



Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



Established in 1908

Fall 2010

SMFA Provincial Office
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"Classical Competitive Festivals"

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President's Message

Theresa E. Brost, President

I hope everyone has had a great summer and are rejuvenated and geared up to begin another music festival season.

Our 2009 - 2010 year finished with the Provincial Finals Competitions, held for the first time in Prince Albert. Thank you to Feng Lett and committee for a well-organized weekend. We are very grateful to sponsors SaskTel, Sask Energy, PotashCorp, and the City of Prince Albert. The Grand Award winner this year was saxophonist Gerard Weber. Pictures can be found on our website (www.smfa.ca). Our competitors selected on this weekend to compete at Nationals in Montreal consisted of Heather Molloy (voice), Meagan Milatz (piano), Tommy Davis (woodwinds), Lisa Pattison (percussion), and the Ellipse Saxophone Quartet (chamber group). Juventus Concert Choir directed by Diana Woolrich was also recommended to the National level of Choral competition.

This year's National Music Festival took place August 13 - 15 in Montreal. Saskatchewan's delegates were Carol Donhauser, Gloria Nickell, Joy McFarlane-Burton, and myself. Karen MacCallum was our designate, the person in charge of our competitors. Congratulations to all of our performers for a job well done! Photos and results can be found at <http://www.fcmf.org/>.

The provincial office, along with four other music organizations (SBA, SCF, SMEA, and SOA), has been heavily involved with the organization of the Saskatchewan Music Conference/AGM to be held at the Travelodge in Saskatoon November 4-6. **I encourage delegates from each District Festival unit to attend.** The weekend will be filled with informative sessions, keynote speakers, and round table discussions. If you have a topic you wish to discuss at the round table sessions please forward them to provincial office at sask.music.festival@sasktel.net.

The Gordon Wallis Opera Competition will be held November 20 - 21 at the Shumiatcher Theatre, MacKenzie Art Gallery in Regina. See our website for more information and entry forms.

We are very appreciative of the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation, the Saskatchewan Arts Board, SaskCulture, and the Department of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport for funding the various projects and programs of the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association. We gratefully acknowledge our many corporate sponsors, patrons, and local businesses across the province for providing substantial financial support to our young musicians.

Since my term as President of SMFA is approaching its completion this will be my final message in Festival Focus. It has been a privilege to serve as President of the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association and I am thankful to have had the opportunity. I want to thank our Executive Director, Carol Donhauser for her incredible support. I also want to thank each Board Member for their input and support the past two years. It has been a pleasure working with each of them.

I wish you all a successful festival year.





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National Music Festival



Theresa E. Brost, President

It was pouring rain when the Saskatchewan delegates arrived in Montreal the evening of Sunday, August 8. After a short drive we arrived at the Royal Victoria College (RVC), one of McGill University's residences, situated across the street from the main campus and our accommodations for the week.

The Federation AGM/Committee meetings commenced the next day. In the evening a Welcome Reception was held on the roof top of City Hall where we enjoyed the awesome view. Greetings were given by MC, Libertad Acosta, Executive Committee Member Responsible for Culture, Helen Fotopulos, Vice-chair of the Executive Committee, Alan DeSousa, and Montreal Host Chair, Tom Davidson (aka David Thompson). Delegates signed the "Great Book", a City of Montreal guest book. We were served very tasty h'ordeuvres and refreshments, then had the opportunity to explore old Montreal.

Meetings continued on Tuesday and were followed by the Federation Dinner which was held at the McCord Museum. The appetizers and dinner were amazing and the entertainment was very enjoyable. Several delegates toured the historic museum after dinner.

Federation business was completed on Wednesday. Competitors and accompanists arrived throughout the day as well. On Wednesday and Thursday the practice rooms in the Schulich School of Music and Pollack Hall (one of the concert halls within Schulich) were busy as competitors rehearsed. The first of many group activities was held Wednesday evening. This provided the opportunity for competitors to meet and greet others in an informal social setting, and was complete with games and pizza. Competitors, accompanists, and delegates all dressed with T-shirts of an assigned colour (by province), were introduced. Our colour this year was Roughrider green. Karen MacCallum, our provincial designate introduced Heather Molloy (voice), Meagan Milatz (piano), Tommy Davis (woodwinds), Lisa Pattison (percussion), and our chamber group, the Ellipse Saxophone Quartet.

Thursday evening was Host Night, where Nova Scotia delivered a presentation and invited the nation's delegates to Antigonish for the 2011 AGM and National Music Festival Competitions. The delegates enjoyed a fun-filled auction, closing the evening activities.

Friday and Saturday were competition days, two days of wonderful performances by some of the best of our country's young musicians. Delegates helped at the various competition venues. Everyone was treated to a BBQ Saturday evening, in the RVC courtyard. A watermelon eating competition was enjoyed by all who participated. We were then free to tour old Montreal and catch some of the closing show of the Montreal International Fireworks Competition.

Sunday morning Master Classes provided the opportunity for adjudicators Mark DuBois (voice), Moshe Hammer (strings), Jeff Hanlon (guitar), Marvin Eckroth (woodwinds), Robert Koenig (piano), Heilwig von Koenigsloew (chamber), Richard Simoneau (brass), and Kenneth Simpson (percussion) to meet with the competitors and share their expertise. Following the Master Classes everyone congregated for the first place announcements. Each competitor received a participation certificate and a photograph was taken of each provincial group.

Salle Pierre-Mercure (one of Montreal's most prestigious concert halls) was the site for the Grand Awards Concert where first place award winners presented the audience with their finest works. Second- and third-place and choral awards were also presented at this time. Following the announcement of the Grand Award Winner a final reception was held, giving everyone a chance to extend good wishes.

Congratulations to Saskatchewan's National Winners:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2nd place Woodwinds | Tommy Davis |
| 2nd place Percussion | Lisa Pattison |
| 2nd place Chamber Group | Ellipse Saxophone Quartet (Tommy Davis, Gerard Weber, Melissa Latos and Jennelle Orcheron) |



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2010 FALL CONFERENCE & AGM “Better Together”

The Saskatchewan Music Conference is a joint project of five provincial music organizations: the Saskatchewan Band Association (SBA), Saskatchewan Choral Federation (SCF), Saskatchewan Music Educators Association (SMEA), Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA), and the Saskatchewan Orchestral Association (SOA). The annual conference brings together approximately 250 delegates from across the province.

Plan to attend on November 4 - 6, 2010 for a weekend of networking, informative sessions, and keynote speakers. The SMFA stream offers: Festival Roundtable Discussions (Risk Management/Liability Insurance, Protocol for Hiring Adjudicators/Briefing Your Adjudicators, Dealing with Per Diems), Brenda Robinson (Celebrating Volunteers), Gloria Nickell (Interested in Becoming an SMFA Adjudicator?) and Lorelie DeRoose (The Importance of Speech Arts).

One change to note this year is that the SMFA Volunteer Awards will be recognized at the Friday evening awards banquet.

For more information, book hotel rooms or to register, please visit <http://www.saskmusic.ca>

NOTICE OF AGM – SATURDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2010 – 11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Nominations for Provincial Board Position

Consider nominating someone from your district festival to serve on the Provincial Board of Directors or consider running yourself. The Board consists of nine elected members. This year there are three (3) positions open: one (1) one-year and two (2) three-year positions available. The one-year term is available as board member Eleanor Epp is moving to Manitoba and has presented her resignation.

Board Members will always be on one or more committees and although there are some very busy times, we have a great deal of fun. Knowledge of music is not mandatory – a good board is made up of people with a wide range of strengths, backgrounds, and areas of expertise. Everyone has something to offer. The Nomination form can be found on our website at: www.smfa.ca/Administration/Forms_Festivals/festival_forms_&_guides.htm

Please send the nominations to:

Gloria Nickell, P.O. Box 1793, Rosetown, SK S0L 2V0 , Phone: (306) 882-2410 or, E-mail: nicki4@sasktel.net

SMFA Provincial Finals

Provincial Finals Competition was held June 4 - 6 in Prince Albert. The top three winners of the Grand Awards were saxophonist Gerard Weber of Saskatoon (gold), violinist Samuel Milner of Saskatoon (silver), and soprano Heather Molloy of Regina (bronze). For a complete listing of winners and to view photos click www.smfa.ca

TO ALL FESTIVAL UNITS!

If your festival has recently celebrated a milestone year
or is planning an event for 2011, we would love to hear your story!

Please send your information to: SMFA Board members [Nancy Toppings](#) or [Sandra Senga](#).



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SMFA GORDON WALLIS OPERA COMPETITION

Saturday, November 20 & 21, 2010

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, 2009. 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.

For more information on eligibility requirements or to enter, please visit our website.

Protocol for Hiring Adjudicators

- ♪ The hiring of adjudicators for the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association is the responsibility of the Adjudicator Liaison, Doris Covey Lazecki.
- ♪ 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**, keeping in mind that a general guideline is not to request a return engagement of an adjudicator for a minimum of three years. 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. Provincial Office **must be** notified 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.



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- ♫ 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 district committee). 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.
- ♫ It is not recommended to announce adjudicators before the entry close date.
- ♫ 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.

If you have not already sent in your Adjudicator Time Frame form, please do so as soon as possible. The sooner we receive this information the better chance we have of securing the requested contracts.

PLEASE NOTE: SUGGESTED PER DIEMS FOR ADJUDICATORS IS \$40.00 PER DAY

From the Provincial Office

Here we are lamenting another end to summer. The one good thing to the end of summer is the start of a new music festival season. Some of you have already submitted your reporting forms for the 2010 festival season and we thank you. There are a few outstanding forms and reports of which we would ask you to send in as soon as possible. Please also send in copies of Annual Meeting minutes to our office as well as you're an electronic copy of your festival report for the Annual Report. We have an archival file for each festival in which we keep all of this information. We are also working on the 2011 Directory and website updates and would like this information sent in to our office as soon as it is available.

November 4 - 6 marks the dates of the Saskatchewan Music Conference in Saskatoon. I can't stress enough how important it is for each committee to send at least one delegate. Not only will you gain knowledge to help you with your own festival, your attendance will strengthen and support our organization as SaskCulture looks at possible changes being made to the funding that SMFA receives through the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund.

Please note that if you are nominating a volunteer, the volunteer awards will be presented on Friday night at the SMC Awards Banquet and not during the AGM luncheon as in previous years. The SMC Awards Banquet will be a special evening with deserving recipients recognized by all music organizations in attendance.

The SMFA Calendar of events is a busy one for the 2010/2011 season starting with AGM/Conference, Wallis Opera Competition, 49 District Festivals, Provincial Final Competitions and finishing with National Conference and AGM/National Music Festival Competitions. For confirmed district festival dates including entry close dates, please visit the website. The SMFA website is designed to suit the needs of competitors, teachers, parents, festival committee members, potential donors as well as general promotion of our programs and services. We are open to any suggestions to improving our website and would love to hear from you.

We would like to thank Theresa for all of her work as she steps down as President in November. Thanks also go to Nancy Wilkins and Eleanor Epp as they leave our provincial board of directors. A very special thank you must be extended to Gloria Nickell, Past President as she leaves our board after many years of serving. We will miss you all and we hope that you will continue to attend SMFA events.



Here is to another successful SMFA Festival Season!