



2020

ANNUAL REPORT

August 1, 2019 • July 31, 2020

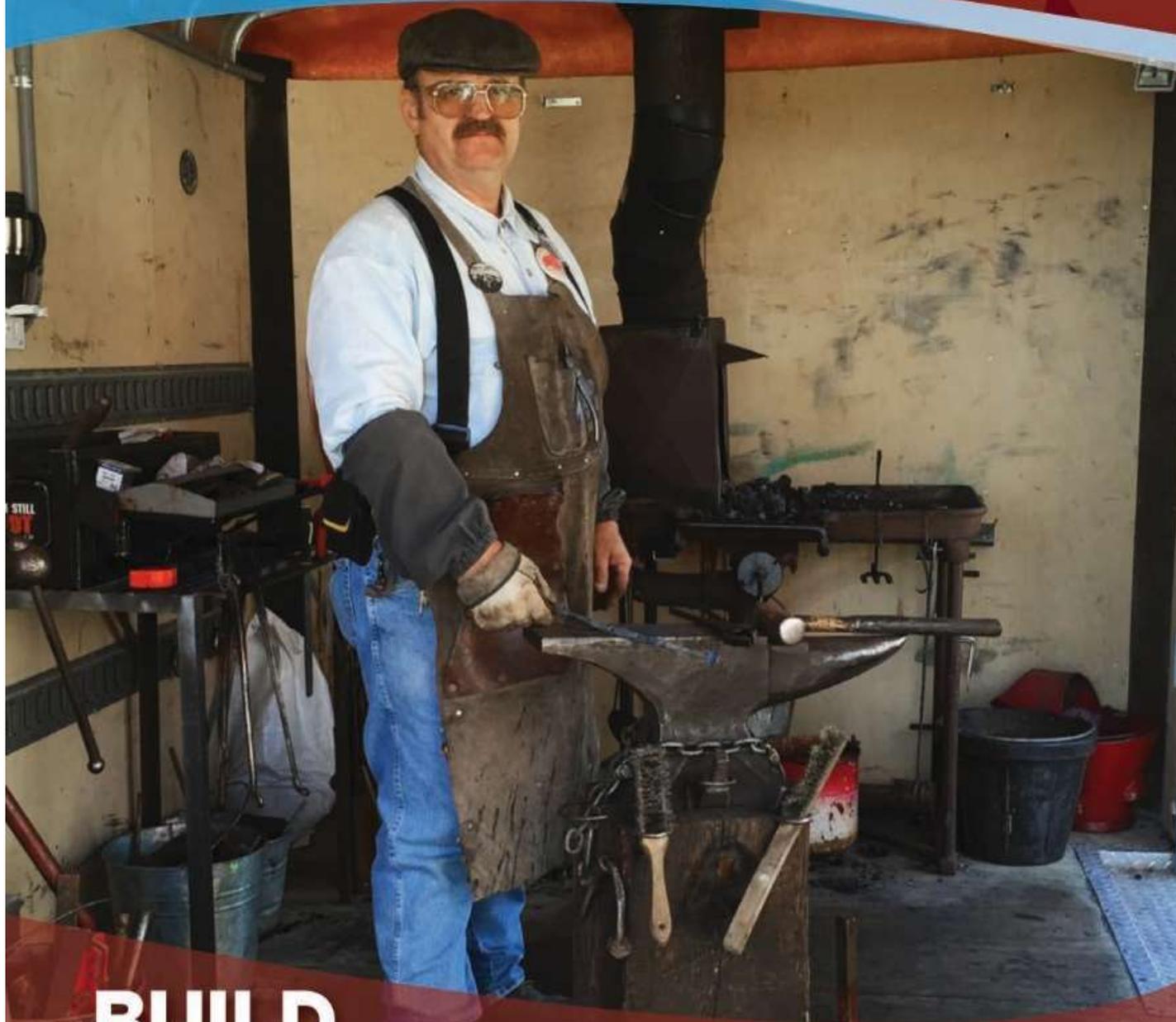
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Nancy Toppings



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Board of Directors

President.....	Sherry Sproule
First Vice President	Tammy Villeneuve
Second Vice President	Jeri Ryba
Past President	Karen Unger
Director	Dianne Gryba
Director	Valentina May
Director	Krista Brost
Director	Jeff Froehlich
Director.....	Claire Seibold
Director (ad hoc)	Bonnie Nicholson



SMFA Board of Directors 2019/2020 (missing: Krista Brost)



Vision

Enhancing lives and community through music and the spoken word.

Mission

Promoting excellence in music and speech through competition, performance, and educational opportunities for people of Saskatchewan.

Values

Life-long learning

- Keeping people involved throughout their lifetime

Collaboration

- Working together
- Patrons, teachers, performers, educators, volunteers

Inclusiveness

- Opportunities for all

Excellence

- High standards

Leadership with integrity

- Honesty
- Accountability
- Visionary





History of the SMFA



The SMFA is one of the province's oldest organizations and has influenced all Saskatchewan music. Its structures and programs have been followed throughout Canada. Inspired by Governor General Earl Grey's vision of a Dominion-wide festival, the SMFA was established in 1908 in Regina by Fred Chisholm and Frank Laubach. All Saskatchewan musical groups were invited to the first Provincial Festival in 1909 in Regina. The annual festival moved to Saskatoon, Prince Albert and Moose Jaw, and then continued the rotation. Excellent railway service allowed participants, including large ensembles, to come from all parts of the province. To satisfy increasing demands, District Festivals were added, beginning at Unity in 1926. Expansion continued until there were fifty-one in 2002, including one fully bilingual event at Gravelbourg. An early president, Chief Justice Brown, secured a government grant to be administered by the University of Saskatchewan under its president, Walter Murray. Murray, another early SMFA president, provided office space for the SMFA secretary and a car to facilitate festival fieldwork.

Adult vocal ensembles and solos were eligible for the first festival, with other categories added gradually. Provincial awards kept increasing until several hundred performers competed through a system of District winners. This model has since been used by the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals in all provinces. The continued growth of large ensembles encouraged the formation of many provincial associations to accommodate various categories such as choral and band. The SMFA occasionally commissions works for special celebrations.

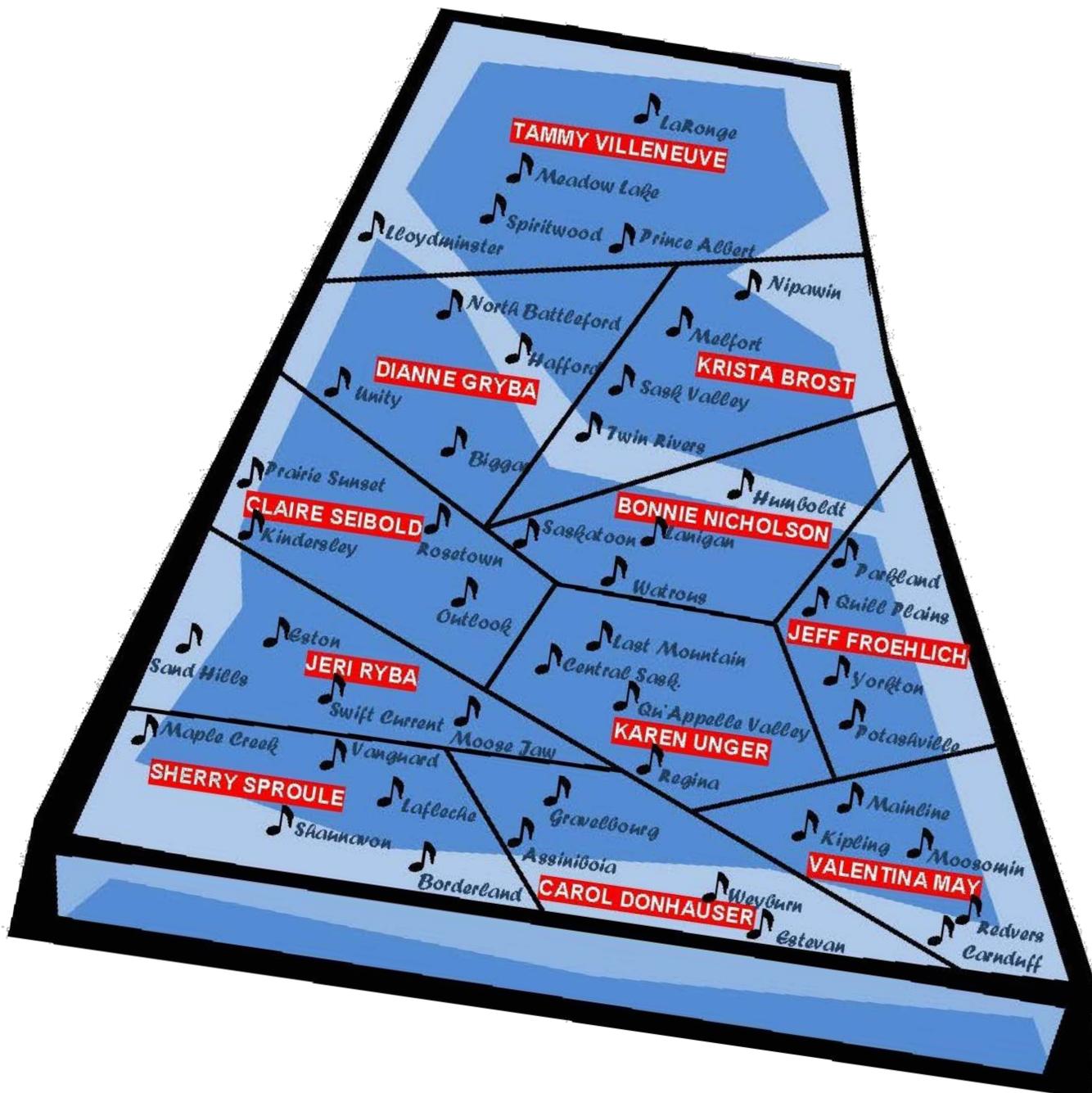
The Concerto Competition (established in 1979) and the Gordon Wallis Opera Competition (2000), administered by the SMFA, are held in alternating years. In addition to cash prizes, the winners are featured as guest soloists with the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras. In 2020, the first SMFA Musical Theatre Competition was held in Regina, in conjunction with the Wallis Opera Competition.

In 2009, the SMFA celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the first Provincial Festival with a Centennial Re-enactment Concert held in Regina. In addition, special Centennial classes were heard at the SMFA Provincial Finals, and the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals AGM/Conference and National Music Festival Competitions were held in Saskatoon.

In 2019, SMFA celebrated 110 years of festivals in Saskatchewan in conjunction with the National Music Festival in Saskatoon.



Board of Directors Liaison Map





Cultural Impact Statement

In 1905, Saskatchewan became a province. Since 1908, the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA) has grown with our province, always in step, always in tune. The SMFA reaches out to people of all ages and all backgrounds across the province of Saskatchewan.

Our mandate, which is *"promoting excellence in music and speech through competition, performance, and educational opportunities for people of Saskatchewan"*, requires us to work closely with the many people who come together to keep the festival movement in Saskatchewan alive and well. These people include music and speech students, teachers, parents, volunteers, donors and audiences. There are 47 annual festivals across the province, therefore the impact that is created in all these 47 festivals and surrounding areas is significant.

These communities have embraced the festival concept because it provides:

- an element of educational growth as well as entertainment that brings their community together
- the opportunity for communities to acknowledge and support the success and endeavours of their young people
- encouragement for students to set goals and showcase their abilities while receiving constructive adjudication from professional musicians
- local volunteers an opportunity to be involved with young people in their community in a positive way
- participating students with the performance opportunity to develop confidence and self-discipline while demonstrating positive role models for their peers

Since its early days, the Association has provided competitive and non-competitive classes for not only solo and individual competitors, but for community and schools in choruses, bands and orchestras. SMFA's continued expansion encouraged the formation of other provincial music organizations. Saskatchewan was not only the first to form a Provincial Music Festival Association, but also the first to use a common syllabus for all its member festivals. The use of the common syllabus assures that a high standard is maintained.

SMFA partners with the other music organizations across Saskatchewan to ensure that the programs we develop are relevant to the needs of our young people. Accessibility to programs and recognizing changing demographic circumstances within the province is a high priority. The broad-based volunteer component of SMFA allows the organization to operate at the grass roots level thereby closely monitoring these changes and adapting to them. Every attempt is made to ensure that the experience attained by participants is beneficial and works in concert with the SMFA vision: *"enhancing lives and community through music and the spoken word"*.

SMFA believes that the need for a culturally aware society is of increasing importance given the pressures exerted upon us by the rapid, electronic environment in which we live. Our organization is committed to cultivating that awareness by providing information, education, opportunity and a clear vision of the role we play in this task.



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President's Report

SMFA programs reach lands covered by Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10, the traditional lands of the Cree, Dakota, Dene, Lakota, Nakota and Sauleaux peoples, as well as homeland of the Métis. We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.



In August, we were fortunate to host the prestigious National Music Festival in Saskatoon. Fifty-three of the brightest and most accomplished young musicians from across Canada gathered in Saskatoon on the beautiful U of S Campus. We are extremely grateful for the support we received from the University of Saskatchewan in hosting this event. The Department of Music was especially gracious and generous in accommodating our needs. The entire SMFA board and staff went above and beyond by donating countless volunteer hours. Our network of district festivals helped immensely by selling tickets for our very successful car raffle fundraiser. Every team needs

leaders, and we were fortunate to have Bonnie Nicholson and Dianne Gryba planning and executing all the big and little things that made this experience a positive one for the competitors and their families. Thank you, Bonnie and Dianne. We really had an exceptional Saskatchewan team that presented the best National Music Festival ever! Oh, and by the way, aside from having a strong showing by Team Saskatchewan, our very own Emma Johnson, soprano, was the Grand Award recipient!

In September, our SMFA board met in North Battleford for a weekend of meetings. There were two major issues to discuss at this meeting. The first decision we arrived at was to recommend to our district festivals to withdraw from the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals for one year. In 2018, three provinces gave their notice to the Federation. Looking ahead to the 2020 festival,

SMFA felt that with only seven of ten provinces attending, it was no longer a National competition. We had lost confidence in the FCMF board and costs were rising. The second major item on the agenda was to begin a new five-year strategic plan. Part of this plan was to pursue creating a new Western Canada festival for our elite competitors.

Our Annual General Meeting was held in Regina near the end of October and thankfully it also happened after harvest. We had a great turnout with all corners of our great province well represented. Our delegates asked the hard questions about the Notice of Motion from the board to withdraw from FCMF for one year. After a fruitful and lengthy discussion, the delegates supported the decision and the motion passed. At the end of the conference the delegates went home informed and with new festival friends.

Throughout the winter the regular work of the SMFA board continued.

- Finance Committee was chaired by Tammy Villeneuve, and members of this committee were Karen Unger, Carol Donhauser, Jeri Ryba and myself.
- Fundraising/Scholarships/Public Relations/Advocacy Committee was Dianne Gryba (chair), Jeff Froehlich, Krista Brost and Valentina May.
- Governance/Diversity/Mentorship Committee was made up of Jeri Ryba (chair), Karen Unger, Claire Seibold and Tammy Villeneuve.
- Jeri also chaired an Adjudicator Hiring Committee, whose task was to review the SMFA policy for hiring. Carol and I also worked on this committee and we called on the expertise and experience of Cherith Alexander.



- Moving Forward Committee, whose primary goal was to explore short and long term ideas for elite competitions was Dianne Gryba, Bonnie Nicholson, Tammy Villeneuve and myself (chair). Most committees met monthly. We have been pleased with the efficiency of committee work. Our board meetings have been much more effective.

A committee of representatives from Alberta, British Columbia and SMFA (Carol and I represented SMFA) did meet with the mandate of developing a cross province competition. We have created two documents, a memorandum of understanding and a syllabus. At the forefront has been keeping things simple and cost effective. All three provinces will now ask for approval from their district festivals, with the hope of the first competition to be held in 2022 in Saskatchewan.

In January, at the University of Saskatchewan, SMFA hosted an Adjudicator Professional Development Day. Nineteen adjudicators and prospective adjudicators attended. Panelists were Dr. Garry Gable, Dr. Glen Gillis and Lynette Sawatsky, all experienced SMFA adjudicators.

The Gordon C. Wallis Opera Competition was held on February 22-23 at the University of Regina. Eight competitors sang in the Heritage Lecture Theatre and participated in a masterclass the following day. The winner was McKenzie Warriner. SMFA also concurrently hosted the inaugural Musical Theatre Competition. There were seven entrants, with first place going to Emry Tupper and second place to Declan Hewitt. It was a memorable weekend of live music.

Just as the 2020 SMFA festival season got rolling, COVID-19 arrived in our province. 8 of our 47

district festivals had completed or partially completed their competitions. On the evening of March 14, the Executive/Finance Committee met and made the difficult, but as it turns out, correct decision to recommend that all district festivals and provincial finals be cancelled. On March 16, the provincial government announced school closures. Music students and teachers across the province quickly learned how to have virtual lessons.

I am very thankful for everything that has held our organization together in the months since COVID hit. Our office staff quickly adapted to working from home. As festivals dealt with cancellations and our adjudicators had to be contacted, our Executive Director Carol Donhauser and Administrative Assistant Nancy Toppings were there to provide support every step of the way. The support we receive from our funders, especially SaskCulture and the Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation has been vital to our survival. Thank you!

At our June Board meeting, held over Zoom, I asked the board to share something good that had come out of the COVID crisis. Everyone was able to share a personal positive outcome of this global pandemic. As I look back over the year, a big positive for me is how much we now all truly appreciate and understand how incredible the music festival experience is. It is vital to the development of our young musicians. It is a cultural experience for communities. It creates a province wide music community. We will survive this crisis. Music festivals will endure.

Respectfully submitted, Sherry Sproule



Executive Director's Report

In order to keep the music scene vibrant and accessible in the midst of the COVID-19 tragedy, organizations in the performing arts have moved online and musicians have found ways to deliver their craft, separated under social distancing rules.



The 2019/2020 fiscal year started out with a terrific celebration of SMFA's 110th Anniversary and hosting of the National Music Festival. Bonnie Nicholson and Dianne Gryba "ran a clinic" on how to host a National event. It was fantastic. We were a very proud province when Emma Johnson, our vocalist, won the highest honour in the prestigious Grand Awards Competition. The festival year was starting wonderfully!

In October, Fall Conference was held in Regina and SMFA delegates networked, shared common goals and a common mission. Also in Regina, in February, competitors gathered to participate in the Wallis Opera competition and the new Musical Theatre Competition. No one suspected that in a few short weeks, the COVID-19 pandemic would derail our 2020 District Festival season.

Early March, things were getting a bit complicated in the Provincial Office with hiring adjudicators as school teachers started a "work to rule" sanction and weren't able to participate in festival. Adjudicator contracts had to be adjusted or cancelled. Suddenly, by mid-March SMFA was holding emergency weekend staff and board meetings to deal with the pandemic crisis that was moving very quickly into Saskatchewan. On March 14, SMFA recommended that all festivals cancel their 2020 festival immediately. Not long after, the Saskatchewan Health Authority shut down anyone who held out hope of running their festival.

The COVID-19 pandemic shattered the arts sector. The consequences for society are devastating. Music and the arts heal us, entertain us, give us meaning, and drive economics. Shutdown has led to an almost immediate elimination of nearly all revenue to the arts and income to artists. SMFA is resilient and we must find a way to deliver our programs. After all, we survived that last upheaval during the Great War, 1914-1918 including the Spanish Flu (spring of 1918).

According to the SMFA History book by Mossie Hancock, the Provincial board met in a marathon meeting in 1914. "Some sense of urgency seemed to compel them to deal with everything possible while they could....It was the last Executive meeting for five years."

We are optimistic that, in due time, students will again fill venues across Saskatchewan, nervous and excited about performing for audience members and adjudicators. SMFA must find a way to stay relevant and deliver our programming during the pandemic. People need the solace of music, now more than ever. Please continue to make music, practice social distancing, stay home when you can, stay in touch with others, and stay healthy.

There is always something for which to be thankful. SMFA can be, more than ever, grateful for the funding received from the Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation. This grant provides SMFA with stable operational funding.

*Respectfully submitted,
Carol Donhauser*



National Music Festival

***Reporting on the 2019 National Music Festival to align with year ending July 31, 2020.**

Coinciding with the 110th anniversary of SMFA, the 2019 National Music Festival was held on the beautiful University of Saskatchewan Campus in Saskatoon from August 6 – 10.

The SMFA board was represented by Executive Director Carol Donhauser, President Sherry Sproule, Vice President Tammy Villeneuve, and Past President Karen Unger who also represented SMFA on the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals (FCMF) Board. SMFA Board members, Bonnie Nicholson and Dianne Gryba, chaired the Host Committee and devoted countless hours over many months to organize a first-class and memorable event.

Fifty-three of Canada's best young amateur musicians from across the country, ranging in age from 13 to 27, represented their provinces and competed in eight disciplines. Saskatchewan's forty-seven District Festivals were well represented by the following competitors:

- **Campbell Chamber Choir** under the direction of Russ & Deidre Baird, Regina Festival (judged by recording)
- **Jonathan Craig Penner**, Regina Festival (strings - cello); accompanied by Cherith Alexander
- **Jerry Hu**, Saskatoon Festival (piano); accompanied by Godwin Friesen
- **Abby Fuller**, Regina Festival (brass – trumpet); accompanied by Cherith Alexander
- **Carson Froehlich**, Quill Plains Festival (guitar); accompanied by Cherith Alexander
- **Emma Johnson**, Regina Festival (voice – soprano); accompanied by Joshua Hendricksen
- **Olivia Guselle**, Saskatoon Festival (voice – mezzo-soprano); accompanied by Karen Reynaud
- **Declan Hewitt**, Regina Festival (musical theatre); accompanied by Robert Ursan
- **Annika Tupper**, Saskatoon Festival (musical theatre); accompanied by Chris Kelly

Excitement began to build with the arrival of competitors on August 6. Many thanks to volunteer JoAnne Kasper, who came from Edmonton to run the practice room assignments and manage practice room keys. JoAnne was an important positive and calming influence on the students and various committee members. Competitors were treated to a pizza and trivia night. Thanks to the student volunteers, who organized the trivia night and also served as greeters at the airport and hotel, attended and recorded performances, assisted with the Grand Awards Concert, and replenished fruit and snack baskets for competitors throughout the week. Their energy was necessary and infectious.

The Federation (FCMF) Dinner was held at the University Club on August 7. Delegates and guests were treated to a wonderful concert by the adjudicators, a joyful affirmation of the Festival that was most inspiring. Claire Seibold donated beautiful cupcakes in honour of SMFA's 110th birthday.

Competitions took place over the following two days, August 8 & 9, in Convocation Hall, the Education Building and the Health Sciences Building. Following the competitions, competitors enjoyed a remarkable Fun Night at Louis' Pub, with swing dancing led by Daria and Greg Malin and exceptional live music by Dean McNeill and the Saskatoon Jazz Orchestra.

Masterclasses were conducted on Saturday morning, followed by the announcement of first-place winners. Saskatchewan's **Emma Johnson** was declared the winner in voice, and along with the winners of each discipline, proceeded to sound checks in preparation for the Grand Awards Concert.

Katrina MacKinnon and Godwin Friesen acted as MCs for the Grand Awards Concert on Saturday evening. His Honour the Honourable Russ Mirasty, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan was in attendance and presented the Grand Award to **Emma Johnson!** Along with the \$5,000 prize, Emma earned a performance opportunity with the Prince





George Symphony Orchestra and the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra.

Jerry Hu (piano) and **Abby Fuller** (brass) won second place honours. **Carson Froehlich** (guitar) and **Declan Hewitt** (musical theatre) were awarded the third-place prize. Congratulations to all the members of Team Saskatchewan for their accomplishments and fine performances!

Adjudicators for the 2019 National Music Festival were Dr. Carolyn Hart (voice), Dr. Stephen Runge (piano), Rafael Hoekman (strings), Philip Candalaria (guitar), Allen Harrington (woodwinds), Guy Few (brass), Bob Nicholls (percussion), Eric Paetkau (chamber), Susan Eichhorn-Young (musical theatre) and William Brown (choirs). Percussion and choir entries were judged by recording.

There are many people to thank:

- Bonnie Nicholson and Dianne Gryba (Co-Chairs) and members of the Host Committee: Carol Donhauser (SMFA Executive Director), Sherry Sproule (SMFA President), Joy McFarlane Burton (FCMF President), Christopher Lane (FCMF Treasurer), Barbara Long (FCMF Executive Director)
- University of Saskatchewan Department of Music, Dr. Greg Marion, Rohanna Wheatley, Joseph Anderson, Danielle Rudulier and Troy Linsley
- Roger Jolly for his time and effort preparing the pianos
- Stephen Nicholson, official photographer
- Doug McCosh, transportation coordinator, and drivers: Rick Burton, Garry Joynt and Sandra Senga
- Olivia Adams, Solveig Deason, and the many student volunteers who assisted in ways too numerous to mention
- Tier One volunteers: Kari Mitchell, Lynette Sawatsky, Krista Brost, Theresa Brost, Valentina May, Marusia Kobrynsky, Nancy Toppings; special

thanks to volunteer organizer Penny Joynt

- Wayne Giesbrecht, audio visual expert on behalf of the U of S
- Save-On Foods in Saskatoon, Biggar Music Festival, Melfort Music Festival, Moose Jaw Music Festival and Rosetown Music Festival for donating items for the swag bags; Stephen Nicholson and Don Eng for arranging shipping of items.
- Battlefords Music Festival, Quill Plains Music Festival, Swanson Gryba & Company, W Law Group, City of Saskatoon, Ross Ulmer, SaskEnergy, Claire Seibold, Robyn Rutherford, Lore Ruschiensky, Marshall Whelan, Kelly Stein, Joy McFarlane-Burton, Kathy Keple, Rose Schmalz, Fireside Singers – Marilyn Whitehead for their generous donations, and to the U of S Music Department for the donation of \$500 toward pizza night.



Emma Johnson, Grand Award winner, receives congratulations from His Honour the Honourable Russ Mirasty, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan.



Team Saskatchewan - 2019

Back row: Olivia Guselle, Jerry Hu, Declan Hewitt

Front row: Carson Froehlich, Annika Tupper, Emma Johnson, Abby Fuller, Jonathan Craig Penner





Federation of Canadian Music Festival (FCMF) Business Meeting Report

The 70th Annual Federation of Canadian Music Festival Association AGM was held Monday, August 12, 2019, University of Saskatchewan, Room C280, Saskatoon, SK.

Call to Order: 3:26 p.m. Joy McFarlane-Burton, President of FCMF, welcomed delegates to the AGM.

Saskatchewan Delegates – Carol Donhauser, Sherry Sproule, Tammy Villeneuve, Karen Unger

Relevant Motions:

MOTION: To provide a live percussion competition if the venue has the equipment. Karen/Sherry. CARRIED.

MOTION: That in 2020 we move to one adjudicator per discipline, including choral and large instrumental ensemble classes. Shannon/Tammy. CARRIED.

MOTION: That the interim financial report for period ending 31 July 2019 be accepted. Tom/Carol. CARRIED.

MOTION: That the entry fee for choral, band, and orchestra classes be set at \$125. Joan/Margaret S. CARRIED.

MOTION: That the entry fee for solo competitors for 2020 be set at \$225. Suzanne/Lynda. CARRIED.

MOTION: That the entry fee for chamber ensembles for 2020 be set at \$550. Tom/Suzanne. DEFEATED.

MOTION: That there no longer be a Choral Grand Award winner. Tammy/Sherry. CARRIED.

MOTION: That the Notice of Motion #1 be accepted as presented. Karen/Shannon. CARRIED.

That the voting structure at the FCMF General Meetings be changed to be two votes per member province/territory, with an additional vote per 10,000 entries to a maximum of 2 additional votes. The current proxy vote policy would remain.

MOTION: That the Notice of Motion #3 be accepted as presented. Karen/Suzanne. CARRIED.

That the FCMF Board structure be changed to an elected Board with a maximum of 8 elected members plus staff, effective at the August 2020 Annual General Meeting.

MOTION: Amendment to Motion #31. Tom/Lynda. CARRIED.

Be it moved that beginning at the 2021 National Music Festival, classes for younger competitors be added, provided sufficient funding is available.

Joy thanked BC and Ontario for attending and expressed regret that they are leaving. She expressed hope that we will see them back at the National Music Festival as soon as possible. Margaret S. thanked Joy for all of her hard work this year. Suzanne Dugas welcomed us all to Sackville, NB for 2020. At 5:02 p.m., Margaret S. moved adjournment of the 2019 Federation of Canadian Music Festivals AGM.



SMFA Car Lottery

Driving to the Beat! In conjunction with SMFA's 110th birthday and the National Music Festival in Saskatoon, the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association and its 47 District Festivals embarked on a special fundraiser for the 2019 festival year.

Lottery tickets were distributed to the 47 District Festivals in December of 2018, with the expectation that each District Festival would sell a minimum of 20 tickets. District Festivals selling in excess of 20 tickets received 50% of the proceeds back to support their festivals. Ticket sales took place over the ensuing months, in communities across Saskatchewan, at 2019 District Festivals, and during the Concerto Competition in Regina, Provincial Finals in Moose Jaw and the National Music Festival in Saskatoon.

The draw for the 2019 Versa Note took place at the National Music Festival Grand Awards Concert in Saskatoon on August 10, and the lucky winner was Maureen Hudec of North Battleford!

Thank you to Oakwood Nissan (Saskatoon), and to all the individuals and District Festivals who supported this fundraiser.



Carol Donhauser, Executive Director, presents the keys to the 2019 Nissan Versa Note to Maureen Hudec.

MAXIMUM 110 km/h

SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION

Driving to the beat!

Enter for a chance to win a 2019 Versa Note

It's part of our 110 reasons to celebrate in 2019

Tickets are \$20 | Only 3,000 tickets will be sold!
Prize is valued at \$23,835 (taxes and fees included - no cash value or exchanges)

Draw Date: August 10, 2019 - Convocation Hall (Peter Mackinnon Building) UofS (107 Administration Pl. Saskatoon)
Purchase Deadline: August 9, 2019 at Midnight | Rules of Play are available upon request or at www.smfa.ca
Lottery License #RR18-0513

CELEBRATING 110th ANNIVERSARY

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2019 SMFA Fall Conference

SaskEnergy, champion of volunteers, sponsor the Volunteer Award Luncheon. SMFA reports over 1,800 volunteers giving over 30,000 hours to music festivals in Saskatchewan.



A notice of motion was presented, at the 2019 Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA) Conference & AGM, to withdraw from the 2020 National Music Festival in the 2020 festival year and was carried. Thirty-one delegates from twenty of the forty-seven affiliated

District Music Festivals, two Honorary Life Members, and eleven board/staff gathered at the Travelodge (Cambridge Room) in Regina, to network, learn and share experiences. Presentations, Annual General Meeting, and roundtable discussions took place with the theme "Music for One, Music For All".

Two new directors, Claire Seibold (Rosetown Music Festival) and Jeff Froehlich (Quill Plains Music Festival), were elected by acclamation to the SMFA Board, joining Sherry Sproule (President), Karen Unger (Past President), Tammy Villeneuve (1st Vice President), Jeri Ryba (2nd Vice President), Dianne Gryba (Director), Valentina May (Director), Krista Brost (Director), Bonnie Nicholson (ad hoc Director), and Carol Donhauser (Executive Director). Retiring Director, Kari Mitchell (Carnduff) was thanked for her service on the Provincial Board. Guest speakers and presenters included: Rhonda Rosenberg and Yordanos Tesfamariam of the MultiCultural Council of Saskatchewan; Carol Donhauser and Nancy Toppings (SMFA Governance/Review Process); Pat Rediger of Benchmark Public Relations (Integrating Social Media and Media

Relations); and Cherith Alexander (Care and Feeding of Your Adjudicator).

The Volunteer Award Luncheon, sponsored by SaskEnergy, is a Conference highlight, and this year Dr. Melissa Morgan, choral conductor, educator, and performer was the keynote. Sherry Sproule, SMFA President, presented volunteer awards to: Christine Massier (Estevan); Jacqueline (Belcourt) Poirier (Lafleche); Glenda Giles and Jean Istace (Kindersley); Florence Poirier (Kipling); Judith Nordness and Janice Paterson (Saskatoon); Bernadette Schneider (Shaunavon); and Michelle Walker (Yorkton).

The following adjudicators were presented with Adjudicating Excellence Awards: Cherith Alexander, Gene Aulinger, Dominic Gregorio (posthumously), Lisa Hornung, Peggy L'Hoir, Joy McFarlane-Burton, Greg and Marcia McLean.

Larry Johnson of Music Festival Organizer Software Program received a Distinguished Service Award. SMFA Past President Nancy Toppings was awarded an Honorary Life Membership in recognition of her work at the District, Provincial and National Levels of Music Festival.

Delegates were entertained by Regina musicians, Solveig, Asta and Ulla Hovdestad, and by Wascana Voices, a self-directed choral ensemble based in Regina.





President Sherry Sproule presents the Outstanding Adjudicator Award to Cherith Alexander



President Sherry Sproule presents the Honorary Life Membership to Nancy Toppings



Delegates at the SMFA Fall Conference/AGM



2019 AGM Minutes

Saskatchewan Music Festival Association,
Annual General Meeting, October 26, 2019
Travelodge Hotel & Conference Centre,
4177 Albert Street South, Regina, SK S4S 3R6

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by President Sherry Sproule.

Jeri Ryba, accompanied by Bonnie Nicholson, led the singing of O Canada. This was followed by a moment of silence in memory of volunteers and committee members departed.

Sherry acknowledged that we are on Treaty 4 Territory and the original lands of the Cree, Ojibwe, Saulteaux, Dakota, Nakota, Lakota, homeland of the Métis Nation and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

Sherry Sproule appointed Wendy Thienes as recording secretary.

Motion: to approve the agenda.
Susan Gorges/Dorothea Trithardt
CARRIED

The roll call was conducted by Karen Unger. Representatives from **21 District Festivals** were present: Assiniboia, Battlefords, Biggar, Borderland, Carnduff, Eston, Gravelbourg, La Ronge, Lafleche, Mainline, Meadow Lake, Moose Jaw, Quill Plains, Regina, Rosetown, Sask Valley, Saskatoon, Shaunavon, Watrous, Weyburn, and Yorkton.

Karen Unger announced two Board positions to be filled, two 3-year positions. Claire Seibold (Rosetown) and Jeff Froehlich (Quill Plains) have been nominated for the 3-year positions. Karen called for further nominations from the floor. None were forthcoming.

The minutes of the 2018 AGM as recorded in the Annual Report were presented. It was noted that Saskatchewan Band Association (SBA), Saskatchewan Choral Federation (SCF), Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers' Association (SRMTA) did not submit greetings in the Conference program as noted in the minutes.

Motion: that the minutes be approved with changes.

Sandra Senga/Marcie Carswell
CARRIED

Business Arising

Finance Chair Tammy Villeneuve, presented the auditor's report as printed on page 73 of the Annual Report.

Total Assets for 2017/2018 - \$646,707

Total Liabilities - \$141,057

Net Assets - \$505,650

Motion: to accept the auditor's report.

Doris Lazecki/Bren Keenan
CARRIED

Motion: to appoint Marcia Herback as Auditor for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Mariel Unger/Hannah Marple
CARRIED

Karen Unger made the 2nd call for nominations from the floor. None were received.

Sherry Sproule presented an overview of the 2019 Annual Report.

Motion: to adopt the annual report as presented.

Robin Swales/Kelly Stein
CARRIED



Motion: to ratify the motions of the board from the past fiscal year.

*Sandra Senga/Bren Keenan
CARRIED*

Motion: That the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association withdraw from the National Music Festival in 2020 (for the 2020 festival).

*Jacqueline Poirier/Gaye-Lynn Kern
CARRIED*

New Business

Adjudicator Professional Development Day – January 18, 2020 – Saskatoon (U of S).

The Wallis Opera Competition and the new Musical Theatre Competition will be held on February 22 & 23, 2020, Conservatory of Performing Arts (University of Regina).

The SMFA Provincial Finals will be held on Thursday June 4 to Sunday, June 7, 2020 on the campus of the University of Saskatchewan (Saskatoon).

Sherry Sproule acknowledged the continuing support of the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust

Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation, administered by SaskCulture. Paul Gingras brought greetings on behalf of SaskCulture Inc.

Karen Unger made the third and last call for nominations from the floor. There were none.

Motion: to close nominations.

*Yvonne Sutherland/Nancy Phillips
CARRIED*

Motion: to elect by acclamation: Jeff Froehlich and Claire Seibold, to the SMFA Board of Directors, each for a 3-year term.

*Tammy Villeneuve/Kari Mitchell
CARRIED*

Jeff and Claire outlined their involvement with music festivals. Sherry Sproule welcomed the new board members. Sherry thanked the office staff for their dedication and contributions, as well as the passionate team of board members. Sherry thanked outgoing Board member Kari Mitchell (ad hoc) for her service over the past year.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.



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Wallis Opera Competition

Alameda Soprano, McKenzie Warriner, won the 2020 Wallis Opera Competition held, for the first time, at the Conservatory of Performing Arts, University of Regina.

The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA) President, Sherry Sproule, is pleased to 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 \$5000 and the opportunity to appear as 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 native of rural Saskatchewan, 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.

The next Wallis Opera Competition will be held in 2022.



SMFA Musical Theatre Competition

Seven singers competed in the first SMFA Musical Theatre Competition held at the Conservatory of Performing Arts, University of Regina. Saskatoon singer, Emry Tupper (shown in white shirt), was declared the winner.

The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA) President, Sherry Sproule, is pleased to announce that the 2020 SMFA Musical Theatre Competition prize of \$1000 was won by tenor Emry Tupper. The Saskatoon singer, accompanied by Cassandra Stinn, performed selections from West Side Story, Marry Me a Little, Fifty Million Frenchmen and Bandstand.

Emry Tupper has been performing in many capacities since age 10. He got his start singing with the Fireside Singers and his love for music skyrocketed. He has appeared in many productions and, when not on the stage for musical theatre, Emry enjoys playing double bass, drums, saxophone, and volleyball.

The runner-up prize of \$750 went to bari-tenor Declan Hewitt, who was accompanied by Rob Ursan and performed selections from Very Warm for May, Marry Me a Little, The Most Happy Fella, and City of Angels. Declan is a recent graduate of Campbell Collegiate in Regina and has performed in 26 musical productions with four different companies. He intends to head to Ontario later this year to study musical theatre.

Seven singers competed on Saturday, February 22, in the Heritage Lecture Theatre at the



Conservatory of Performing Arts, University of Regina, followed by a masterclass. The competition was judged by Dawn Sadoway (Edmonton) and Aaron Hutton (Winnipeg). The competition will be held every two years and is intended to support young singers in further studies in musical theatre.

The next SMFA Musical Theatre Competition will be held in 2022.



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Testimonial – Dr. Melissa Morgan, DMA

“From an early age, I learned that music was not just for the able bodied, the young, the Canadian, the new Canadian, the old, but I understood that music was for all.”

Dr. Melissa Morgan is a choral conductor, educator and performer. Currently, she is an Assistant Professor of Choral Music in the Faculty of Media, Art, and Performance at the University of Regina where she also teaches courses in choral conducting and vocal diction. In October, 2017 Dr. Morgan was named as one of CBC Saskatchewan's Future 40 under 40 recipients. She frequently appears as a clinician, adjudicator and guest conductor throughout Canada. Dr. Morgan holds a Doctorate of Music Performance in Choral Conducting from the University of Toronto, a Master of Music Performance in Choral Conducting from the University of Western Ontario, a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Regina. She is also an Associate of the Royal Conservatory of Music (ARCT) in piano, voice, and flute. Dr. Morgan grew up in Regina and participated in the Last Mountain and Regina Music Festivals. Dr. Morgan gave the keynote address at the 2019 SMFA Volunteer Awards Luncheon, and this text is taken from her speech:



“As I reflect on my days with the music festival, I realized that the festival taught me so much more than how to compete! I learned many, many life lessons. The festival taught me:

- How to prepare.
- The importance of kindness, patience, and being true to the music.
- The value of service, importance of volunteering and giving back to the community. I had so many classes and entered the festival for so many years in a row that the adjudicator secretaries and the door keepers became my personal friends. They would encourage me and track my career even after I aged out of the festival. These people, people such as yourselves, became a part of my support system and played a significant role in my decision to pursue music as a career.
- How to develop grit and the art of feeling fear but moving forward and performing anyway.
- The importance of keeping a never quit mindset.
- The importance of looking and being professional.
- How to appreciate everyone, how to speak out and congratulate others while recognizing personal achievements and cultivating the strength to encourage oneself.
- How to be a good winner.
- How to be a good loser.
- And most importantly, that a community can flourish with music. While music draws us together, we MUST give back for the goodness of it all to come full circle.



It was not until I attended graduate school that I truly understood how much of an affect and influence my music teachers and my community had on me. As I entered the “festival” we call life, and became a student at universities outside Saskatchewan – I was prepared and equipped for the new pressures which were before me. My teachers, but also volunteers and people just like you, taught me to recognize how important it is for me to connect with those around me. My successes in life are not mine. I am not a success in my own strength but I am a success because you – yes you, my granny, my mother, my teachers exemplified service, pride, community and excellence through music.

Many years after my festival days are over, I still feel connected. I remember the thoughts I had when I adjudicated my first festival in Carnduff, Saskatchewan and it hit me that I had come full circle. It seemed like just a few years ago that I was just one of the students sitting in the corner wearing gloves, studying music, all dressed up and waiting to perform. I remember the feeling I had as the festival ladies brought me tea, sharpened my pencil and helped to organize enthusiastic parents and local teachers. I suddenly realized the power of the position I was in and how wonderful it was to be on the other end of the festival – to give back.

For those volunteers who have spent months planning, contacting adjudicators, creating schedules, asking for donations, booking churches, THANK YOU! Never stop serving your communities. Never stop setting high standards, never stop hiring in the “experts”. You, the volunteers who are the backbone of the festival, have influenced more people than you will ever know.

We live in a society where rules are easily broken. Where the standard can be, at times, very low. We live in a society where fake news written in 140 characters accompanied by a photo-shopped photograph threatens truth. We live in a society where it is easy to lose faith in people and in what one believes, because we are so often judged by the “likes” on our Facebook page or the photos of our Instagram social media site. The truth is that music can change our broken society. Our only hope for the future is for people like you and me to unite, to band together and create. I am here today and I am a success because of the people who recognized the power of music, the power of giving back and the power of community and the strength in music for all.

In the words of Mossie Hancock, author of *Music for One, Music for All, The Story of the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association from 1908-1988* she writes, “In this Chronicle, I hope you enjoy meeting some of the dedicated people of vision who cared enough about music and the community to build a SMFA which has grown though good times and bad. The Association has served changing needs while maintaining high standards; it has given encouragement and help, asking only that performers do their best. It is an offering to music.”

Please continue the vision of Mossie Hancock.

I leave you with one last thought: Music speaks to the very core of the soul - music for one, but when you express music in harmony and with others, you speak to the community - music for all.”



47 District Music Festivals

In addition to 47 annual district music festivals, SMFA provides: a provincial Syllabus; entrance to Annual Provincial, Concerto, Opera and Musical Theatre Competitions; and coordinates training, hiring and scheduling of adjudicators. SMFA also provides workshops, fosters recognition of volunteers, organizes provincial archives and maintains a provincial website. In 2020, SMFA partnered with Saskatchewan Drama Association for the first SDA & SMFA Spoken Word e-Festival.

Assiniboia	Last Mountain	Redvers
The Battlefords	Lloydminster	Regina
Biggar	Mainline	Rosetown
Borderland	Maple Creek	Sand Hills
Carnduff	Meadow Lake	Sask Valley
Central Sask	Melfort	Saskatoon
Estevan	Moose Jaw	Shaunavon
Eston	Moosomin	Spiritwood
Gravelbourg	Nipawin	Swift Current
Hafford	Outlook	Twin Rivers
Humboldt	Parkland	Unity
Kindersley	Potashville	Vanguard
Kipling	Prairie Sunset	Watrous
La Ronge	Prince Albert	Weyburn
Lafleche	Qu'Appelle Valley	Yorkton
Lanigan	Quill Plains	



District Festival Reports



Assiniboia & District Music Festival Cancelled due to COVID-19

Our music festival dates were March 15-17. We had 44 entrants preparing to perform 109 selections over the three-day period. On the morning of Sunday March 15, after communication between Provincial Office, our adjudicator, and our local committee, we decided to follow the Provincial Office recommendation to cancel our festival due to the COVID-19 outbreak. It was a difficult decision, in light of all the preparation by entrants and volunteers, but all parties involved understood the necessity of the decision. Many families chose to post videos of their selections online, so we did get to see some of our festival participants after all.

To close, I would like to thank all those who support our local festival each and every year, and this year was no exception. To our participants, volunteers, executive, and teachers – Thank You!! Also a big thanks to all the business and organizations who provide scholarships, donations and advertising for the music festival. We look forward to seeing you next year for festival 2021!

We gratefully acknowledge: The late Bill Shurniak (scholarship), Knights of Columbus, St. John's Masonic Lodge #106, Assiniboia Kinette Club, Limerick United Church Women, Assiniboia Kinsmen, Ross Funeral Service, Southland Co-op, Catholic Women's League, Piche-Hawkings-Grondin Funeral Chapels, Town of Assiniboia, Assiniboia Community Choir, Assiniboia & District Arts Council, Nelson GM, Karen Reisner, Royal Canadian Legion, Rotary Club of Assiniboia, Assiniboia &

District Ministerial Association, Sunset Acres Inc., Haywire Electric, Cat Country CIAT 98.1 FM.

Respectfully submitted, Heather Delorme, President



Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival Cancelled due to COVID-19

The 89th consecutive Battlefords Music Festival was set to run March 24 – April 5, with the Gala concert of award winners on Tuesday, April 7 at the Dekker Centre. We planned to hold the band and instrumental classes in the first week, March 24 – 27, with the other disciplines running from March 29 – April 5. Sadly, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic caused the cancellation of all festival events.

On March 7, just before public events were cancelled, BKMFA was able to mount a musical theatre and speech arts workshop facilitated by Janet Nichol from Edmonton. Janet had adjudicated these disciplines for our festival in 2019. 16 students participated. Everyone benefitted from the event, although a snowstorm forced some students to leave early because of deteriorating road conditions.

In 2020, the Battlefords Festival was, once again, well supported by businesses and service clubs in our community, including substantial sponsorships from the Kiwanis Club and the Jim Pattison Broadcast Group. \$7350 for advertising and \$8350 for scholarships had been collected. Many businesses, service groups and individuals allowed us to keep their donations despite the cancellation. We had planned to pay bussing costs for school groups entering the



festival, and travel costs for performers recommended to the provincial level of competition.

The festival program for 2020 was just going to print when our event was cancelled.

We had 78 band and instrumental entries, up from 50 entries in 2019. These included 24 bands and school ensembles, 23 small ensembles, and 31 solos. Our adjudicator was going to be Mark Ward from Medicine Hat. These classes were to be heard at the Kinsmen Band Hall and the North Battleford Comprehensive High School.

There were 67 entrants in vocal and choir classes, which were to be adjudicated by Chris Kelly. There were 61 entries in solo vocal, and 6 small ensemble or choral entries. The decrease from 89 entries in 2019 was due to lack of participation by one local teacher. These classes were scheduled in the sanctuary of Third Avenue United Church as well as in Logie Hall.

Musical theatre and some speech arts participants were scheduled to perform on stage at the Dekker Centre in 2020. This would have been an exciting new adventure for the students and the audiences. Some of the younger speech arts entrants were to perform in Logie Hall. The adjudicator was to be David Wilson from Edmonton. There were 18 musical theatre solos and 2 duets, as well as 2 large ensembles. As well, 20 speech arts solos were entered. The decline in solo entries was again due to the loss of entries from one teacher. There was an exciting increase in choral speaking entries to 19 classrooms. We had planned to hear the classroom entries at 2 schools. Total number of musical theatre and speech arts entries was 42.

44 string entries were going to be heard by Anna Bekolay. There were 29 solo performances, which included fiddling. We were excited to welcome 9 school based string ensembles to the

festival. 6 duets were also entered. The students were to play in the sanctuary of Third Avenue United Church.

Piano participants were to be adjudicated by Sharon Rodney. The soloists would have played in Logie Hall, while duet and concert entries were scheduled in the sanctuary. There were 138 solos, 17 duets and 1 concerto in the schedule. The total of 156 entries was up from 130 in 2019.

Total number of entries was 387, which is an increase of 6 from the 2019 festival. Admission to the sessions was by donation. Programs were sold for \$8.

The winner of the cover art contest for the 2020 program was Dayne Dashen, who was in grade 8 at Heritage Christian School.

The cancellation of the 2020 festival was an upsetting disruption for all the students, teachers and committee members. It still feels like a surreal situation. We were glad to have SMFA leadership at this difficult time. If a need to cancel public events occurs again, BKMFA hopes that we will be prepared to run virtual events, or have another effective plan.

Respectfully submitted, Dianne Gryba, President

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Biggar & District Music Festival

March 9 - 14, 2020

The 92nd annual Biggar and District Music Festival was held from March 9 – 14. Our festival included two days of piano, one day of instrumental, and two days of vocal. Three rose bowls were awarded to Griffin Lehnert in vocal, Madeline Ellard in instrumental and Kolby Zagoruy in piano. All three of our rose bowl winners were also recommended to Provincials in their disciplines, and Minjun Kim was also recommended to Provincials for piano. Thank you to all of our scholarship supporters, award donors and patrons.

On December 3, our annual Carol Festival was held at the Majestic Theatre with a noon performance of school groups and an evening performance of community choirs. Lunches were sold at the noon performance. The Carol Festival is an annual fundraiser for our spring music festival. This year the Carol Festival raised over \$1700.

At our district music festival, there were a total of 221 entries including three band entries and eight choral group entries. We were pleased to see an increase of entries again this year! We had three adjudicators: Sharon Rodney for piano, Glen Gillis for instrumental, and Lisa Hornung for vocal. Glen Gillis offered workshops for the band students on instrumental technique and performance tips. We would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the adjudicators for the encouragement and advice they provided to our festival participants.

In response to the coronavirus and the rising concerns, we decided to cancel our Performers' Concert, scheduled March 14. We moved the awards and scholarship portion of the evening to an online version via Facebook live. As the weeks played out following our music festival,

we were confident that we made the right decision to cancel the large gathering of our Performers' Concert. We are thankful that we were able to go through with our music festival, as many festivals were cancelled this year.

On behalf of the Biggar Music Festival Association, I would like to thank all of our many volunteers who ensure that everything runs smoothly during the music festival. The 92nd Biggar Music Festival was a success!

Submitted by Jackie Zagoruy, President



45 Years of Festivals

Borderland Music Festival (Coronach) Cancelled due to COVID-19

What an unexpected year! Our year began with the resignation of our Treasurer and one member at large. In return, we gained seven new members, which was a blessing, as last year we ran our festival with only five members. We started a new Facebook page to keep locals in the music festival loop.

Our festival was to take place from April 5-9. Adjudicators hired were Jeri Ryba for vocal/musical theatre and Janis Smith for piano. We had a total of 117 entries, 9 of which were school entries.

We were looking forward to a fun festival this year, celebrating 45 years. Planned activities included invitations to past performers to perform at the Festival of Stars, posters acknowledging past board members, and a poster with distinguished performers (highest marks) from past years. We were planning to serve "45" cupcakes following the Festival of Stars program.



Our music teacher had arranged some master classes with Melissa Wood (vocal) and Janet Gieck (piano) scheduled for the end of March, which were cancelled.

Since our festival was cancelled, music teacher Dorothea Trithardt continued to work with students on their festival pieces, over video chats, until the end of April. Students sent her videos of their performances, recorded while dressed in festival attire. Upon approval, videos were posted on our Facebook page for all to see.

A big thank you goes to all board members for their hard work and dedication in preparing for this year's festival, even though we weren't able to follow through with our plans. We should be organized for next year! Our board members are: Desiray Buckler (President/Corresponding Secretary); Raelynn Gerde (Vice President); Marily Remoue (Treasurer); Kalissa Reiger (Treasurer Helper); Shelly Rousseau (Scholarships/Trophies); Brittany Travland (Entry Secretary); Dorothea Trithardt (Music Teacher/Member); Lisa Andersen (Food Organizer); Carlyn Beliveau and Brenda Fisher (Members).

We look forward to the 2021 festival year.

*Respectfully submitted, Desiray Buckler,
BMFA President*



Carnduff & District Music and Arts Festival **March 8 - 13, 2020**

The 61st Annual Carnduff & District Music & Arts Festival was held March 8-13. We hosted at two venues again this year - the Carnduff Legion and Oxbow Prairie Horizon School. This year was kicked off with the Strawberry Tea on

February 29. We had 273 entries for the Music & Arts Festival.

Our theme this year was "Find Your Beat". Music and art both have such a flow and movement to them. While finding your beat can have a very literal meaning (one that is greatly appreciated by our adjudicators) there are also a few lessons to learn from this year's theme. It is important in life to figure out who we are and what makes us happy (our beat, if you will). The joy that comes from doing something you love and being true to yourself is immeasurable. Take time to slow down and listen – so you can find your beat too!

The mandate of the Art Competition is to promote the arts area of the Festival. The artwork had to incorporate art elements of rhythm, balance, contrast and movement, and be original and creative. This year we made a few changes to the competition including that it did not have to follow the theme, and that within the various age groups, there were categories such as black and white, colour, paint and mixed media. We awarded 13 youth with monetary scholarships for their excellence in their age category. Awards for this were valued at \$375. We are working on further developing this portion of festival in the years to come.

We had four adjudicators this year: Rudolf Sternadel for strings & guitar, Loren Hiebert for piano, Wendy Zander McCallum for band/instrumental, and Brett Mitchell for musical theatre, vocal, and speech arts. We appreciate the time they took to come and be at our festival and the insight they provided to our competitors. It takes special people to uplift and give constructive criticism to so many participants in such a short time and in such a manner that they learn from their adjudications.

Our festival has a great number of patrons and sponsors that help us offer scholarships and awards to many of our performers. We offered 64 scholarships/awards to our participants, with





the monetary value of \$2240. We wish to thank all of our sponsors and patrons for their continued support in making Carnduff and District Music and Arts Festival a success. We also wish to thank the many volunteers for their time and support.

We were very fortunate to have our music festival this year. With all of the chaos and immediate response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were unable to have our highlights concert scheduled for March 16. We had been taking extra precautions during festival, but all in all, it felt like a pretty normal year until it didn't. Because we live in a more remote corner of the province and we have been relatively untouched by the pandemic (even now, months later) it was a very surreal experience for many. While we all wanted to do what was best to keep people safe, many in the community did not understand why we needed to cancel the celebration that we all cherish at the end of festival. It was the very beginning of a new experience for all of us. We did end up delivering the awards to the doorsteps and front porches of the recipients over the following weeks and we recognized each of them on our Facebook page. The arts awards were returned to the students at the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

Our meritorious winners this year were: Sarah Kimball & Donna Turk (strings & guitar), Leah Macfarlane (piano), Mary Lee McNeil (band and band instruments) and Sinnead Barnes (speech arts, vocal and musical theatre). Leah Macfarlane was recommended to provincials and would have represented our festival and herself with great distinction and honour.

2020 was definitely another year to remember. I think we will be saying that for many years to come. We don't know what 2021 will look like exactly, but we are hopeful that music and art can bring us all back together once again. It is important that we celebrate the beauty of all that our participants have to offer and reflect on

how music and art both seem to shine light on the darkest of times. Together we will weather the storm and we will come out on the other side. Until then, we as festivals will just need to be a little creative. It'll be okay – creativity is something we are very good at.



Central Saskatchewan Music and Speech Arts Festival (Davidson) Cancelled due to COVID-19

The Central Sask Music Festival was scheduled to celebrate our 60th Anniversary this past March 23-25. It was with great disappointment that it was determined that the coronavirus, which became a public threat in mid-March, would result in the cancellation of our event. Little did we know that the social distancing policies and postponement/cancellation of all events would stretch into the undetermined future. Our hopes of a May or June recital, as a substitution for the festival, became an exercise in wishful thinking. We placed an article in the local paper to share our disappointment with our students, teachers and parents who had diligently prepared for the festival. We are trusting that the prolonged absence of music lessons and school support will not negatively impact on the enrollment for our 2021 festival when we will celebrate our 60th with renewed enthusiasm.

Nancy Wilkins, President, CSMF



Estevan & District Music Festival Cancelled due to COVID-19

This was a year that many of us will never forget, as the global pandemic caused cancellations of almost everything! The arts and culture world will recover eventually, but it has been a very different year with the cancellation of the Estevan and District Music Festival.

Our entries and scheduling were complete and we were to begin the festival on Tuesday, March 17, when the decision was made on Sunday, March 15 that the festival was cancelled. We had 463 entries and were to hold the festival from March 17-31. We were looking forward to meeting our adjudicators: Aaron Wilson, Laurel Teichrob, Tannis Hofer and Anna Marie Bekolay.

The local newspaper, Estevan Mercury Publications, held a contest for those who had prepared performances for the music festival. They were invited to videotape their performances, post them to the Facebook page with the #LookAtMeInTheMercury and have a chance to win a \$25 gift certificate to a local business of their choice, courtesy of Kathryn Gilliss – Partner at Trobert Gilliss Law Firm. Kathryn is a former competitor at the Estevan and District Music Festival and we are grateful for her support. Several students posted videos for everyone to enjoy.

Many of our “Friends of the Festival” supporters and scholarship donors agreed to leave their donations with the festival for next year. We thank all our community donors for their generous contributions and support of the music festival.

Our festival awarded each of our Grade 12 entrants with a bursary based on the number of eligible entries. It is unfortunate that these students were unable to compete for the

community’s generous scholarships in their last year of high school, but it is a small consolation prize for them to use for their future endeavours.

Our SMFA volunteer award recipient was Christine Massier, who has served as our festival’s treasurer for many years. We are so appreciative of her expertise and commitment to this volunteer position.

We are hopeful for increased world health and the return of our festival in 2021.

Submitted by Esther Bangsund, President



Eston Music Festival Cancelled due to COVID-19

Our annual music festival was to be held April 6-8 but was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We had 129 entries, up 15 from 2019. Entries were: piano 49, vocal 24, strings 9, speech arts 47. We had 4 classrooms participating in speech arts and 1 school choir.

We had a quilt raffle planned for Mother’s Day 2020 but have postponed it until our Carol Festival in December. The quilt was made and donated by Rae Baumgartner of Flin Flon, Manitoba and we thank her for her generous donation.

Our annual Carol Festival was held on December 18, 2019 and was again well supported by the community.

Our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2020, at 7:00 pm at St. Andrew’s United Church.

We welcome Laura Saar to Eston as our new piano teacher, taking over for Brenda Ormsby who retired after 32 years.





The cancellation of our music festival was very disappointing to everyone but with the concern for our global health, it was understood. Our festival participants were asked to post their performances on our Facebook page, if they wished, and we had a few do this!

Hopefully we will be able to host our music festival next spring.

Submitted by Brenda Ormsby, President



Gravelbourg & District Bilingual Music Festival Cancelled due to COVID-19

The 2020 Gravelbourg and District Bilingual Music Festival was set to take place April 22-25. This was the 20th anniversary of the Gravelbourg Festival. Adjudicators hired were Hannah Marple and Chelsea Mahan. Thank you to both of these talented ladies; we hope you will come to our festival another time. We had 34 families/groups enter, for a total of 49 children entered in the festival. We had 168 entries in musical theatre, piano, speech arts, strings/violin and vocal. Entries were down slightly from previous years. One local school participates in speech arts in alternate years, accounting for the difference.

We are blessed to have a supportive community when it comes to financial contributions for awards and scholarships, so we did not need to raise entry fees. Our venue is donated, and other expenses are offset by our 50/50 draw and penny parade items. Our other major fundraiser, the silver collection at our annual awards night, "The Gravelbourg Grammys" was cancelled due to the pandemic. All sponsors and participants were contacted so

that fees could be returned, or donated to the festival.

During what would have been festival week, we had an online "COVID Style Celebration". Participants were encouraged to submit a video of their performances. We had 35 videos submitted and the feedback was very positive. We were hoping to have a live performance evening in summer, but continued restrictions prohibited this.

We have switched to the Solarislive! program for festival entry registrations. This was a real change, but a positive one. Michelle Blohm has done an amazing job getting the program set up for entries.

We have a new logo! As this is our 20th anniversary, we decided that the festival needed its own logo for our Facebook page, registration program, advertising and correspondence. We worked with local graphic artist, Renee Michaud, to develop the new logo and look forward to using it in coming years.

Yvonne attended the SMFA Fall Conference in Regina and came back with a better understanding of how our festival fits into the provincial and national umbrellas. We have a strong committee this year, who worked well together. Many members are new, or in new positions, so this has been a learning year but we are making great strides and look forward to next year. Thank you to the amazing committee for all your hard work in this unusual year.

President – Yvonne Sutherland
Treasurer – Jocelyn Lorrain
Corresponding Secretary – Kristine Goepen-Bourgeois
Entry Secretary – Michelle Blohm
Board Members - Lorna Bell, Charmaine Keck, Melanie Gosselin, Leanne Mann



Additional thanks go out to The Gravelbourg Church of Christ for the donation of our venue, the Tribune for advertising, all sponsors and advertisers, our amazing group of volunteers, and to the SMFA and SaskLotteries for their support.

Submitted by Yvonne Sutherland, President



Hafford & District Music Festival Cancelled due to COVID-19

This year's festival was scheduled to run from March 30-April 3. March 30 and 31 were dedicated to full days of piano, and April 1 dedicated to voice and speech arts. Our adjudicators were to be Chelsea Mahan and Peggy L'hoir. There were 82 piano entries and 36 voice entries. Planning for this year went much more smoothly as we had one successful year under our belts.

Our number of sponsors and scholarships was about even with the previous year. We had \$1560 in sponsorships and \$2275 in scholarship donations. We originally collected \$1378 in entry fees and have since refunded the entry fee to participants. The scholarship funds will be held and awarded next year. We are looking forward to next year and what that might look like. One of the piano teachers has done virtual recitals for her students and has continued with lessons electronically.

We would like to acknowledge the support from the communities of Hafford, Borden, Radisson, Maymont, Mayfair, Blaine Lake and Leask.

Humboldt Music Festival

March 9 – 20, 2020

Humboldt Music Festival was held March 9-20. We had a total 320 entries in the festival between the disciplines of piano, band, strings, vocal, musical theatre and speech arts. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we cancelled the piano portion (201 entries), but were fortunate to have been able to complete the band and vocal/musical theatre disciplines of our festival. Our adjudicators were Rick Lett and Ron de Jager.

We would like to recognize our Beethoven Sponsors, the Good Neighbour Store, Field Good Agronomics, and Humboldt Co-op as well as many other local businesses that provided additional sponsorship. With their support, we were able to provide \$1225 in scholarships to 22 recipients in the band and vocal/musical theatre disciplines.

We would like to thank our volunteer board and all the other volunteers from our community who donated their time to keep the festival organized and running smoothly. Our volunteers are key to keeping our festival vibrant and alive in our community. We hope next year we will continue to be able to provide the youth in our community and surrounding area the opportunity to showcase their talent and learn to expand their musical abilities.

Submitted by April Kozar, Festival Coordinator

SaskTel 
Today is the day



Kindersley & District Music Festival
March 9 – 13, 2020

We kicked off our year on December 1 with our annual Carol Festival, again a great evening of Christmas music, a fantastic start to the Christmas season and a major fundraiser for our Festival. Thanks to Glenda Giles for organizing this each year!

We held a vocal and choir workshop on Saturday, February 8 with Dr. Jennifer Lang. She conducted a masterclass for our primary, intermediate and senior vocalists and had a masterclass for two choir groups. The students enjoyed a pizza lunch after their session!

The 57th Annual Kindersley & District Festival started on March 9 and ended abruptly on Sunday, March 15 due to COVID-19. From March 9-13, we enjoyed having Heather Macnab and Heather Blakley adjudicate our vocal, musical theatre, speech arts and piano students, and we heard many great performances while nervously listening to the news of the COVID-19 virus spreading. We were following the guidelines of SMFA and planned to continue if schools were open. On March 15 all that changed. That morning we had a flurry of emails, texts and calls between the school administrator, school district, our committee and our adjudicator, Dawn McLean-Belyk. We were planning to make changes to our Band day on Monday by driving our adjudicator to each school and not allow any audience (only the participants and teacher), when we received word from SMFA that all festivals were immediately cancelled. I stayed home from what would be our last church service and sadly sent emails and posted updates to cancel our second week of festival. Thankfully, we had made the change to Music Festival Suite which provided a one-click email option to send updates to all our parents and teachers. MFS added an additional feature later that week which helped us more easily process refunds and donations of our week 2 entry fees.

Thank you to SMFA board and directors for making the difficult decision to cancel festivals and take that worry and decision off our local committee.

We want to congratulate Charity Klassen, Anika German, Ronan Paulhus and Alexandra Summach who were chosen to be recommended to Provincials! Even though Provincials were cancelled, we want to acknowledge the accomplishments of these students!

Big thank you to all our program ad sponsors, scholarship sponsors, and Friends of the Festival sponsors! The great program we have here would not be possible without the help of all these donors.

It's been said it takes a village to raise a child, and it also takes a village to put on a Music Festival! A big thank you to our 2019/2020 committee, and to all the volunteers who helped with the sessions during the week and those who had planned to give their time. Thanks to teachers and accompanists for all their hard work. Thanks to our venues: St. Paul's United Church, Norman Ritchie Community Centre and Elizabeth Middle School.

2020 will be a year to remember and we very much look forward to 2021 and a better year!

Kipling & District Music Festival
Cancelled due to COVID-19

2020 Festival was cancelled on Friday the 13th of March, just three days prior to when it was to commence. COVID-19 interrupted plans to continue, and our festival committee felt we were lucky in that we weren't forced to cancel mid-week during festival. All entry fees were returned and all donors were contacted, and a good portion of our local donors were very sympathetic towards the circumstances and



honoured their donation towards this year's expense.

A highlight of our year was that a long time volunteer on our festival board, Florence Poirier, received the volunteer award from SMFA. We had a social distanced picture taken of this recognition and later, a Facebook page announcement. Florence has served on the board for almost sixty years.

Our committee concluded that it was definitely more work NOT having a festival than having one! We had 250 entries all prepared to come, and many, many disappointed people over the circumstances, but the disappointment was warranted and certainly not aimed at KDMF.

We would like to thank all our associates, performers, donors, volunteers and committee members for a memorable year, a year that we hope is never repeated. We look forward to a successful 2021 festival!



La Ronge & District Music Festival Cancelled due to COVID-19

The 31st Annual La Ronge and Area Music Festival was to be held from March 30 – April 3. Though we were prepared and ready to hold the festival, the COVID-19 pandemic unfortunately caused us to cancel. This was set to be another exciting festival, with over 200 entries once again. We initiated refunds for all the entrants and wished them all the best. We hope that everyone takes care and keeps music in their hearts, now more than ever. We look forward to seeing everyone in 2021!



Lafleche & District Music Festival Cancelled due to COVID-19

The Lafleche & District Music Festival was planned to be held from March 29 – April 3. Our voice adjudicator was to be Lisa Hornung and our piano adjudicator was to be Katherine Dowling. We were planning to hold our annual Adrian Frank Competition on Friday, April 3 at 7:00pm. The Final Concert was to be held on Sunday, April 5 at 3:30pm. Due to COVID-19, we had to cancel our festival. It was a huge disappointment to the participants, teachers and parents.

In the cancellation process, we made announcements on our Facebook page and communicated directly with the teachers and community representatives. We allowed students to post their performances on our Facebook page but found that it did not receive a great response. We look forward to having our Festival again in 2021, as it was sadly missed in 2020. We are also discussing ways that we can represent our high school graduating participants of 2020 at our 2021 festival.

Submitted by Sharla Davidson-Girardin, President



Lanigan & District Music Festival Cancelled due to COVID-19

On March 23, the committee for the Lanigan and District Music Festival made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 festival due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The SMFA Board of Directors sent an email on March 15 advising immediate cancellation of all festivals, but ultimately leaving the decision up to each individual festival. Initially, due to the small size of our festival and the fact that it was still several weeks away, our committee adopted a "wait and see" stance, in hopes that the situation would change favorably. This turned out not to be the case, and as the nature of events and public health directives became clearer,



actions were taken to cancel the festival, inform participants, and refund monies.

The festival would have taken place on April 20-22 (piano) and April 27-28 (vocal, musical theatre, speech arts and choral).

Each year, our music festival is a pinnacle event in our music community, and provides a goal and motivation for our students to work toward excellence. Both students and their teachers were disappointed and saddened that they would not have an opportunity to perform for one another, receive feedback, and celebrate their accomplishments together. We are hopeful that we will be able to again host a festival next year.

Regarding the impact of the pandemic in our community, a number of students elected not to continue lessons (offered online by teachers). The cancellation of the festival was a factor in some of these cases. Others did continue with remote lessons. Some teachers reported that they found online lessons to be much more time consuming (in terms of preparation), stressful, and exhausting than in-person lessons. If teachers are unable to resume in-person lessons in the fall, this will have an impact on the number of students they may be able/willing to teach, and on the number of students willing to continue lessons. Subsequently, this could have a large effect on numbers of entries for next year's festival. Finding volunteers for next year's festival could also be difficult.

Our committee did not choose to host a public online platform for festival entrants to share their performances. Our committee is few in number, and half of the members are music teachers who were working to adapt to online teaching.

The Lanigan and District Music Festival executive consists of four volunteer officers: Nata Kline (president), Angel Liebrecht (entry secretary), Heidi Craig (treasurer) and Laura

Melin (corresponding secretary). The festival committee members (also volunteers) are Amy Ewert (awards), Cindy Riemer (patrons and donors), Linda Liebrecht (refreshments), and Nata Kline and Angel Liebrecht (program). No members attended the 2019 SMFA conference.

Respectfully submitted by Laura Melin



Last Mountain District Music Festival (Strasbourg) Cancelled due to COVID-19

The LMDMF was scheduled to be held April 27-29 in Strasbourg. We had two days scheduled for voice, musical theatre and choir (Monday and Tuesday), and two days scheduled for piano, band and strings (Wednesday and Thursday). Due to fewer entries than anticipated, we only needed one day for voice and two days for piano and band. We were so looking forward to having Joy McFarlane-Burton (voice) and Heather Godden Waldner (piano) come to Strasbourg to adjudicate. Unfortunately, as was the case for many other communities, our festival was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. What a huge disappointment for all involved! So many arrangements had already been made and many hours of work had gone into the preparation for the festival, only to have it all come crashing down.

The breakdown of entries is as follows; piano (56); voice (34); musical theatre (11); choir (2); band (3); cello (2).

With the cancellation, a lot of extra work fell to the treasurer, who sent out fee reimbursement cheques to all families who had registered. She phoned all donors and sponsors, giving them the option to forward their donations and sponsorships to the 2021 festival or to be



refunded. We are grateful for the outcome of that inquiry, as all were in agreement to forward their donations to next year's festival. We are very grateful for the support and understanding of our communities in these uncertain times.

Two participants applied for our Grad Scholarship of \$200. Both applicants had put a lot of time and effort into their application, and even though the festival did not take place, the committee felt they were both deserving and made the unanimous decision to divide the \$200 scholarship equally between the recipients. Congratulations to Liam Banga and Madison Tyndale.

The dates for the 2021 Music Festival are April 11-17, once again in Strasbourg. We look forward to continuing our plans and preparations and truly hope that next year's festival will carry on as planned.



Lloydminster Kiwanis Music Festival Cancelled due to COVID-19

2020 was shaping up to be another very successful Music Festival year for Lloydminster. We had another increase in registration for a total of 822. We were scheduled to run a full 10 days of sessions beginning on April 20, 2020. Then COVID-19!

What disappointment and heartache as the news unfolded that we were about to experience something so strange and life changing. That weekend, instead of inputting the final scheduling to our new Music Festival Suite program, our 12 member committee was readying for a meeting to discuss what would happen to all our plans. Then SMFA confirmed what we knew we had to do. The next day was spent accepting what was happening, cancelling venues, accommodations and adjudicators and sending the sad news out to the entrants, teachers and supporters. How

devastating to the heartbroken children and families. We felt so badly that the hard work put in by them had no platform to show us their results.

One of our committee members and a music teacher set up a closed Facebook page for entrants to join and send in videos of their performances. We have certainly enjoyed watching these videos. Plans are well underway and venues booked for a successful 2021 year.

Submitted by Kerry Taylor



Mainline Music Festival (Wolseley) Cancelled due to COVID-19

Our festival was scheduled for March 23-26. We started organizing in August 2019, carrying a cash surplus from our inaugural 2018 festival. This year's committee included Valentina May (President), Penny Miles (Corresponding Secretary), Tim Taylor (Treasurer), Rachael Erickson (Patrons), Bruce Royer (Entries and Technical Support), Vance Weber (Volunteer Co-ordinator), Darcy Taylor (Hospitality Chair), and Kim Weber (Member-at-Large). We also welcomed Kelly Paulsgaard to the Scholarship Committee this year.

Planning was well under way, when Provincial Office recommended that all festivals be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All members took on assigned roles to communicate with adjudicators, teachers, parents of competitors, and patrons. We did request that our competitors and patrons consider a donation to the festival, to be carried forward to the next festival year, but also honoured everyone who requested a refund. While it takes many long hours to cancel festival, we were overwhelmed with the continued financial generosity of our



communities, and we will be spending our summer issuing donation receipts to our supporters!

By far, the most challenging aspect of cancelling the festival was contacting all the financial stakeholders. Due to limitations with Solarislive!, the online registration platform that we'd been using for the past two years, we were unable to retrieve and generate the data needed to contact participants, teachers and supporters. We made the decision to abandon Solarislive! and begin the transition to a different online registration platform.

We are very proud and thankful for the diligence of our committee, taking on so many new tasks, with no structure on how to proceed. This has been a year that brought out the best in all members of this committee.

We look forward to holding another successful festival in Wolseley, April 19-22, 2021.

*Respectfully submitted,
Valentina May & Penny Miles*



Maple Creek & District Music Festival

Cancelled due to COVID-19

The MC&D Music Festival was not held this year. Truth be told, most of the committee members were relieved to have the festival cancelled. Every member of our committee has a day job, most of which are public-facing positions, and so involved increased safety measures, and throughout the spring every member of our committee was just as busy – if not busier – than they would have normally been. As President I was relieved that we did

not have to make the call to cancel the local festival, and I'm grateful that the provincial organization took the initiative. It removed a lot of stressful deliberation in a time already full of stressful deliberations on the unknown.

Our major fundraising effort is our letter campaign, which takes place in late winter – typically February. We were late in getting our correspondence out, and the letters were not sent before the provincial festivals were cancelled. We are fortunate to have the means to weather this storm, and our local partners were very understanding and generous. We're happy to support the provincial organization in whatever manner we can. We are curious to know what other festivals, and the provincial festival's, experience was with venues and suppliers, etc.

We entered our Annual General Meeting with the intent of hosting some kind of workshop or masterclass in the fall to make up for all the work that our competitors put into their festival repertoire, but amidst the uncertainty and short notice, we were unable to find a facilitator or program presenter.

We do not anticipate this changing our attitude towards festival next year, but we are aware that unless a vaccine is available for the SARS-2-coronavirus, we may have difficulty finding a venue that is willing to host an event like ours, including churches and schools. We intend to have a festival in 2021 in whatever form we are allowed, and find feasible, even if it has to be via unconventional means.

This year our local committee is thrilled to welcome two new members to our ranks, Heidi and Cornelius Beveridge.

Our AGM was held on 19th June via Zoom, with nine committee members in attendance.

*Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Hecker, President*



Meadow Lake & District Music Festival

Cancelled due to COVID-19

Music Festival 2020 - I'm sure that it is one that none of us will forget! For the Meadow Lake & District Music Festival this was a year of firsts, few of which were joyful.

Entries, coincidentally, were exactly the same as last year at 164. Piano entries remained basically the same, whereas our vocal entries plummeted because our vocal teacher took the year off. Band entries filled the void.

FIRST #1: This year we planned to take our band adjudicator to the bands rather than having them come to one central location. This took some extra co-ordination and planning but we were looking forward to this new venture.

FIRST #2: Due to sanctions by the STF, our school choirs withdrew from the festival.

FIRST #3: This was the big one!!! On Friday, March 13 while we were beginning to set up our venue in the high school, we were informed by the vice principals that the school division had closed the schools to all 'outsiders'. Our hearts dropped.

FIRST #4: At an emergency meeting the next afternoon, we regretfully cancelled the 42nd (2020) Music Festival.

Everyone was devastated - especially our participants. This inspired a suggestion from one of them to be allowed to put her performance on our Facebook page. Finally, a FIRST that made us smile and filled our hearts!

Many festivals found themselves in the same boat as us. Our collective "heads" ruled our "hearts" for the best possible outcome to an extremely unprecedented situation.

Melfort Music Festival

March 8 – 13, 2020

The first week of our 92nd annual Melfort Music Festival ran from March 8 – 13 at the Kerry Vickar Centre. Unfortunately, the second week of our festival was cancelled due to the many closures brought on by COVID-19. Events affected by the shutdown included band, our Sefton Memorial Competition, and the Final Highlights and Awards Program.

This year we had a total of 296 entries with participants in 6 disciplines. Our adjudicators were Dr. Katherine Dowling (piano), Katie Gannon (strings), and Karen Frandsen (vocal, choir, musical theatre, speech arts).

As a result of the generosity of businesses, donors, sponsors, SOA, and local supporters, we were able to mail out 55 awards and scholarships which totalled \$3105! We are thankful to be able to bring recognition to these 2020 award winners through our Melfort Music Festival website.

The overall winners for 2020 were:

Band – n/a
Piano – Ralph Armada
Strings – Angela Hoffman
Vocal – Heidi Klettberg

Five performers were recommended by the adjudicators to advance to Provincial Competition in Saskatoon: Emery Sobchysyn (Junior Piano), Angela Hoffman (Intermediate Piano in both Recital and 20th or 21st Century), Madison McAvoy (Junior Vocal), Megan McAvoy (Intermediate Musical Theatre Up-Tempo), and Sianne Bassingthwaite (Intermediate Musical Theatre Ballad).

Thank you to Alison Rogers who made and donated a beautiful quilt to raffle off as a fundraiser for our festival!



Our committee members include Dawne Glanville, Maren Hantke, Rachelle Heavin, Nadine Hoffman, Matt Johnson, Pam Kellington, Rebecca Miller, Janice Míndiuk, Victoria Riley, John Tatarynovich, and Tena Vanden Boomen.



Moose Jaw Music Festival Cancelled due to COVID-19

The 2020 Moose Jaw Music Festival was cancelled, but originally scheduled as April 22 & 23 (choral) and April 25-May 1 (general). Adjudicators hired were Stewart Wilkinson – choral; Karen Langlois – vocal & musical theatre; Laurel Teichroeb – piano & strings; Larry Pearen – band. There were a total of 399 entries prior to cancellation.

Jeri Ryba (President) and Marcie Carswell (Vice President) attended the 2019 SMFA Fall Conference & AGM in Regina.

Fundraising efforts this year included our regular scholarship and patron requests to long-time donors and sponsorship requests to businesses and service clubs, as these efforts all take place well in advance of the Festival. Of course since the Festival was cancelled due to the pandemic, we did not raise any money from ticket and program sales this year. When the decision was made to cancel the Festival, all donors were consulted to see if they wanted their donation returned or carried over to next year. Additionally, registration fees were refunded, but entrants were given the option to donate their fees instead.

The AGM of the Moose Jaw Music Festival Association was held on September 24.



55 Years of Festivals

Moosomin & District Music Festival Cancelled due to COVID-19

Just days before the 2020 Moosomin & District Music Festival was to begin, the decision was made by the SMFA to recommend cancellation of all festivals for the year. As disappointing as it was after all arrangements were in place, we are very thankful that the decision was made by the Provincial Office. The post-cancellation steps as specified by the SMFA were carried out by members of the local festival committee. Notifications were made to parents/students, cancellations of adjudicators and facilities, etc.

Throughout our festival area, music continues to be happening. *In Wawota*, a virtual “festival” was held where all students recorded themselves playing their selections at home. The teacher edited it into a video online. The teacher also had a small group together to do Easter worship music on Samsung Duo (like Zoom).

In Moosomin, one teacher had a Zoom recital where students played their festival pieces. Students enjoyed having the chance to see each other play. The teacher is finishing piano lessons through FaceTime and Skype. She has found it interesting to see what kind of keyboard each of her students is using. Teaching through FaceTime has been challenging for students who use their ear more than their reading abilities. It has made her come up with different strategies for teaching these students. One vocal student asked for piano accompaniments for her songs to be recorded so she could perform for her extended family. Also, for high school choir, team meetings have been held where they practice singing in parts. One student put a virtual choir video together and is in the process of completing a second video. This was done in lieu of singing at the festival.



In Rocanville, piano lessons have continued through Zoom conference and piano exams via Zoom as well. Students involved in the school band program had theory lessons over the Teams app and classes were also available for those students wanting them. Violin lessons have also been taught through Zoom.

How has the lack of getting together to share music affected us and our community? It has shown us that we have a need to get together and make music. We are looking for other ways in which to get our music out into our community. We are sharing music with each other found on Facebook or YouTube that has been meaningful to us. Teachers are looking at programs like Adobe Premier Pro to gather their choir members in virtual choirs. This helps students achieve a greater sense of community.

Sadly, new volunteers have not come out to be involved on the festival committee. Although we appreciate the volunteers we have, the question of how long our festival will continue seems to hang in air from year to year. We look forward to listening to the talented students who enter our 2021 music festival.

*Respectfully submitted,
Alice Abrahamson, Corresponding Secretary*



Nipawin Music Festival Cancelled due to COVID-19

This year marked the 79th Music Festival for Nipawin. The Nipawin Music Festival committee & executive had many changes with only one person remaining from the previous years. Many of these people served for 30 or more years, and we appreciate all their work.

A website was created for all registrations. There was a total of 334 registrations, including 80 students from Nipawin, Carrot River &

Tisdale. This is an increase from the previous year when 77 students registered.

The Music Festival was scheduled for March 22-28. The executive & committee worked hard to prepare for the Festival and to manage the learning curve. On March 15, the Festival was cancelled due to COVID-19. Adjudicators scheduled were Veronique Mathieu (strings), Melissa Wood (vocal), Kevin Ackerman (guitar) and David L. McIntyre (piano).

Due to the cancellation of the Music Festival, we decided to do a Virtual Music Festival. This was open to any students that had already registered in the Music Festival. We had 47 students participate with 133 entries. 59% of students performed in the virtual festival with 40% of their entries. This was a good turnout for only a week of planning and preparing. These were posted on the NMFA Facebook page. This was a great way for the students to share their talents and still be able to perform their festival repertoire that they had worked so hard on. Many people engaged and enjoyed the music. Each participant had their name entered into a draw for two gift baskets.

We look forward to the upcoming 2021 festival year and continue to promote excellence in music.





40 Years of Festivals

Outlook & District Music Festival Cancelled due to COVID-19

The 2020 Outlook and District Music Festival (originally scheduled for March 30 - April 3) was cancelled due to COVID-19. After hearing from the Provincial Office on March 15 that all future festivals were cancelled, the committee quickly got to work to notify the affected people of the cancellation. Our adjudicator, teachers and parents were notified immediately and entry fees were refunded in a timely manner. We were pleased when one family chose to have their children share their speech arts performances on a local Facebook page. Many positive comments were received.

Our committee, students and community were very disappointed with the cancellation but look forward to next year when we can hopefully be together again to listen to all the talented students in our community.



Parkland Music Festival (Canora) Cancelled due to COVID-19

Executive

President: Lindsey Propp
Corresponding Secretary: Gillian Rice
Treasurer: Lisa St. Mars
Entry Secretary: Patti-Jo Donovan

Committees

Scholarships and Patrons: Susan Michl, Gillian Rice, Lindsey Propp
Adjudicator Assistant Coordinator: Patty Kolodziejski
Program Design/Typing: Lisa St. Mars, Shawna Leson
Housing/Supplies: Candice Tratch

Scholarship Committee: Pastor Brett Watson,
Linda Osachoff, Joan Foreman
Admission/Door Marshalls: The Lioness Club

The Parkland Music Festival was set for April 14-16, 2020. We had many new faces again this year on our executive and our committees. It was nice to see the extra help! Everyone was excited and it seemed the festival would go off without a hitch. We had roughly the same amount in donations as in previous years from our communities. Entries were down by about 20, which may be due to the fact that we house our piano at the local high school and we were having the festival during the April school break to not conflict with sporting activities. The new executive and committee members were eager to learn. We are a very new group but have come along way since 2018 when it was everyone's first time hosting the festival!

In the middle of March, the festival was cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak in Saskatchewan. This did not come as a surprise to many people in our community and, in fact, with the school closing and limited entry we would not have been able to hold the festival, had we chosen to do so. I think we made the right decision and now we are ready to come back in full force for 2021! We share the festival with Preeceville, that hosts the festival every second year. They have allowed us to take on the festival in their year so that we can keep our plans in order. We are very thankful for this. Many of our donors have allowed us to keep their donations to use for the Festival in 2021. We hope to have a strong executive and committee return and an eager student body excited to make music publicly in 2021!



**Potashville Music Festival
(Churchbridge)
Cancelled due to COVID-19**

The Potashville Music Festival was to be held in Churchbridge starting March 16 but, as with many other festivals, it was cancelled due to COVID-19. We had 121 entries from the Churchbridge, Langenburg, Esterhazy, Spy Hill and Stockholm areas.

Our committee is grateful to the SMFA for making the tough decision to cancel, as we would have had to shut down the next morning when the plan to close schools was announced. We had already adjusted full band and choir sessions due to the STF sanctions and then cancelled them completely as our school division prohibited gatherings of more than 50. We had chosen to go ahead with the smaller sessions, with some reservations, so the SMFA's decision was timely. Thank you to our adjudicators for their cooperation and patience with the many changes that had to be made the week before festival and, of course, with the cancellation.

We are very appreciative of the many businesses, organizations and individuals for their donations and scholarships. Most chose not to be reimbursed, leaving the money and scholarships with us to be used at the festival next year in Esterhazy. Thank you to our festival committee for the many hours given over the past months and to the community members who had volunteered to work at the sessions.

We know that the students, teachers and parents, as well as our committee members were disappointed to have the festival cancelled after all of the practicing, rehearsals and the time and effort invested. But, as our committee has seen, much of this work will carry over to the next festival. We hope the students will see that the gains they made through their preparation for festival this year will carry

forward as well. It was great that a few of the students posted their planned performances on our Facebook page.

As we pass the books to the Esterhazy committee, we hope and pray that festivals, and life in general, will return to some normality.

Submitted by Shannon McIntyre, President



**Prairie Sunset Music Festival
(Macklin)
Cancelled due to COVID-19**

Due to COVID-19, our festival scheduled for April 27-29 was cancelled on March 15. We were in the process of putting together our program at the time of cancellation. Entry fees had been deposited and were refunded to all but one participant who chose to donate their entry fee. Donations from sponsors had not been deposited, so all sponsors were given the option to have their cheque returned or deposited for next year's festival (most chose the latter).

Since festival was cancelled, we did not have any district winners or an awards concert. No one from our committee attended the SMFA Fall Conference.

Adjudicators hired were Doreen Renschler (piano), Jim McCarthy (band), and Justine Wilks (voice).

Donations will be held over to the 2021 festival, and only businesses who wished to have their cheques returned will be approached next year.

It was very disappointing to have our festival cancelled but we look forward to hosting again in 2021, if life has returned to normal!

Submitted by Jackie Golden, President



Prince Albert Music Festival March 2 – 13, 2020

In spite of new challenges this year, the PAMF Board considers ourselves very fortunate to have been able to carry on much of our festival.

We began with instrumentals, adjudicated by Troy Linsley. This discipline had 134 entries and ran from March 2-4. The unique feature of this discipline is that the students from St. Mary High School provide most of the volunteer force that makes this week a success. This allows them to understand a little bit of what it means to run a festival, and gives them a chance to contribute to the community.

There is a small but mighty strings component to our festival that ran March 5, adjudicated by Kim de Laforest. This discipline had a total of 21 entries, including the Prince Albert Strings Orchestra.

Following this, the piano discipline ran from March 9-11, with 151 entries. We welcomed Audrey Watson as our adjudicator.

Vocals began on Mar 12, and this is where the festival began to experience some problems. Most of the choral numbers entered were school choirs. However, because of the job action taken by the STF, teachers were not allowed to bring their choirs to the festival. Unfortunately, this meant that 10 lovely entries went unheard. During the time when choirs were scheduled, the adjudicator, Stewart Wilkinson, made himself available to do an excellent workshop with the St. Mary High School choir. Following that, there were 59 vocal and musical theatre entries.

The band discipline, with 33 entries, was cancelled due to COVID-19. We congratulate all these bands and directors who worked hard and whose lovely music also went unheard. Again, because of COVID-19, none of the

celebratory concerts were held at which awards are normally given.

We benefit from enormous financial community support in Prince Albert, from individuals as well as corporations and community service organizations. As a result, this year, we gave out \$7850 in scholarships. This support also translates into 55 volunteers who donate their valuable time to make festival happen.

Last year, we lost a number of board members, and a call for help went out to the music community, with a very good response. This has resulted in a number of new board members and has provided us with the opportunity to make some changes to our work processes. This work continues as we move ahead. We also began to use the Music Festival Suite this year. As expected, this did create some challenges, but overall it was a positive experience, and we expect to continue to benefit even more from the use of this service as we continue to utilize more of its features.

Although there were some serious disappointments in 2020, there was also a lot of great music, good learning, and good memories for our performers. We are very thankful that we were one of the fortunate music festivals that was able to carry on! We are all looking forward now to 2021.

Submitted by Colleen Bowen, Festival Coordinator





Qu'Appelle Valley Festival (Fort Qu'Appelle) Cancelled due to COVID-19

The 63rd annual Qu'Appelle Valley Music Festival was scheduled to take place from April 5-8 in Fort Qu'Appelle. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions put in place, we were unable to hold our festival.

We had a total of 27 entrants, all within the piano discipline, for a total of 121 entries. We had several piano concerto entries as well, and had planned to hold a session of entirely piano concerti. Our entrants were from Fort Qu'Appelle, Balcarres, Cupar, Lebret, surrounding rural areas, and Regina.

The adjudicator booked for our festival was Dr. Clark Schaufele. Although we didn't have the pleasure of having him adjudicate our festival, we hope that he can be booked to adjudicate for us in the next festival year.

Due to the festival not taking place this year, the festival experienced a profit. This is wonderful for us, as our festival was experiencing financial hardship in the previous festival year. All of the funds received will be carried over to the next festival year, with the hopes of being able to offer more scholarships and awards in the future.

We would like to thank all of our donors and sponsors for the 2020 festival year. We would also like to thank the families who chose to donate their entry fees to the festival after the cancellation of the festival. We appreciate the contributions of everyone involved.



Quill Plains Music Festival (Kelvington) Cancelled due to COVID-19

No report submitted.



Redvers & District Music Festival Cancelled due to COVID-19

The Redvers & District Music Festival was scheduled for April 20-22, with adjudicators Gillian Rice (piano, vocal and speech arts) and Aaron Wilson (band). There were 115 entries, and all entry fees were returned upon cancellation. Fundraising consisted of business and club donations, which were returned to the donors.

We look forward to 2021.



Regina Music Festival Cancelled due to COVID-19

The Regina Music Festival had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. To say that this was a disappointment would be an understatement, particularly since this was to have been the first year that the Festival would have been held at the College Avenue Campus/Conservatory. Nevertheless, there is much to report.

Upon the announcement that the Festival would have to be cancelled, the Board of Directors immediately contacted all of our annual scholarship donors and our discipline sponsors. Our question was simple: would they allow their contribution to be held by the RMFA and be used for Festival 2021? The positive response was overwhelming, so we have a head start on Festival 2021.

We also reached out to our adjudicators who, being fiscally responsible, had booked the lowest air fares (i.e., non-refundable). Thanks to WestJet and Air Canada changing their rules and extending the vouchers to two years, all of our adjudicators chose to take the offered travel vouchers. This meant that we did not have to repay their non-refundable airfares. Since we



hope to have all the same adjudicators back for 2021, we will not name them here, except to acknowledge that they have told us they are looking forward to the Regina Music Festival 2021, and thank them for their cooperation.

The SMFA is waiving association dues, for which we are most grateful! Additionally, the venues did not ask us for deposits, some of which might not have been fully refundable because of the lack of notice of cancellation. We also asked our registrants if they would consider allowing us to convert their registration fees into a donation in exchange for a tax receipt. Again, the response was unimaginably positive.

Because of all of these factors combined, we are pleased that our Festival 2020 did not lose money. The Board of Directors feels very grateful, as many other not-for-profit organizations have been pushed into a negative financial position because of cancellations.

The cancellation came after the close of registrations so we do know the numbers that might-have-been. Our numbers for 2020 reflect the graduation of 2019 seniors who moved onto post-secondary work. For the first time in more than a decade, the Regina Music Festival had less than 1,000 entries in total. Only the Pipe Organ competition showed a sharp increase in registrations. Senior Vocal, Strings and Musical Theatre suffered the most from our high-achieving seniors moving onto further studies elsewhere.

We asked our registrants to video their “might-have-been” performances. We are hopeful that the 11 persons who went on-line and performed for the world will encourage others to do the same.

Our drop in registrations, as well as our “near-miss” financially, has helped to focus our attention to our marketing. We will begin a concerted effort to reach out to the teachers and

parents in the Regina area to encourage them to enroll their music students in Festival 2021.

Submitted by Susan J. Gorges, President



Rosetown & District Music Festival Cancelled due to COVID-19

Our festival was one of many, unfortunately, that was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Scheduled dates were March 23-April 2. The adjudicators hired were Glen Gillis (band/instrumental), Han Ding (piano) and Brett Mitchell (vocal). Entries were as follows: choir/choral speech (1), speech arts (9), vocal (15), musical theatre (8), band (4), instrumental (13), piano (229). No awards were presented. All award money received will be retained for our 2021 festival.

Some of the music teachers posted performances on private sites or on Facebook.

Our Executive consisted of the following: Carmen Ledding (Past President), Felice Mourre (President), Shann Vick (Treasurer), Jen Fehr (Recording Secretary), Mary Cowan (Entry Secretary), and Corry Moon (Corresponding Secretary).

Committee members were:

Adjudicator Liaison – Cindy Hayward

Archives – Debbie Wood

Awards – Sindy Yiu, Darla Fischer, Danielle Hunter

Carol Festival – Carmen Ledding

House – Stacy Becker

Piano Guardian – Claire Seibold

Program – Chantelle de Coninck Smith

Program Ads – Maggie de Coninck Smith, Chantelle de Coninck Smith

Reporting & Publicity – Karla Wilson

Social & Phoning – Suzanne Reed

Volunteers – Danielle Hunter, Morgan Page



Felice Mourre and Sindy Yiu attended the 2019 SMFA Conference in Regina.

Although the 2020 festival did not take place, a special thank you goes to the following for their commitment to our festival: Carl and Carmen Ledding (Country Rose Inn) for piano tuning and venue rental; Regal Motors for transportation; Rosetown United Church for the use of the Upper Hall; Morning Mist for the donation of water for the grand piano humidifier; Pharmasave and Rosetown Natural Health for selling programs; Economy Stationery for program printing.

Submitted by Felice Mourre, President

Even though the festival was cancelled this year, a lot of work went into the preparation, by volunteers and participants alike. Thank you to the Sandhills Music Festival board and committee members for your dedication in making the festival possible every year. Thank you to the participants who worked hard practicing their musical and choral pieces. Thank you to the community sponsors, whose generous contributions make it possible to host an annual showcase of our local talents. We sincerely appreciate all contributions of time, financial support and talent. We look forward to the return of the Sandhills Music Festival in 2021.

Submitted by Deanna Prosser



**Sand Hills Music Festival (Leader)
Cancelled due to COVID-19**

The Sandhills Music Festival was scheduled to be held on March 23-26, 2020. The grand concert was planned for Thursday March 26 at 7pm at Leader Hall. Sadly, all events were cancelled due to COVID-19. 74 entries were received from 33 individuals. Entries included solos, piano duos, a piano trio, speech arts, choral speech and a musical theater piece. Some individuals entered in multiple classes.

Lynn Ewing from Saskatoon was to be the adjudicator for all disciplines over 3 days. We were grateful to have her, and she seemed quite excited to come out to Leader to see what the children had to showcase.

We were very pleased with the community support and received \$2910 in donations from local businesses that will be put towards scholarships for the 2021 music festival. We were planning to do 8 major awards and some smaller awards to ensure all deserving students were rewarded for their hard work.



**Sask Valley Music Festival (Rosthern)
Cancelled due to COVID-19**

SVMF was all set to take place in Rosthern from March 18-24 with our Awards Concert scheduled to happen on Friday March 27. We had 214 entries in piano, junior strings, voice, choral, speech and musical theatre with two excellent adjudicators contracted. Posters were out, programs printed, the piano tuner arranged, caterers assigned at the church venue, admission volunteers and adjudicator secretaries scheduled, and a wonderful article ready for publishing in our local newspaper celebrating our 80th Anniversary complete with archival photos and historical tidbits.

In early March we became aware that SOME school groups would not be participating because of the teachers no longer participating in extra curricular activities. The second week in March we were notified that NO school groups would be allowed to come as they were to remain isolated in their schools without field trips or visitors. We decided to cancel our final



concert, but desired to carry on with our solo and duet competitions, believing that we could accomplish them within the public health guidelines of distancing and hygiene. At that time gatherings were only limited to 250 persons.

We were saddened when SMFA decided, as of Sunday March 15, to cancel all festivals that had not already occurred, since ours was due to start in just 3 days. In retrospect, knowing what happened so quickly thereafter with regards to the pandemic, it made perfect sense and made it easier for us to cancel. By the time our festival was completed, we would have been breaching the suggested gathering numbers of 50 and putting the children and others at increased danger. In fact it came to light on March 17 that COVID-19 was in our small community. Cancelling at that late date would have been even more difficult and upsetting. We have heard there were tears in some households when the students found out that their performances would not proceed.

Our Committee, as most others, have gone to a great deal of effort to plan this event which has not happened and also a great deal of work to refund entry fees, notify adjudicators, accommodations, volunteers and venues of cancellation. Since we normally use Rosthern and Waldheim in rotation, the decision has been made to plan our SVMF for Rosthern again next year instead of moving back to Waldheim. We hope to be able to welcome in 2021 our two adjudicators that we were ready for this year.

We had two very involved families, each with three children participating in various disciplines, post online concerts separately from their homes. These were enjoyed by many friends and relatives both near and far.

Submitted by Linda Swab, President



Saskatoon Music Festival

March 11, 2020

Remainder cancelled due to COVID-19

The Saskatoon Music Festival is grateful to Carol Donhauser, Nancy Toppings and the SMFA Provincial Board for their advice, guidance and leadership at this time.

We start on a happy note! The Saskatoon Music Festival Committee was represented at the SMFA fall convention in Regina by Mariel Unger, Bonnie Nicholson and Gaye-Lynn Kern. Thank you to Carol, Nancy and Board President Sherry Sproule for providing great leadership resulting in a weekend of learning and networking. We were proud to honour Saskatoon volunteers **Janice Paterson and Judith Nordness** for their invaluable contributions to our local Festival.

The **officially publicized dates** for the 2020 Saskatoon Music Festivals were as follows:

Heart of the City – March 11

Schools – March 24 to 26

Bands – March 30 to April 3

Kiwanis Musical Theatre – April 5 to 9

General – April 27 to May 3

Our 2020 Statistics:

1593 Entries received – (plus Heart of the City piano students)

Brass – 27 registrations;

Choral – 14 registrations; 599 performers

Guitar – 7 registrations; 7 performers

Mixed ensembles (Bands) – 105 registrations; 4203 performers

Musical theatre – 185 registrations;

Percussion – 25 registrations;

Piano – 710 registrations;

SMFA Excellence – 12 entries; 12 performers

Speech arts – 11 entries;

Strings – 152 registrations;

Vocal – 304 registrations;

Woodwind – 41 registrations;



Under the leadership of Doug McCosh, the Heart of the City Piano Festival was held on March 11 at McClure United Church Sanctuary where the adjudicator was Lynette Sawatsky. The event was sponsored by Terry Ross and the Kiwanis Club. There was a snack break, and the student who performed the best was awarded a new keyboard thanks to the generous donation of Stephen Boechler.

After much local debate and discussion, the Saskatoon Schools and Band Festivals, the Kiwanis Musical Theatre Festival and the Saskatoon General Music Festival were cancelled due to the impact of COVID-19 in March. Some discussion of having an online competition to replace the intermediate and senior general classes was seriously undertaken, but ultimately the committee could not agree on a format that would be fair to all involved. It was a heart – breaking decision. Our Festival Co-ordinator Mariel Unger and our treasurer Rebecca Ward, with assistance and clarification from Doug McCosh and Janice Paterson, worked into August to successfully refund class fees, and contact donors and sponsors to confirm their wishes moving forward to 2021.

We are so privileged in Saskatoon to rely on all of the following **Festival Committee members**, as well as a large team of volunteers:

SMFC Co-ordinator – Mariel Unger
Past President – Doug McCosh
President – Bonnie Nicholson
Treasurer – Rebecca Ward
Recording Secretary – Alyssa Thompson
Adjudicator Assistants - Karen White
Festival helpers/Social – Sylvia Acton
Patrons/Advertising – Janice Paterson
Programming – Marilyn Whitehead
Scholarships – Mariel Unger
Kiwanis Musical Theatre – Terry Ross
Schools and Heart of the City – Doug McCosh
Bands – Nick and Bernadette Fanner
SRMTA – Joy Nelson
U of S Liaison – Garry Gable

We are looking forward to Saskatoon Festival 2021 and have asked the provincial office to try to re-hire the same list of adjudicators that would have attended our 2020 event and inspired our youth.

The Saskatoon Music Festival was a grateful participant in the artsvest program for 2020. Wendy Thienes is a fabulous SK co-ordinator. We were excited to procure Saskatoon's Save – On Foods Stores as naming sponsor for the Junior Piano classes. They have agreed to move their sponsorship money to our 2021 event. As part of our partnership with them, teachers and students were able to make live music at all three stores on Saturday, March 7 to the delight of staff and customers. St. John's Music graciously provided excellent digital pianos for the day. We rely on the generosity of Koryn Graham from the Broadway Avenue store and Stephen Krueger from their new piano department. Thank you St. John's!

Other fund raising and scholarship procurement/advertising fell on the shoulders of Mariel Unger and Janice Paterson.

We are indebted to the **University of SK Department of Music** for venues and pianos; **Terry Ross and the Kiwanis Club** for their support of Musical Theatre and for an additional donation that covered the costs of the HCPP session; **McClure United Church** for meeting space and the HCPP venue; **St. John's Music** for pianos, equipment rentals, and onsite repair presence for our Band week; **Kinsmen Club** for their continued support of our senior awards and to the entire team of volunteers – **THANK YOU!!!**

I am forever grateful to the committee that runs the Saskatoon Music Festival, never more so than during the last 6 months. Mariel and Rebecca have brought such necessary youthful energy and expertise to our group. Doug McCosh continues to be a wonderful leader and source of information to us all. I am grateful for



Penny Joynt, Maureen DuWors, Sylvia Acton and others who invaluablely keep the important traditions alive in our ever-changing times.

We did mourn the loss of our local Festival this year in Saskatoon. However, we learned many new things about communicating online. We will work hard to create a safe environment for our 2021 event, and are excited to hear the live music as our world allows!

Submitted by Bonnie Nicholson, President



Shaunavon & District Music Festival Cancelled due to COVID-19

2020 marked what would have been the 86th year for the Shaunavon & District Music Festival. The love of music, fostering that love in children, and the passion of this committee and surrounding communities is solid as can be.

We had 170 entries, up from the last few years, some coming from the Swift Current area as their festival committee took a break. Participants drew from Gull Lake, Swift Current, Shaunavon, Eastend, Frontier, Bracken and Climax. 63 competitors and 4 groups were registered, with 21 first timers! Our entries were made up of 87 piano, 46 vocal, 17 musical theatre, 1 string, 3 guitar, 12 speech and 4 choral. 5 sessions were scheduled for the piano adjudicator and 6 sessions for the vocal adjudicator.

Centre Street United Church was the venue for the week, which included plans for a final highlights concert on Thursday, April 2 at 7pm. Mrs. Janice Friggstad was named our honorary patron for the 2020 festival. Steven Belau was to be the master of ceremonies for the Final Concert, as a past participant of the festival. We did not have any graduating students this year. SMFA President Sherry Sproule had made

contact and was going to visit at some point through the week.

Advertising was set to take place with the local radio station, newspaper, school newsletters, and social media. Programs were about to be printed and for sale in Shaunavon, Eastend and Frontier.

We were awaiting Jeri Ryba to adjudicate the vocal, musical theatre, speech arts, school groups and the string entries. Chantelle de Connick Smith was set to adjudicate the piano entries.

Shaunavon and the surrounding communities that support our local festival had donated \$4400 to use for scholarships and festival costs, as well as our local Canalta donating guest rooms for the adjudicators.

March 10 was our pre-festival meeting, and we were feeling very ready for the upcoming festival. Not long after that, COVID-19 was very real in all of our communities. I had felt that we could still hold festival safely, with precautions. I am grateful that the SMFA Board made the decision to cancel all festivals. Thankfully we had not pushed print on anything. As a group, we were able to cancel all advertising, venue and adjudicators. As President, I drafted a letter to all the participants informing them of the cancellation, which was also communicated on social media. The offer was made to refund entry fees. We have such amazing people; most of them donated the fees in exchange for a tax receipt. I wrote a letter to all of the sponsors, offering to return their sponsorship. Only one was refunded and the rest asked that we hold the funds for next year's festival! We are very blessed to live where we do and have such amazing support. Thank you to the Provincial Board members for assisting us and making things easier; we appreciate you all.

We look forward to holding a 2021 festival April 12-15, still in search of an entry secretary, but



have faith that the role will be filled. We are thankful that we have all been safe and healthy and wish that for all.

Submitted by Nancy Phillips, President



Spiritwood & District Music Festival Cancelled due to COVID-19

The Spiritwood & District Music Festival was scheduled for April 6-7, with the Awards Concert to be held April 8. 97 entries were submitted, and Naomi Piggott-Suchan was hired as adjudicator. We regret to record that, due to COVID-19, the 2020 festival was cancelled. All entry fees were refunded. We still maintain a healthy savings account in the bank.

Respectfully submitted, Marjorie Klassen



Swift Current Music Festival No Festival in 2020



Twin Rivers Music Festival (Dalmeny)

Cancelled due to COVID-19

Twin Rivers Music Festival 2020 certainly didn't turn out the way we had envisioned. As the planning went forward in fall of 2019, there was nothing to indicate this year would be any different from previous years. Online entries opened as usual and the deadline came in later January. We had a good number of entries and felt it necessary to add one more day to our festival week, beginning on Friday, March 20, and then carrying on with Monday, March 23-

27. Our adjudicators were booked, our schedule formulated, and the much anticipated programs were printed. Excitement was building as we had our final planning meeting in early March.

Then the COVID-19 virus presented its threat! With very little time before festival was to begin, we made the difficult decision to cancel for the year 2020. The news was accepted graciously and without complaint. We offered to reimburse entry fees, and did so. However, many of our participants opted to donate their fees, for which we are most grateful. We sent an honorarium to our adjudicators and do hope to have them back next year.

As an option, we asked our festival participants to record and present their pieces on our Facebook page. This has been done and we continue to enjoy listening to many of our young people perform. We look forward to next year and trust our festival will be an even greater success in the coming year.

Doreen Benson, President



Unity Music Festival Cancelled due to COVID-19

Our year began, as usual, with our very popular annual Carol Festival on December 15. Approximately 300 people appreciated the sixteen performances which included piano solos, vocal performances, guitar and violin presentations, a rhythmic school band, two youth choirs and a men's group.

Our committee continued working towards the goal of our Festival, planned for March 30-April 3. Lynette Sawatsky was to be our piano, violin and band adjudicator. Allison Arends was hired



to adjudicate vocal, musical theatre, school music and speech arts.

Programs were carefully printed and distributed in the community. Excitement was running high when, approximately two weeks before our starting date, COVID-19 had a different idea. Quickly, cancellations were handled as best we could.

A group called "Unity's Celebration of Music" was started on Facebook, and students could post videos of their performances. This was very well received. It was a case of "making lemonade out of lemons", for likely our audience was a lot larger than would have attended the live performances.

The Volunteer of the Year presentation that would normally have been made at our Final Performances was printed in the local newspaper. The recipient was Nadine Keller, a teacher at St. Peter's School in Unity. Nadine has worked very hard to bring many excellent performances by her students to both the Music Festival and Carol Festival.

So...we can only hope that 2021 will allow us to have a Festival. We can no longer take such things for granted!



Vanguard & District Music Festival Cancelled due to COVID-19

This year we were very excited to welcome adjudicator Lori Potter of Regina to our Vanguard & District Music Festival, April 7-8. Unfortunately, in the midst of COVID-19, the hard decision was made to cancel this year's festival. Many dedicated students had worked hard to prepare well for this annual event, and with much understanding, this came as a disappointment to many. Our festival was looking forward to the talent of multiple

disciplines in 58 entries including piano, strings, vocal, choral, speech and band. We hope to welcome back our adjudicator next year in spring of 2021, and those who would have participated in the festival this year as well as new entrants.

Submitted by Jessica Evans



Watrous & District Music Festival Cancelled due to COVID-19

Our committee had eagerly prepared for the Spring Festival. The program was close to being completed, sponsors had sent in their donations, and then everything was shut down due to COVID-19. In this unprecedented time, the virus stopped all social and business gatherings, including the Festival. We were instructed by SMFA to cancel this year, and sadly, but understandably, we did. Thankfully, our deposit on the venues carried over until next year, as did our sponsorships.

We are indebted to an ambitious high school student for all the time she invested working on the program. We were most upset, as were all Festivals, that students who had prepared for Festival were unable to perform, especially our graduating seniors. We are thankful to the SMFA Board of Directors and Staff for assisting us through the steps to end our year differently. The WMF Committee looks forward to next year when we will be back and be even more appreciative of our students, their teachers, their parents, the SMFA Board of Directors and Staff, and of each other in being able to gather once again and promote music.

We had our annual FunRun Pancake Breakfast fundraiser the previous summer.



Weyburn Rotary Music Festival

March 9 – 13, 2020

This was Weyburn's 62nd year for Music Festival. The piano portion was held March 9 - 13, with adjudicator Michael Oike. There were 189 entries in piano classes.

Vocal (111 entries) was scheduled for March 16-18 with adjudicator Louella Friesen, and band (41 entries) was scheduled for March 19-20 with Lenora Bells. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, vocal and band sessions had to be cancelled, along with our Stars of the Festival evening.

Weyburn is very fortunate to have the Rotary Club as a sponsor of our festival, along with Whitecap Resources.

The Provincial Finals Competition was also cancelled, due to COVID-19, so there were no provincial recommendations. This was a very disappointing year for Weyburn Music Festival.

*Submitted by Brenda Milatz,
Corresponding Secretary*



Yorkton Music Festival

March 9 – 13, 2020

The 2020 Yorkton Music Festival was to be held from March 9 – 21, 2020 but the only discipline that we were able to proceed with was piano (March 9 – 13), before the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to cancel the remainder of the Festival. We had a total of 229 entries in piano.

Thanks to our piano adjudicator, Janet Gieck, who did a wonderful job with our piano students. She offered timely, concrete and positive feedback.

We once again enjoyed the generosity of our Patrons and Scholarship Donors who are essential to the success of the Yorkton Music Festival and our extensive awards program. Their donations ensure that the festival tradition will enrich the lives of performers and audiences today and in the future.

Even though the provincial competition was cancelled we would like to congratulate the competitors who were recommended to provincial competition in piano: Juliana Ubongen, Jacob Surjik, and Kennedy Kosheluk.

We were not able to hold our Yorkton Music Festival Hi-Lights concert. We are hoping, once COVID-19 allows, to hold a small concert for the piano students who were recommended to the Hi Lights concert by our piano adjudicator.

We appreciate the time and talents of the Yorkton Music Festival committee, a committed group of volunteers dedicated to putting on a successful festival.

Submitted by Jean Fetsch, President



District Festival Statistics

Member Festival	2020 Entries	2019 Entries	2018 Entries	2017 Entries	2016 Entries	Solo Fees	Num. Adj	Total Awards	Vol. #'s	Vol. Hours	Audience
Assiniboia	0	119	111	78	92	15	0	0	8	80	0
Battlefords	0	383	363	347	350	15	0	0	15	426	0
Biggar	228	196	180	120	127	14	3	3,150	13	500	435
Borderland	0	118	52	129	146	15	0	0	9	375	0
Carnduff	273	315	313	328	311	15	4	2,565	71	1066	737
Central Sask	0	138	120	140	149	5	0	0	7	220	0
Estevan	0	588	585	633	643	20	0	0	13	150	0
Eston	0	114	120	139	190	15	0	0	9	70	0
Gravelbourg	0	186	170	223	215	12	0	0	6	289	0
Hafford	0	124	178	153	172	12	0	0	8	200	0
Humboldt	114	289	266	396	428	18	2	1,225	20	100	285
Kindersley	175	292	292	338	367	15	2	2,190	31	250	405
Kipling	0	237	232	206	164	10	0	0	16	2,000	0
La Ronge	0	233	224	209	213	15	0	0	10	140	0
Lafleche	0	283	278	265	269	10	0	0	13	350	0
Lanigan	0	279	259	261	284	10	0	0	5	40	0
Last Mountain	0	140	149	134	165	10	0	200	6	200	0
Lloydminster	0	809	834	780	726	18	0	0	10	250	0
Mainline	0	165	209	162	220	20	0	0	8	900	0
Maple Creek	0	77	116	117	121	11	0	0	10	132	0
Meadow Lake	0	164	192	218	202	15	0	0	10	138	0
Melfort	296	397	374	372	432	15	3	3,105	49	455	545
Moose Jaw	0	429	514	486	516	20	0	0	9	75	0
Moosomin	0	421	377	384	397	8	0	0	11	300	0
Nipawin	0	311	316	295	354	14	0	0	14	960	0
Outlook	0	214	195	135	148	10	0	0	8	60	0
Parkland	0	181	180	221	219	10	0	0	14	60	0
Potashville	0	154	143	137	166	12	0	0	10	250	0
Prairie Sunset	0	175	139	98	92	15	0	0	9	81	0
Prince Albert	375	366	434	416	494	20	4	7,850	55	472	1,040
Qu'Appelle Valley	0	124	118	114	94	15	0	0	4	30	0
Quill Plains	0	360	505	460	424	12	0	0	7	300	0
Redvers	0	124	93	116	105	15	0	0	10	155	0
Regina	0	1,048	1,141	1,147	1,195	28	0	0	11	200	0
Rosetown	0	247	265	263	247	15	0	0	21	160	0
Sand Hills	0	73	85	81	0	10	0	0	15	94	0
Sask Valley	0	225	251	276	214	15	0	0	13	700	0
Saskatoon	0	1,627	1,479	1,323	1,482	28	1	300	27	200	30
Shaunavon	0	131	115	114	175	12	0	0	14	200	0
Spiritwood	0	89	90	84	93	15	0	0	6	95	0
Swift Current	0	278	276	256	291	n/a	0	0	0	0	0
Twin Rivers	0	413	263	344	338	15	0	0	13	750	0
Unity	0	364	307	327	343	15	0	0	26	510	0
Vanguard	0	65	55	84	110	8	0	0	4	50	0
Watrous	0	0	147	124	189	17	0	0	8	175	0
Weyburn	189	299	351	351	417	13	1	2,125	28	150	100
Yorkton	229	446	434	388	473	18	1	2,650	57	640	581
Total	1,879	13,810	13,890	13,772	14,562		21	\$25,360	741	14998	4158



Member Funding

The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA) Member Funding Program is designed to provide financial assistance to Affiliated Member Festivals.

This grant program, administered through the Provincial Office, provides support to the Association's mission and current programming of the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association. Funds may only be used for the eligible activities outlined in your application. Funds may not be transferred to other activities or organizations and unused funds must be returned to SMFA.

Examples of projects for which member funding is intended, include the following:

- Festival Promotional Workshops
- Speech Arts Workshops
- Program Enhancement (website development, software/hardware purchase)
- Professional Training (board governance, minute taking, software training, etc.)
- Adjudicator Fees/Travel Assistance

The following affiliated festivals received funding from this grant:

Biggar Music Festival	Biggar Music Festival	\$650.00
Carnduff Music Festival	Adjudicators	\$1,000.00
Humboldt Music Festival	Sustaining Our Music Festival	\$1,000.00
Lafleche Music Festival	Musical Theatre Workshop	\$1,000.00
Weyburn Music Festival	Weyburn Rotary Music Festival	\$1,000.00
		<u>\$4,650.00</u>



Provincial Finals Report

The 2020 Provincial Finals Competition, scheduled for June 4 to 7, 2020 was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

PROVINCIAL FINAL DONORS AND SPONSORS

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Allan and Helen Few | Joanne Messer | Regina Music Festival |
| Anna Klassen Endowment | Joy McFarlane-Burton & Rick Burton | Rob & Nora Rongve |
| Arlene Lafrentz | June Barber | Robert Ursan |
| Betty Tydeman Mem. Trust | Kathleen Keple | Rose Schmalz |
| Battleford Furniture (Chris Odishaw) | Kiwanis Club of Regina - Wascana | Ross Ulmer & Karen Ast |
| Camille & Charles Mitchell | Larry and Sylvia Coghlin | Sask. Band Association |
| Darrell & Kelly Stein | Lisa Hornung | Sask. Choral Federation |
| Diana Woolrich | Long & McQuade | Sask. Music Educators Assoc. |
| Doctor Brian Baker & Michelle Kreuger | Maple Creek Music Festival | Sask. Orchestral Assoc. Bursary |
| Doctor Philip Brost | Margaret Hatton | Sask. Registered Music Teachers' Assoc. |
| Doctor Thomas Yu | Marilyn Whitehead | SMFA Conference Delegates |
| Doris Covey Lazecki | Marshall Whelan | Shirley Andrist |
| Goodfellow Memorial Trust | Mary Anderson Trust Fund | Tracy Loucks |
| Edna Covey | Mary Grant | Theresa Brost |
| Estevan Music Festival | Melissa & Dennis Ong | W. Craig Ferguson |
| Frostad Piano Service | Moose Jaw Music Festival | Wallis (Gordon) Memorial Trust |
| Gloria Nickell | Music for Young Children (SK) Trust | Yamaha Piano Centre |
| Hancock Memorial Trust | Music for Young Children Inc. | Yorkton Music Festival (Heather Laxdal Trust) |
| Heather Macnab | Order of the Eastern Star (SK) | |



THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!





SDA/SMFA Spoken Word e-Festival

In June of 2020, Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA) and Saskatchewan Drama Association (SDA) partnered to present the first Spoken Word e-Festival for students ages 5 to 17.

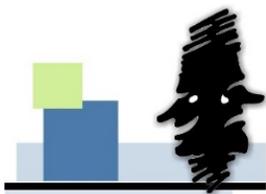
Saskatchewan Music Festival Association, in partnership with the Saskatchewan Drama Association, launched an opportunity for students of speech arts to participate in a Spoken Word e-Festival. This program seeks to allow students to prepare, perform and develop their ability to speak with purpose to an audience. Sixteen classes were offered in four age categories, including Canadian poetry, own composition, story telling and solo scene.

Entries were adjudicated by Bradley Hayward.

Congratulations to the winners:

- 19 years & under: **Ashton Bourgeois**, Melfort (\$250)
- 14 years & under: **Dexter Candillo**, Yorkton (\$200)
- 11 years & under: **Georgia Robertson**, Yorkton (\$150)
- 8 years & under: **Alexander Ubongen**, Yorkton (\$100)

Plans are underway to offer additional Spoken Word –Festivals in the fall of 2020 and spring of 2021.





SMFA Strategic Goals

In October of 2020, Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA) Board of Directors participated in a Strategic Planning session facilitated by Pat Rediger and Lynn Gidluck.

SMFA STRATEGIC GOALS

A thorough review of SMFA's priorities based on its vision and mission, along with the SWOT analysis, review of previous strategic plans, and internal program and service review led to the following goals:

GOAL 1: ENHANCE THE EXISTING SMFA BRAND

SMFA is well-known and respected among music festivals but it should strive to promote its existing brand to a wider audience to increase interest in music festivals, enhance partnerships, encourage volunteer development, and to provide a better understanding of the important role that music festivals play in our province.

Action 1: Emphasize greater engagement as part of communications efforts

SMFA has increased member communications in recent years, enhanced its website and become active on Facebook. However, these communications efforts tend to be one-sided and SMFA should strive to create a dialogue with its key stakeholders, as two-way communications will lead to greater interest and participation. As part of this action, SMFA should solicit success stories from its members on experiences such as welcoming newcomers, working with Indigenous communities, finding new ways to encourage volunteerism, or promoting award-winning students. These stories could be shared among members and stakeholders through social media, the website, newsletter, videos, media relations, etc. Success follows success and if the association can identify and promote these successes, then it will serve as a model for others to follow.

Action 2: Revisit current tag line: *Classical Competitive Festivals*

Several years ago SMFA added the tagline "*Classical Competitive Festivals*" as part of its branding efforts to identify itself as an organization that promotes classical competitive music festivals as opposed to an umbrella organization that represents music festivals such as the Regina Folk Festival or the Saskatoon Jazz Festival. The organization has evolved beyond classical competitive festivals and includes jazz and other forms of music including speech arts. This tag line may be restrictive now that the organization has moved beyond classical competitive festivals. A greater discussion on this tag line is warranted since the overall goal is to enhance the existing brand and the current tag line doesn't properly represent the association, which then weakens the overall brand.

Action 3: Incorporate speech arts as part of brand

Speech arts have become an increasingly important component of SMFA and the board has recommended that it be incorporated into the mission. Despite its rising prominence, it remains somewhat buried in overall programming and promotion. SMFA should place greater importance on promoting speech arts and the important role it plays in enriching lives and community.

Action 4: Diversity should be incorporated into the SMFA brand

Incorporate diversity into all aspects of the organization. Consideration should be given to under-represented populations at all times to encourage their participation, which will strengthen the organization and lead to a better overall music community. For example, when looking to promote success stories, the association should consider successes in



Indigenous or newcomer programming. These success stories are part of the SMFA's action item to increase overall engagement within Saskatchewan, but do not necessarily reflect an item that solely focusses on diversity.

GOAL 2: TO ENHANCE EXISTING PARTNERSHIPS

New partnerships were a priority that was identified during the 2012-17 strategic plan. Part of the rationale at that time was that SMFA's main funding source was encouraging the development of new partnerships in order to increase efficiencies and reduce duplication. SMFA has a better working relationship with other provincial music organizations as a result of that goal, but board members identified that there remains a need to build upon these partnerships and to develop new partnerships if opportunities arise.

Action 1: SMFA should engage partners to address the need for music teachers

There was considerable discussion on the need to mentor music teachers to meet the association's future needs. Concern was raised about the need to encourage new music teachers to assume leadership roles in local music festivals, and address teaching shortages, especially in rural areas. There is a desire to partner with the Saskatchewan Universities to match new music teachers with more established music teachers and festival volunteers to help mentor them to assume these roles. Although this is a laudable goal, the development of music teachers in rural areas should be a priority for other music organizations as well. The Saskatchewan Music Educators Association (SMEA), in particular, should be interested in partnering with the SMFA on creating a music teacher/festival mentorship program. By working together, the costs and efforts to develop a mentorship program would be spread over different organizations and partnerships are favored by core funders. If a partnership approach does not

materialize, then SMFA should consider its own approach.

Action 2: SMFA should engage with partners on music advocacy

In order for SMFA to achieve its vision of *"enhancing lives and community through music and the spoken word"*, it must advocate for the benefits of music to key decision-makers including school administrators, government officials, parents, volunteers, students, and elected officials. These decision-makers can assist the SMFA in achieving its vision through their support. There are other organizations that share the same desire to promote the benefits of music to these key decision makers including SMEA, SRMTA, Saskatchewan Band Association (SBA), Saskatchewan Choral Federation (SCF), and the Saskatchewan Orchestral Association (SOA). As a collective that pools its resources, these organizations will have much more impact on a benefits of music campaign than any single organization.

Action 3: SMFA should engage with the music community on strategic alignment

With SMFA having identified the need to work with partners on mentorship and advocacy, it appears that there may be other opportunities to develop partnerships and that the community should work together on projects that match corporate goals. There is also a need to identify areas that organizations should be solely responsible for as their area of expertise. There was a greater emphasis in the previous strategic plan to work more closely together with other provincial music organizations, but in recent years there has been some drift in collaboration. SMFA may be the ideal organization to begin the engagement process with other organizations since the other organizations tend to start the development of their members and students into music festival programs.



Why do I play music?

Because it makes my heart sing.

creative
kids



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617 8 St E, SASKATOON 306.665.9900

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Financial Report

The Finance Committee is responsible for financial oversight. This includes: establishing and ensuring the organization is compliance with proper financial systems and controls; regularly evaluating the organization's financial health; and ensuring that the organization is on a financially sustainable path.

The Finance Committee consists of myself, First Vice-President, Tammy Villeneuve (Chair), President, Sherry Sproule, Second Vice-President Jeri Ryba, Past President Karen Unger, and Executive Director Carol Donhauser.

Although, this was a financially challenging year, SMFA was fortunate to have deferred revenue to offset the lack of revenue from affiliation dues in 2020. Government subsidies will largely be recognized in our following year, as we continue to search for avenues to recover lost revenues. The recognition of deferred revenue and lower expenses cause a small surplus in our Statement of Operations of \$1,121. Our financial position, with adjustments to restricted revenues, shows a deficit of -2,900.

The SMFA investment portfolio is managed by Leander Dueck of Beyond Wealth Management in Regina. Our asset mix is balanced in a way that will help to decrease our risk during times of volatility. SMFA also holds 576 BCE shares, which continue to see steady returns with quarterly interest payments accounted for in restricted income.

Member funding was distributed and some returned when COVID-19 cancelled festivals. Member funding for the current year is suspended in its previous format. Assistance for COVID-19 compliance expenses will be available.

SMFA is dependent on funding from the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation, and we are grateful for

this support. SaskCulture allocates lottery funds in the form of annual global grants to Eligible Cultural Organizations (ECO). Funding has been approved through to July 31, 2021. These grants support the annual operations of organizations identified on the Minister's Eligibility List, as well as over 400 associated groups. These diverse cultural organizations support a tremendous cultural infrastructure that empowers Saskatchewan's cultural community to deliver a wide selection of cultural activities and services throughout the province.



We also acknowledge the support of the SaskEnergy, SaskTel, artsvest Saskatchewan, the University of Saskatchewan Music Department, Regina Symphony Orchestra, Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra and the late Mr. William Shurniak. We sincerely thank our many scholarship donors and patrons, and contributors to our 110th Anniversary celebration. Music festivals are able to thrive in communities across this province because of this generous and ongoing support.

I wish to thank the Finance committee, and all Board members, for their assiduous work on behalf of the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association and its membership. We will continue to evaluate the organization's financial health and ensure a sustainable financial path.

Respectfully, Tammy Villeneuve, Finance Chair



Audited Financial Statement

SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JULY 31, 2020



MARCIA HERBACK & ASSOCIATES
Chartered Professional Accountants
Professional Corporation

2320 Lorne Street Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 2M9
Telephone: (306) 522-3311 Facsimile: (306) 522-3312
Email: marcia@mherback.ca

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of
Saskatchewan Music Festival Association

Qualified Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (the Entity), which comprise the statement of financial position as at July 31, 2020 and the statements of operations, statement of changes in net assets and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In my opinion, except for the effects, if any, of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Saskatchewan Music Festival Association as at July 31, 2020 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

In common with many non-profit organizations, Saskatchewan Music Festival Association derives part of its revenue from membership fees, donations and other fundraising activities, the completeness and classification of which are not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly my verification of these transactions was limited to accounting for the amounts recorded in the records of the Association and I was not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to the revenues, statement of operations, assets and net assets.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of my report. I am independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Canada, and I have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

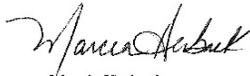
My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:



- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Regina, Saskatchewan
October 31, 2020


Marcia Herback
CPA, CA



SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT JULY 31, 2020
 (with comparative figures for 2019)

	2020	2019
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash (Note 3)	\$ 103,509	\$ 40,670
Cash segregated for future expenditures	19,652	652
Investment segregated for future expenditures	32,374	10,627
Accounts receivable	9,501	15,203
Inventory	13,028	15,029
Prepaid expenses	<u>5,222</u>	<u>24,769</u>
	183,286	106,950
Tangible capital assets (Note 4)	10,535	11,706
Assets held in trust (Note 5)	413,368	443,319
Investments segregated for future expenditures (Note 6)	<u>65,120</u>	<u>84,732</u>
	<u>\$ 672,309</u>	<u>\$ 646,707</u>
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 50,938	\$ 41,366
Deferred revenue (Note 7)	<u>107,504</u>	<u>92,595</u>
	158,442	133,961
Long-term liabilities		
Funds held in trust (Note 8)	<u>7,093</u>	<u>7,093</u>
	<u>165,535</u>	<u>141,054</u>
NET ASSETS		
Net assets invested in capital assets	10,535	11,706
Net assets designated for future expenditures	85,771	81,763
Restricted net assets	413,368	443,319
Unrestricted net assets	<u>(2,900)</u>	<u>(31,135)</u>
	<u>506,774</u>	<u>505,653</u>
	<u>\$ 672,309</u>	<u>\$ 646,707</u>

See accompanying notes

Approved on Behalf of the Board

 Director
 Director



**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JULY 31, 2020
(with comparative figures for 2019)**

	2020	2019
Revenue		
Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund	\$ 185,000	\$ 185,000
Self-generated revenue (Schedule 1)	<u>122,844</u>	<u>161,315</u>
	<u>307,844</u>	<u>346,315</u>
Expenditures		
Administration (Schedule 2)	146,966	155,279
Amortization	1,171	1,301
Corporate (Schedule 3)	9,456	22,158
Fundraising	20,917	-
Program (Schedule 4)	76,811	129,874
Public relations (Schedule 5)	6,707	6,006
Travel and meeting (Schedule 6)	44,695	57,521
Loss on disposal of obsolete equipment	-	<u>2,283</u>
	<u>306,723</u>	<u>374,422</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	<u>\$ 1,121</u>	<u>\$ (28,107)</u>

See accompanying notes



**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JULY 31, 2020
(with comparative figures for 2019)**

	Invested in Tangible Capital Assets	Designated for Future Expenditures	Restricted Net Assets	Unrestricted Net Assets	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Net Assets						
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 11,706	81,763	443,319	(31,135)	\$ 505,653	\$ 533,760
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	-	4,008	(6,001)	3,114	1,121	(28,107)
Amortization of capital assets	(1,171)	-	-	1,171	-	-
Transfers	-	-	(23,950)	23,950	-	-
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 10,535</u>	<u>85,771</u>	<u>413,368</u>	<u>(2,900)</u>	<u>\$ 506,774</u>	<u>\$ 505,653</u>



**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JULY 31, 2020
(with comparative figures for 2019)**

	2020	2019
Operating activities		
Excess of revenues over expenditures unrestricted net assets	\$ 1,121	\$ (28,107)
Items not involving an outlay (receipt) of cash		
Amortization	1,171	1,301
Loss on disposal of equipment	-	2,283
	<u>2,292</u>	<u>(24,523)</u>
Net change in non-cash operating working capital balances		
Investment segregated for future expenditures	(21,747)	20,266
Accounts receivable	5,702	(7,849)
Inventory	2,001	(5,913)
Prepaid expenses	19,547	(11,227)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	9,572	(2,966)
Deferred revenue	<u>14,909</u>	<u>(67,441)</u>
Cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>32,276</u>	<u>(99,653)</u>
Investing activities		
Addition to investments segregated for future expenditures	19,612	(21,992)
Additions to assets held in trust	29,951	(12,218)
Additions to tangible capital assets	-	(2,875)
Cash provided by (used in) investing activities	<u>49,563</u>	<u>(37,085)</u>
Increase (decrease) in cash	81,839	(136,741)
Cash position, beginning of year	<u>41,322</u>	<u>178,063</u>
Cash position, end of year	<u>\$ 123,161</u>	<u>\$ 41,322</u>
Cash consists of:		
Cash	\$ 103,509	\$ 40,670
Cash segregated for future expenditures	<u>19,652</u>	<u>652</u>
	<u>\$ 123,161</u>	<u>\$ 41,322</u>

See accompanying notes



SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JULY 31, 2020

1. Status and nature of activities

Saskatchewan Music Festival Association is incorporated under the Non-Profit Corporations Act of Saskatchewan. Under present legislation, no income taxes are payable on the reported income of such operations. The purpose of Saskatchewan Music Festival Association is to provide a classical, competitive music festival system of the highest standard at the local, provincial and national levels.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and include the following significant accounting policies:

Inventory

Inventory is valued at the lower of cost and net realizable value.

Tangible capital assets

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost. Amortization is provided on a diminishing balance method over the assets' estimated useful lives as follows:

Equipment	10 %
Furniture and fixtures	10 %
Leaseholds	5 years

Full amortization is recorded in the year of purchase.

Revenue recognition

The Association follows the deferral method of accounting.

Grants from Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation are received out of the net proceeds of lottery ticket sales in Saskatchewan. These grants have been recorded as revenue by Saskatchewan Music Festival Association as approved by Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreations. Accordingly, amounts received that relate to the next fiscal period are shown as deferred revenue.

Other revenue is recognized in the period in which the income is earned.

Management estimates

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amount of revenues and expenditures during the reporting period. By their nature, these estimates are subject to measurement uncertainty and the effect on the financial statements of changes in such estimates in future periods could be significant.



**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JULY 31, 2020**

3. Cash

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Anna Klassen scholarship	\$ 25,358	\$ 22,871
Betty Tydeman scholarship	1,114	1,114
Frances England scholarship	2,100	2,100
Ken Lee scholarship	2,000	2,000
Mossie Hancock scholarship	2,600	2,600
MYC scholarship	548	548
Ross Ulmer scholarship	4,500	4,500
Scholarship savings unallocated interest	939	657
Total scholarship savings account	<u>39,159</u>	<u>36,390</u>
Bank account - general	63,891	3,003
Bank account - travel lottery	85	93
PayPal	374	1,184
Total cash	<u>\$ 103,509</u>	<u>\$ 40,670</u>

4. Tangible capital assets

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated Amortization</u>	<u>2020 Net Book Value</u>	<u>2019 Net Book Value</u>
Equipment	\$ 10,516	4,055	\$ 6,461	\$ 7,179
Furniture and fixtures	8,654	4,580	4,074	4,527
Leaschold improvements	<u>5,836</u>	<u>5,836</u>	-	-
	<u>\$ 25,006</u>	<u>14,471</u>	<u>\$ 10,535</u>	<u>\$ 11,706</u>

5. Assets held in trust

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Great West Life portfolio	\$ 381,020	\$ 408,966
BCE Inc. (576 shares)	32,348	34,353
Total investment	<u>\$ 413,368</u>	<u>\$ 443,319</u>

Investments are recorded at fair value.

The Association administers these funds held in trust in accordance with the conditions established by the donors for the purpose of funding various programs and scholarships.

6. Investments

Investments consist of the following term deposits:
 - \$32,501 - 39 month, annual interest rate of 2.75%, matures January 24, 2022
 - \$21,834 - 5 year, annual interest rate of 2.5%, matures July 24, 2023
 - \$10,785 - 5 year, annual interest rate of 0.75%, matures July 24, 2025



**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JULY 31, 2020**

7. Deferred revenue

Funding received relating to specific projects has been deferred and will be recognized as revenue in the year the related project or event occurs.

	2020	2019
Affiliation fees	\$ 7,516	\$ 62,145
Car raffle	-	29,300
Donations for Nationals	-	1,150
Over-paid accounts receivable	2,488	-
Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund	92,500	-
Concerto donation for 2021 event	5,000	-
	\$ 107,504	\$ 92,595

8. Funds held in trust

Per the Association's by-laws in the event that a District Festival Association ceases operation or becomes inactive for a period of two consecutive years or more, all funds of that District Festival Association are to be transferred to the Provincial Association and be held in trust for a period of five years. If the District Festival Association is not reinstated within the five year period then the funds become the funds of the Provincial Association.

9. Lease commitment

A lease agreement exists with Niesner Properties Inc. for the premises known as 4623 Albert Street in Regina, Saskatchewan. A 3 year term commenced December 1, 2017 requiring a base monthly rent of \$960 plus GST for the first year and \$1,020 plus GST for years two and three. There is an option to renew for a further five years. The Association is also responsible for their portion of property taxes and operating costs.

10. Economic dependence

The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association receives significant revenue in grants from Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation. As a result, the Association is dependent upon the continuance of these grants to maintain operations at their current level.

11. Financial instruments

Saskatchewan Music Festival Association is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments. The following analysis provides a measure of the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association's exposure and concentrations at July 31, 2020:

Credit risk

Credit risk arises from the potential that a party may default on their financial obligations, or if there is a concentration of financial obligations which have similar economic characteristics that could be similarly affected by changes in economic conditions, such that the organization could incur a financial loss. The Association is exposed to credit risk with respect to cash, investments and accounts receivable. The Association manages its credit risk by placing cash and investments with major financial institutions. Credit risk for accounts receivable is managed by the credit quality and diverse debtor base and creating an allowance for bad debts where applicable. There has been no change from credit risk exposure from 2019.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Association may not be able to meet a demand for cash or fund its obligations as they come due or not being able to liquidate assets in a timely manner at a reasonable price. The Association is exposed to liquidity risk with respect to its investments and accounts payable but manages its liquidity risk by holding assets that can be readily converted into cash. There has been no change from liquidity risk exposure from 2019.



**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JULY 31, 2020**

11. Financial instruments (continued)

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is a type of market risk that refers to the risk that the fair value of financial instruments or future cash flows associated with the instruments will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. The Association is exposed to interest rate risk with respect to its cash and investments and its effect on interest income. Fluctuations in interest rates do not have a significant effect on cash and investments due to the fact that interest income is not a major percentage of total revenue. There has been no change from interest risk exposure from 2019.

12. Comparative figures

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the current year's financial statement presentation.

13. Subsequent event

Prior and subsequent to July 31, 2020 financial markets have been negatively impacted by the novel Coronavirus or COVID-19, which was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020. This has resulted in significant economic uncertainty and the Association is monitoring its operations and assessing the impact COVID-19 will have on its activities. Accordingly it is difficult to reliably measure the potential impact of this uncertainty on the Association.



SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
SCHEDULES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JULY 31, 2020
 (with comparative figures for 2019)

	2020	2019
	Self-generated revenue	Schedule 1
Affiliation fees	\$ 62,145	\$ 62,536
Concerto revenue	-	10,809
Conference	1,595	4,494
Corporate sponsorships	-	7,500
Festival unit stationary	544	955
Fundraising and donations	47,852	6,960
Grants	1,272	-
Interest	-	1
Investment income - restricted	17,942	9,588
Investment income (loss) - unrealized	(20,357)	6,211
Interest - future expenditures	4,008	3,652
Miscellaneous	-	25
Musical theatre	525	-
Nationals	5,485	360
Opera competition	950	-
Program enhancement revenue	385	-
Provincial finals	-	19,222
Provincial scholarships	-	22,493
Sale of promotional items	113	447
Syllabus and directory	385	6,062
	<u>\$ 122,844</u>	<u>\$ 161,315</u>



**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
SCHEDULES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JULY 31, 2020
(with comparative figures for 2019)**

	2020	2019
Administration expenditures		
Archival work	\$ -	\$ 885
Bookkeeping	1,119	823
Delivery	-	52
Equipment rental and supplies	93	116
Miscellaneous	683	88
Postage	1,444	3,249
Rent	15,121	19,860
Salaries and benefits	123,232	124,538
Telephone	2,834	2,914
Utilities and maintenance	2,440	2,754
	<u>\$ 146,966</u>	<u>\$ 155,279</u>
Corporate expenditures		
Audit	\$ 4,206	\$ 4,206
Bank charges	214	293
Insurance	1,511	2,127
Investment management fees - restricted	3,500	3,496
Membership	25	12,036
	<u>\$ 9,456</u>	<u>\$ 22,158</u>
Program expenditures		
Adjudicators training	\$ 2,528	\$ 3,765
Concerto competition	-	15,010
Festival unit financial assistance	7,886	10,000
Festival unit supplies	10,491	9,284
Hosting Nationals	20,129	-
Musical theatre	4,386	-
Opera competition	16,648	5,000
Program enhancement	3,091	4,600
Provincial finals expense	(1,695)	38,783
Provincial finals scholarship	-	22,000
Provincial office supplies	10,710	13,636
Speech arts	434	77
Syllabus/directory	2,203	7,719
	<u>\$ 76,811</u>	<u>\$ 129,874</u>
Public relations expenditures		
Advertising	\$ 5,907	\$ 3,762
Annual report	800	2,244
	<u>\$ 6,707</u>	<u>\$ 6,006</u>



**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
SCHEDULES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JULY 31, 2020
(with comparative figures for 2019)**

	2020	2019
Travel and meeting expenditures		
		Schedule 6
SMFA conference charges	\$ 10,477	\$ 11,648
SMFA directors travel	12,730	13,783
Festival visiting	495	809
Executive directors travel	5,584	5,727
Delegates to Federation conference	4,674	8,441
Motivational speaker	2,713	-
National competitors and accompanists	<u>8,022</u>	<u>17,113</u>
	<u>\$ 44,695</u>	<u>\$ 57,521</u>



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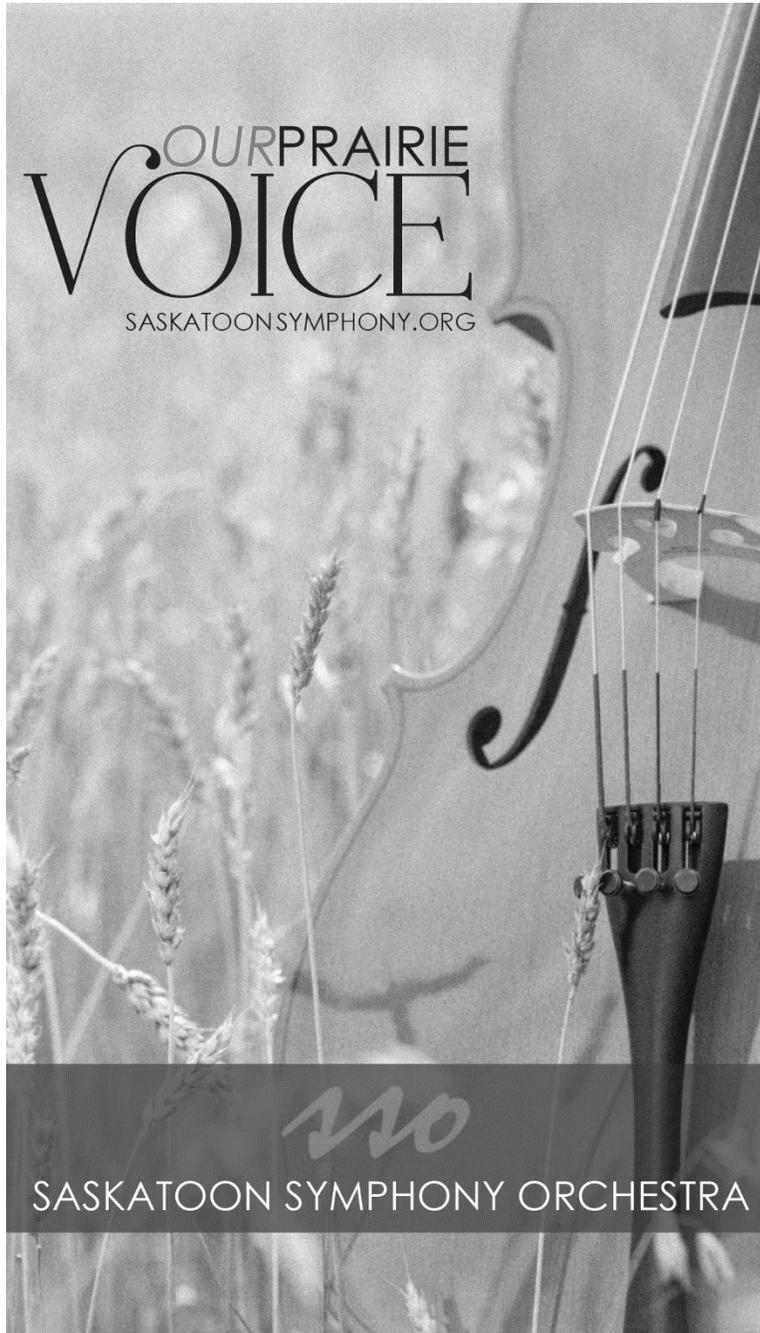


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