Alameda Soprano, McKenzie Warriner, Wins the 2020 Wallis Opera Competition

The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA) President, Sherry Sproule, is pleased announce that the 2020 Gordon C. Wallis Memorial Opera Competition was won by soprano McKenzie Warriner. The Alameda singer performed works by Jules Massenet, Tom Cipullo and Derek Holman and was accompanied by Cherith Alexander. She was awarded the prize of $5,000 and the opportunity to be a featured soloist in an upcoming season with the Regina Symphony Orchestra and the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra.

McKenzie Warriner is passionate about bringing text to life through music whether it's in the recital hall, on the opera stage, or in a new composition. A Saskatchewan native, McKenzie will obtain a Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance at the Eastman School of Music in 2020. She completed her Bachelor of Music at the University of Manitoba, and she also holds associate diplomas in both piano and vocal performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music. As a singing actor, McKenzie has performed a variety of opera roles.

Eight singers competed on Saturday, February 22, in the Heritage Lecture Theatre at the Conservatory of Performing Arts, University of Regina, followed by a masterclass on February 23. The competition was judged by Kimberly Barber (Kitchener, ON) and Peter McGillivray (Sudbury, ON). 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 and is intended to support young singers in further studies in opera.

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.