

Judges' Biographies

Renée Brad (Speech Arts and Musical Theatre)



Originally from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, mezzo-soprano Renée Brad has performed throughout Canada and in New York. Renée completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Saskatchewan with Dorothy Howard before continuing her studies in New York. She created and performed her cabaret *Motherhood: The Second Oldest Profession* for Regina's Golden Apple Theatre Company. Renee attended Opera Nuova and has maintained a lasting relationship with the program, singing the Witch in *Hansel and Gretel*, the Mother in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, and Carlotta in *Phantom*. For Edmonton Opera she performed Cousin Hebe in *HMS Pinafore*, Kate in *Pirates of Penzance*, Annina in *La Traviata*, Berta in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* and the Dama/Hexe in *Macbeth*. Other roles include Tisbe in *La Cenerentola* and Mercedes in *Carmen*.

While living and working in Regina, Renée performed with many organizations including the Regina Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus, Globe Theatre, Opera Saskatchewan, and Saskatoon Opera. Favorite theatre roles include Rose in *The Secret Garden*, Meg Page in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Katisha in *The Mikado*, Amy in *Company*, and Ella in *Bells are Ringing*. With orchestra, she has sung Karl Jenkins' *Stabat Mater*, Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass* and *Paukenmesse*, Mozart's *Coronation Mass and Requiem*, Bach's *Weihnachts Oratorium* and *Johannes Passion*, Vivaldi's *Magnificat* and *Gloria*, Handel's *Messiah*, and Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*. Renée's recording of Elizabeth Raum's *How Bodies Leave Ecstatic Marks* with the Contrasts Trio for the CMC Centrediscs label won a 2008 Western Canadian Music Award. A member of CAEA and NATS, Renée teaches voice in the Theatre Arts Department at MacEwan University, maintains an active private studio, and is in demand as an adjudicator and clinician.

Richard Gillis (Brass, Percussion and Woodwinds)



Richard Gillis studied trumpet at the University of Saskatchewan (B.Mus.), the Banff Centre (Canadian Brass), and the University of Michigan (M.Mus.; DMA), as well as privately with Armando Ghitalla, Vincent Cichowicz and James Stamp.

After graduating from the University of Saskatchewan, Richard performed, toured and recorded with the Saskatoon-based NewWest Brass Quintet. While working on his DMA Richard had the opportunity to be a part of the University of Michigan faculty brass quintet, with Armando Ghitalla.

Dr. Gillis is currently brass chair at the University of Manitoba, and is artistic director of the Winnipeg Jazz Orchestra, which he co-founded in 1997. Richard performs and records (8 CDs) with Icelandic guitarist Björn Thoroddsen, and together have received three recognitions from the Icelandic Music Awards. Richard has recorded 19 albums as a leader and sideman; his most recent projects include *Devotion*, a collection of original solo and chamber pieces for trumpet, and *Suite 150: A Big Band Portrait*, an eleven movement WJO recording commissioned from composers across Canada.

Brad Hougham (Vocal)



Saskatchewan born baritone, Brad Hougham, got his start as a singer through the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association Festivals, first in Lloydminster, then in Saskatoon. As an undergraduate student at the University of Saskatchewan, he developed a love of all genres of classical vocal literature. This love took him to recital, concert, and opera stages beyond Saskatchewan to the United States and Europe. After a few years and three graduate degrees in singing, he discovered his passion for teaching, and began pursuing a hybrid path of both careers. Now in his thirteenth year on the faculty of the School of Music at Ithaca College, he has become a sought-after pedagogue. Dr. Hougham has taught master classes and lessons in Italy, Germany, Canada, England, and China. He was on the voice faculty of the Spoleto Vocal Arts Symposium for 10 summers in Spoleto, Italy. He holds degrees in singing from the University of Saskatchewan, Mannes College of Music,

City University of New York and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. Returning to Saskatchewan to adjudicate the provincial competition is a great honor, and a chance to give something back to Saskatchewan Music Festival Association, the organization that has given so much to so many young musicians!

Jean-Marie Kent (Choral)



Jean-Marie completed her doctorate in choral conducting from the University of Washington, Seattle. She was a Huckabay Teaching Fellow and received the honor of designing a class for musicians to teach collaboration and community engagement. She was awarded the Celebrating University of Washington Women Award in 2010 for her work in building community within the UW Women's Choir. With the assistance of a Foreign Language Association Fellowship, she studied Vivaldi's original opera choruses in Torino, Italy. She was a Fellow in the Institute on the Public Humanities, which developed a multi-disciplinary cohort.

Before moving to Seattle, Jean-Marie taught music on Vancouver Island and in New York where she developed public school music programs for gifted children. She has conducted orchestras and choirs, including the University of Regina Chamber Singers, UW Women's Choir, Nanaimo Symphony Orchestra, and the Victoria Civic Orchestra. She was a professor at the University of Victoria, Nanaimo College, and University of Regina.

Jean-Marie graduated from O'Neill High School and then went on to the University of Regina where she studied piano with Bill Moore, voice with Lynn Channing, and conducting with Kathryn Laurin.

Keeping herself busy, Jean-Marie directs the Magnolia Chorale, a community choir with outreach that is focused on developing life-long singers. She has studied vocal jazz with Greta Matassa, Rosana Eckert, Dawn Clement, New York Voices and Greg Jasperse.

Jean-Marie is also President of Elliott Bay Music Educators, a local division of the National Association of Music Educators.

Recognized for her ability to get to the heart of singing, she is frequently sought after as a clinician for high school and community choirs.

Daniel Scholz (Strings and Guitar)



Originally from Regina, Daniel studied at the University of Regina, McGill University and at the University of British Columbia. He was a prize winner at the Lionel Tertis Viola Competition, the most prestigious event of its kind, held on the Isle of Mann. Daniel is the principal viola of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra and is a member of the Winnipeg Chamber Music Society, and the Rembrandt String Quartet. As a solo artist, Daniel has performed with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, Musickbarock, the Okanagan Symphony and the Vancouver Chamber Players. Daniel has also toured Europe with the Nordic Symphony of Tallinn, Estonia as guest principal viola.

Daniel is an instructor at the Marcel A. Desautels Faculty of Music at the University of Manitoba as well as the conductor of the Winnipeg Youth Symphony Orchestra. Daniel also adjudicates for many of Canada's major music festivals. He has performed and taught at many of Canada's major festivals and is a faculty member of the National Youth Orchestra of Canada, Rosamunde Summer Academy in Winnipeg and the Amici Summer Strings in Calgary. Daniel was also invited to perform and teach in Perth, Australia by the Australian String Teachers Association and the West Australian and New Zealand Viola Society. Daniel plays on a contemporary viola made by Garth Lee of Winnipeg.

Sylvia Shadick-Taylor (Piano)



Pianist Sylvia Shadick-Taylor is known for her diverse talents. She excels as a soloist, yet is equally comfortable as a chamber musician, collaborative pianist and teacher.

A native of Saskatoon, Sylvia studied piano with Sheila Shinkewski and was also involved as a violinist with the Junior Symphony, Saskatoon Chamber Orchestra and Provincial Youth Orchestra. Many summers were spent at the Saskatchewan Summer School of the Arts in Fort San, both as a student and as a faculty pianist.

As a soloist, Sylvia has a strong interest in contemporary music. Premiering many Canadian and American works, she has performed in Canada and the United States, including her highly successful New York concert debut in 1997. In 2009 she was named an Ambassador of the Canadian Music Centre for her promotion of Canadian music. This spring she toured a program of music by Canadian prairie composers with Saskatoon trumpeter, Dean McNeill.

Ms. Shadick-Taylor's many chamber music concerts include performances in Canada, Thailand, Germany, France, Japan and at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in New York City with Hungarian/Canadian violinist Nándor Szederkényi (1998) and more recently with Canadian cellist Tanya Prochazka (2011). A popular accompanist, she adeptly spans opera classics to demanding contemporary concert repertoire, her work frequently being heard on CBC Radio.

Now living in Edmonton, Sylvia has become a respected name in its musical community. Sylvia works as a private teacher, vocal coach, adjudicator and clinician, and has worked for the University of Alberta, Edmonton Opera, the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, Alberta College and Pro Coro Canada.

Sylvia's most recent CD *Piano NorthWest*, (Centrediscs) presents solo music by the Winnipeg composer, William Pura. Previous CD's include *Expressions*, which features music for solo piano and harpsichord by Western Canadian composers and three CDs on the Arktos label: *Caprice*; *Intimate Impressions* (winner of the 2000 Alberta Recording Industry Award for Best Classical Artist); and *At Your Service*, which focuses on the art of accompanying. She can also be heard on several other CDs, including *Northern Arch*, *soundland alberta* and *Lucidae*.