



# Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



Established in 1908

Spring 2010

SMFA Provincial Office  
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*"Classical Competitive Festivals"*

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## President's Message



Many of the district festivals are winding down for the season. I want to remind the committees to send their final report to the Provincial Office so that these reports can be included in the Annual Report to be distributed at the Fall Conference.

On behalf of the SMFA I want to thank the committees and numerous volunteers of each District Festival who have worked very hard as a team organizing this important event in your community, giving the young people of Saskatchewan the opportunity to perform their well-learned repertoire in front of their peers, parents, grandparents, classmates, and adjudicators. Thank you to the music teachers, classroom teachers, speech coaches, parents, and accompanists for the many hours you have spent preparing these students. Thank you for your continual

support, guidance, encouragement, and belief in these young musicians. Thank you to all the competitors. I hope you have had a positive, memorable learning experience.

To each competitor who has been recommended by the adjudicator to Provincial Finals – we are looking forward to seeing all of you during the June 4 – 6 weekend in Prince Albert. Please note that the entry deadline is May 15 and the schedule will be posted on our website ([www.smfa.ca](http://www.smfa.ca)) after May 25. The provincial level of National competition takes place on Friday, June 4, at which time our representatives to the National Music Festival are selected. The National Music Festival will be hosted by McGill University in Montreal, August 13 – 15.

Did you know that SMFA is now on Facebook? We encourage all of you to become a Fan so you can network with other musicians, join in discussions and share information across the nation, and, if you haven't already done so, take a moment to browse our online Photo Gallery ([www.smfa.ca](http://www.smfa.ca))

I encourage each District Festival to send a representative or two to the Saskatchewan Music Conference to be held at the Travelodge in Saskatoon, November 4 – 6. The five music organizations – SMFA, the Saskatchewan Music Educators Association, the Saskatchewan Choral Federation, the Saskatchewan Orchestral Association, and the Saskatchewan Band Association – are collaborating once again for a weekend of keynote speakers, networking, and informative workshops.

The Wallis Opera Competition will be held November 21 – 22 this year in Regina. Entry forms will soon be available on our website.

SMFA gratefully acknowledges our funding agencies Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture, and Recreation, the Saskatchewan Arts Board, SaskCulture, and the Department of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport.



*Respectfully submitted,  
Theresa E. Brost, President*





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## Protocol for Hiring Adjudicators

- The hiring of adjudicators for the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association is the responsibility of the Adjudicator Liaison.
- Following the conclusion of each District Music Festival, the committee is asked to fill out the **Adjudicator Evaluation Form** and forward it to the Provincial Office. It is important to include the Music Teachers from your festival area in order to get their feedback on the performance of the recent adjudicators. These evaluations are kept confidential.
- **The Adjudicator Time-Frame Form** is crucial and before anyone can be hired **estimated dates** are required (please refer to the month and dates rather than days of the week). There is a clause in the adjudicator contract that states **“The number of days may be changed from those listed above to allow for fewer or more entries than originally estimated.”**
- An **“Adjudicator Wish List”** and/or a **“Do Not Call List”** may be submitted with the **Adjudicator Time-Frame Form**. Please note that while the Adjudicator Liaison will attempt to hire a requested preference, there is no guarantee. When a preferred adjudicator cannot accept an assignment, a suitable one will be hired from the extensive list of professional musicians who work for the SMFA based on his/her evaluations and when he/she was last hired for your festival. District festival committees should not contact adjudicators on their own, even to check availability. In Saskatchewan, the provincial office assumes this responsibility. Objectivity in the hiring process contributes to a fair competitive festival system.
- After each festival’s entry close date and once **all** adjudicators are confirmed for that festival, the **Adjudicator Report Form** is sent to the corresponding secretary/administrator. This form contains the name, dates, and discipline of the adjudicator, as well as his/her biographical information and contact information (address, phone, fax, e-mail). If there is a problem with an adjudicator who has been hired, the corresponding Secretary/Administrator or President of the festival can contact the Executive Director and discuss what steps can be taken to alleviate the problem. Please notify Provincial Office if there are **any** changes from the Report Form. The information on the Report Form is reflected in the Information Form (see below) and confirms their schedule and accommodation arrangements.
- Approximately four weeks before the district music festival, the adjudicators will receive the **Adjudicator Information Form** that includes the festival’s contact person and **accommodation information** (as provided by the festival). A copy of this document is also sent to the corresponding Secretary/Administrator. It then becomes the responsibility of the district festival **to notify the adjudicator and the Provincial Office of any further changes**. The Provincial Office is often contacted in case of emergency or cancellation so it is important that **current** information be available to us.
- The adjudicator contract is non-transferable. If at any time an adjudicator needs to be replaced, the Provincial Office must be contacted to hire a suitable replacement.

**National Music Festival  
August 13 – 15  
Montreal, QC**



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## Let's Celebrate!

All across Saskatchewan, music festival committees are hosting special events to commemorate their milestone years. Each community finds their own unique way to mark the occasion, and here are a few of their stories.



2010 is a very special year for the **CENTRAL SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL**, celebrating 50 years of festivals in Davidson. Their committee contributes the following history regarding their inception:

*"In 1960 Gordon Hancock, Executive Director of the SMFA approached the Davidson Home and School Association to establish a music festival for this area. With over 60 interested attendees at the organizational meeting, the festival was born. There were 106 participants from eight communities in the first festival, which included such novel classes as bagpipe and accordion."*

To honour the supporters of the Central Saskatchewan Festival over the years, a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration was held on March 21, preceding the 2010 Festival. Highlights included a memorabilia display, a newly-minted 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary binder, and a performance by the very first participant in the first festival, Debbie Doel, who shared her festival experience and performed the little piece she played at age seven. The audience was also treated to a beautiful violin solo, a group musical theatre number, and the performance by a 20-member choir created for the occasion. Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" left the audience wanting more.



Festival President and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Chairperson Nancy Wilkins made beautiful "Thanks from the Heart" quilt hangings, which were presented to 20 long-term executive members. The celebration carried on throughout the week, with a record crowd at the Grand Finale of Festival Winners.



2010 marks **MAPLE CREEK'S 25<sup>th</sup>** consecutive music festival. From President Heather Macnab:

*"Irene Ahner, our archivist, compiled information into five interesting historical segments, each chronicling five years of the festival, then wrote a sixth article featuring our top outstanding award winners and where they are now. These articles were submitted to our local newspapers and printed in the festival program."*

Folders were specially made to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and were given to each festival participant. The hall was beautifully decorated in anniversary colours; photo albums and pictures completed the impressive display.

The final concert on March 26 included a greeting from Karen MacCallum on behalf of the SMFA. Several past committee members were in attendance, including first President, Jo Stodalka, who spoke as well. It truly was a celebratory time!



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Janet Kostyna, President of **GRAVELBOURG & DISTRICT MUSIC FESTIVAL** reports that they are celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year, back in the Renaissance Gaiety Theatre – the venue where it all began. Best wishes to Gravelbourg for many more years of festivals!



Several district festivals held special events in 2009, recognizing their anniversaries in conjunction with the SMFA Centennial celebrations. **POTASHVILLE MUSIC FESTIVAL**, which rotates through the communities of Esterhazy, Langenburg and Churchbridge, organized several projects to celebrate their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Past President Kathy Stokes comments:

*“Welcome baskets were presented to each of our adjudicators upon their arrival. These baskets included coffee, tea, bottled water, muffins, fruit and nutritious snacks, as well as meal vouchers, menus and a list of restaurants in town.”*

To mark the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, each festival participant was given a lanyard which featured a treble clef design. Nearly 500 lanyards were distributed, which were sponsored by Noble Construction of Esterhazy. Many students wore their lanyards all week and were proud to acknowledge their participation in the annual Potashville Music Festival.



2009 was a festive year in Kipling, celebrating the 55<sup>th</sup> local music festival along with the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Town of Kipling, and of course, the SMFA Centennial. Following the Awards Concert, which was attended by a capacity crowd, a reception was held with appetizers prepared by several committee members and an anniversary cake to honour both festival milestones.



During the concert, flowers were presented to six long-service volunteers. One of the recipients, Muriel McCarthy, was present at the first festival in 1954 and she spoke eloquently of her involvement over the years.



**Sand Hills Festival** (including the original Prelate and Leader Festivals) also held a celebration in 2009 – 60 years of festivals in their district! The Community Hall was decorated in black, white and silver, with stars featuring the performers’ names. An article titled *Music Festivals – A Long-Lived Tradition* ran in the local newspaper prior to the festival and was also printed in festival programs. The following excerpts, by President Terri Martin-Schmunk, are taken from that article and highlight the history of the Sand Hills Festival:

*“As noted in a comprehensive festival history by Mossie Hancock, Prelate’s first festival in 1949 was called an overwhelming success in which 84 entries were adjudicated in one day. Prelate and Leader alternated hosting the event until Prelate assumed complete responsibility in 1962.”*

The Sand Hills Music Festival was formed in Leader in 1991. Its main contributing centres continued to be Leader and Prelate, although it had grown to include surrounding communities. Numbers have dropped in recent years and were largely affected by the closing of St. Angela’s Academy, which had been a strong supporter of the festival. Sand Hills continues to offer a 2-day festival, which has expanded from primarily



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piano and speech arts to include woodwinds, violin, and voice. Quoting Terri Martin-Schmunk: "I am pleased to say that we endeavour to uphold the long-lived tradition that began in 1949 and to continue to provide children with an opportunity to perform, learn, and grow."

And that's what the festival tradition is truly all about! Large or small, old or young, music festivals are events to be treasured and celebrated. Congratulations on your successes and best wishes for many more.

Thank you to those festivals who contributed their stories. To those festivals planning celebrations in the near future, we'd love to hear from you!

*Nancy Toppings and Sandra Senga*  
SMFA Board of Directors



**DREAM BIG** .....  
enter your local music festival

**2010 National Music Festival**  
August 13-15, Montréal, QC  
For more information contact  
Federation of Canadian Music Festivals  
1-888-307-6632 • [info@fcmf.org](mailto:info@fcmf.org)  
[www.fcmf.org](http://www.fcmf.org)



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## History of the Vanguard & District Music Festival (Part I)

Several Vanguard parents and teachers shared a common desire to discover and encourage musical talent in the students of the Vanguard district, and, by providing exposure to the fine arts, to bring greater joy and happiness to their lives. To further this desire, it had become a yearly event to transport children to Swift Current to participate in various events in their festival. This grew to involve many students - sometimes whole classrooms.

With the uncertainty of weather during March and April of each year, and the resultant responsibilities that fell on drivers, teachers, and some parents, a movement was born in the Home and School Association of that time, to hold a music festival locally.

As a result of the efforts of this group, with the encouragement and assistance of Mr. Gordon Hancock, who was then Secretary-Manager of the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (later Executive Director), a two-day festival was instituted in 1965. Mr Hancock was the first adjudicator.

Quoting from the issue of April 14, 1965 of the Aneroid News Magnet: "Standing room only, was the situation in the Vanguard Community Hall on Award Night, following a two-day Music Festival held April 5 & 6."

The executive for this fledgling association consisted of: President: Mrs. D. Saunderson; Co-Pres., Mr. Ron Young; Sec.-Treas.: Mr. W.J. Puckett; Advertising Committee: Ray Stubel, Doug Empey, Don Remple, Ray Allen; Program Committee: Mrs. M. Heinrichs, Mrs. E. Young, Mrs. O. Farrow, Miss Irene Theaker, Miss Helen Burton.

It is gratifying to note that sons and daughters of participants of the original and other early festivals have been listed in the programs of subsequent and present day festivals. As we look back over the years and follow the musical careers of several of the participants of those years, the association can be justly proud of having played a small part in furthering the musical desires of those students, and can feel satisfied that the "Objects of the Festivals" have been attained, and that assistance has been given to those who desired to progress in their ability to perform or teach. The goals and dreams of that committee of 1965 have been to some extent, fulfilled.

As we move forward, celebrating the 45th Anniversary of the Vanguard and District Music Festival, we must also take this time to acknowledge the many students and teachers for their hard work and dedication, as well as the many volunteers over the years, who have donated countless hours of their time. Currently sitting on the Festival Executive are two shining examples of this volunteerism.

**Mrs. Edna Hapke**, years after her own children and grandchildren have performed in the festival, continues to hold a position, including that of President last year. The other example is one of the founding members of our festival. **Mrs. Dorothy Saunderson** was not only a founding member but she was the festival's first president in 1965. Prior to the first festival, Mrs. Saunderson, as a teacher, took her students into the festival in Swift Current to perform. Throughout the many following years, she has consistently taught and accompanied students in our festival. To this day, Mrs Saunderson still sits actively on the executive, and continues to inspire, teach, and accompany students. Her remarkable gift of music is being passed down throughout the generations, and has filled the hearts and homes of many.

A huge Thank You to everyone who has contributed to the success of the Vanguard and District Music Festival over the last 45 years, and may that spirit continue on for many more festivals to come!





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## History of the Vanguard & District Music Festival (Part II)

*A Letter from Bretton Davie – former Vanguard & District Music Festival competitor*

It needs to be said that I am clearly the least-talented person to win the Puckett Scholarship. Despite Gloria's best efforts I am not a very good singer and my musical skills remain utterly uninspiring even after years of piano lessons. When I joked to Tanya about coming to sing at the award's night, I could hear the terror in her voice when she said "oh, I understood you did poems". I think the year I won the scholarship the adjudicator took pity on me because I entered almost every category.

There have been dozens of brilliant performers in our community who've flourished because of our local festival. My best-friend Brianna is a case in point; in less than a month she'll be performing in a production of *Cabaret* in Toronto. But I think the music festival did just as much for the prodigies as it did for kids like me - kids who fell in love with Keats and Kipling even though they couldn't write poetry and became captivated by Mozart even if they couldn't compose. Talented or not, we learned to understand the arts because the musical festival gave us a venue and a voice.

That being said, the Vanguard and District Music Festival was about so much more than music. It was about the hours you spent with your parents practicing; it was about competing against your best friends and congratulating them when they won; it was about going to pot-luck lunches hoping to get a piece of Nancy Fox's Mississippi mud pie; it was about knowing that Mrs. Young would always be sitting in the back row...it was the way Jim Lyding still laughed at *Crocodile's Toothache* by Shel Silverstein year after year. Looking back, the festival is not as much about notes and rhyming couplets as it is about heart.

Dorothy and Albert's passion for music, combined with the devotion of parents and volunteers, has created generations of adults who understand the arts and the importance of community. I know I speak for my family and friends when I say thank you for teaching us to read a book of poetry for inspiration, to listen to music to be moved, to watch Broadway to be entertained and to come home when we need a neighbour to count on.



In Vanguard at heart, Bretton

## 2009 Distinguished Band Director Award – Wayne Toews

*Reprinted from the January-February 2010 issue of "Outreach" - the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan journal*

The Saskatchewan Band Association has recognized Saskatoon musician and educator Wayne Toews with its 2009 Distinguished Band Director award. The award recognizes his outstanding contribution to band, strong musical leadership and consistent promotion of musical excellence in the province of Saskatchewan. He is a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan and Northwestern University. In 1969 Toews established the band program in City Park Collegiate and in the area's elementary schools. The City Park Concert Band was well known through its recordings and television performances. Mr. Toews was music director at Aden Bowman Collegiate from 1976 until his retirement in 2001. The ABCI music program toured widely and was a consistent winner in music festivals with groups under his direction earning more than 50 first place awards including two first place national jazz awards. Seven of his former students direct bands in Saskatoon. From 1983 until 2009 Mr. Toews was music director of the Saskatoon Youth Orchestra. He has been guest conductor of the Saskatoon Symphony on several occasions including the opening of SaskPlace. In 2005 he created a school for music conductors that has attracted students from around the world. Toews is a founding board member of the Saskatchewan Orchestral Association, chair of the orchestra division of Musicfest Canada and serves on the board of the Canadian Music Centre, Prairie Division. He is a conductor, adjudicator, composer, arranger and author.



**International Conducting Workshop with Wayne Toews  
July 11 - 18, 2010 at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK  
For more information visit [www.conductorschool.com](http://www.conductorschool.com)**



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## SCF Choir Camps 2010 – A Pause to Reflect

At their meeting on January 9, the Saskatchewan Choral Federation Board of Directors approved a motion to cancel the SCF Summer Choir Camp program in 2010.

Traditionally held at St. Peter's Abbey in Muenster, the camp has experienced a steady decline of campers from the late 1990's with more than 200 campers per summer to a total of 81 campers in 2009. Despite increased efforts to attract new campers and reduce costs, there has been a 10% decline in attendance each year for the past three years. The subsequent reduction in revenue, as fewer and fewer campers participate, has been absorbed by the Choral Federation to the point where organizational finances can no longer provide this subsidization.

In moving forward, the Board firmly believes there is a place in the busy Saskatchewan summer activity marketplace for choir camps. As part of the SCF's mandate to maximize the number of people of all ages who sing and to foster ever-higher standards of artistry among singers, choir camp is a valuable tool in attracting and developing life-long singers and future leaders.

The Board is committed to increasing choir camp's relevance in Saskatchewan's cultural landscape. The directive to management is to create a program that balances the strengths of the existing program – great site, wonderful clinicians and staff and fantastic learning opportunities – with the demands of today's busy family and have it ready for launch in the summer of 2011. Research on other models and feedback from campers, camp staff and camp supporters will be conducted this fall and developed into a new program offering for approval by the Board at their January 2011 meeting.

The SCF welcomes your suggestions and insights. Please contact Denise Gress, SCF Executive Director, to provide your comments and feedback at 1-877-524-6725 or [gress@saskchoral.ca](mailto:gress@saskchoral.ca).



## Wallis Opera Competition



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

The competition is open to non-professional vocalists between the ages of 20 and 35, as of December 31 preceding the year of the competition. Only those of talent and industry, who have the necessary vocal and dramatic potential for a possible career in the operatic world, should consider entering the competition, otherwise no scholarship will be awarded.

The competition, held in even-numbered years, alternates between Regina and Saskatoon. In addition to the prize money, the winner may be featured as guest artist with the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras. The next Opera Competition will be held in Regina in November 20 & 21, 2010. **Entry forms will be available after June 15, on our website.**







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## From the Provincial Office

Dear Festival Friends:

As the 2010 festival season draws to a close I would ask that each festival committee submit their year-end reports (People/Stats, Money Forms, Adjudicator Evaluations, Adjudicator Time-Frame Forms and Annual Report) to the provincial office as soon as possible after your year-end meeting. According to the SMFA Constitution, each district festival fiscal year-end is to be June 30 and the required reports are to be submitted following your meetings.

The **first weekend in June** (June 4 – 6) marks the SMFA Provincial Final Competitions weekend in Prince Albert. We look forward to a terrific three days of competition as the Prince Albert Host Committee, chaired by Feng Lett, welcomes competitors from across the province. Thank you to our Provincial Finals corporate sponsors, SaskTel, SaskEnergy, PotashCorp, the City of Prince Albert, and to our many award donors whose support helps make this event possible. We are also grateful for the support we receive from Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation, SaskCulture, and the Sask Arts Board who assistance enables our organization to carry out the various programs we offer.

The National Music Festival Competitions will be held this year in Montreal, **August 13 to 15**. Historically Saskatchewan has done very well at the National level and we wish Team Saskatchewan all the best.

**November 6 & 7** marks the dates of the Saskatchewan Music Conference in Saskatoon. We have a terrific motivational speaker scheduled for Saturday afternoon, as well as festival roundtable discussions and the all-important SMFA AGM. Please plan to attend. Your attendance and input is important to the future of the SMFA as we move ahead in this next century.

Last month was National Volunteer Week. The SMFA is very fortunate to have a strong, faithful network of volunteers that work tirelessly year after year to host a festival in their community. I would just like to send out a huge **THANK YOU**, on behalf of the SMFA Board of Directors and staff, and leave you with this quote:



***“We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give”***  
***Winston Churchill***

*Carol Douhauser, Executive Director*

*The assistance of the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation, Saskatchewan Arts Board and SaskCulture Inc. is gratefully acknowledged.*



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Prince Albert, June 4 – 6.