



Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



Established in 1908

September 2015

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President's Message

Nancy Toppings, President



*There is a harmony in autumn, and a lustre in its sky
Which through the summer is not heard or seen,
As if it could not be, as if it had not been!*

- Percy Bysshe Shelley

One doesn't need to look very far to find inspiration these days...fields of gold under glorious sunsets remind us that summer has drawn to a close. A new season lies before us, with exciting possibilities.

Most notably, the SMFA 2016-2018 Syllabus is hot off the press, available in print form and online. This publication is the culmination of many months of work by our Syllabus Committee, with assistance from experts in the music community. I congratulate our Syllabus

Chair, Karen Unger, on a job well done! Karen has been the driving force behind this project, and her dedication has led us to a final product that we are proud to offer to our members. Many thanks, also, to Carol Donhauser for countless hours spent typesetting and revising; it is her meticulous work that you see when flipping through the pages of this document.

Speaking of inspiration, I would like to take you back to mid-August and the National Music Festival in Edmonton. I salute the members of Team Saskatchewan, not only for their fine performances and their individual successes in the competition, but also for their amazing team spirit. They supported each other 100% throughout the competition and were wonderful ambassadors for Saskatchewan. Truly an inspiration to us all!

Moving forward, I encourage all District Festivals to register one or more delegates for the 2015 Sask Music Conference/SMFA Fall Conference & AGM, November 6 & 7 in Regina. Now, more than ever, it is vital for the future of SMFA to have a solid representation of the membership at our AGM. Come "Experience the Harmony". You'll be glad you did!

Our website, www.smfa.ca, has acquired a fresh new look over the summer. Visit it often; you will find answers to many of your questions on the website. And if you need further assistance, our friendly and knowledgeable office staff is only a phone call or e-mail away.

As you begin to lay the groundwork for your 2016 Music Festival, I encourage your committee members to investigate the changes and additions in the new Syllabus, some of which are quite significant. Some administrative work will be required in terms of addenda revision and re-numbering, and possibly some scholarship revisions, but we feel the benefits to our festival participants will outweigh the extra work involved in adapting to the changes.

Volunteers are the backbone of the Music Festival system in Saskatchewan and without the dedication of our volunteers, we would cease to exist. You may wish to honour a deserving volunteer from your District Festival by nominating him or her for an SMFA Volunteer Award. Nominations are due September 30th and awards will be presented at the Sask Music Conference Banquet on November 6.

Did you know that Saskatchewan is the province with the highest number of District Festivals in the country? Can you imagine the impact our organization has had on communities and individuals over our 107-year history? Hold that thought as you continue to uphold the tradition of Music Festivals in your own communities. Make it a great year!



We are grateful for the support of the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation and SaskCulture Inc.





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2015 National Music Festival

The Riders may not be having a stellar season, but Team Saskatchewan certainly did at the National Music Festival.

In his greeting, Governor General David Johnston stated: *"Music has the power to transcend all barriers, with rhythms and melodies that carry us to a thousand different places of discovery. It has that unique ability to stir within us an unimaginable range of emotions in the space of but a few notes."* That is what every member of the Saskatchewan contingent provided in his/her quest for the top at the National Music Festival.

From August 13-15, fifty-seven of Canada's best young amateur musicians, ranging in age from 12 to 28 years, gathered in the beautiful city of Edmonton to compete in nine disciplines: piano, voice, strings, classical guitar, woodwinds, brass, percussion, musical theatre, and chamber music. Competitions and master classes were held at the Alberta College Campus of MacEwen University and McDougall United Church.

Competitors and their accompanists arrived on Tuesday prior to the competition, checked in at the Chateau Lacombe and immediately began booking practice rooms in preparation for their performances. A briefing for competitors was held Tuesday evening, where information was shared regarding the competition, and competitors were introduced. Sherry Sproule, designate for Team Saskatchewan proudly announced our team: Godwin Friesen (piano), William Boan (strings), Brendan Catalano (woodwinds) all accompanied by Bonnie Nicholson; Abby Fuller (brass) accompanied by Maria Fuller; Griffin Hewitt (musical theatre) accompanied by Robert Urgan; and Bryan Allen (percussion). Saskatchewan delegates attending along with Sherry were Carol Donhauser, Nancy Toppings, and Karen MacCallum.

Wednesday was a busy day for competitors and their assisting artists, with each competitor having a rehearsal in the official venue. Team Saskatchewan's solidarity was evident from the very beginning. They followed one another to rehearsals, offering feedback and moral support, moving percussion equipment, and doing whatever was needed to help. That consideration, however, was not limited to our own competitors. Maria Fuller came to the rescue of two competitors from another province when she offered, with only a day to prepare, to accompany them when a replacement was needed. Not many people could learn the repertoire in a day, step confidently on the stage at Nationals and be a rock of support for the soloist – well done, Maria! She simply said, "I wanted to do it!"



Thursday and Friday were competition days, on which every competitor had a maximum of one hour to perform their program. SMFA board member, Sandra Senga, joined our delegates as we followed our competitors from venue to venue and took in as many other performances as possible. One advantage of having Nationals in a neighbouring province is that family and friends are able to attend the competition, and we were delighted to have so many come to Edmonton to support their favorite musicians.

With all competitions finished by Friday evening, competitors were treated to an evening at the West Edmonton Mall, where they could choose to blow off steam at Galaxyland or World Waterpark, or browse the mall. A pizza party followed in the basement of McDougall United Church and after a time of socializing, some very tired young people returned to the hotel.



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Saturday morning was back to business, with master classes for every competitor followed by the announcement of winners. We couldn't be more proud of our two first-place winners, Godwin Friesen in piano and Bryan Allen in percussion. They were whisked off to the Winspear for a sound check in preparation for their evening performances, while everyone else had a free afternoon to explore and get ready for the Grand Awards Concert.

All first-place winners competed for the prestigious Grand Award title and award of \$5,000 at the Francis Winspear Centre for Music on Saturday evening. The winner of the Grand Award was Angela Ryu, violinist from Alberta. A hearty congratulations to the rest of Team Saskatchewan, who ALL placed in their disciplines!

William Boan, 2nd-place in strings
Brendan Catalano, 2nd-place in woodwinds
Abby Fuller, 3rd-place in brass
Griffin Hewitt, 3rd-place in musical theatre

Congratulations to Campbell Collegiate Chamber Choir, directed by Deidre Baird, 2nd-place winners in the Paul J. Bourret Choral Competition. Choral entries were submitted by recording and presentations were made on Monday evening prior to the Federation Dinner.

Sherry Sproule adds from her perspective as team designate: *"It was my privilege to serve as designate for Team Saskatchewan at the 2015 National Music Festival. I wasn't sure what my role would be, but soon learned they were happy to have a pseudo music mom around to encourage, cheerlead, pick up the odd lunch, or bananas. This group impressed the entire competition with their team spirit, as it is a rarity to see a team approach displayed at what is, for the most part, a solo competition. I believe that this cohesive team attitude really did tip the balance for our soloists this year. Aside from what happened around the competition, the real treat for this designate was to hear the incredible performances that our young Saskatchewan performers left on the Edmonton stages. I was inspired. Thank you."*

Thank you to the Alberta Host Committee and the City of Edmonton for the kind hospitality shown to our competitors and delegates during our stay. We look forward to returning to Edmonton next August for the 2016 National Music Festival.



Two Saskatchewan Delegates Appointed to the FCMF Board of Directors



Joy McFarlane-Burton (right) of Saskatoon was elected to another term as Vice-President with the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals' (FCMF) Board of Directors. Karen MacCallum of Swift Current was also one of three new Directors elected. Both are experienced SMFA Board of Directors and look forward to bringing their knowledge and expertise to another level of the festival movement in Canada. Congratulations!

Note: A recent motion was passed to have National Percussion entries adjudicated by recording only. SMFA will continue to have live percussion at District and Provincial competitions.





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SMFA Sponsored Speech Arts Workshops



Speech is integral to human existence. We spend much of our lives engaged in spoken communication. The ability to speak well allows us greater happiness in life, for through effective communication other people share more fully in our thoughts and feelings. It is through this sharing that we make friends, influence others, and grow in confidence.

Speech Arts has been offered through SMFA festivals for many years. The art of speech can be demonstrated in many different venues: public speaking, oratory, acting, broadcasting and presentation skills; each of which has its own particular technical elements.

In order to promote and increase entries in our Speech Arts

Classes, SMFA is sponsoring Speech Arts Workshops for affiliated District Festivals. Please contact us if you interested in hosting a workshop. All expenses for the workshop are covered by the SMFA.

Typically, the workshops are intended for classroom teachers/students (Grade 4 to 12, 30 people or less) to promote solo speech arts.

Host Committee Responsibilities:

- Contact the schools/teachers in your area describing the opportunity.
- Work with SMFA and clinician to arrange suitable dates. The number of days will be dependent on the interest in the schools in your district. Typically, the clinician is able to do two sessions per day (morning and afternoon) as each session takes two hours (one hour for introduction and one hour for the workshop). After school sessions may be an option as well.
- Provide the venue (school gymnasium, library, or multi-purpose room) and teacher/students for the workshops on the agreed upon dates.
- Greet clinician at the venue and introduce them before each presentation/workshop.
- Assist clinician in handing out material, if required.
- Thank clinician and participants at the conclusion of each workshop.
- Send a report to SMFA Provincial office for the newsletter (photos are nice).
- Send follow-up letter to teachers who attended the workshop, encouraging them to enter their students in festival.

SMFA Responsibility:

- Work with host committee and clinician to coordinate dates and locations. Once dates are confirmed, issue contract to clinician.
- Pay clinician all fees and allowable expenses (workshop fee, travel, accommodation, meals and workshop expenses) upon receipt of workshop report and detailed expense report.

Clinician Responsibility:

- Work with host committee and SMFA to coordinate suitable dates.
- Arrange and pay own travel, accommodation and expenses.
- Deliver Speech Arts workshop (including all necessary handouts) encouraging participation in local festival.
- Submit allowable expenses with detailed receipts for reimbursement and workshop report to SMFA.



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Experience the Harmony

SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 5-7, 2015
DELTA REGINA HOTEL

The annual Saskatchewan Music Conference brings together the provincial music community to collaborate and enhance their skills. This year's conference will feature sessions in band, choral, classroom, music festival and orchestral streams. Brenda Robinson will deliver the keynote address. She has spent over 30 years in the training and development field, speaking at conferences, developing and delivering workshops, providing organizational consulting and coaching people for success in their roles on teams and in their diverse workplaces.

Dr. Gail H Fleming, who has a Masters degree in music education from Southern Illinois University, will teach students rhythm and form through body percussion and African American steppin'. Larry Johnson, developer of "The Music Festival Organizer," returns to answer your questions about his festival organizer. Janet Brenneman of Canadian Mennoite University will be serving as the delegate choir conductor, while Marcia and Greg McLean will present a general session for music teachers on sourcing choral and band repertoire.

For more information, visit
www.saskmusic.ca

SUPPORTED BY:



The Saskatchewan Music Conference is an initiative of five provincial music organizations: the Saskatchewan Band Association, Saskatchewan Choral Federation, Saskatchewan Music Educators Association, Saskatchewan Music Festival Association and the Saskatchewan Orchestral Association





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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 (www.smfa.ca - click on “[Administration/Guides & Order Forms](#)” to find it in the list).

Please send the nominations to:

Karen MacCallum,
Past President (karenmaccallum@sasktel.net)



Volunteer Recognition Award



The Volunteer Recognition Awards will be presented at the Awards Banquet of the Saskatchewan Music Conference (SMC), Friday, November 6, 2015, at the Delta Regina Hotel. A SaskEnergy representative will be in attendance to celebrate our volunteers and provide a small token of appreciation.

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 District Festival per Fall Conference.
- ✓ Each Volunteer Award recipient should be present at the Award Banquet. SMFA will cover the costs of each Volunteer Award Recipient’s banquet ticket.
- ✓ Nomination’s including biography must be received at the Provincial Office by **September 30**.



AGM

Annual General Meeting

NOTICE OF SMFA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, November 7, **11:30 am-1:20 pm** – Delta Regina Hotel

[REGISTRATION](#)



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Saskatchewan Music Conference – SMFA Sessions – November 6-7

Keynote Speaker: Brenda Robinson

SMFA Sessions (Friday)

- An Introduction to Classical Guitar – Kevin Ackerman
- “What I’ve Learned in 20 Years of Adjudicating” – Cherith Alexander

SMFA Sessions (Saturday)

- 8:00 am** Networking Session – join us for a continental breakfast
- 9:00 am** 2016-2018 Syllabus Review (Karen Unger)
- 10:30 am** Keynote Speaker (Brenda Robinson)
- 11:30 am** Lunch/AGM
- 1:30 pm** Festival Sessions
 - Festival Manual Presentation (Carol Donhauser)
 - Minute-Taking Basics (Karen MacCallum)
 - Scholarship Review/Sharing of Information (Sherry Sproule)



Come together for a weekend of networking, informative sessions, and keynote speaker. Larry Johnson, from the Music Festival Organizer, will also be available to answer questions and provide information.

Book by October 6, 2015 to get the special SMC room rate (\$165/night) at the Delta Regina!

SPECIAL OFFER: Register before the Early Bird deadline (midnight, October 8, 2015) for a chance to win a FREE two-night stay at the Delta Regina during the conference. [REGISTRATION](#)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 5 – 7, 2015

Saskatchewan Music Conference (SMC) and SMFA Annual General Meeting

Delta Regina Hotel

February 20 - 21, 2016

Wallis Memorial Opera Competition – Saskatoon

February - May, 2016

SMFA District Festivals (47 Locations)

June 3 - 5, 2016

SMFA Provincial Finals – Regina



Supported by grants from Sask Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture & Recreation, and SaskCulture, Inc.



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Gordon Wallis Memorial Opera Competition



February 20 & 21, 2016, Saskatoon

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.

In addition to the prize money, the winner may be featured as guest artist with the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras.



culturedays

create participate share

september 25, 26 & 27, 2015

Culture Days is a grassroots, community-based movement to increase awareness, accessibility, participation, and engagement of all Canadians in the arts and cultural life of their regions. This

annual event allows the public to explore the behind-the-scenes work of local artists, creators, historians, curators, and designers in the areas of music, dance, visual arts, film, history, theatre, literature, and so much more.

This year's Culture Days weekend-long event will take place in hundreds of cities and towns across Canada. Tens of thousands of independent artists; arts, culture, and heritage organizations; community groups; schools; businesses; municipalities; libraries; and millions of Canadians will participate and show the true colours of Canada's arts and culture.



Saskatchewan
Registered
Music
Teachers'
Association



SRMTA Fall Convention and AGM 2015

October 16 – 17, 2015

Biggar Majestic Theatre, Biggar SK



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2016 Festival Date Listing

District Festival	Dates	Entry Close
Assiniboia	April 24-28	March 13
Battlefords Kiwanis.....	April 16-23	January 30
Biggar.....	March 7-10	January 23
Borderland at Coronach	April 17-23	March 1
Carnduff.....	March 6-10	January 24
Central Sask at Davidson	March 21-22	January 26
Estevan	March 11-15; March 21-23; April 10-15	January 29
Eston.....	April 11-14	February 12
Gravelbourg.....	April 10-14	February 26
Hafford	April 4-7	January 22
Humboldt	April 11-13; April 18-29.....	February 11
Kindersley	March 6-17	January 22
Kipling	April 11-14	February 19
La Ronge	April 11-14	February 4
Lafleche	March 13-19	February 1
Lanigan	April 25-28	March 1
Last Mountain at Southey	April 4-7	February 13
Kiwanis Lloydminster.....	April 11-13; April 18-22.....	January 23
Mainline at Grenfell.....	March 14-18	January 31
Maple Creek	TBD	January 25
Meadow Lake	April 18-22	March 1
Melfort	March 6-16	January 20
Moose Jaw	April 11-12; April 16-22.....	January 24
Moosomin	March 7-18	January 30
Nipawin	April 18-24	January 30
Outlook.....	April 11-15	February 12
Parkland at Canora	February 24-28	TBD
Potashville at Langenburg	March 9-17	January 15
Prairie Sunset at Luseland	April 5-7	February 9
Prince Albert Kiwanis.....	Feb. 22-March 1; March 7-18	January 9
Qu'Appelle Valley at	TBD	TBD
Quill Plains at Foam Lake.....	April 18-21	February 1
Redvers.....	April 12-19	February 15
Regina.....	April 11-14; April 19-21; April 30 – May 8	January 30
Rosetown.....	March 14-22	January 22
Sand Hills at Leader	April 18-20	February 6
Sask Valley at Rosthern	March 12-18	January 22
Saskatoon	TBD	TBD
Shaunavon	April 18-21	March 4
Spiritwood	March 21-22	February 15
Swift Current	March 6-23	January 22
Twin Rivers at Dalmeny	March 13-17	January 15
Unity	April 11-15	January 29
Vanguard	April 4-7	February 5
Watrous.....	March 7-11	January 22
Weyburn.....	February 29-March 11	January 22
Yorkton.....	April 7-21	TBD



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SMFA 2016-2018 Syllabus - Editor's Note - *Karen Unger, Editor & Syllabus Committee Chair*



It has been a great privilege to work on this edition of the SMFA syllabus. The syllabus is the foundational document for our District and Provincial festivals. It lists the classes that may be entered, the regulations that must be followed, and the criteria that must be met. That sounds dry and boring, yet I have a passion for this document! As a music teacher I eagerly looked forward to each new edition's arrival, excited to see what the test piece options were for my students, and what new classes might be available. The syllabus provides a framework, but the people who teach and perform are the ones who then bring that structure to life and vitality.

Classical Competitive Festivals. This is the tag line you find beneath our logo. So much is contained in those three words. "Classical" implies a tradition of fine music that spans the centuries from the 1600s to the present day. We are rightly proud of the tradition of Saskatchewan Music Festivals: a heritage that is over 100 years old! Do not, however, mistake tradition for stagnation. Each syllabus builds on the ones that came before. It is a living document that continues to change and expand. In this edition, changes include new Provincial classes in several disciplines, greatly expanded guitar and musical theatre sections, and the expansion of the intermediate age category to include 17 and under. Careful thought and discussion go into the changes and additions made with each syllabus, always with an aim to best serve

our musicians.

"Competitive", the second word, embodies an idea that some people shy away from. However, there are many benefits to competition. There is the discipline of working a piece to perfection, the satisfaction of a job well done, the growth that comes through constructive criticism, the determination to do better the next time around, the self confidence that develops in learning to conquer nerves, the perseverance of doing your best no matter the outcome, and the value of learning to win - or not win - with dignity and grace. Many of us would not be where we are in life without the motivation of competition.

The final word in the tag line is "Festivals". What an inspiring concept! This is a word that is rooted in the idea of celebration and delight. In the midst of competitions and striving for excellence, there remains a spirit of festival. We come together, we hear fine music, we gain new insights, we applaud each other's accomplishments, we experience joy and kinship. Knowing the wealth of musical excellence that will be shared at festivals across our province each year is what makes working on this syllabus gratifying and worthwhile.

The work that goes into a new syllabus is extraordinary - countless hours are spent selecting test pieces, researching publishers and music availability, organizing classes, making decisions, typesetting, formatting, and proofreading. Were one to tackle this alone, the task would be insurmountable. However, as with music festivals themselves, the syllabus is built piece by piece through the work of many volunteers. My sincere thanks to everyone who contributed in any way, especially to our hardworking and dedicated syllabus committee! Special thanks also to Carol Donhauser for her tireless work in formatting, typesetting and putting this document together. Her expertise is invaluable not only for this syllabus but also to our board and our entire provincial organization.





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Protocol for Hiring Adjudicators

- Following the conclusion of each annual District Music Festival, the committee is required to fill out the **Adjudicator Evaluation Form** and forward 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. Your committee has the option of keeping your evaluations confidential. These evaluations are used for future hiring purposes.
- **The Adjudicator Time-Frame Form** is crucial. Before we can hire anyone we have to have an idea which **dates you estimate** requiring Adjudicator services. (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.”**
- With the **Adjudicator Time-Frame Form** you may submit an **“Adjudicator Wish List”** and/or a **“Do Not Call List”**. Please note that while the Provincial Office will attempt to hire your preference, there is no guarantee. When a preferred Adjudicator cannot accept an assignment, we hire a suitable one 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 your entry deadline, and once **all** your Adjudicators are confirmed, your festival will receive the **Adjudicator Report Form**, which lists the name, dates, and discipline of the adjudicator. With this form, you will also receive the biographical information of each Adjudicator, his/her contact information (address, phone, fax, e-mail), and a copy of their signed contract. At the same time, this information will be sent to the Adjudicator notifying them of the festival contact person. Once the festival has received this information, it is the responsibility of the festival committee to confirm necessary arrangements (time for briefing, accommodation, travel information, etc.). This is the only form you will receive – a slight change from previous years. Please notify Provincial Office of any changes to the Report Form for our records.
- 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.**



NEW NATIONAL VOCAL SCHOLARSHIP

A \$500 scholarship is available to attend a summer course at the Centre for Opera Study (COSI) in Italy. The award is provided by the 2016 National Festival vocal adjudicator Mr. Darryl Edwards, who is the Artistic Director for COSI and Associate Professor of Voice at the University of Toronto. Mr. Edwards reserves the right to select the candidate from among those he hears at the National Music Festival next year.

The selected candidate will have a three-year window to exercise attendance at the summer course.



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From the Provincial Office

Carol Donhauser, Executive Director



As always, it is my pleasure, to have the last word in this newsletter. This year seems to be the year of “new”. With the new Syllabus comes a new “look”, in the form of color scheme, to match the cover of the Syllabus. You will notice that the new website theme is now in blue. We hope you enjoy the new look.

I would like to begin my message by thanking the District Festival Committees for submitting your report forms and responding to our survey. The reports that we require at the Provincial Office, as part of your year-end follow-up, include: People Statistics Form, Revenue and Expense Form, AGM Minutes, and a summary of your festival for the SMFA Annual Report. We are a unique organization, with 47 affiliated festivals, so please submit you year-end reports. Our readers are interested in your festival and enjoy hearing your stories.

I would also like to thank Naicam Music Festival committee, competitors, teachers, parents, and audience members for their many years of festivals, as we bid them farewell.

SMFA is fortunate to be funded by the Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture, and Recreation grant, administered by SaskCulture. This grant helps make member funding available. Please consider writing a note of thanks to SaskCulture and the Minister of Culture for this assistance. Here are a few examples of how member funding is provided:

- Provision of Certificates – Award certificates are available to district festivals at no charge as well as SMFA stationery and promotional items at cost.
- Provincial Website – Provincial Office maintains the SMFA Provincial website which members are encouraged to use to its full potential.
- Adjudicator Hiring – An Adjudicator Liaison hires adjudicators according to each Festival’s needs. Over 170 professional musicians are hired each year through the SMFA Provincial Office. Saskatchewan is the only province that provides this service to their affiliated festivals. We feel this provides a more fair competition when the hiring is done at arms-length.
- Financial Assistance – Direct financial assistance is provided when requested and approved by the SMFA Finance Committee. Assistance may be provided to a festival that finds themselves in financial distress or for specialized workshops.
- Provincial & National Competition – We provide the opportunity for young musicians in our province to progress from District to Provincial to National levels of competition.
- Advocacy – SMFA continues to be a leader in the Canadian Music Festival (FCMF) movement with our unique programming as well as provide representation at AGM and Conference.
- Liability Insurance – This insurance is provided at no cost to all member festivals.

Please make a sincere effort to attend the Sask Music Conference in Regina; the networking opportunity you will receive is invaluable. We will be presenting a detailed Festival Manual which will include the SMFA history, information on the Lotteries Trust, timeline for reporting, copies of report forms, policies, adjudicator directory, and much more. Brenda Robinson is one of the best keynote speakers you will hear and you won’t want to miss her speak on “Motivating and Managing Gen “Y” – A Leadership Challenge” as well as a session Saturday afternoon titled, “Wonderfully Busy”. Sandra and I, along with the entire SMFA Board of Directors, look forward to hosting you in Regina!

