

Adjudicating Excellence Awards

The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA) wishes to honour the following two adjudicators with an SMFA Adjudicating Excellence Award. These two adjudicators were chosen based on evaluations we received from the District Festivals during the 2021 festival year. A provincial scholarship of \$300 will be presented at the 2023 Provincial Finals Competitions in honour of their outstanding work. We are very grateful for the work of all of our adjudicators who have gone above and beyond the call of duty during our COVID festival years.



Chelsea Mahan

On the operatic stage, soprano Chelsea Mahan has been praised for her panache of character (*La Presse*, 2015), while her comedic work “creates some of the most memorable, [and] funny moments” (*Star Phoenix*, 2016). Her rich yet ethereal tone is complemented by the warmth and passion that she weaves into every phrase. Equally at home performing concert repertoire for large audiences, in intimate recital settings, or in studio recording, Ms. Mahan enjoys a vast career that specializes in up-close and personal performances in found spaces such as warehouses and abandoned churches. The depth of her interpretations and her ability to bring meaning to every work has brought success with every venture.

Ms. Mahan has made appearances with La Compagnie Baroque Mont-Royal, Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra, Regina Symphony Orchestra, Saskatoon Opera, Souris Valley Theatre, Little Opera on the Prairie, Swift Current Oratorio Choir, and SUM Theatre. In March 2020, she made her SSO Main Stage Series debut as the soprano soloist for the highly anticipated North American premiere of Rebecca Dale’s *Materna Requiem*. Off stage she works with singers, teachers, and speakers using her high level of technicality, intuitive and trained ear, expressive language and innate knowledge of the vocal mechanism to achieve the goal of optimal vocal health. She does this at both her private home studio and previously as a Sessional Lecturer at the University of Saskatchewan. Ms. Mahan holds her B.Mus/B.Ed from the University of Saskatchewan and her M.Mus in Opera and Voice Performance from McGill University.

Outside the music world, Ms. Mahan is the mother of three children who provide inspiration for her artistic endeavors. She has also been known to dabble in the art of clown and when she can, contributes her voice (musical and otherwise) to the visual art and theatre scenes in Saskatoon.

SMFA proudly recognizes Chelsea Mahan for her valued contribution as an adjudicator of both in-person and virtual festivals and thanks her for her part in keeping the music festival tradition alive during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Olivia Adams



Olivia Adams is a pianist, teacher, and researcher living in Ottawa, ON but with deep roots in the Saskatoon music community she grew up in. She holds an MA in Music and Feminist Studies from the University of Ottawa, a B.Mus. in Piano Performance from Western University, and is pursuing a Ph.D. in Music and Education.

Olivia speaks and performs in Canada and the US, giving workshops on inclusivity and diversity in the piano studio, gender and music, and the piano music of BIPOC female composers. She is a researcher on gender and music in Canadian music conservatories, is the author of *Loud and Clear: A Guide to Levelled Piano Music by Women Composers in the 20th and 21st Centuries*, and has won numerous national awards and grants for her work in inclusivity in piano music. In addition, Olivia is the very happy host of the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra's *Loud and Clear* (Podcast), amplifying the voices of women in music.

When she is not busy with her research or teaching, Olivia enjoys playing in a piano duo with her spouse, Nick Busch and enjoying the outdoors with their dog, Nori.

While Olivia is relatively new as an adjudicator for SMFA District Festivals, she enthusiastically rose to the challenges of both live and virtual festivals during the pandemic. SMFA is pleased to recognize Olivia with the Adjudicating Excellence Award.

