhaps they need to go back to the drawing board and re-evaluate.



Sincerely, Anita Kuntz – Entry Secretary, Past President, Estevan and District Music Festival

Missing the Journal of the Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers' Association (SRMTA)? OPUS can be found on at: <u>www.srmta.com</u>



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Provincial Finals Tentative Overview Schedule – June 5 - 7 (U of S, Saskatoon)

	Quance Theare	Classroom 1036	Room #1004	Convocation Hall
	Education Building	Education Building	Education Building	College Building (Green Room for warmup)
FRIDAY, JUNE	5 - CLASSES SUBJECT TO	O CHANGE, DEPENI	DING ON NUMBER (
MORNING	Provincial Level of			
9:00 A.M.	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, JL	INE 6 - CLASSES <u>SUBJEC</u>	T TO CHANGE, DEP		R 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, JUN	E 7	• •		
1:00 P.M.	Grand Awards Concert Senior Competitors Announcement of award winners and reception to follow competition.			



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ongratulations!

Celebrating an Upcoming Anniversary?

Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage Program

The Government of Canada's *Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage* program supports local arts and heritage festivals, commemorations, and legacy projects that encourage community engagement through the active involvement of volunteers, community partners, local artists, artisans, heritage specialists or performers, and the local population at the event. This program could be a great opportunity for funding for Culture Days events or other community celebrations! Always be sure to consult with a Program Officer before submitting an application to determine if your project is eligible.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following festivals celebrating "milestone" anniversaries!

Borderland 40 years
Mainline 55 years
Maple Creek 30 years
Moosomin 50 years
Naicam 50 years
Outlook 35 years
Saskatoon 85 years
Vanguard 50 years





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Adjudicator Liaison

Sandra Kerr

Another Festival season is well underway, with one festival beginning as early as February 25, and at this time, several of our 48 festivals are now finished. Thank you to all District Festival personnel for keeping the Provincial Office informed. While communication occurs directly between festival and adjudicator, it is crucial that we have all information here – exact dates for each adjudicator, accommodation arrangements, festival contact, and so on, especially if there are any changes!

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 has begun for 2016 Festivals, Provincial Finals, and the Wallis Memorial Opera Competition. All but 10 festivals have submitted their 2016 Festival Date Preference (and 2 have already submitted their **2017** Festival Dates!). One of your festival wrap-up duties should be to determine your next year's Adjudicator requirement which allows me to begin the hiring process. Many, if not most, professionals are booked a year or even two in advance. 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 (<u>www.smfa.ca</u>) and, as always, do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.





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Where are they now?

Sandra Senga



Gerard Weber was the winner of the 2013 Shurniak Concerto Competition. We caught up with him to learn more about him, his musical journey and his vision for the future.

Gerard grew up in Humboldt. His grandmother introduced him to the piano at a young age and listening to jazz at his grandparent's home introduced him to the music of Paul Desmond and John Coltrane and of course the saxophone which became his primary instrument. When he was in Grade 5 he began to play the saxophone in the Humboldt Community Band.

Gerard attended band camps sponsored by the Saskatchewan Band Association to advance his performance on the saxophone. As a youngster and throughout high school, Gerard participated in the Humboldt Music Festival as well as the Provincial Music Festival at the Intermediate and Senior levels.

Gerard feels that music festivals were a major contributing factor in his development as a confident musician and performer. Music Festival gave him the opportunity to perform and receive an adjudicator's feedback on his progress. Music festival provided goals and motivation. The Provincial Music Festival finals exposed him to other musicians performing at what at the time seemed like an unattainable level of musicianship.

By Grade 9 Gerard had decided that music would be his main focus. In a school project he narrowed his choices to carpentry and music. His prowess with Lego blocks at a young age allowed him to consider the former, however, music seemed a more natural choice and when he realized music was available as an option for post-secondary study, the choice was an easy one.

In preparation for entering the University of Saskatchewan for a music degree he studied piano with Janice Lemke and saxophone with Kimberly Drury (Allan), Stephanie Boucher, and Troy Linsley.

The 2013 Shurniak Concerto Competition gave Gerard the opportunity to share the Paul Creston Saxophone Concerto with everyone. He felt confident and had a lot of fun playing the piece. He gives his teachers at the U of S and his collaborator, Bonnie Nicholson, credit for much of his confidence. Through the process of preparing and playing in this competition, the Creston Concerto has become one of the most meaningful pieces in his repertoire.

Until his final year at the U of S Gerard was unsure whether pursuing graduate studies in performance was the road he wished to follow. Encouragement from family and friends, as well as success in the Concerto Competition gave him the confidence to believe that his music was delivering a meaningful message to his audiences.

Currently Gerard is at the University of Florida finishing his Master's Program. After completing his degree, he plans to return to Saskatchewan to work, teach, and perform. He looks forward to coming home and to enrich and contribute to the local musical community. Gerard and his fiancée Sarah Suchan plan to organize a studio for private saxophone students. Eventually, he hopes to pursue a doctoral program in music history with a focus on Medieval and Renaissance Music.

"Not all of my experiences in music festivals have been positive ones but I can say that they have all been learning experiences that I was able to take forward in a positive direction. This comes at the risk of putting yourself in an exciting and highly exposed position to be evaluated and scrutinized by others. These experiences have shaped my musical identity today and motivated me to pursue music as a career. I encourage all musicians and music supporters reading this to keep Music Festival a part of their lives and let the experiences of sharing your personal voice inspire creativity and confidence in everything that you do in life, as it has done with mine."

One of Gerard's long-time dreams was to perform as a soloist with a symphony orchestra. Part of winning the Shurniak Concerto Competition is the opportunity to perform with the Regina Symphony Orchestra and the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra. He has already fulfilled part of this dream as he performed with the RSO on October 25, 2014. On March 28, 2015 the SSO, under the direction of conductor Eric Paetkau, presents "Saskatchewan Celebration" featuring Gerard Weber, Nathan Berg, and Danika Loren, along with the Greystone Singers and the University Chorus.



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From the Provincial Office

Carol Donhauser, Executive Director



At the time of this publication, twelve of the forty-eight District Festivals will have finished their competitions, and eighteen are in the middle or will soon begin. We hope that the students, parents, accompanists, teachers, and committee members have a rewarding experience in our endeavour as an association to "promote music through competitive music festivals".

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

We are looking forward to receiving your festival programs (**2 copies**) in the office and hope, that as an SMFA affiliated festival, you considered using the SMFA logo on your cover. <u>Immediately after your festival</u> please send us the **marks**, either in a program or spreadsheet/database form.

Upon completion of the district festivals, we turn our attention to Provincial Finals, June 5 to 7 (U of S, Saskatoon). Provincial entry forms can be found on the website at http://www.smfa.ca/entryforms.php. We continue to use an online entry form with a payment option as we found this to be a huge time saver for us and a convenience for our entrants.

We are grateful to our long-time Provincial Final sponsors SaskTel and PotashCorp for their support and we look forward to building a new partnership with Mr. Lube-Regina whose donation will be matched through the ArtsVest-Saskatchewan matching grant. We are also grateful for the gifts in kind 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. This support contributes to the ability to keep the entry fees affordable at Provincials. Thank you for doing your part in fulfilling our sponsorship agreements by placing sponsor logos/ads in your programs.

Not only is delivery of programs that meet our mission/mandate to the residents of the Province an important undertaking by the Provincial Board of Directors, but serving our members is also a priority. We have recently sent out a member survey in order to help us assess and adapt our activities to ensure they are as effective as they can be. Evaluation can help us identify areas for improvement and ultimately help us serve you more efficiently. Please take the time to carefully fill out the survey, as a committee, at your final meeting. Be sure to include additional comments or concerns. We want to hear from you! Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete the survey. <u>https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JNWMNWD</u>



If you haven't already, please take a few minutes to read the information found on Page 4 and 5 on Board Governance. Too often, we volunteer to serve on a board of a non-profit, school committee, or sports organization without really understanding what is required and what our responsibilities/legal liabilities are. In each newsletter, we will have an article on Board Governance. I urge you to study this information and contact me if you have any questions.

Happy Spring Everyone!

