

GORDON C. WALLIS

MEMORIAL OPERA COMPETITION

February 25, 2022

Virtual

Presented, in partnership with the
Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras,
by the
Saskatchewan Music Festival Association

MUSICAL THEATRE *COMPETITION*

February 26, 2022 - Virtual



SMFA OPERA AND MUSICAL THEATRE COMPETITION

WALLIS OPERA COMPETITION

JORDAN LEVESQUE, soprano

(Alison Purdy)

Saper vorreste (Un Ballo in Maschera) - Giuseppe Verdi

Within Verdi's Un Ballo in Maschera, a tale of political intrigue and forbidden love, is Oscar, a "trouser" role. While in Verdi's time this convention was already anachronistic, his use of it could have been his attempt to hint at a further complication in the plot, a same-sex relationship between Riccardo and his page, which contemporary public opinion would have been unlikely to find acceptable. The opera had already been plagued with objections from censors, necessitating major revisions.

The exploration of right and wrong, innocence and remorse is spirited by a witch's prophecy which foretells that Riccardo – governor of Boston – will be murdered by the next man to shake his hand. This turns out to be Renato, his best friend and husband to Amelia, whom Riccardo secretly loves. Renato resolves to avenge the perceived dishonour done to his wife by Riccardo by killing him. During the Act III masked ball designated by Renato and his co-conspirators for the murder, Renato tries to learn from Riccardo's page Oscar what costume Riccardo is wearing. In his aria "Saper vorreste" Oscar parries Renato's questions, but finally yields the information which leads to Riccardo's stabbing. Riccardo reveals as he dies that though he loved her, Amelia was innocent, and he pardons all.

Standchen - Richard Strauss

"The Jewel Song" – Ah! je ris de me voir (Faust) - Charles Gounod

Gounod's Faust, a five-act opera with spoken dialogue loosely based on Goethe's original, had its première at the Théâtre-Lyrique in Paris with spoken dialogue, and was subsequently toured through several European centres with important changes including recitatives. It was the first opera performed by the Metropolitan Opera in New York City in 1863.

Contemplating suicide by poison, a jaded Faust sells his soul to the devil in the form of the sinister Méphistophélès, trading an immediate return to the innocence of youth for a future eternity in hell. The deal is sealed when Méphistophélès conjures up a vision of the lovely Marguerite at her spinning wheel. In her Act III aria "Ah! Je ris", Marguerite is beguiled by a gift: a box of jewels left by Méphistophélès as a tool for Faust's seduction of her. Her image of herself is transformed to be that of a woman of beauty and power as she tries the jewels on. She surrenders, now in love with Faust. Later on, pregnant with his child, abandoned, and terrified by thoughts of damnation, she is imprisoned for infanticide and succumbs to insanity. Faust tries to save her but she dies in fear of damnation. Méphistophélès claims her for hell, but angelic voices proclaim her salvation.

Performance Link: https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqgnbuwHVU-DYi_AgiMg6fViyZHH4kFek

SMFA OPERA AND MUSICAL THEATRE COMPETITION

KATERYNA KHARTOVA, soprano

(Kathleen Lohrenz Gable)

Nur wer die Sehnsucht kennt - Hugo Wolf

Je dis que rien ne m'épouvante (Carmen) - Georges Bizet

"Set in Seville around the year 1830, the opera deals with the love and jealousy of Don José, who is lured away from his duty as a soldier and his beloved Micaëla by the gypsy factory-girl Carmen, whom he allows to escape from custody. He is later induced to join the smugglers with whom Carmen is associated, but is driven wild by jealousy. This comes to a head when Carmen makes clear her preference for the bull-fighter Escamillo. The last act, outside the bull-ring in Seville, brings Escamillo to the arena, accompanied by Carmen, there stabbed to death by Don José, who has been awaiting her arrival." www.naxos.com

Quel guardo, il cavaliere...So anch'io la virtù magica (Don Pasquale) - Gaetano Donizetti

"Rome, mid-19th century. The old bachelor Don Pasquale plans to marry in order to punish his rebellious nephew, Ernesto, who is in love with the young widow Norina. Pasquale wants an heir so he can cut the young man off without a penny." www.metopera.org

Performance Links: <https://youtu.be/xnnHHkay-Vo> - H. Wolf
<https://youtu.be/cMQTxMXQt0k> - G. Bizet
<https://youtu.be/8TLX62JZQ3o> - G. Donizetti

JOSHUA HENDRICKSEN, bass-baritone

(Alison Purdy)

Madamina! Il catalogo è questo (Don Giovanni) - Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

An opera buffa in two acts, Mozart's opera centres around the exploits and conflicts of the titular Don Giovanni, including his eventual demise. In this aria, Don Giovanni's servant, Leporello, recounts the Don's many sexual conquests in an attempt to persuade Donna Elvira to forsake her feelings for the Don and return to her home.

Let things be like they always was (Street Scene) - Kurt Weill

Set in 1940's New York, Street Scene tells the story of a group of residents of a Manhattan tenement over the course of two swelteringly hot days in June. In this aria, Frank Maurant expresses his discontent regarding recent changes in the world.

Morgen, Op. 27, No. 4 - Richard Strauss

Performance Link: <https://youtu.be/ewj82PAsfa4>

SMFA OPERA AND MUSICAL THEATRE COMPETITION

JAYDEN BURROWS, bass-baritone

(Kathleen Lohrenz Gable)

Am Feierabend - Franz Schubert

Bella siccome un angelo (Don Pasquale) - Gaetano Donizetti

In Don Pasquale, the titular character's nephew Ernesto has refused to marry the woman he found for him and instead promises himself to the poor widow Norina. In response, Don Pasquale asks his physician, Dr. Malatesta, to arrange a marriage so he may produce an heir. Malatesta sets the Don up with his "sister", who is really Norina in disguise, scheming to teach Don Pasquale a lesson and help Ernesto and Norina marry.

Every day at church (Tartuffe) - Kirke Mechem

Tartuffe, based on Molière's play Tartuffe, or the Imposter, follows the household of Orgon who has become enamoured with Tartuffe, a churchgoing man whom Orgon has befriended. Orgon insists that his daughter Mariane must marry Tartuffe instead of her fiancé Valère. The two lovers enlist the help of Elmire, Orgon's second wife, and Damis, her brother, in revealing Tartuffe's true nature to Orgon.

Performance Links: <https://youtu.be/lkttamrkHbs> Am Feierabend
<https://youtu.be/m0N-J1n1UV0> Bella siccome un angelo
<https://youtu.be/5eZj4I2SPYI> Every day at church

LINDSAY GABLE, mezzo-soprano

(Kathleen Lohrenz Gable)

Il segreto per esser felici (Lucrezia Borgia) - Gaetano Donizetti

At a party in the final act, Mafio Orsini attempts to distract his friend Gennaro from his near-death at the hands of Lucrezia and the Duke by singing a drinking song of his own composition. He proclaims that the secret to happiness is to make merry, drink, and scorn the fools who worry about tomorrow -- 'why should we worry about tomorrow when today is here to enjoy?'

Qui m'aurait dit la place: The Letter Scene (Werther) - Jules Massenet

At the beginning of Act III, Charlotte is lamenting to herself how much she misses Werther. While reading through several of his letters to her, and reminiscing about their time together, she wonders whether she made the right decision in sending him away.

Galathea from Brettli - Lieder - Arnold Schoenberg

Performance Link: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLivt96i1uo_wTOFYhHfU8k2Qn5ZpK4Fmz

SMFA OPERA AND MUSICAL THEATRE COMPETITION

LAUREN HOPE, mezzo-soprano

(Kathleen Lohrenz Gable)

Che farò, senza Euridice (Orfeo ed Euridice) - Christopher Willibald Gluck

The opera follows the Greek myth of Orpheus. Mourning the death of his wife, Euridice, Orpheus travels to the underworld in order to return her to Earth. Orpheus is warned not to look back upon Euridice, but hearing Euridice cry, looks back at her, sending her to the underworld forever.

Toute femme tient (Le Médecin malgré lui) - Charles Gounod

A battered wife, Martine, plots revenge against her drunkard husband, Sganarelle (Toute femme tient). She convinces the wealthy Geronte, whose daughter has become mute, that her husband is a talented doctor, but will only admit it if he is beaten! Now Sganarelle, forced to act as the 'doctor', tries to 'cure' the daughter of her muteness, to much comic delight.

On Children - John Greer

Performance Link: https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLyRYDWlr9Wlu7oYQOlXVijx-RFNAS_gbz

ANGELA GJURICHANIN, soprano

(Paul Digout)

Eccomi in lieta vesta... Oh quante volte! (I Capuleti e i Montecchi) - Vincenzo Bellini

The tale is set in 13th century Verona and follows the political rivalry between the Capuleti, led by Capellio, from the Guelphs faction, and the Ghibellines one, the Montecchi, led by Romeo. Giulietta, Capellio's daughter, should marry Tebaldo, but the young girl's heart only beats for Romeo. The implacable hatred between the Capuleti and the Montecchi relentlessly leads the two lovers to their deaths.

I wait for thee - Sergei Rachmaninoff

Frère, voyez!... Du gai soleil...(Werther) - Jules Massenet

Werther, a young poet, falls in love with Charlotte, the eldest daughter of the bailiff left a widower with young children. The girl replaces her siblings' dead mother, whom she promised to wed Albert, the perfect potential husband. Bound by this promise, sacred in her eyes, Charlotte prefers to renounce her attraction to Werther. She marries Albert and makes Werther promise to go away until Christmas. But the separation brings no relief to the two young people. Werther can see no other outcome than death for their impossible love. Charlotte arrives too late to save him. Mortally wounded by the pistol he borrowed from Albert, Werther dies, at peace, in the arms of Charlotte, who finally admits her love for him. In all this darkness, Sophie is the only happy character and in her scene, she is trying yet again to brighten up the situation.

Performance Link: <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL28xNT44s0FLdM8WfG7RijhDWUmPGDDie>

SMFA OPERA AND MUSICAL THEATRE COMPETITION

ELISE PARSONAGE, soprano

(Kathleen Lohrenz Gable)

Dove Sono I bei momenti (Le Nozze di Figaro) - Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

The servants of the Count and Countess, Figaro and Susanna, prepare for their wedding. When Figaro realizes the Count has tried to seduce Susanna, he is angry and wants revenge. Marcellina, a former housekeeper also wants to marry Figaro and he owes her money if he does not. The Count tries to seduce Susanna but finds out Cherubino wants the countess and had seen him try to seduce Susanna. He is forced to bless Figaro and Susanna's marriage. The countess traps her husband by sending Cherubino disguised as Susanna to the Count. Figaro is forced to honor his agreement to Marcellina and the wedding to Susanna is delayed. Susanna later promises the Count to meet up. Figaro says he can not marry Marcellina without his parents' consent. He figures out Marcellina is his mother. The Countess is determined to go through with her plan to trick the Count and sends a letter confirming a meeting between him and Susanna. Figaro hides when the Countess and Susanna arrive disguised as each other. They watch Cherubino try to seduce the disguised Countess, and when the Count arrives, he chases him away. Figaro realizes the joke and begins to profess his love to Susanna who is disguised as the Countess. The Count is angry and explodes. The disguises are then revealed, and the Count asks the Countess for her forgiveness. She forgives him and the household celebrates.

Adieu notre petite table (Manon) - Jules Massenet

Manon is a 5-act Opéra-Comique where the young girl, Manon is being sent to a convent by her family. As Des Grieux travels home to see his father he spots Manon and the pair fall in love. They elope and flee to Paris. The two lovers are happy until Manon is persuaded to leave Des Grieux for De Brétigny and a life of luxury and warned that Des Grieux will be abducted at the request of his father. She accepts the offer to leave and Des Grieux is devastated and enters the priesthood. When Manon gets the news, she goes to convince him of their love, and they are reunited. They gamble away all their riches and are then accused of cheating in a game. Manon is then sentenced to prison and is to be deported to America. Des Grieux has been released and tries to save Manon, but he is too late, and she dies in his arms.

La féculé de maïs - Peter Tiefenbach

Performance Link: <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLaLtWsmU8WauJDOoW7HHjounpmeXQVa>

SMFA OPERA AND MUSICAL THEATRE COMPETITION

WILLIAM MATTHEWS, tenor

(Joshua Hendricksen)

À Chlois - Reynaldo Hahn

Che beltà che leggiadria (La finta giardiniera) - Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Contino Belfiore stabs and abandons his love Violante. He subsequently becomes engaged to Arminda, the niece of the Mayor. Violante survives and disguises herself as a servant named Sandrina, a servant of the Mayor. When Violante is informed by Arminda that Belfiore is engaged Violante passes out. When Belfiore arrives, Armind leaves the scene, and Belfiore recognizes that Sandrina is Violante, his true love. Chaos ensues.

Total Eclipse (Samson) - George Frideric Handel

Samson, an Israelite, marries a philistine woman named Dalila. She discovers his inhuman strength comes from his long, uncut hair. In the night, she cuts his hair removing his strength. This allows the philistines to capture Samson, and remove his sight.

Performance Link: <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWRwYHFHYmIpxTH8xw1g0mREWptUu2z4O>

SMFA OPERA AND MUSICAL THEATRE COMPETITION

STERLING BOEHM, baritone

(Christopher Kayler)

Halt!- Franz Schubert

Finché lo strale (Floridante) - George Frideric Handel

Persian General Oronte (Bass) has obtained the throne of Persia by murdering its former king Nino. He supposedly has two daughters, Rossane (soprano) and Elmira (alto); but the latter is the only surviving descendant of Nino, adopted by Oronte as an infant when his own second daughter died. Floridante, Prince of Thrace (alto), gains a naval victory over Tyre, thereby expecting Elmira's hand in fulfillment of a promise by Oronte. Among his prisoners is the Tyrian prince Timante (soprano), disguised under the name of Glicone; he was once betrothed to Rossane, though they have never met. Floridante's return is welcomed by Elmira and Rossane, but he unexpectedly receives orders from Oronte to resign his command to the satrap Coralbo (bass) and leave the country. He obtains an audience with Oronte and seeks an explanation but gets none and parts sorrowfully from Elmira. Timante reveals his identity to Rossane and is joined by Floridante disguised as a Moorish slave; the two couples plan to escape, but Elmira is summoned by Oronte, who to her horror reveals her true ancestry and declares his love for her. She rejects him as a murderous usurper. The escape is foiled by Oronte and Floridante, still disguised, is captured, and threatened with death. Elmira tells Coralbo that she is the last of the race of Nino and gains his sympathy. Oronte orders Floridante to persuade Elmira to accept him; otherwise, both she and Floridante will die. Rossane asks Timante to help Floridante escape. Floridante attempts to plead Oronte's cause with Elmira, but she prefers to die. On Oronte's orders she brings a cup of poison to Floridante in prison; she attempts to drink it herself but is stopped by Oronte. Coralbo and Timante intervene, arresting Oronte and proclaiming Elmira as Queen of Persia, under her true name of Elisa. She assumes the throne with Floridante and pardons Oronte at Rossane's pleading. Timante and Rossane are to marry and reign in Tyre.

When the air sings of Summer (The Old) - Gian Carlo Menotti

While Miss Todd (contralto) is serving tea to Miss Pinkerton (soprano), a beggar, Bob (baritone), comes to the back door. After Miss Pinkerton leaves, he is let in by Miss Todd's servant Laetitia (soprano). Desperate for male company, the women persuade him to stay indefinitely, and they lavish food and comforts on him. Later Miss Todd learns of an escaped thief whose description fits Bob, but she continues to shelter him. The women even rob a liquor store to bring him gin. When Miss Todd tells him of this, he says that she, not he, is the one who should be in gaol. Enraged by his ingratitude she threatens to go to the police and leaves as if to do so but does not. While she is gone Bob and Laetitia decide to elope, stealing her car and other items. Miss Todd returns to her empty house; she rants and faints.

Performance Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q-sdGMS7LYg&list=PLF4ZYqGhgQXKDUWdHozGulzvOjkgO9Gq&index=1>

SMFA OPERA AND MUSICAL THEATRE COMPETITION

MUSICAL THEATRE COMPETITION

FORREST HIEBERT, baritone

(Janet Wilson)

Giants in the Sky (Into the Woods) - Stephen Sondheim

What happens after ever after? A baker and his wife wish to start a family, a little girl wishes to see her grandmother in the woods, a young boy wishes to keep his cow, a poor woman wishes to meet a prince, and a woman trapped in a tower wishes to be rescued. They will get their wishes. But at what cost? Into the Woods explores the possibilities after a group of fairytale characters fight to make their wishes come true, and yet once their wishes become reality, their stories aren't over.

I Confess (Footloose) - Tom Snow & Dean Pitchford

After an accident kills the son of Bomont's Reverend, Shaw Moore, he forbids Rock and Roll music and dancing within the town in an effort to stifle youthful recklessness. But after a city kid with a skip in his step comes to town, he is forced to rethink his values after he pushes away his wife and daughter. Footloose is about a town that won't move on, and a teen who is willing to do anything to change that.

Tonight at Eight (She Loves Me) – Jerry Bock & Sheldon Harnick

Georg has been writing to an anonymous pen pal who he realizes he is falling for. A woman enters the shop he works at and insists to be hired and over time Georg and Amalia, the new hire, begin to bicker like an old married couple. Georg and his pen pal decide to plan a date and upon arriving at the date, George realizes his pen pal is Amalia. Due to their workplace interactions, she doesn't realize this and he doesn't tell her until they meet at her apartment and he confesses his love for her. She Loves Me is a classic love story that has had its formula replicated by countless media.

Dust and Ashes (Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812) - Dave Malloy

Andrey is off at war while his fiancée Natasha and good friend Pierre are home in Moscow. Natasha begins falling for another man, Anatole, while Pierre's wife continues to be unfaithful to him. A drunk Pierre challenges Fedya, a friend of Anatole's, to a duel and wounds him while Fedya misses his shot. Anatole and Natasha then fall in love and she breaks off her engagement to Andrey. After many unsuccessful attempts at convincing Natasha to stop pursuing Anatole, Pierre finds Anatole, explaining that Natasha is engaged, and asks that Anatole leave Moscow. Anatole agrees. Andrey arrives home from war after Natasha's suicide attempt and commits to calling off the engagement. Pierre then comforts Natasha.

Performance Link: <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLDMRDfAhj1tz2qIN907COAh6u91ujRYU>

SMFA OPERA AND MUSICAL THEATRE COMPETITION

BROOKE ZARUBIN, soprano

(Josh Carley)

With You (Ghost the Musical) - Dave Stewart and Glen Ballard

When Molly's lover, Sam, is murdered, she is left devastated by his absence in her life. However, unbeknownst to her, Molly is in danger and Sam can't leave this world until he knows she is safe.

Vanilla Ice Cream (She Loves Me) - Music by Jerry Bock, Lyrics by Sheldon Harnick

Co-workers Georg and Amalia constantly bicker while working at Maraczek's Parfumerie, but are unknowingly exchanging letters with one another after hours. Over time, Amalia comes to realize she perhaps enjoys Georg's company and attention over those of her pen pal.

Fly Fly Away (Catch Me If You Can) - Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman

Young conman, Frank Agabnale Jr., escapes from his troubled homelife by makes a living pulling off elaborate cons. During a con posing as a physician, Frank falls in love with a young nurse named Brenda, who is heartbroken when Frank is forced to flee and she learns he is not the man with whom she had fallen in love.

Being Alive (Company) - Stephen Sondheim

Robert is a bachelor who scoffs at relationships and has no plans to settle down. However, he comes to see the error of his ways, realizing that "alone is alone, not alive". The song has become popular outside its original musical setting, and although written for a male part, is frequently performed by women.

Performance Link: <https://youtu.be/JPrxcQj0EpA>

SMFA OPERA AND MUSICAL THEATRE COMPETITION

CORIE GROOME, soprano

(Kathleen Lohrenz Gable)

I Know Things Now (Into the Woods) - Stephen Sondheim

Several fairytale characters (such as 'Little Red Riding Hood' and 'Cinderella') make wishes and face the consequences of them. The musical is tied together by a story of a Baker and his wife on their quest to start a family. In order to do so- they must bring the witch a cow as white as milk, hair as yellow as corn, a slipper as pure as gold, and a cape as red as blood.

One Life to Live (Lady in the Dark) - Kurt Weill

Liza Elliott is an indecisive, unhappy editor of a fashion magazine. Caught between two men, she begins seeing a psychologist and the musical delves into her dreams and memories of childhood- all leading to a dream where she is put on trial for her indecision and eventually makes her choice.

The Beauty Is (The Light in the Piazza) - Adam Guettel

Set in the 1950's, Margaret Johnson and her daughter, Clara (who is developmentally disabled due to a childhood incident) spend a summer together in Italy. After Clara falls in love with a young Italian man, Margaret is forced to reconsider her daughter's future and her own beliefs.

Mister Snow (Carousel) - Oscar Hammerstein

Carousel revolves around a carousel barker named Billy Bigelow, whose romance with Julie Jordan comes at the price of both of their jobs. When an attempted robbery goes horribly wrong- Billy is given a chance to make things right. A secondary plot line revolves around Julie's friend, Carrie, who has fallen in love with an ambitious fisherman, Enoch Snow.

Performance Link: https://youtu.be/JYDHN2_AJ18

The announcement of the winners and adjudication sessions:

Wallis Opera Competition: Friday, February 25 @ 7:00 pm

SMFA Musical Theatre Competition, Saturday, February 26 @ 2:00 pm

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the *collaborative artists* who have performed at this competition.
Your talents and musical support are much appreciated.

We are appreciative of the partnership with the
Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras in providing the performance
opportunity to the Wallis Opera Competition winner.

SMFA OPERA AND MUSICAL THEATRE COMPETITION



Lara Ciekiewicz

Hailed for her “tour-de-force performance” (*Winnipeg Free Press*) in the title role of Manitoba Opera’s *Susannah*, Lara has established herself as a dynamic, intelligent, and moving singing-actress. Her facility for fully transforming into a character, regardless of genre, has earned her the reputation of being an artistic chameleon.

This season, Lara rejoins Manitoba Opera as Elle in *La voix humaine*. She also returns to the Victoria Symphony for their New Year’s

celebration, and to Edmonton Opera as Musetta in *La Bohème*.

Recent appearances include *Open Air: A Summer Festival of Music* for Pacific Opera Victoria and the Victoria Symphony; *The Sopranos of Winnipeg* for Manitoba Opera and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra; *All Those Arias* for the Little Opera Company, and as a soloist for the Victoria Symphony’s *Messiah*.

Select additional credits include Countess, *Le nozze di Figaro* (Edmonton Opera); title role, *Jenůfa*; Amelia, *Simon Boccanegra*; Laretta Gianni *Schicchi*; Nellie Forbush, *South Pacific* (Pacific Opera Victoria); Tatyana, *Eugene Onegin* (Calgary Opera); May, *Ours*; Cinderella, *Into the Woods*; Maria, *The Sound of Music* (Opera on the Avalon); Rosalinde, *Die Fledermaus* (Toronto Operetta Theatre).

Lara is increasingly in demand as an adjudicator and teacher. She serves as a Voice Instructor at the University of Manitoba’s Desautels Faculty of Music. She holds a Masters in Music (Opera) from McGill University, and a Bachelor of Arts - Honours (Voice) from the University of Winnipeg. She is an alumna of l’Atelier lyrique de l’Opéra de Montréal, San Francisco Opera’s Merola Opera Program, the Janiec Opera Company at the Brevard Music Center, the Banff Centre, Opera NUOVA, and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School (Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Musical Theatre). Lara also enjoys gardening, is an avid walker, loves fabulous footwear, and is a self-professed prairie-girl forever.

MUSICAL THEATRE SYNOPSES



Mel Braun

Baritone Mel Braun is a versatile performer, equally at home in oratorio, recital, and opera, always open to new collaborations. He is well-known to Canadian audiences for his frequent performances and broadcasts in the Masterworks of Bach and Handel. These include performances with Tafelmusik, Calgary Bach Festival, Pro Coro Edmonton, Symphony Nova Scotia, and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. New Music, another of Mel's interests, has seen him premiere works with Banff

Centre, Manitoba Opera, Winnipeg's New Music Festival, Groundswell, and Toronto's New Music Gallery. As a recitalist, he is renowned for his creative approach to Song, whether singing Schumann's *Liederkreis* while on stage with Winnipeg's Q Dance, staging Wolf's *Italienisches Liederbuch*, or tracing the life of Schubert among his friends as he completed his final work, *Die Winterreise*. His ongoing duo partnership with pianist Laura Loewen is at the heart of many of these collaborations.

As a teacher, Mel heads up the Vocal Program at the Desautels Faculty of Music, a program renowned for its collaborative and holistic approach to training singers. He has seen many of his students go on to significant careers as performers and teachers. Among Mel's many initiatives at the Faculty are the annual Opera Theatre School Tour, the Contemporary Opera Lab, and the Professor Bach Project.

As a music director, Mel looks after the operatic ensembles at the Desautels Faculty, as well as working with Dead of Winter (formerly Camerata Nova), a choir devoted to exploring new approaches to Indigenous choral music. He is much in demand as an Adjudicator and choral clinician, and also enjoys teaching many of the young rock singers that make up Winnipeg's ever-burgeoning Indie Music scene. You'll find him wherever young singers need mentoring.



Department of Music

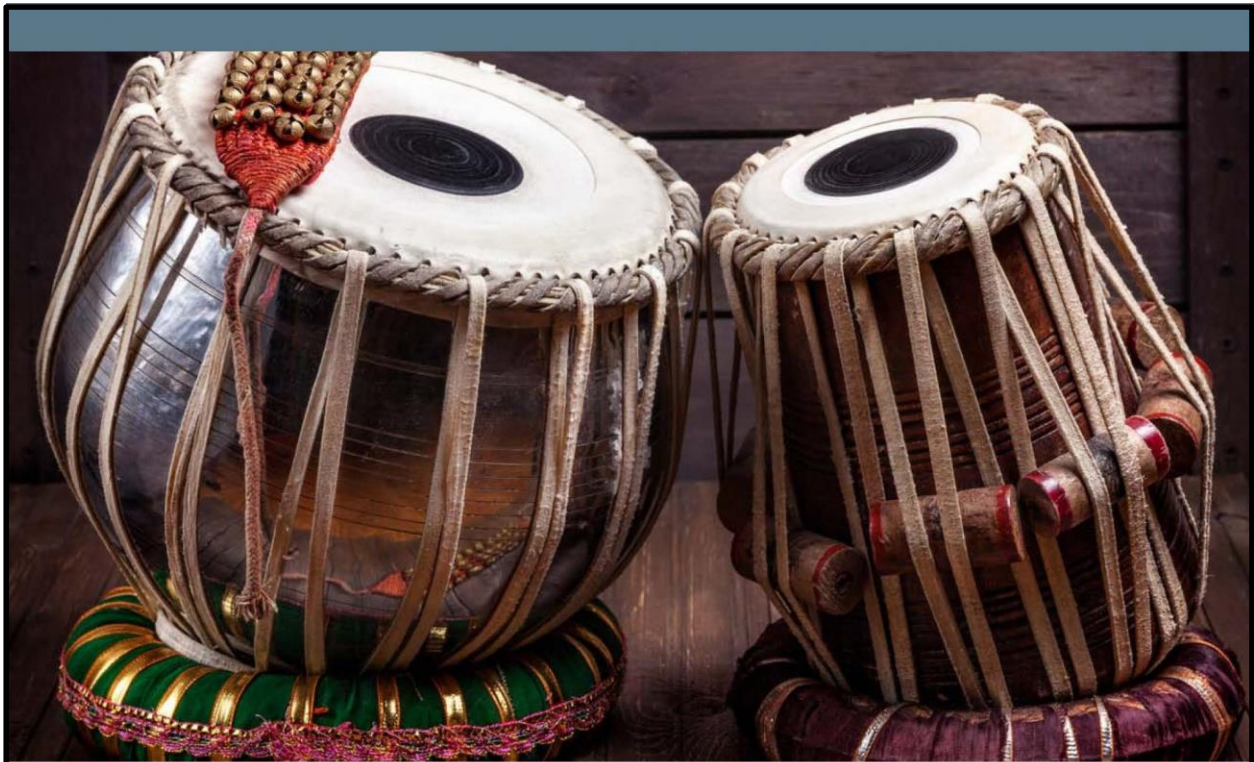
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SMFA programs include the following disciplines: world music, voice, piano, guitar, strings, woodwind, brass, percussion, organ, choir, school music, band, orchestra, musical theatre, and spoken word. The SMFA Syllabus has recently been expanded to include non-competitive/workshop classes. SMFA programs and services are accessible to all ages, ethnic groups and religions.



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Calendar of Events

March – May 2022

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June 2 – 5, 2022

Provincial Finals – Saskatoon

July 21 – 23, 2022

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