

SMFA Volunteer Award Recipients – 2021

we ♥ volunteers

*“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time;
they just have the heart.”*
~ Elizabeth Andrew

*“You make a living by what you get.
You make a life by what you give.”*
~Winston Churchill



Heather Barnstable (Estevan & District Music Festival)

It was over fifty years ago that Heather first connected with the Estevan Music Festival as a student instrumentalist performer and junior accompanist.

After leaving the community following high school and returning in 1991, her role in the festival changed to being a parent, watching (nervously) as their three children performed. Over the years, as a classroom and music teacher in the school system in Estevan, she entered students in many classroom and recorder groups and accompanied both soloists and school choirs. Some private piano students participated as well.

During the last decade, Heather has been a member of the Estevan Music Festival Committee, namely in the areas of Friends of the Festival and Volunteerism, as well as volunteering herself for many of the festival sessions.

Heather writes: *“It has been a joy to be a part of the music scene in a small way here in Estevan. Now in my retirement years, my husband Barry and I enjoy watching our grandchildren perform in the very same festival! Thank you, Estevan Music Festival, for your work in bringing the joy of music to our community. I feel honoured and privileged to be a part of it.”*



Calla McLean (Kindersley & District Music Festival)

Kindersley and District Music Festival Association would like to recognize a very deserving volunteer committee member, Calla McLean. Calla played in the Rosetown Music Festival a “few” years ago as a shy young student; then, as a parent, she supported her daughters participating in the Kindersley and District Music Festival.

Calla has been involved on the Kindersley and District Music Festival executive for 14 years, first as secretary from 2007-2009, as well as helping with program advertising and program design. In the 2010-2011 season, she stepped forward to join Leigh McIntyre for 4 years as a co-chair in leadership. In the fall of 2014, Calla took on the solo president’s role, and has been 7 years on her own at the helm! Every year, she has also been very involved in creating the festival program and covering anything else that needs attending. (This includes making gourmet designer cupcakes for our annual “Stars of the Festival” concert every March celebrating the “Best of the Fest”). Calla pioneered in the online entry

SMFA Volunteer Award Recipients – 2021

programs, investing many hours to make them run smoothly; even for those who were afraid of change. When Covid-19 interrupted everyone’s plans and aspirations in March of 2020, Calla provided solid, thoughtful support.

Calla is a sincere, thoughtful woman who is calm under pressure. She approaches any challenge (or crisis) with a cool, level head and puts in countless hours behind the scenes. Calla cares for each and every student as if they were her own, and is supportive and kind to teachers and parents alike. Many new students, parents and teachers to the festival have commented how comfortable and confident they felt with Calla’s welcoming demeanor.

Last year, Kindersley had an ever-changing 2021 Festival (as many probably did) due to Covid 19 and other local issues, but again Calla rose to the occasion and the students had great success.

Thanks so much, Calla, for all your generosity of time and energy. It has given so many young musicians a positive life experience, and we all really appreciate your presence here!

With love, the KDMF committee



Mark & Penny Miles (Mainline Music Festival)

These two amazing volunteers went above and beyond for the Mainline Festival 2020 and 2021.

Penny was Corresponding Secretary, and Mark was recruited as a technical guru. Both brought enthusiasm and expertise to handle the Covid-Safe Festival issues.

Penny and Mark are parents to two very talented children who participate in festival and dance competitions. Both have been dedicated volunteers for a variety of organizations. Music is something both feel strongly about and encourage others to participate in.

Both Penny and Mark are engineers, and this was evident in their ability to juggle the many curves that Covid-19 sent to the Mainline Music Festival. Penny pulled from her experience with hazardous waste management to draft the Covid-Safe Festival Plan (and its subsequent edits) as the provincial recommendations changed. Mark set up livestreaming and video taping at the beautiful Wolseley Opera Hall. Mark used his work-based knowledge to set up a clear plan to record and livestream performances. Together, they organized a digital Festival Finale, and the Festival Committee is grateful and honoured to have had their energy and resources for the 2021 Wolseley Mainline Music Festival. This festival would not have happened, had you not been willing to change your hats and help make this a success.

Thank you, Penny and Mark Miles!

SMFA Volunteer Award Recipients – 2021



Maxine Leschuk (Meadow Lake & District Music Festival)

The Meadow Lake and District Music Festival committee members wish to nominate our recently retired volunteer, Maxine Leschuk, for the SMFA Volunteer Recognition Award. Maxine joined the Meadow Lake and District Music Festival Committee in 1984 and served two terms as President from 1988 to 1990. After serving on various committees, she assumed the role of secretary – a position she held for the next twenty years. In addition to her music festival service, Maxine has volunteered in many other ways within and beyond the community of Meadow Lake.

Margaret Caldwell - posthumous (Saskatoon Music Festival)



The Saskatoon Music Festival Committee wishes to honour Margaret Caldwell (1926 – 2021) as their Outstanding Volunteer for 2021. As well as being a fervent supporter of the Festival Committee and a generous scholarship donor, Ms. Caldwell was the telephoning member for our committee each festival for many, many years. We all looked forward to hearing Margaret’s elegant voice on the phone on a Sunday afternoon two weeks prior to each festival meeting, with her clear indication of the event’s date, time and place. We feel that she well represents the tradition of an invaluable long standing volunteer, for which the Saskatoon Committee is so grateful. Our young student musicians and our committee benefit so very much from the history of our organization and the long standing traditions that Ms. Caldwell and many others mirror through their dedicated volunteer service. She will be greatly missed.

The following was taken from Margaret’s obituary: *Margaret Caldwell, late of ‘The Franklin’ Saskatoon, SK., passed away July 14th, 2021. Her elementary schooling, including her musical training, was completed in Arcola. She attended Normal School (Teacher’s College) in Moose Jaw and continued to study music in piano and voice, obtaining Associate of Music degrees in both. She began her teaching career at age 19 in Carnduff and continued teaching in Swift Current and Saskatoon. She sang in church choirs in Carnduff, Swift Current and at St. Martin’s in Saskatoon. She also sang with Gyro Ensemble Singers, University Chorus, Summer School Choir, Choral Society and the Don Forbes Chorale. She taught music privately as well as in the school system, and conducted many prize- winning choirs in the Music Festivals in Saskatoon. She was director of the senior choir at St. Martin’s United Church for 45 years, sat on the Board for the Saskatoon Music Festival Association for 20 years and adjudicated at musical festivals throughout the province. Music was an integral part of Margaret’s life and she could well have fitted Aldus Huxley’s quote “After silence, music is that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible.”*

SMFA Volunteer Award Recipients – 2021



June Fletcher (Weyburn Rotary Music Festival)

June Fletcher has been involved with the Weyburn Rotary Music Festival for over 40 years. She performed in piano and voice from an early age, then added her saxophone as a teenager. She attended several Provincial Finals as a competitor, in both woodwinds and voice. June's knowledge of how participation in the local music festival assisted with her life-long passion of music and continuing to perform by singing at funerals, weddings, in church and other special occasions, led her to encourage her three daughters to also enter the Weyburn Music Festival.

She became a member of the Weyburn Music Festival Committee in 1979, assisting in many different positions over the years. In 1986, June became the Entry Secretary for vocal and band and has held this position to the present day. Her investigative nature has aided her in making sure the entries were in the right categories, had not been used previously, were paid for, could be performed at the most convenient time for the accompanist as well as the performer, and met the requirements as laid out in the syllabus and the directory every year.

June has also been one of the quiet voices of experience we have relied on over the years to maintain our festival's high standards as our music festival has evolved through the many decades. This has allowed for many upgrades and changes in the overall 'production' of the festival, making it a more 'user friendly format' for all involved while maintaining that standard of excellence. She has enjoyed being a part of these changes and has always encouraged her students to enter at least two classes each year. June enjoys attending the music festival committee meetings, especially when getting close to performance time, as the energy level climbs; then the wind-up meeting where everyone gets to sit back and address any issues arising from the past year and begin to look forward to next year. As the music festival has transitioned into the future, with on-line entries and zoom meetings, she still feels included as an important part of this committee and looks forward to the day when we can all attend the live performances once again.

Born and raised in Weyburn, June enjoys following in her parents' footsteps as a tireless volunteer in and around the community. She was a Girl Guide and invested over 16 years in the guiding movement as a Sparks, Brownie and Girl Guide leader. She also was a leader and teacher for over 18 years in the Christian Youth Crusaders program, run by the church she attends, as well as a Sunday School teacher, and choir director. She volunteered at each of the schools her daughters attended and was the Co-ordinator of the CanSkate primary program for 7 years. She is a 25 year-plus member of the Weyburn Quota Club, the Rebekah Lodge. June has been the chairperson of the Weyburn Care-A-Van Society for many years and was a member of Octavius Singers for over 40 years.

June has developed many long-standing relationships with her vocal students and their parents, which truly has been the joy in her day after coming home from work to give music lessons to eager young people. June feels blessed to have been a part of all these committees and organizations in her hometown community of Weyburn. We are truly blessed to have June as a member of our community and especially as part of our Weyburn Rotary Music Festival Board. Our board would like to thank June for her many years of dedicated service to facilitating music in our community.