

Saskatoon Soprano, Allison Walmsley, Wins Wallis Opera Competition



Judges, Michele Capalbo (New York) and Robyn Driedger-Klassen, (Vancouver), were captivated with Allison Walmsley's performance and awarded her the \$5,000 prize in the Gordon C. Wallis Memorial Opera Competition.

The Saskatoon singer performed works by Strauss, Rorem, and Donizetti. The competition was established by the late Gordon C. Wallis, former assistant director of the University of Regina, Conservatory of Music and is presented by the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association. The competition is held every two years, alternating between Saskatoon and Regina and is intended to support young singers in further studies in opera.

Born and bred in Saskatoon, Walmsley was thrilled to return to her home town and to participate in the unique event with the rest of Saskatchewan's young opera talent. After completing her Bachelor's degree in Music at the University of Saskatchewan under the tutelage of Dr. Garry Gable and Kathleen Lohrenz Gable,

Allison headed east to begin her Masters at the University of Western Ontario, where she is currently studying voice with Jackie Short.

Her recent credits include Nannetta in UWO's production of *Falstaff* by Giuseppe Verdi, Emily in Opera NUOVA's summer production of *Our Town* by Ned Rorem, and Lucy in University of Saskatchewan Music Theatre Ensemble's production of *The Beggar's Opera* arranged by Benjamin Britten.

Winning the Wallis competition provides Allison with the opportunity to perform with the Regina and Saskatoon symphonies in an upcoming season.

For more information visit www.smfa.ca.

The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA), established in 1908, is a non-profit charitable organization whose mission is to promote excellence in music and speech arts by providing performance and educational opportunities through 47 competitive music festivals in the Province of Saskatchewan.

