



Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



Established in 1908

September 2011

SMFA Provincial Office
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"Classical Competitive Festivals"

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President's Message

Joy McFarlane-Burton



As the days shorten and the night air becomes chilly it is a fine time to reflect on the achievements of our young performers and also look forward to the 2012 Music Festival season.

A very successful Provincial Finals weekend was held in Moose Jaw, June 3-5. Over 215 competitors were recommended from 38 of our 49 District Music Festivals. The Grand Award winner was Meagan Milatz (pianist) of the Weyburn Music Festival.

On the beautiful campus of St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, August 11-13, 66 competitors from across Canada performed in nine categories. Our Saskatchewan competitors made the best showing in our history with all of our team members receiving placements in their category:

Danika Lorèn received first place in Voice (Collaborative Artist – Mark Turner)
Gerhard Weber (Woodwinds) took second place (Collaborative Artist – Cherith Alexander)
Lisa Pattison (Percussion) received third place (Collaborative Artist – Ryan Goetz)
Pianist Meagan Milatz placed third (Collaborative Artist – Cherith Alexander)

The Juventus Concert Choir of Regina, directed by Diana Woolrich, placed second in the JKF English Choral Award class
Gerhard Weber also received the "Best Joy in Performing" Award

We are especially pleased to note that these competitors and their fine accompanists/collaborative artists have come to compete on the National scene from the District Festivals of Regina, Saskatoon, Weyburn, Moose Jaw, Humboldt, Eston, Lanigan, and Twin Rivers. Congratulations to all of these fine musicians and thank you to the volunteers of the SMFA system that nurtures such talent in our Province.

At the Federation of Canadian Music Festival (FCMF) AGM in Antigonish Gloria Nickell of Rosetown was elected to a two-year term on the national Board of Directors. Gloria is a Past-President of SMFA. Penny Joyn of Saskatoon was presented with an Honourary Life Membership in FCMF. Penny served six years as the Executive Director of FCMF, and is also a Past President of SMFA. Penny was presented with this award at the Grand Awards evening in Antigonish. I extend my personal congratulations to these women for their commitment to the Music Festival movement at the District, Provincial, and National levels.

The Travel Lottery tickets continue to be sold throughout the Province. This is a win-win Fundraising situation for the District and Provincial coffers as 50% of the money raised in ticket sales by your Festival District is returned to your Festival. Tickets are available through the Provincial Office. The draw date is Saturday, November 5, 2011 at the AGM in Regina.

Culture Days will be celebrated across the Province on September 26 through October 2, 2011. The SMFA is committed to helping the District Festivals promote Festival awareness in your communities. We are pleased to provide promotional items to aid in the District celebrations. Please contact the Provincial Office to obtain these items. We look forward to hearing how you promoted your District Festival through Culture Days.

The SMFA Executive and Board of Directors encourage each of our 49 District Festivals to send at least one delegate to the AGM held in conjunction with the Saskatchewan Music Conference, November 4 and 5 at the Regina Travelodge. The 2011 conference theme is "More Than Music". A wealth of information is presented and shared during this conference and we hope you will take this opportunity to meet with the Festival delegates from across the province.

The Concerto Competition will be held November 19 and 20, 2011 in Saskatoon at the University of Saskatchewan. The Wallis Opera Competition is being held at the University of Saskatchewan on February 25 and 26, 2012.

The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association is grateful for the sponsorship we have received from our many scholarship donors, corporate sponsors – *PotashCorp*, *SaskTel*, and *SaskEnergy* – as well as the continued support from the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust for Sport, Culture and Recreation, Saskatchewan Arts Board, and SaskCulture Inc.

I hope you will enjoy these final days of summer and enter the surge into autumn activities with a sense of excitement and renewal. The SMFA Board will look forward to meeting with you in Regina for the AGM.





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Provincial Finals Competition

The Provincial Finals Competition was held June 3-5 in Moose Jaw, beginning with the **Provincial Level of National Festival Competition** on Friday. Throughout the weekend judges heard over 200 performances in voice, piano, brass, woodwinds, percussion, and strings. The SMFA Provincial Competition winners list can be found on our website at: http://www.smfa.ca/Festivals/Competitions/Provincials/Press_Release_Results.pdf

The judges for the Provincial/National level of competition and the Provincial Competitions were **Michael Oike** (senior piano), **Diana Wiens** (intermediate piano), **Karen Jensen** (senior voice), **Karen Hudson** (choirs), **David Playfair** (intermediate voice, speech arts, & musical theatre), **Preston Hawes** (strings), and **William Gordon** (woodwinds, brass & percussion).

The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association would like to thank the sponsorship received from *SaskTel*, *SaskEnergy*, and *PotashCorp*, as well as the ongoing funding from *Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture & Recreation*, *SaskCulture Inc.*, *Saskatchewan Arts Board*, and *individual donors*. Visit our website at www.smfa.ca.



National Music Festival



The campus of St. Francis Xavier University, in Antigonish, NS was the host of the 2011 National Music Festival from August 11-13. Over sixty musicians ranging in age from 14 to 28 years, representing each of Canada's ten provinces, competed for awards in nine different categories: piano, strings, voice, woodwinds, brass, guitar, percussion, chamber, and choral. Saskatoon soprano, **Danika Lorèn**, took home first place in voice receiving a cash award in the amount of \$1,500. Other Saskatoon musicians placing at this competition include **Gerard Weber** (Woodwinds) second place and **Lisa Pattison** (Percussion) received third place. Pianist, **Meagan**

Milatz of Weyburn also placed third. **Juventus Concert Choir** of Regina, **directed by Diana Woolrich** placed second in the JFK English Choral Award. **Gerard Weber** also received the "Best Joy in Performing" Award. The Grand Award Winner of \$5,000 went to Blake Pouliot, violinist from Ontario.

For full results see the Federation of Canadian Music Festival website: <http://www.fcmf.org/>



Preparation for Culture Days 2011 in Saskatchewan underway

Culture Days, a collaborative Canadian volunteer movement to raise the awareness, accessibility, participation, and engagement of all Canadians in the arts and cultural life of their communities, is being held from September 26 through October 2, 2011. The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA) has committed to taking part in these celebrations and would invite our District Festivals to use this opportunity to raise the awareness and increase participation of Music Festivals in their communities. Promotional items are available from the SMFA Provincial Office. Please let us know if your District Festival will be taking part and how many promo items you would require.



Ideas to consider - choose a public place (Credit Union, Bank, Library, Museum, or School) to pass out promotional items. Organize a concert of Festival performers or partner with another community event, or fundraiser where a promotion table could be set up to distribute your Festival dates, information for 2012 or even sell Travel Lottery tickets. We welcome other ideas that would best promote the Music Festival in your community!

Please share your event planning with the Provincial Office. We look forward to your participation!





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Festival Regulation Changes

Entry Requirements

All District Festivals are open to anyone who meets eligibility requirements. District Festivals **may restrict their scholarships**, but **may not deny entry** to an eligible competitor. All Scholarship/Award regulations must be published on the Festival's Directory Page.

Competition Regulations: Selections and Performance

In **Folk Song Classes 1140-1147** a different arrangement may be used. The arranger **MUST** be noted on the entry form.

Accompaniment: Use of a digital piano is acceptable using the piano setting and transpose feature, if required. Professionally recorded accompaniment track may be allowed for School Music classes only.

Recordings: Only SMFA sanctioned photography or recording is allowed.

Music in the Public Domain should be researched by your local music store to ensure it is the Public Domain before any selection is used for festival purposes. Publications that are out of print or in the Public Domain may not be photocopied until you have cleared it with the rightful owner.

District Scholarship Regulations

In order to qualify for a district scholarship or award, each individual named on the entry form must have entered and competed in at least two solo classes in the same discipline when it is evident that there is provision of suitable classes from which to choose. Instrumentalists must have competed in two solo classes on the same instrument, **with the exception of percussion, where performers play more than one percussion instrument.**

Provincial Scholarship Regulations

In order to be eligible for recommendation to Provincial Finals, each individual named on the entry form must have entered and competed in at least two solo classes in the same discipline. Instrumentalists must have competed in two solo classes on the same instrument, **with the exception of percussion, where performers play more than one percussion instrument.** This rule does not apply to the pianist in the lieder classes.

New!

Festivals with over 1,000 entries will be allowed to send two representatives (District Winners) for competition in Provincial Finals Senior Classes. This will be done on a two year trial basis and reviewed after two years.



Not ANOTHER Fundraiser!

Submitted by Anita Kuntz

Raising four children who were active in extra-curricular activities, fundraisers became a household name for us. Whether it was selling chocolate-covered almonds, magazine subscriptions, cookie dough, or even homemade pizzas – there was always some organization in need of operational funds. It got to the point where we would find out the profit margin of the items and donate the money to that organization which meant we didn't have to head out to our neighbourhood week after week to 'sell' things.

So when the idea of a 'fundraiser' came up for the SMFA, my immediate reaction was negative. That changed in a hurry when the 'Travel Lottery' was brought forward and it was proposed that **50% of each ticket sold by the district festivals would go back to that festival!** Not only was this a fundraiser for the SMFA – but it was a way for our local festival to increase revenue and we didn't have to do the work to set it up! The more you sell the bigger the gain.

If each festival sold their allotted 3 books of 10 tickets the SMFA would break even AND each local festival would gain \$150.00! If each festival unit sold at least **one more book of tickets**, that would be an additional \$50.00 for the local festival AND the SMFA would raise approximately \$2450.00! (49 districts x \$50.00). This is truly a unique fundraiser that has a double benefit!

The reality of the situation is in order to operate we need funds at the local level and at the provincial level. The other reality is, entries have decreased in the past few years – and we basically continue with the same expenses. As the SMFA board, we look at every possible way to avoid a dramatic increase in your affiliate dues which are used to cover these expenses.

We have just reached the 'break even' point in the travel lottery which means the local levels have gained some funds! Any tickets that you sell from now until the deadline will start to benefit the provincial level as well.

Please consider a 'ticket selling' blitz at your local level before the November deadline. (If you do not have any more tickets to sell - the SMFA would love to send you some more!)...this is not just another fundraiser – this is a win-win situation!





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2011 Saskatchewan Music Conference

“More Than Music”

November 3-5, 2011 - Regina Travelodge



Photos courtesy of www.dreamstime.com, Microsoft Office and the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association.



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Classical Competition Presents



Saskatchewan Orchestral Association

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For conference and registration updates, visit

www.saskmusic.ca



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2011 Fall Conference & AGM - "More than Music"

The Saskatchewan Music Conference (SMC) is a collaboration of five provincial music organizations: the Saskatchewan Band Association (SBA), the 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.

NOTICE OF AGM
Saturday, November 5, 2011
11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Cambridge Room
Travelodge Hotel, Regina

Plan to attend November 3-5 for a weekend of networking, informative sessions, and keynote speakers. As a member of your district festival committee you would register as a member of SMFA. **The number of rooms at conference prices is limited, so book early!**

SMFA Volunteer Recognition Award Recipients will be recognized at the Friday evening awards banquet.

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



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 two three-year positions open.

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 (www.smfa.ca - click on "Admin" to find it in the list).

Please send the nominations to:

Theresa Brost
P.O. Box 451
Macklin, SK S0L 2C0
Phone: (306) 753-2893
E-mail: tebrost@xplornet.com



Volunteer Recognition Award

The Volunteer Recognition Awards will be presented at the Awards Banquet of the Saskatchewan Music Conference (SMC), Friday, November 4, 2011, at the Regina Travelodge.

While SMFA recognizes the importance of all volunteers, this award is intended for those who have made a significant contribution to your organization.

- ✓ A maximum of **two** Volunteer Recognition Awards may be presented per Festival Unit per Fall Conference.
- ✓ Each Volunteer Award recipient should be present at the Award Banquet.
- ✓ It is the responsibility of the local Festival Unit to pay any expenses incurred by your volunteer(s), including travel, accommodation, and the cost of the banquet.
- ✓ Return this form & your volunteer nominee's biography to the Provincial Office by **September 30**. Late nominations will be considered for the following year.





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National Music Festival 2011

Submitted by Karen MacCallum

Antigonish, Nova Scotia – land of trees, rolling hills, rocks, rivers, and ocean. St. Francis Xavier University (say St. FX or people will know that you are from “away”) – vine-covered historical buildings serving a vibrant and enthusiastic community. What a beautiful setting for the National Music Festival!

On Sunday, August 7, gathering at the Keating Centre, Delegates and Executive of the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals started the week with the Fort McMurray Host Night and their invitation for next year’s competition. A lively Dutch auction was enjoyed by all and the monies raised went towards scholarships.

After a full day of meetings on Monday, a Welcome Reception at the Coady International Institute, organized by the Nova Scotia Host committee, was much appreciated. The entertainment was provided by a local lobster fisherman whose other pastime is singing. He and his accompanist on guitar performed great Nova Scotian tunes. Antigonish Mayor Chisholm and Peter MacKay, MP, brought greetings.

The competitors, 66 in total, had mostly arrived by Tuesday evening except for some Saskatchewan people whose flight was delayed in Toronto! Everyone showed up in their Nova Scotia Blue Golf shirts for the Competitor Briefing and Introductions. Theresa Brost, Saskatchewan’s Provincial Designate, proudly introduced Gerard Weber, Woodwinds; Danika Lorèn, Voice; Meagan Milatz, Piano; and Lisa Pattison, Percussion. Accompanists were Cherith Alexander, Mark Turner, and Ryan Goetz. The special guest speaker for the evening was Dinuk Wijeratne, conductor of the Nova Scotia Youth Orchestra and a renowned composer and pianist. He shared his musical journey and life philosophy which started in South Africa and brought him to North America. To end the evening, pizza was served in the Competitors’ Lounge – what better way to greet old friends and meet new ones.

Wednesday was a busy day for competitors and designates going to Official rehearsals in the various venues, especially for the percussionists and all their equipment! The evening concluded with the Federation Dinner and special presentations and acknowledgements.

Thursday and Friday competitions took place in four venues with a total of 51 performances. So much talent displayed in such a short time – you just wished that you could hear all of them! Friday night, time to relax, and a short bus ride delivered everyone to Crystal Cliffs where hamburgers, hot-dogs, and mountains of steamed mussels were enjoyed, then a walk to the beach to find interesting stones and shells and maybe venture to wade in the water lapping at the shore. Gathering around the bonfire and watching the reflection of the moon on the water – what a beautiful evening!

At the workshops on Saturday morning, the competitors and adjudicators had the opportunity to discuss the performances. New insights were acquired, even a basic such as how to do a bow properly! Everyone gathered at the Bloomfield Centre to hear the announcements of the First Place winners with much anticipation. The stunning auditorium at the Schwartz School of Business was the site of the Grand Award Competition. The people of Antigonish were great supporters and there was standing room only as the program commenced. Exquisite performances and standing ovations – what a wonderful way to end a hectic week. Everyone walked out into a calm, warm summer evening – some to bask in the glow of the evening and others to wait for the bus to Halifax and the flight home.



PLEASE NOTE

Please use the current forms that are found on our website under “Admin” at www.smfa.ca

District Festivals are required to submit their Addendum along with their printed program.



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SMFA Concerto Competition

The 29th Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA) Concerto Competition will be held in Saskatoon November 19-20, 2011 at the University of Saskatchewan. The first place winner receives a \$2,000 scholarship and has the opportunity to appear as a guest artist with the RSO and the SSO. Second-place and third-place scholarships of \$750 and \$500 respectively are also awarded.

The competition is open to non-professional musicians, between 14 and 30 years of age who live or study in the Province of Saskatchewan (OR if studying outside of the province have competed in a Saskatchewan Music Festival within the preceding five years) and have previously competed in the National class or a senior class in the same discipline of a district festival. For more information and the entry form, go to:

http://www.smfa.ca/Festivals/Competitions/Concerto_Competition/Concerto_Competition_Entry_3.pdf



SMFA Gordon Wallis Memorial Opera Competition

February 25-26, 2012

New Date!

The late Gordon C. Wallis, former Assistant Director of the University of Regina Conservatory of Music and Dance, 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, to encourage and assist young Saskatchewan singers in furthering their vocal studies in opera. The competition is open to non-professional vocalists between the ages of 20 and 35, as of December 31, 2011. 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 judges may award a First Place Prize of \$5,000. The monies will be payable to a recognized opera program or university/college opera program for further study by the competition winner.



The next competition will be held **February 25-26, 2012 in 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:

http://www.smfa.ca/Festivals/Competitions/Opera_Competition/Opera_Entry_Form.pdf



SMFA Travel Lottery

Sask. Lottery Licence #RR10-0081

The Travel Lottery is open to Saskatchewan residents, age 19 or older. Tickets are \$10.00 each and are available from the Provincial Office. 50% of what your district committee sells is returned to your festival.

Congratulations to **Denise Halliwell** of Gravelbourg, the winner of the early bird draw for the iPod Nano! The draws for the trip for four to Disneyland and the Moose Jaw Spa Weekend for two will take place at the SMFA AGM, November 5, in Regina.



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Twelve Benefits of Music Education

Music Education Advocacy Resources

1. Early musical training helps develop brain areas involved in language and reasoning. It is thought that brain development continues for many years after birth. Recent studies have clearly indicated that musical training physically develops the part of the left side of the brain known to be involved with processing language, and can actually wire the brain's circuits in specific ways. Linking familiar songs to new information can also help imprint information on young minds.
2. There is also a causal link between music and spatial intelligence (the ability to perceive the world accurately and to form mental pictures of things). This kind of intelligence, by which one can visualize various elements that should go together, is critical to the sort of thinking necessary for everything from solving advanced mathematics problems to being able to pack a book-bag with everything that will be needed for the day.
3. Students of the arts learn to think creatively and to solve problems by imagining various solutions, rejecting outdated rules and assumptions. Questions about the arts do not have only one right answer.
4. Recent studies show that students who study the arts are more successful on standardized tests such as the SAT. They also achieve higher grades in high school.
5. A study of the arts provides children with an internal glimpse of other cultures and teaches them to be empathetic towards the people of these cultures. This development of compassion and empathy, as opposed to development of greed and a "me first" attitude, provides a bridge across cultural chasms that leads to respect of other races at an early age.
6. Students of music learn craftsmanship as they study how details are put together painstakingly and what constitutes good, as opposed to mediocre, work. These standards, when applied to a student's own work, demand a new level of excellence and require students to stretch their inner resources.
7. In music, a mistake is a mistake; the instrument is in tune or not, the notes are well played or not, the entrance is made or not. It is only by much hard work that a successful performance is possible. Through music study, students learn the value of sustained effort to achieve excellence and the concrete rewards of hard work.
8. Music study enhances teamwork skills and discipline. In order for an orchestra to sound good, all players must work together harmoniously towards a single goal, the performance, and must commit to learning music, attending rehearsals, and practicing.
9. Music provides children with a means of self-expression. Now that there is relative security in the basics of existence, the challenge is to make life meaningful and to reach for a higher stage of development. Everyone needs to be in touch at some time in his life with his core, with what he is and what he feels. Self-esteem is a by-product of this self-expression.
10. Music study develops skills that are necessary in the workplace. It focuses on "doing," as opposed to observing, and teaches students how to perform, literally, anywhere in the world. Employers are looking for multi-dimensional workers with the sort of flexible and supple intellects that music education helps to create as described above. In the music classroom, students can also learn to better communicate and cooperate with one another.
11. Music performance teaches young people to conquer fear and to take risks. A little anxiety is a good thing, and something that will occur often in life. Dealing with it early and often makes it less of a problem later. Risk-taking is essential if a child is to fully develop his or her potential.
12. An arts education exposes children to the incomparable.

Carolyn Phillips is the author of the Twelve Benefits of Music Education. She is the Former Executive Director of the Norwalk Youth Symphony, CT.

"Music is exciting. It is thrilling to be sitting in a group of musicians playing (more or less) the same piece of music. You are part of a great, powerful, vibrant entity. And nothing beats the feeling you get when you've practiced a difficult section over and over and finally get it right. (Yes, even on the wood block.) Music is important. It says things your heart can't say any other way, and in a language everyone speaks."

Dan Rather, CBS News





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History of Lotteries Trust Fund

The origins of Saskatchewan's lottery system date back to the late 1960s when community groups struggled to provide ad-hoc programming on limited budgets.

By 1986, the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund was allocating more than \$4 million to 125 beneficiaries. Today, approximately \$25 million is directly distributed to over 1,200 organizations and through them, more than 12,000 affiliated volunteer sport, culture, recreation, and community groups receive funding support. All recipients are non-profit organizations and they include provincial sport, culture and recreation groups, clubs, teams, chapters, local art councils, tribal councils, Indian bands, zone sport councils, regional recreation associations, and multi-purpose groups.



Programs initiated by these volunteer organizations are part of the solution in overcoming the province's important social issues. Lottery-funded programs encourage healthier and more physically active lifestyles. These programs assist underrepresented populations to become more involved in community activities and help remove the barriers to participation for people with disabilities, youth, seniors, and the economically disadvantaged. The work of volunteer groups has a significant impact on the provincial economy. It is estimated that every year in Saskatchewan, sport, culture and recreation activities generate over \$1.4 billion worth of economic activity and sustains 13,000 jobs.

The existence of Saskatchewan Lotteries has fostered the growth and development of an unequalled core of volunteers, who generously donate their time to make life better for Saskatchewan people. By empowering the volunteer community, Saskatchewan has nurtured one of the most cost-effective program development and delivery systems in North America.

What does the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association do for each District Festival?

- ✓ Promotes SMFA as an important cultural movement in the province of Saskatchewan
- ✓ Prepares budgets, supporting documents, and interviews with The Saskatchewan Arts Board to obtain Association Funding as a Provincial Cultural Organization
- ✓ Provides accountability for the expenditure of funds as provided through Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation, SaskCulture, and The Saskatchewan Arts Board
- ✓ Provides support to each District Festival as they provide relevant programming in their communities
- ✓ Provides award certificates to district festivals at no charge
- ✓ Orders, stocks, and provides SMFA stationery and promotional items at cost
- ✓ Designs and updates the SMFA website that members are encouraged to use to its full potential
- ✓ Provides Public Relations and promotion of music festivals in the form of advertisements, press releases, annual reports, brochures, and signage
- ✓ Prepares "Festival Focus" Newsletter with up-to-date information and distributes to member festivals
- ✓ Compiles, designs, and distributes its Annual Report which includes Audited Financial Statements and District Festivals' yearly reports
- ✓ Hires adjudicators according to each Festival's needs
- ✓ Provides member funding when requested and approved by SMFA Finance Committee
- ✓ Liaises with adjudicators on members' behalf
- ✓ President and Executive Director act as arbitrators for Festival units in conflict
- ✓ Provides opportunity for young people in our province to progress from District to Provincial and District to National levels of competition
- ✓ Continues to be a leader in the Canadian Music Festival movement with our unique Programming
- ✓ Provides representation of SMFA Association members' behalf at Canadian Music Festival AGM and Conference
- ✓ Actively seeks other sources of funding through corporate sponsorship and grants
- ✓ Provides event liability insurance at no cost (new in 2011)

SMFA Organizes and Operates the following Programs for the Province

- ✓ Provincial Finals and Provincial Level of National Music Festival Competitions
- ✓ Concerto Competition
- ✓ Opera Competition as provided by the Gordon Wallis Memorial Trust Fund
- ✓ Commission of works
- ✓ Oversees the production and distribution of the three-year Syllabus and the Annual Directory
- ✓ Annual General Meeting and Fall Conference
- ✓ Hosting the National Music Festival Competition as part of a province rotation in Canada
- ✓ Member Assistance
- ✓ Festival District Promotional Workshops
- ✓ Special Projects (Fundraising)





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Swift Current & District Music Festival – Success in Speech Arts

Submitted on behalf of Swift Current & District Music Festival.

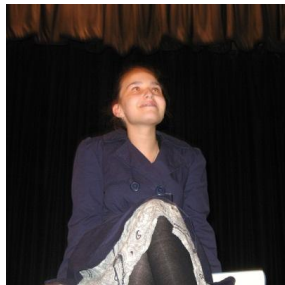
Tami Wall

“The thing people fear the most is public speaking”. Historically public speaking was a life skill that was valued. Today it is a key leadership skill. The Education system has placed less emphasis on this part of the English Language arts program (with the exception of French Immersion). Language arts curriculum for verbal speech arts is met in the form of reading book reports or journal entries and some poetry out loud in class. This is a start, but the arts part of the speech is usually missing. It is very difficult to add expression in all its forms if you are reading from cue cards and have had no instruction as a group or individually.

Despite this fact, Swift Current has maintained a tradition of Choral Speech in two of our elementary schools. Each classroom memorizes two books, verses or poems. There is always vocal dynamics, as well as some physical movement and facial expression. **It is fun to perform and fun to watch!**

The selections chosen are usually comical in nature, like Shel Silverstein or Jack Prelutsky.

This would not be possible if not for two very special ladies with support from their principals at E'cole Oman Elementary School (K-5) and Central Elementary School (K-5). Every year they enter Speech Arts in Music Festival in the form of solos or large groups which perform Choral Speech.



This year we are happy to announce a new rural teacher who entered Wymark School (K-8). We also had two home-school teachers enter their children as well. In the past, we have had a few older students from Maple Creek come to compete and to gain provincial recommendations. We also have our very own speech arts composer, from Wymark area, who is entering Grade 11 this year.

Currently we have found that teachers who enter classrooms in Music Festival in Swift Current are usually entering classrooms in choir, music games, and/or band instruments as well. They usually have some musical background or are music specialist teachers who have participated in Music Festivals or Drama as a student and are not afraid and can see the benefits of increased self-esteem in the children.

In 2010, we had 5 solo speech art entries and 15 group choral speech arts = 20 entries

In 2011, we had 14 solo speech art entries and 18 group choral speech arts = 32 entries

Ideas to Increase Speech Arts Entries

In the middle and high school years speech arts takes the form of Drama, mostly. English teachers like to submit student poetry to be published or into competitions, but do not enter them in our festival. For instance, in Swift Current this year a high school student won the Young Writers of Canada Poetry Contest 2010-2011 for 13-18 year olds. Last year 3 or 4 poets Grade 9-12 from Swift Current were published in a Saskatchewan Young Writers Literary publication.

IDEA 1: A showcase of these great compositions, told to an audience, perhaps combined with a High School talent show or School music concert, or the District High School Art Show would be something you heard of in the 1930's. I think of this as an avenue of opportunity for speech arts.

In order to have success with Speech Arts as part of music festival, you need to have teachers dedicated to making this happen in their public, catholic or home-based schools.



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IDEA 2: In addition, we need to add Adult clubs or Society liaisons to the Music Festival Executive or our contact e-mail list or as sponsors of scholarships, etc.

We have noticed that sports, choral and math competition noon hour groups are already part of the school system.

IDEA 3: I like the ideas from the May 2011 *Festival Focus*, Teachers starting a noon hour "Speak Out" Poetry Club or Creative Writing Club or a Music Festival Club to increase entries into this area. Some of the Chinook School Division home-school moms are planning on getting together once a month for a speech arts session with all the children. I expect we may have a few more entries next year from them.



About 5 years ago, we brought in a speech arts facilitator and had 10-12 teachers attend. They went away with some practical tips, some in-class practice and also some tried and true resources as well as a list of where to find more.

IDEA 4: We need to have another speech arts facilitator, and invite home-school teachers and vocal coaches, choir directors, and drama teachers, as well as the language arts public and catholic school teachers. I would also invite the Author's Society in Swift Current that holds Literary Café at the Lyric Theatre from time to time, as well as the Swift Current Little Theatre players.

This past year we conducted an introduction to speech arts and using music festival as a play to perform and grow, at a teacher In-service day.

IDEA 5: It would be a good idea to record the speech arts from both our special ladies, and make a DVD to show other schools what speech arts is and how much fun it can be for both the kids and the audience. This could also be a province wide DVD if other festivals sent in video clips too to show different techniques!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 26-October 2, 2011

Culture Days (various centres)

November 3-5, 2011

Saskatchewan Music Conference – Regina

November 19-20, 2011

Concerto Competition – Saskatoon

February 25-26, 2012

Wallis Memorial Opera Competition – Saskatoon

March-May, 2012

SMFA District Festivals (49 Locations)

June 1-3, 2012

Provincial Finals – Saskatoon

August, 2012

National Music Festival – Fort MacMurray, AB



Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



Established in 1908

September 2011

From the Provincial Office

Carol Donhauser, Executive Director



I would like to begin my message this September by discussing the importance of reporting. Now that you have completed the 2011 festival season and are looking forward to the 2012 festival season there are certain follow-up reports that we require at the Provincial Office. These follow-up reports include: People Statistics Form, Money Form and a District Festival Annual Report which is a summary report of your festival for the SMFA Annual Report. The summary report is nice to have and print in the SMFA Annual Report as it is all contained in one document.



Reporting, Reporting, Reporting...it may seem like Sandra and I are constantly asking for your reports but there are reasons why we need them and why they are important to you and to the provincial office. We all know that reporting is boring and I won't go into the details as to why we need each report but the general reasons are as follows: Accountability, Program Monitoring in order to evaluate and improve, Sharing Lessons learned with others, and Maintaining One Central Archive in order to preserve our history.

Please check the website under "administration" and follow the Festival Forms & Guide. This page contains the most current up-to-date forms as well as the date that we would like them returned to our office. It is important that you use the current forms that are available on this page as these forms have changed over the years (e.g. SMFA Provincial office's mailing address is Apt. #14 not Apt. #2...we moved almost a year ago). If you have any questions or problems accessing the forms on the website, please contact either Sandra or I and we will be happy to help you download them.

We hope that you make a sincere effort to attend the Sask Music Conference in Regina. The networking opportunity you will receive is invaluable and we do enjoy putting faces to the names.

See you in Regina!



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