



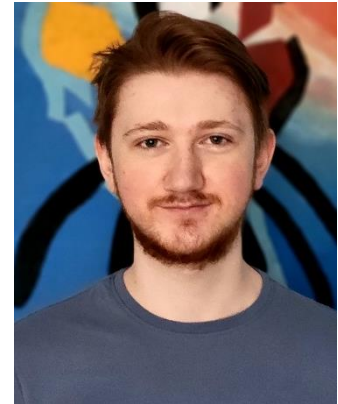
Moose Jaw singer, Brooke Zarubin, wins the 2022 Musical Theatre Competition



The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA) President, Tammy Villeneuve, is pleased announce that the 2022 SMFA Musical Theatre Competition scholarship of \$1,000 was won by soprano Brooke Zarubin. The Moose Jaw singer, accompanied by Josh Carley, performed selections from *Ghost the Musical*, *She Loves Me*, *Catch Me If You Can* and Stephen Sondheim's *Company*.

Brooke Zarubin has participated extensively as a vocalist in music festival, voice exams and the local theatre community. Brooke began performing in musical theatre productions at the age of six, and to date has appeared in 22 professional and/or school productions. Recent roles include Mary Poppins in *Mary Poppins*, Belle in *Beauty & the Beast* and Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*. Brooke is a University of Toronto National Scholar, and is in her first year in U of T's Vocal Performance degree program. Brooke is the recipient of two provincial medals of excellence from Conservatory Canada and won both the Intermediate Musical Theatre and Classical Voice Excellence Classes at the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association 2021 Provincials Finals.

The runner-up scholarship of \$750 went to baritone Forrest Hiebert, accompanied by Janet Wilson, who performed selections from *Footloose*, *She Loves Me*, *Natasha*, *Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812* and *Into the Woods*. Forrest Hiebert has been a performer his entire life. He grew up in the Saskatoon Children's Choir before continuing his music education with his vocal coach, Jordie Hughton. He played lead roles in his high school's yearly musicals and went on to participate in community theatre with the Saskatoon Summer Players' productions of *Footloose* and *Into the Woods*. He is currently a student at the University of Saskatchewan in the Department of Drama.



Singers competed on Saturday, February 26, virtually via YouTube with adjudicator comments via Zoom. The competition was judged by Mel Braun and Lara Ciekiewicz, both from the University of Manitoba's Desautels Faculty of Music. The competition is presented by the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association and is held every two years to support young singers in further studies in musical theatre.

For more information visit www.smfa.ca.

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