

Saskatchewan Music Festival Assoc.

FESTIVAL FOCUS



Allison Walmsley wins 2016 Wallis Opera Competition

Convocation Hall at the University of Saskatchewan, spacious, two storeys high and blessed with acoustics well-tuned for singing, was an ideal location for the ninth biennial Wallis Opera Competition held on February 20th and 21st, 2016. It was W. J. Rutherford, first Dean of the first College of Agriculture in Canada, who had insisted that the College Building should have a grand hall for farmers to meet before the First World War. As one with "deep interest in everything pertaining to the wellbeing of his fellow citizens", he too, one feels, would have enjoyed the seven young singers – four women and three men – who performed for their two adjudicators and an audience of relatives, teachers and opera lovers from the city in the building that had become a centre for the university's cultural life. (continued on next page)

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Association



Saskatchewan Music Festival Association

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Wallis Opera Competition (continued)

Each competitor was required to perform two opera arias in two languages and of different periods. The audience heard extracts from twelve operas from such as Handel, Mozart, Donizetti and Gounod to the more unusual works of Meyerbeer, Rymski-Korsakov and Rorem. The singers were further required to perform an art song which led to works by Schumann, Duparc, Wolf and Debussy from the classical and romantic periods to modern works by Michael Head and the one Canadian representative John Greer.

Of the singers, Brianna Levesque (soubrette-coloratura soprano) and Joshua Hendricksen (bass-baritone) are studying in Regina while Gabriel Benesh (baritone) and Kateryna Khartova (soprano) study in Saskatoon. Emma Johnson (soprano), formerly a student in Regina, is completing her final undergraduate year in Toronto while Allison Walmsley, formerly a student in Saskatoon, is now in the post-graduate voice programme at the University of Western Ontario. Finally, the lyric tenor, Spencer McKnight, from North Battleford, takes lessons in Toronto on occasion. All are in the early stages of their careers with credits in music festivals and recitals, opera productions in universities, roles in the Opera Nuova programme in Edmonton and as participants in the prestigious Vancouver International Song Institute. The accompanists Mark Turner and Kathleen Lohrenz Gable, the latter working with no fewer than six of the contestants, not only gave their charges outstanding support but also had the benefit of Convocation Hall's magnificent and rare C. Bechstein nine foot grand piano.

The competition was graced by two exceptionally experienced adjudicators. Robyn Driedger-Klassen, Head of Voice at the Vancouver Academy of Music, has a deep love for contemporary music of North America as well as the classical repertoire. Her colleague, Michele Capalbo, has performed on several continents - in Spain, Chile, Italy, France, and all over North America. The master classes which were held on the day after the competition itself gave these experts a broad canvas on which to paint their interpretation of the work done by the competitors. While Driedger-Klassen emphasised vocal colour, vocal line, diction and language accuracy, she also strongly stressed that the singers should try always to draw the audience to them. By contrast Capalbo laid her stress on posture and engaging the whole body through the tenets of the Alexander Technique which has recently become her forte. There were some striking phrases such as Driedger-Kassen's enigmatic advice that the singer should try to "gather cobwebly (sic) thoughts that come out in the music"! Everyone had a royally grand time at these classes.

The winner of the competition was Allison Walmsley who performed pieces by Donizetti, Strauss and Rorem, the last of which came from his opera Our Town which had been presented at Opera Nuova with Allison in the cast. The prize was \$5000 and the funds are directed to whatever persons or institutions are furthering the prizewinner's education. The co-operation of the province's symphony orchestras with the SMFA also provides that the winner will be featured as a guest artist with both the Regina and the Saskatoon orchestras. Much is owed to Gordon Wallis who was the Assistant Director of the Regina Conservatory of Music and Dance, a distinguished teacher of piano and organ and a passionate opera enthusiast. This last trait led him to opera houses all over the world and is acknowledged by the exceptionally fine collection of scores, recordings, libretti, periodicals and programmes housed in the Gordon C. Wallis Opera Resource Room in Darke Hall in Regina. Here is a rare source for research by students in the city on all kinds of opera topics.

Submitted by Robin Swales, SMFA Director



Photographs by Stephen Nicholson



President's Message



By the time this newsletter is published, we will have reached the mid-point of our District Festival activity for 2016. The weeks and months of preparation all come to fruition, as performers take to the stage in their communities across Saskatchewan. What an exciting and fulfilling way to celebrate the arrival of spring!

Whether your 2016 Festival is now a cherished memory, an event in progress or yet to come, I heartily congratulate your committee and volunteers on the collaborative effort that makes your Festival successful. Thanks to your passion and dedication, music festivals continue to thrive in this province.

We are grateful for continuing support from SaskCulture Inc. and the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation. This substantial financial support allows us to maintain our high level of programming and support, from grassroots to the National level.

The board and staff have worked diligently over the winter months, and I want to take this opportunity to thank them for their support. We are here to serve you. Please don't hesitate to contact a board member, or the Provincial Office, if we can help.

The 2016 Gordon C. Wallis Opera Competition was a lovely afternoon of performances by our young singers and their collaborative artists. Congratulations to Allison Walmsley, who was awarded the \$5,000 prize for further study and an opportunity to perform with the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras in the near future.

It was a pleasure to attend "Opera Extravaganza" in Moose Jaw on March 4, featuring Whitney Mather, soprano, with the Regina Symphony Orchestra Chamber Players. Whitney was the winner of the Wallis Opera Competition in 2014 and recently completed the Artist Diploma Program at the Glenn Gould School. Her closing performance of "Adele's Laughing Song" had us smiling all the way home!

Plans are well underway for the 2016 SMFA Provincial Finals at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, June 3rd to 5th, where our province's finest young musicians will gather to compete for scholarship prizes and challenge themselves at this next level of competition. This 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.

Remember to visit the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association Facebook page and enter the draw to win an iPad. Contest entries are not limited to competitors, so if you are involved in preparing for your District Festival in any way, we invite you to participate. It has been great fun to see the photos posted so far!

In closing, I ask that you give early consideration to attending our SMFA Fall Conference & AGM, October 28th and 29th in Swift Current. Our theme is "Classical Connections" and our goal is to connect with every District Festival in Saskatchewan at our 2016 Conference!

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

Nancy Toppings, President
Saskatchewan Music Festival Association









Board Governance

To serve as a Director of a nonprofit in Saskatchewan a person must be at least 18 years old, of sound mind and not bankrupt. According to the <u>SMFA Constitution</u>, the officers of a District Festival Association shall consist of President, one or two Vice Presidents, immediate Past President, and Secretary-Treasurer, or a Secretary and a Treasurer. The President and the Vice Presidents shall be elected at the annual meeting of the District Festival Association. The Secretary-Treasurer (or the Secretary and Treasurer) may also be elected at such annual meeting, or may be appointed by the District Festival Association Executive. Directors can also choose to appoint people who are not Directors as officers to perform certain duties for the corporation (Corresponding Secretary, Venue Coordinator). Some powers of the board, such as changing bylaws and approving financial statements, cannot be delegated to officers.

The Executive of each District Festival Association shall consist of its Officers (President, one or two Vice Presidents, immediate Past President and Secretary/Treasurer or Secretary and a Treasurer) and at least three Directors. The Officers and Directors shall take office on July 1st in each year and shall remain in office for a term of one year, or until their successors are elected.

SMFA District Festival Executive consists of:

President – elected
Vice Presidents (one or two) – elected
Immediate Past President – holds position until the current President becomes the Past President
Secretary-Treasurer or Secretary and Treasurer – may be elected or appointed

The Board of Directors, or Executive Officers, provide continuity and has the overall responsibility for managing the activities and affairs of the corporation and making sure that the mission of the corporation is fulfilled. The board's functions often include: budgeting, financing, planning, fundraising, setting policy, hiring and firing personnel, and handling public relations. The Board makes decisions at meetings of the Directors. Before business can be transacted at a Directors' meeting, *there must be a quorum (5 Executive members)*. Directors, and the officers they appoint, are required to act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the organization.

Robyn Driedger-Klassen

WALLIS C. MEMORIAL OPERA COMPETITION JUDGE



I grew up in Swift Current, Saskatchewan where music festival was a very big annual event. Even at a young age I was encouraged by my piano teacher to enter at least three solo classes as well as a duet class with my best friend. We had so much fun practicing together and learning from each other's teachers. Sometimes we won, sometimes we failed miserably, but itdidn't really matter. We always loved the process of learning music together.

By the time I got to high school, preparation for music festival became a full-time job! There were choirs, concert band, jazz band, and solo piano and voice classes. It was due to these experiences that I gained my footing in music preparation and performance.

In my late teens it became apparent that music - specifically voice - would be a large part of my life. It was for music festivals that I learned my first opera arias, oratorio arias, Lieder and mélodies. I learned to collaborate closely with pianists and other singers - a skill which has served me extremely well ever since. Royal Conservatory exams are an excellent annual goal, but they do not invoke a sense of community in celebration of music and performance. Music Festivals are a beautiful way for young musicians and their teachers to come together, to listen attentively

to one another, to encourage each other and to perform to the best of their abilities. In my many years of festivals, I never once had an adjudicator who wasn't encouraging and helpful. Some who heard me as ateenager have now become my colleagues.

I now divide my time between performing and teaching and I've come to see just how important it is for musicians to celebrate together.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SMFA District Festivals February - May 2016

SMFA Provincial Finals Competitions June 3 - 5, 2016 (Saskatoon)

FCMF Conference/AGM and National Music Festival Competitions August 11 - 13, 2016 (Edmonton)

SMFA Fall Conference and AGM
October 28 - 29, 2016 (Swift Current)



Rising Star

Contemporary Showcase Winner, Godwin Friesen

Godwin Friesen was awarded the Mary Gardiner Scholarship. On recommendation from the adjudicator at this year's Contemporary Showcase, administered by Alliance for Canadian New Music Projects (ACNMP), in November, Godwin submitted a YouTube performance to the National Committee. To hear his performance of Jean Coulthard's Sonata No.1, go to the Contemporary Showcase national website (acnmp.ca).



Godwin Friesen began his musical life singing and playing a variety of instruments in his family's eclectic folk group, which recorded three CD's and toured across Canada. One of his early piano teachers, Sheila Wright, was also a composer who inspired him to write and perform his own works (his piece "Metamorphosis" won the 12-and-under composition class in the Alberta provincial music festival in 2011). Godwin, under the guidance of teacher Bonnie Nicholson, has won numerous awards in the SMFA Provincial competitions and placed second in the 2015 Shurniak Concert Competition. Godwin also placed first, in piano, as part of Team Saskatchewan in the Federation of Canadian Music Festival (FCMF) National Music Festival Competition in August of 2015.

T3010 Registered Charity Information Return

A complete information return must be filed with Charities Directorate, CRA, Ottawa ON K1A OL5, no later than six months after the end of the charity's fiscal period. The return packages are mailed to registered charities in the month following their fiscal period end. If the charity does not receive a return package, it should contact the Charities Directorate at 1-800-267-2384. A charity uses this form to report its activities, sources of revenue, and expenditures.



Creative Kids

Creative Kids connects children and youth to unique, life-changing artistic and cultural experiences in their community. We provide financial support to Saskatchewan families so all kids have an opportunity to participate in creative activities like drama, art, dance, heritage, and music.

We believe:

- Cultural and creative activities are fundamental to the positive growth and development of children and youth.
- Cultural and creative activities are critical to a healthy, vibrant community.
- All children and youth should have the opportunity to participate in cultural and creative activities regardless of economic or social barriers.

For more information on Creative Kids visit: www.creativekidssask.ca





Congratulations to the following festivals celebrating milestone anniversaries!

NOTICE:

Festival statements are issued on or before May 30 and are due and payable on or before June 30. Statements will include affiliation dues and stationery items. A credit of \$150 will also be issued, on this statement, to festivals attending as delegates to the 2015 AGM. Year-end Financial statements cannot be completed and sent to Provincial office until this statement has been processed (paid) as the affiliation expense amount shown on this statement, must be included in your year-end financial statement.

SMFA SPONSORED SPEECH ARTS WORKSHOPS

Workshops are available to SMFA affiliated festivals. Contact our office today to set up workshop in your community!



Heather Macnab, Speech Arts Clincian

Heather Macnab of Maple Creek is active as a singer, speech artist, teacher, accompanist, clinician, and adjudicator.

Heather has a private studio of voice, speech and piano students, teaches at Summer School for the Solo Voice in North Battleford, and conducts workshops throughout Saskatchewan.

She likes to sing and have other people sing, so has spent four seasons with Calgary Opera Chorus and frequently creates performance opportunities for herself and others. Sometimes she puts singers together and calls them a "choir".

Heather enjoys working with youth, and has directed musicals in Maple



Creek for 20 seasons including Anne of Green Gables, Les Misérables School Edition, The Music Man, HMS Pinafore... etc.

She is a believer in life-long learning, recently completing her ARCT diplomas for Speech Arts and Drama. She likes to promote speech arts! Heather is a member of SRMTA, NATS, and is an adjudicator for the SMFA.

The Shean Strings & Piano Competition

The Shean Piano Competition will take place May 19-21, 2016 at Muttart Hall, Alberta College Campus, Grant MacEwan University in Edmonton, Alberta. The Shean Competition for Strings and Piano, made possible by a generous grant to the Edmonton Community Foundation from Ranald and Vera Shean in 1996, is open to young amateur musicians between 15 and 28 years of age who are residents of Canada currently studying here or abroad, or to non-residents who have been studying in Canada for a minimum of two academic years. Six semi-finalists are chosen from the submitted discs. The winner of the Competition may be invited to perform with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra at a later date. Strings and piano are featured in alternating years.

Previous winners include Meagan Miltaz. See Press release below:

PIANIST FROM WEYBURN, SASKATCHEWAN TAKES \$8,000 TOP PRIZE

Edmonton, AB – On Saturday, May 17, 2014 – after two days of amazing and very high calibre competition – pianist Meagan Milatz (20 years old), originally from Weyburn, Saskatchewan and currently studying at McGill, was awarded the \$8,000 top prize in The Shean Piano Competition. She has also won the opportunity to play with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra at a future date. Ms. Milatz was one of 6 finalists chosen from the 36 submitted entries to compete in The 2014 Shean Piano Competition.





What Is LEAVE A LEGACY™

Almost everyone has a favourite charity. The reasons why a charity is close to your heart are as varied as the charities themselves. LEAVE A LEGACY™ is a public awareness campaign that promotes the benefits of leaving a bequest in your Will to help your favourite charitable organization.

The LEAVE A LEGACY™ program provides information on how you can support charities through estate planning. This program is a partnership between registered charities, professional advisors, the media and the public. Leave a Legacy has recently been adopted as the national program of the Canadian Association of Gift Planners (CAGP®).

The aim of LEAVE A LEGACY™ is two-fold:

- 1. Ensure every adult in Canada has an up-to-date Will; and
- 2. Encourage individuals to leave a gift for their favourite registered charity in their Will.

The vision of LEAVE A LEGACY™ is to ensure people are aware of the personal and financial benefits of leaving a gift for their charities of choice in their Will. Preparing an estate plan that includes a charitable gift provides tremendous personal satisfaction and significant tax benefits for donors.

Everyone benefits from LEAVE A LEGACY™ – the individual, the family and the community. Whatever your reasons, your gift makes a difference!



SMFA Provincial Finals

Saskatoon, University of Saskatchewan

Saturday, June 5, 2016

Meals will be provided. Anyone travelling more than 150 km will receive a \$20 gas card.

Contact us at sask.music.festival@sasktel.net or 1-888-892-9929

SMFA 2016 PROVINCIAL FINALS TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon

(Final schedule will be posted after May 25)

Festival Office - Room 1039

	Quance Theatre	Classroom 1036	Classroom 1004	Convocation Hall
	Education Building	Education Building	Education Building	College Building
FRIDAY, JUNE 3 CLASSES <u>SUBJECT TO CHANGE</u> , DEPENDING ON NUMBER OF ENTRIES				
9:00 A.M.	Provincial Level of National Competitions (Perc., Piano, Voice, Brass, WW) Reception & Announcement of Team Saskatchewan			Provincial Level of National Competitions (Strings, Guitar, MT)
1:00 P.M.	Strings • Int. Vla/Vc/DB • Int. Violin BREAK • Sr. Concert	Intermediate Voice		Musical Theatre Intermediate Ballad Intermediate Up-Tempo
7:00 P.M.	Sr. Recital Sr. Vla/Vc/DB Concert Sr. Vla/Vc/DB Recital	Concert Group Intermediate Voice Male Female		Musical Theatre • Senior Ballad • Senior Up-Tempo
SATURDA	Y, JUNE 4 CLASSES SUBJ	ECT TO CHANGE, DEPE	NDING ON NUMBER	OF ENTRIES
9:00 A.M	Percussion Intermediate Senior Senior Voice Grade B (Female) Grade B (Male) Grade A (Female)	Intermediate Piano • Beethoven • Chopin • Haydn/Mozart	11:00 a.m. Woodwinds • Intermediate	Senior Piano Bach Haydn/Mozart Beethoven
1:00 P.M.	Senior Voice Lieder Grade B Concert Group Grade A Concert Group French Art Song Canadian	Intermediate Piano Bach 20 th 21 st C/ Canadian Recital Speech Arts Intermediate Senior	Woodwinds • Senior Concert • Senior Recital Brass • Intermediate	Senior Piano (Lieder at Quance Theatre) Romantic 20 th 21 st C/ Canadian French
7:00 P.M.	Senior Voice Oratorio Operatic	Guitar • Intermediate • Senior	Brass • Senior Concert • Senior Recital	Senior Piano • Chopin
SUNDAY,	JUNE 5			
1:00 P.M.	Grand Awards Concert Senior Competitors Reception & Announcement of award winners			

COMPETITOR'S RECEPTION (FRIDAY AND SATURDAY) IN STUDENT LOUNGE – EDUCATION BUILDING

From the Provincial Office



March in Saskatchewan is not usually ones favourite time of year, weather-wise. It is, though, the time of year when SMFA volunteers are donating thousands of hours to ensure the successful delivery of District festivals across Saskatchewan. My sincere thank you is extended to each and every one of our volunteers. As the oldest provincial cultural organization in Saskatchewan, our volunteers are the heart and soul of the SMFA and the reason we continue to thrive, providing a unique form of culture to countless communities.

On the financial front, SMFA was fortunate, once again, to receive a grant from artsVest Saskatchewan. It is a sponsorship training and matching incentive program created by Business for the Arts and delivered in Saskatchewan with funding from Canadian Heritage and the Government of Saskatchewan Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, and with support from SaskCulture Inc. The program's goal is to assist Saskatchewan's small and medium-sized arts organizations in the development of new and mutually beneficial

partnerships with local businesses. We are grateful to our long-time sponsors SaskEnergy, SaskTel, and PotashCorp for their support as we look forward to building new partnerships through this opportunity with artsVest Saskatchewan. We are also grateful for the support we receive from Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation administered by SaskCulture, Mr. William Shurniak, The Wallis/Goodfellow Trust Account, and our many Provincial scholarship donors.

On February 1 of this year, we submitted an application in order to receive three years of funding as an Eligible Cultural Organization from the Lotteries Trust Fund. For those who may not be aware of the Lotteries Trust Fund, here is a bit of background. Many years ago, Chief Justice Brown persuaded the Saskatchewan government to provide an annual grant to the Association to be administered through the University of Saskatchewan which, in 1966, transferred to the Saskatchewan Arts Board. By 2000, the Association received its funding from Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust for Sport, Culture and Recreation and the Saskatchewan Arts Board; now administered by SaskCulture Inc. (2015). Through an agreement with the Government of Saskatchewan, proceeds from Saskatchewan Lotteries are dedicated to sport, culture and recreation organizations to benefit communities throughout the province. Reviews and/or adjudications are done on all funding requests from eligible organizations, ensuring that Saskatchewan Lotteries proceeds benefit communities across the province. This grant provides funding for the operation of the Provincial Office which services its member festivals.

The Lotteries grant, along with the festival affiliation dues, allows SMFA to provide the following: Provincial Syllabus (no other province in our federation has one), award certificates, event liability insurance, a Provincial website with the ability for online entries, an annual report which includes Audited Financial Statements, compilation of District festival yearly reports; hiring of over 170 adjudicators, member funding, conflict resolution committee, an opportunity for young musicians to progress from District to Provincial to National levels of competition; leadership in the Canadian Music Festival (FCMF) movement; and group fundraising opportunities.

We look forward to receiving the results of the grant application in early April. An increase in this funding would allow SMFA to provide more services and support to assist our members in achieving our common mission statement: "Promoting excellence in music and speech through competitions, performance, and educational opportunities for the people of Saskatchewan."

In closing, I would like to remind you that we are part of a large festival movement across Canada, and I encourage your festival to consider purchasing a membership from the FCMF or support the fundraising campaign as a sign of support to our National affiliate. Forms can be found on the at fcmf.org. We have one common goal and your support brings us closer to that goal.

Carol Donhauser, Executive Director





YOU could PERFORM FOR SASKATCHEWAN!

If you are a High School age Singer, Wind player,
Percussionist or String player, you are eligible to audition for the
2016 Saskatchewan Honour Groups and perform,
record and study in a very special weekend in November 2016.
Students from across Saskatchewan participate. The combined
concert will be broadcast on SaskTel Max on Demand.

Top International Conductors! Top professional sectional instructors! International Audition judges! Awesome facilities and friendly, expert coordinators!

FOR ALL Weekend details, Audition requirements and forms visit www.musiceducationonline.org/smea/honour.html questions? contact: Honour groups Chairperson Darrell Bueckert honourgoups2016@gmail.com

November 17, 18, 19, 2016

Lakeview Church Theatre complex, Saskatoon. Auditions close May 15

