

Regina Cellist wins 2019 Shurniak Concerto Competition



The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA), Sherry Sproule, President is pleased announce that the 33rd SMFA Concerto Competition was won by Regina cellist Jonathan Craig Penner, with his performance of Tchaikovsky's *Variations on a Rococo Theme, Op. 33*. He was accompanied by Clark Schaufele. Jonathan received the first prize of \$2,000 and the opportunity to be a featured soloist in an upcoming season with the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras.

Jonathan Craig Penner is an 18-year-old cellist from Regina. He has studied cello under Simon Fryer since 2012 and is currently principal cellist with the South Saskatchewan Youth Orchestra. He is also a member of the Fiarro String Quartet which placed first in the chamber music category at

the National Music Festival in 2018 and is a utility musician for the Regina Symphony Orchestra. Jonathan plans to pursue cello studies at the post-secondary level in the coming year.

Eleven young musicians competed on Saturday, February 23, in the Riddell Theatre, University of Regina, Regina. Bradley Little, a pianist formerly from several locations in Saskatchewan (now living in Vancouver) placed 2nd and Shion Tamashiro, a violinist from Saskatoon placed 3rd. The competition was judged by Preston Hawes (Head of Strings and Director of Orchestral Studies at the Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, MD, and Artistic Director and Concertmaster of the New England Symphonic Ensemble and a former finalist of the competition); Laurel Swinden (Principal Flute of the Stratford Symphony Orchestra and Assistant Principal Flute/Piccolo of the Scarborough Philharmonic); and Mark Turner (Executive Director of the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra).

Carol Donhauser, Executive Director

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Event Sponsor: Mr. William Shurniak