

SMFA Provincial Office



September 2012

Established in 1908

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President's Message

Joy McFarlane-Burton



"Seasons come & seasons go; all signaling change." There are a lot of CHANGES this season at the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association. The most notable CHANGE is the retirement of Doris Covey Lazecki. For the past 30 years Doris has hired the Adjudicators for each District and Provincial Festival, as well as for the Concerto Competition, and the Wallis Opera Competition. On behalf of the Board and Staff I thank Doris for her years of guidance, professionalism, and dedication to the SMFA. We wish you a happy and fulfilling retirement!

The 2013-2015 SMFA Syllabus is published and on its way to the District Festivals and Music Stores. I extend my thanks and appreciation to Syllabus Chairperson Theresa Brost for her leadership on this very important project. Please read the Syllabus carefully as it contains many *CHANGES* – a new, streamlined look and additional classes.

The SMFA is pleased to have been involved in the Dream Brokers program offered in both Saskatoon and Regina in July. This is a joint project of the Saskatchewan Music

Alliance (SMA). The SMFA enjoyed collaborating with other SMA member organizations – Sask. Choral Federation, Sask. Music Educators Assoc., and Sask. Orchestra Assoc. Please read more about Dream Brokers on Page 5.

I was very pleased to be a delegate to the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals AGM in Fort McMurray, Alberta in August. The AGM preceded the National Music Festival. Our Saskatchewan musicians Three Directions, Whitney Mather, Laura Hillis, Gerard Weber, Aaron Bueckert, along with Collaborative Artist Bonnie Nicholson gave wonderful performances at the competition. Choral entries were Juventus Concert Choir, Diana Woolrich Conductor, and Campbell Collegiate Chamber Choir, Deidre & Russ Baird, Conductors. Congratulations to all our fine young musicians. Gerard Weber was awarded First Place in Woodwinds, Aaron Bueckert was awarded Third Place in Brass, Three Directions (Arthur Boan, Emily McBean, Yuli Chen) received Honourable Mention for Chamber Group, and Campbell Collegiate Chamber Choir received Second Place in Choral Class 103 (Paul J. Bourret). Further information on the National Music Festival is on Page 3.

The SMFA Board of Directors will hold a Strategic Planning session in conjunction with our next Board meeting. We are very excited about the future of the SMFA, and welcome the positive *CHANGES* that will happen as we continue through our second century.

Culture Days are being celebrated September 28-30. The SMFA has something special planned for this year. Please read Page 6 to find out more about this *CHANGE*.

The Saskatchewan Music Conference is being held at the Saskatoon Inn November 1-3. The theme is "*Get a Grip*". Please check Page 10 for the Conference Schedule. Details are also available on our website. I would encourage each of our 48 District Festivals to send at least one delegate to the SMFA AGM. There are many *CHANGES* to discover, and informative sessions that will help each District Festival handle these *CHANGES* with success. If there is someone from your District

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Festival that you would like to nominate for the Board of Directors, please send in a nomination form to the Office. We will have two positions open for election. Thanks to Theresa Brost, Past President, and Darren Schwartz who will complete their terms. We will miss your many contributions to the SMFA Board.

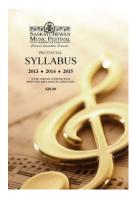
My presidency will conclude in November. It has been a privilege to serve this fine organization. I have enjoyed working with the Staff and Board Members over the years, and have appreciated the various gifts that they have brought to the SMFA. Many thanks to the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation, SaskCulture, and the Saskatchewan Arts Board for their support of our many programs.

The SMFA is proud to promote excellence in music and speech arts by providing performance and educational opportunities through competitive music festivals. During our long History (established in 1908) we have seen many *CHANGES*. We look forward to accepting our future challenges, and embracing the positive *CHANGES* that we envision for our future.

CHANGE is about endings and beginnings. Here's to our CHANGING musical landscape! Enjoy!



The new syllabus is here!!



SMFA is pleased to announce that the print version of the 2013-2015 Provincial Syllabus is hot off the press and has been sent to district festivals. Copies are available for purchase from Cobb Swanson Music in Regina and Darren's Music Place and Long & McQuade in Saskatoon at a cost of \$20 per copy. Print copies can also be obtained by contacting the SMFA Provincial Office. On-line copies will be available at a later date, for purchase at a reduced price.

From the attractive new cover design, to the streamlining of classes with deletion of repetitive text, we hope that you will find this volume to be user-friendly. Entry fees are no longer stated next to each class, rather, the maximum entry fees are found on Page 5. Please note that actual entry fees are determined by each district festival and are published in the SMFA Annual Directory and/or SMFA website (www.smfa.ca).

Several new classes have been added in Choral, Vocal, Piano and Speech Arts Disciplines. Also new to this publication are the "Saskatchewan Composers List" and "Saskatchewan Poet List" found on Page 7.

Now that test pieces are allowed in own choice classes, the test piece listings at the end of each discipline have been removed.

Countless hours were invested in the production of this publication. Thanks to Theresa Brost, Editor & Syllabus Chair, and her committee: Joy McFarlane-Burton, Karen MacCallum, Nancy Toppings, and Karen Unger, as well as Gloria Nickell for her wealth of experience and advice. A huge vote of thanks goes to Carol Donhauser, Executive Director for reformatting and fine detailing, and to John Donhauser for assistance with typesetting. Darren Schwartz of Darren's Music Place and Dianne Swanson of Cobb Swanson Music researched publication availability, and over 40 professionals were involved in the music selection process; they are acknowledged on Page 6 of the syllabus.





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National Music Festival 2012

Submitted by Nancy Toppings



Keyano College in Fort McMurray, Alberta was the setting for the 2012 National Music Festival, hosted by the Oilsands Rotary Music Festival and the Alberta Music Festival Association. Community spirit is alive and well in this northern-most location of the festival's history! Throughout the week, Norma Jean Atkinson and her army of volunteers were on hand to ensure the smooth running of this prestigious competition, and their hospitality was second to none.

Delegates and Executive of the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals arrived on Sunday, August 12 and were warmly greeted at the Welcome Reception, where delegates had the opportunity to renew old friendships, make new acquaintances and discuss the week ahead.

A full day of meetings on Monday was followed by the Federation Dinner at the Sawridge Inn & Conference Centre. As delegates entered the banquet room, CD recordings by choirs entered in the National Choral Competitions set the tone for a lovely evening. National Choral Awards were presented and proudly accepted by representatives from the respective provinces. Participating choirs from Saskatchewan were Juventus Concert Choir directed by Diana Woolrich, and Campbell Collegiate Chamber Choir, under the direction of Deidre & Russ Baird. Congratulations to Campbell Collegiate Chamber Choir on their 2nd-place finish in the Paul J. Bourret Competition! Dianne Johnstone, FCMF Past President and Fundraising Chair, was presented with an Honorary Life Membership for her outstanding dedication to FCMF. Entertainment was provided by two young musicians, participants in the local music festival.

While meetings continued on Tuesday, competitors arrived and the atmosphere at Keyano came to life as competitors found their way around campus, booked practice rooms, and settled in to new surroundings. T-shirts of various colours were distributed to competitors and delegates, and Team Saskatchewan proudly displayed their Rider green at the Competitor Briefing and Introductions. Nancy Toppings, Saskatchewan's Provincial Designate introduced "3 Directions" (Arthur Boan, Emily McBean & Yuli Chen), Chamber; Whitney Mather, Voice; Laura Hillis, Strings; Gerard Weber, Woodwinds; Aaron Bueckert, Brass; and accompanist Bonnie Nicholson. Following the briefing, competitors were organized in five teams and given a variety of instruments and a few minutes to prepare their choice of a Beatles tune. The audience rated the "performances" with their applause. Pizza was served and everyone called it a night, to rest up for the busy days ahead.

Official rehearsals were held on Wednesday in various venues on Keyano College Campus, giving competitors and their accompanists an opportunity to fine tune for the competition. The evening concluded with an Oktoberfest Host Night, sponsored by the 2013 Kitchener-Waterloo Host Committee. Thanks to Angela Vieth and her committee for an enjoyable evening! Proceeds from the "Dutch Auction" support the FCMF scholarship fund.

Thursday and Friday competitions took place in four venues, 40 performances in total and so much talent! A number of Saskatchewan parents attended and supported not only their own children, but the entire team. Friday night, everyone gathered in the college courtyard to unwind over a barbecue organized by our Fort McMurray hosts. Following the barbecue, competitors were grouped according to discipline for "A Minute to Win It". Volunteer Fay Durocher demonstrated the skills and the participants soon realized some tasks were not so easy to accomplish! Competitors became closer friends, and the singers emerged victorious. Many of the competitors took advantage of free passes to MacDonald Island Park, a huge recreation complex and pride of Fort McMurray, before the week was out.

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Saturday morning it was back to business, with master classes followed by the announcement of first-place winners. Gerard Weber, saxophone, earned first place in the Woodwind Competition and hurried off to his sound check in preparation for the Grand Award Competition in Keyano College Theatre.



Grand Award Competition, The attended by the Honourable Donald Ethell, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, was an impressive concert of exquisite music. Gerard did his province proud with his dramatic performance of "Elegy Cadenza" by Saskatchewan composer (and his teacher) Dr. Glen Gillis. Aaron Bueckert was awarded third place in the Brass Competition, and 3 Directions claimed an Honourable Mention in Chamber. Steven Cowan. guitar, from Newfoundland and Labrador was declared the Grand Award Winner. An interesting fact about Steven is that he is a self-

described "converted rock musician", who started studying classical guitar at age 18. Already a proficient rock musician on the electric guitar, Steven went on to earn degrees in classical guitar at Memorial University's School of Music and Manhattan School of Music in New York. Congratulation to Steven and to Newfoundland on their first Grand Award Winner!

Saskatchewan delegates would like to thank Norma Jean Atkinson, Host Committee Coordinator, who took time from her very busy schedule to introduce us to the oil sands area and some of the attractions in Fort McMurray. A HUGE thanks goes to Bonnie Nicholson, our superb official accompanist and personal coach to the competitors. Thanks also to Stephen Nicholson, who not only acted as an official photographer, but transported a cello, helped take care of wardrobe and generally provided support wherever needed. Thank you, Stephen!

Sunday morning came early, for some more than others, and everyone boarded the bus for the airport and headed home. We will meet again in August for the 2013 National Music Festival at Wilfrid Laurier University in Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario.

NOTICE OF SMFA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, November 3, **11:30 am-1:20 pm** - Saskatoon Inn Notice of Motion to change SMFA Provincial Association fiscal year-end from July 31 to August 31 effective 2012/2013 operating year



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Dream Brokers Summer Music Camp

SCF, SMEA, SMFA, and SOA in partnership with the Dream Brokers program successfully held two music camps, in Regina and Saskatoon. The goal of the camps was to provide the opportunity for Grade 4 to Grade 8 students, who otherwise may not have the opportunity, to experience music and its positive influence. Some comments from the campers were:

"I LOVE THIS CAMP to be honest. I learned a lot and I met new friends and learned to use instruments!!!! The counselors and the people who organize this camp are AWESOME!!!!!"



"I like everything in this camp. Playing instruments. Learning how to play them. Doing concerts."

Saskatchewan Music Alliance Update

Progress continues on the development of the Saskatchewan Music Alliance. A partnership between five Saskatchewan music organizations (Band, Choral, Music Educators, Music Festivals, and Orchestra), the Alliance will provide a collaborative venue to preserve, promote, and develop musical activity in the province. During 2011-2012, the Transition Team comprised of the president/vice-president and executive director of each music PCO worked with Pat Rediger of Benchmark Public Relations and Erin Campbell-Howell of ECHI Consulting, to develop the vision, mission and values for the new organization. The boards of directors of the PCOs met in January and again in May to provide feedback and sign-off on development of these core components. The executive directors have now been asked to develop a plan/timeline to incorporate the Alliance and create a strategy for musical advocacy in Saskatchewan. This work is to be completed by the end of June 2013.

Additional details will be available at the Saskatchewan Music Conference at the Saskatoon Inn from November 1-3, 2012.

Call for Musicians!

If you are a small group who can perform on a stage with minimal requirement for equipment and set-up, then you are invited to submit a proposal to perform at the Saskatchewan Music Conference - you perform and we'll enjoy! Scheduled breaks are:

- Friday, Nov. 1 10:30 10:50 am and 2:30 2:50 pm
- Saturday, Nov. 2 10:00 10:20 am

Please send us an <u>e-mail</u> by September 14 outlining the:

- Number of people in your group
- Type of performance
- Time you would prefer to perform

The Conference Committee will review proposals on September 23 and contact applicants shortly afterwards. Sorry, there are currently no honorariums or expenses available, but we'll buy you coffee and applaud loudly!



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Culture Days September 28-30, 2012

"Celebrating Arts + Culture From Coast to Coast"

Culture Days is a collaborative pan-Canadian volunteer movement to raise the **awareness**, **accessibility**, **participation** and **engagement** of all Canadians in the arts and cultural life of their communities. A national Steering Committee, together with provincial committees (known as Provincial



Task Forces) self-mobilize at the grassroots level to implement concurrent, annual, province-wide public participation events that take place throughout the country over the last weekend of September. The first annual Culture Days event was held in September 2010 in over 700 Canadian cities and towns and, by all accounts, was a great success. **The 2012 Culture Days weekend will take place September 28, 29 & 30, 2012.** Annual, Canada-wide Culture Days events feature free, hands-on, interactive activities that invite the public to participate "behind the scenes," to discover the world of artists, creators, historians, architects, curators, and designers at work in their community. (www.culturedays.ca)

Visit <u>www.culturedays.ca</u> to learn more about how your Music Festival and your community can participate in this nation-wide celebration of arts and culture. Get involved in 2012!





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Adjudicator Anecdotes (Part II)

Compiled by Nancy Toppings, End Vice President

In the June issue, we published the first installment of Adjudicator Anecdotes. Thanks to Dennis Weist and Mel Hurst for making the second installment possible!

Mel Hurst shares these stories from his career as an adjudicator in Saskatchewan.

Gordon Hancock invited me to adjudicate from three to five festivals around the province each year. Here is one of my favourite stories now, but not funny at the time!

The day before I was to go to a small festival some distance from Regina I came down with the flu. Since it was too difficult to find a replacement on such short notice, I decided to make the best of it, take the bus instead of driving, and go to bed as soon as I arrived.

A member of the local committee met the bus, which stopped at the hotel, and graciously invited me to their home for tea. I explained that I was sick and really preferred to go inside and get some sleep for my days ahead. They insisted that I come for tea, that they had some very old volume of music they wanted me to see! Reluctantly, I agreed. As soon as I got into a very dirty car with an old battery on the floor of the passenger seat, I knew I should have firmly declined the offer! Keeping my long coat away from the acid that was corroding the battery was my immediate preoccupation! The living-room was filled with five large husky dogs! They were nervous about my presence (and I about them) and were continually prowling about. Meanwhile, my head ached, my back ached, I felt horrible. As I was sitting on the sofa, trying to make conversation, I felt a nibbling on the back my neck. Trying to be very casual about the sensation, I put my hand behind my head to determine the cause. To my shock it was something 'hairy'...I nearly jumped. When I looked.....it was "Zeke", their pet raccoon! It had crawled along the top of the sofa to investigate the visitor!

The rest of the evening is a complete blur, but the Festival went just fine!

It was great fun being at the Sand Hills Festival held in Leader. There was a wonderful spirit at the Festival, and I remember excellent entries in the Speech Arts. On a 'free' morning, a couple took me for a drive to look around the area. We picked up Sister Philomena at the convent in Prelate and drove south. Since she was a native of the area she was our professional guide!

Since I grew up on the east side of the province where we have lots of trees, it was a new experience being on the west side of the province where there were no trees! Throughout the Festival we had this running "joke" that Sister and I were going into business together! We would sell trees to the farmers - I would sell and she would keep the books! Her sense of integrity would make her ideal for the accounting, and my comfort in speaking would generate the sales! The audience enjoyed this and it was part of the joy in community that we all shared.

At the end of the Festival I was invited to have dinner at the convent, where I met Sister Gertrude, who was responsible for the entries in Speech Arts, and was given a tour of the convent by Sister Charlotte.

There have been so many outstanding sessions that I have had the privilege of being a part. I remember an evening session at Humboldt where the standard of all the entries was very high. The evening started with the Farewell/Goodnight scene from the "Sound of Music". It was brilliant....so natural, so artistic, wonderful voices, excellent characterization....Maria, Captain von Trapp, the children, everyone perfect for the role. I have seen this musical performed in London, England, and New York, but this was the best! They captured it in a very real way!

The whole evening was first-rate. It was a real pleasure to be there.

Although I now live in Toronto, and do extensive adjudicating there, I love returning to my home province to adjudicate.

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Fast Trip to Meadow Lake

A few years ago I was invited to adjudicate at Meadow Lake, SK - a town about 2 hours north of North Battleford. For the geographically challenged this is a 553 km distance from Regina; according to Google Maps. I was to adjudicate from Monday morning to Wednesday afternoon. A few weeks before the festival, I was notified that the number of entries required only two days of my time. I appreciated the change as I would not have to travel on Sunday and could enjoy a nice relaxing drive to Meadow Lake on Monday. I enjoyed a relaxing Sunday - including a nice meal of Chinese food with my cousin Margaret. Arriving home from dinner at 8 PM I decided to take a last look at the Festival programme I had been sent a couple of weeks earlier. To my disbelief I discovered that the change of dates had eliminated Wednesday from my assignment, not Monday. After two more looks at the programme I finally accepted it as my mistake.

I knew that people would be expecting me at the adjudicator's desk at 9 the next morning. I also knew that finding replacement adjudicators was very difficult, particularly near a remote town like Meadow Lake. I made a quick call to the festival secretary in Meadow Lake and set up a meeting at 8 AM the next morning.

I tossed my luggage in the car and was on the road by 8:30 PM. I drove straight through to Meadow Lake without a stop except for a couple of agonizing waits at traffic lights going through Saskatoon. I arrived at Meadow Lake around 2:15 AM without incident (thanks to a half dozen startled but alert deer that were split by my headlights just north of North Battleford).

I dropped into bed at 2:45 AM and got about 4 hours of restless sleep before the alarm woke me.

When I met with the festival secretary at 8 in the restaurant, I made only one request – a steady flow of black coffee to my table right through the day's competition.

Dennis Weist







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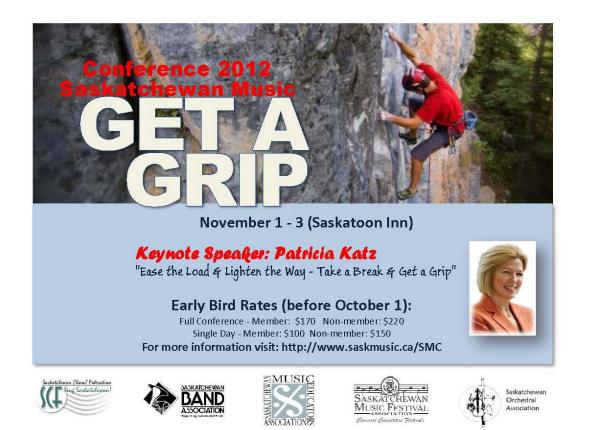
"FOCUS" Highlights of SMC

F Festivals (like-size) will have the opportunity to discuss issues

Final Concert: Saskatchewan students who are involved in workshops over the weekend will perform

- O Online Entries David Melax and Darren Schwartz will give a presentation on online entries and payments
- **C** Committees festival volunteers who work in similar positions will have an opportunity for discussion.
- **U** "U" ask us questions Joy McFarlane-Burton and Robyn Rutherford will present a general question and answer session.
- S Syllabus Theresa Brost will present the new 2013 2015 Syllabus







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Saskatchewan Music Conference "Schedule at a Glance"

Friday, Nov. 2	7:00-8:10 am Registration
8:10-8:25 am	Welcome Address
8:30-9:30 am	1. "Inspired Teaching: Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Blue!" – Peter Boonshaft
	2. Jazz Articulation – Cameron Church
	3. The Magic of Music & Story in the Kindergarten Classroom (8:30-10:00) Debra Giebehaus-Maloney
	4. Junior Reading Session – Elroy Friesen
	5. Music Advocacy – Stop Preaching to the Choir, It's Time to Address the Audience! – Adrian Bourgeois
	6. Wellness & Health
9:30-10:30 am	1. Percussion Pedagogy – Darrell Bueckert
	2. Big Band Drumming – Jon McCaslin
	3. Choral Resources – TBD
	4. Music & Movement – Krista Solheim
	 Promoting Your Event – Adding an Element of an Advocacy Program – Pat Rediger New 10, 20, 30 Sask. Jazz Curriculum – Chris Jacklin
11:00 am-	1. Percussion Maintenance – Darrell Bueckert
12:00pm	 "Unleashing the Power of Sound Innovations™: – Peter Boonshaft
12.00pm	 FEEL the RHYTHM, MOVE the BEAT and IMPROVISE for Division 2! (10:30-noon) Debra Giebelhaus-Maloney
	 Lummi Sticks Extraordinaire! – Sylvia Chave
	5. Music & Movement – Krista Solheim
	6. Partnering with your in-school administrator: how music teachers and administrators can work with (and for)
	each other – Doug Gilmore
12:00-1:20	Luncheon Concert
1:30-2:30 pm	1. "Teaching Music with Purpose: 25 Things You Can Do Tomorrow To Improve Your Ensemble" – Peter Boonshaft
	2. Snare Drumming 101: Back to Basics – Jon McCaslin
	3. BEAT the RHYTHM into language and Build a Story with your Grade 1-3's! (1:30-3:00) Debra Giebelhaus-Maloney
	4. You Want me to Sing with Kids? – Sylvia Chave
	5. The Art of Adjudicating – Ian Nelson
	6. Cracking the Boy Code – (1:30-3:00) Gregory Chase
3:00-4:00 pm	1. SMC Wind Ensemble Rehearsal – Peter Boonshaft
	2. Take 'ORFF' with MELODIC IMPROVISATION for Division 2! (3:15-4:45) Debra Giebelhaus-Maloney
	3. SMC Choir Rehearsal – Elroy Friesen
	4. Festival Computer Program/ Online Entries – David Melax/Darren Schwartz
4:10-5:10 pm	SMC Choir and Wind Ensemble Concert
6:00-9:00 pm	Reception, Banquet, and Awards
Sat., Nov. 3 9:00-10:00 am	 Twelve Charts that Work – Greg McLean Lummi Sticks Extraordinaire! – Sylvia Chave
9:00-10:00 am	 Lummi Sticks Extraordinaire! – Sylvia Chave Conductor's Tune-up – Elroy Friesen
	4. SMFA New Syllabus Presentation – Theresa Brost, Syllabus Chair
	5. Festival Computer Program – David Melax
10:30-11:30 am	KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Ease the Load & Lighten the Way – Take a Break and Get a Grip – Patricia Katz
11:30am-1:20pm	LUNCH AND ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS
1:30-2:30 pm	1. String Player Workshop – Andrea Hudson
	2. New Jazz Band Charts – Greg McLean
	3. Music & Movement – Krista Solheim
	4. Choral 2 – Elroy Friesen
	5. SMFA Round table discussion:
	a. Meet in like-size festivals – Anita Kuntz
	 Meet in like committees – Nancy Toppings
	6. Instrument Repair – Kevin Junk
2:45-3:45 pm	1. String Player Workshop – Andrea Hudson
	2. Practical Tips for Developing Brass Players – Dean McNeil
	3. You Want Me to Sing with Kids? – Sylvia Chave
	4. Sr. Choral Reading – Elroy Friesen
	5. SMFA Round table discussion: Q&A period – Joy McFarlane-Burton, President SMFA
	6. Practical Pauses – How to Renew When You Absolutely Positively Do Not Have the Time – Patricia Katz



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

Please send the nominations to:

Theresa Brost P.O. Box 451, Macklin, SK SOL 2CO Phone: (306) 753-2893 E-mail: <u>tebrost@xplornet.com</u>



The Volunteer Recognition Awards will be presented at the Awards Banquet of the Saskatchewan Music Conference (SMC), Friday, November 2, 2012, at the Saskatoon Inn.

While SMFA recognizes the importance of all volunteers, this award is intended for those who have made a <u>significant contribution</u> 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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From the Provincial Office

Carol Donhauser, Executive Director



It is my pleasure, once again, to have the last word in this newsletter and I would like to continue on with the Joy's theme of "change". We have changes happening within the Provincial office and I would like to start with announcing Sandra Kerr as the Interim Adjudicator Liaison. Sandra has agreed to take on this position along with her Administrative Assistant position and although she has very "large shoes to fill" with Doris's retirement, I am more than confident that with Sandra's background and her ability she will succeed and that this "change" will appear seamless.

We also working on a "change" for the SMFA website with a new website launch planned for November 1. I ask for your patience as we work with the communications firm in the development. Our intention with this new website is for a more modern look and to allow the ability for each district festival to accept online entries and

payment as we move with the ever "changing" technological world. In order not to duplicate work, we will not be updating the old website except for the home page. Timely information such as Festival Dates with Entry Deadlines and Conference Information can still be found on the homepage of the SMFA website. The online version of the Syllabus will be available on the new website.

I encourage each festival committee, as you meet for your fall meetings, to also look for "change" within your own organizations. Perhaps online entries and payments may be something you are interested in pursuing to save valuable volunteer time. Darren Schwartz and David Melax will present a session at the Saskatchewan Music Conference (SMC) detailing how to achieve this "change". Also at the SMC, keynote speaker Patricia Katz will discuss the huge toll multi-role demands and supersonic pace can take on individuals and their families, and how ongoing overload negatively impacts physical, mental and emotional health. You don't want to miss it! Please make "changes" to your plans, if necessary, and plan to attend.

Change is the law of life and those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future – John F. Kennedy

