

Concerto Competition



Saskatoon Violinist wins 2015 Shurniak Concerto Competition



The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA), Nancy Toppings, President is pleased announce that the 31st SMFA Concerto Competition was won by Saskatoon violinist William Boan, with his performance of Shostakovich's *Violin Concerto No. 1 in A minor, Op. 7*. He was accompanied by Bonnie Nicholson. William received the first prize of \$2,000 and the opportunity to be a featured soloist in an upcoming season with the Regina Symphony Orchestra and the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra.

William is an accomplished musician with extensive training in solo, chamber, and orchestral violin performance. He became the Assistant Concertmaster of the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra at the age of seventeen. He has been Concertmaster of the Saskatoon Youth Orchestra and Saskatchewan Provincial Honour Orchestra for three years. In summer 2014, William attended the Meadowmount Summer Music Institute, New York, where he studied with Sally Thomas, violin professor at Juilliard, and Ivan Ženatý, violin professor at the Cleveland Institute of Music.

For three years William has been the provincial champion for senior strings and has placed third in the Provincial Music Festival's Grand Awards Competition. William was the 2013 winner of the Kinsmen Competition, Saskatoon's most prestigious competition. He currently studies violin at the University of Saskatchewan, in the studio of Robert Klose.

For the Concerto Competition, thanks to the University of Saskatchewan, William played a Nicolo Amati violin, made in 1637. He is the first ever student at the university to be given the opportunity to perform on the beautiful instrument.

Thirteen young musicians competed on Saturday, February 21, in Quance Theatre, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon. Godwin Friesen and Sophie McBean, both pianists from Saskatoon placed 2nd and 3rd respectively. The competition was judged by Jasper Wood (UBC), Vancouver; Karen Finnsson (U of R), Regina; and Mark Turner, Executive Director, SSO.

Event Sponsor: Mr. William Shurniak

