



Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



Established in 1908

Winter 2011

SMFA Provincial Office
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"Classical Competitive Festivals"

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President's Message

Joy McFarlane-Burton, President



It is with excitement, thankfulness, and gratitude that I begin my term serving as your President. The delegates at the AGM have elected three new and vibrant members to the Board. Please read the "Meet the Board" article in this edition.

On behalf of the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA) I sincerely thank Gloria Nickell, Nancy Wilkins and Eleanor Epp for the time they have served on the Board. All of these women brought solid skills, experience, responsibility, and leadership to the SMFA. Gloria is our Past President and has been the Syllabus Chair for the past two Syllabi. We will miss her organizational skills and positive energy. Nancy will continue to serve as President of the Central Saskatchewan Music Festival at Davidson. Eleanor has moved to Manitoba where we are sure that her talent and industry will be put to good use.



The Wallis Memorial Opera Competition was held in Regina on November 20. Twelve singers competed for the \$5000.00 first prize with Meara Conway being declared the winner by Judges Valdine Anderson of Winnipeg and Kim Mattice Wanat of Edmonton. SMFA is grateful for the vision of Gordon C. Wallis who provided a Trust Fund to establish this competition. The competition is unique in Canada and encourages and assists young Saskatchewan singers in furthering their vocal studies in opera. We also appreciate the co-operation of the Regina Symphony Orchestra, and the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra who provide performance opportunities to our winner. Congratulations Meara!

The SMFA Finance Committee has been busy organizing a Fundraiser. Please read the article on the Travel Lottery in this edition.

As preparations are being made for the 49 District Music Festivals in 2011, I would ask that you recognize those volunteers who keep the Festival movement alive in your communities. Without our thousands of volunteers, province-wide, we would not have the opportunity to showcase our talented young musicians in this format. Please take a moment at each Festival venue to say a word of appreciation to the volunteers for all they do to get ready for the competition days.

Please check out our website www.smfa.ca for the current Syllabus and Directory. You will also find any corrections, additions, and changes regarding Saskatchewan Music Festivals Rules and Regulations. The Board thanks John and Carol Donhauser for their volunteer work maintaining the website.

The Provincial Finals will be held in Moose Jaw June 3-5, 2011. The Provincial Level of National Competition will be held on Friday, June 3, the Provincial Finals on Saturday, June 4, and the Grand Awards on Sunday, June 5. We are grateful to coordinator Sharon Penner and her Moose Jaw committee for their diligent work.

Congratulations to four of our District Festivals that celebrating special anniversaries in 2011 – Twin Rivers Music Festival (10 years), Sand Hills Music Festival (20 years), Lafleche & District Music Festival (45 years), and Qu'Appelle Valley Music Festival (55 years).

The SMFA is grateful for the funding we receive for our programs from Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust for Sport, Culture and Recreation, The Saskatchewan Arts Board and SaskCulture Inc.

On behalf of the SMFA Board and Staff, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.





Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



Established in 1908

Winter 2011

Saskatchewan Music Conference

Karen MacCallum, 1st Vice President

November 4-6, 2010 at the Saskatoon Travelodge was the time and place of the second Saskatchewan Music Conference (SMC) which included the Saskatchewan Band Association (SBA), the Saskatchewan Choral Federation (SCF), the Saskatchewan Music Educators' Association (SMEA), the Saskatchewan Orchestral Association (SOA), and the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA). This year's theme was "Better Together".

Several Festival delegates were registered for the Friday sessions and SMFA hosted two of the twenty-three sessions. Lorelie de Roose, from the Saskatchewan Elocution and Debate Association, presented "The Importance of Speech Arts" to a very small audience. Gloria Nickell's presentation "Interested in Becoming an SMFA Adjudicator?" was most excellent and several interested people attended. The Awards Banquet, on Friday evening, was elegant with pre-dinner live music, a delicious meal, greetings from special guest dignitaries, and the presentation of twenty-one awards. The SMFA Award of Honorary Life Membership was presented by President Theresa Brost to Doris Covey Lazecki. Eleven Volunteer Awards were presented to: Janice Skilliter and Kathy Strutt (Kindersley Music Festival); Alicia Putz and Christine Stang (Prairie Sunset Music Festival); Sheila Holash (Prince Albert Kiwanis Music Festival); Marj Paulson (Quill Plains Music Festival); Gloria Nickell and Cheryl Pearce (Rosetown & District Music Festival); Iris Merk (Unity Music Festival); Laurene Jemieff (Yorkton Music Festival); and Doug McCosh, Thecla Anderson, and Gary Loy (Saskatoon Music Festival).

Saturday's Conference schedule listed twenty-four sessions and SMFA started with Roundtable discussions. Attending were twenty-eight delegates representing twenty-three festivals, two Honorary Life members, nine Board members and two office staff. The Keynote address was given by David Newell to a large crowd of SMC attendees. Entitled "Much of What I Know, I Learned from My Students", Newell reflected on his fifty years in music with anecdotes of being a band instructor.

All AGMs were held during the lunch break. The SMFA 2010 Annual Report containing the Financial Statement and reports of the year's activities was compiled so expertly by our office staff, Executive Director Carol Donhauser and Assistant Sandra Kerr.

Two new Directors were elected to three-year terms: Gail Mergen (Assiniboia) and Robyn Rutherford (Unity). Elected to a one-year term was Anita Kuntz (Estevan). The Provincial Board is now comprised of the following members: President Joy McFarlane-Burton (Saskatoon), 1st Vice President Karen MacCallum (Swift Current), 2nd Vice President Nancy Toppings (Kipling), Past President Theresa Brost (Macklin), and Director Darren Schwartz (Saskatoon) and the three newly elected people. Retiring Past President Gloria Nickell and Directors Nancy Wilkins and Eleanor Epp were each presented with a gift and many thanks for their time and talents.

SMFA hosted the presentation by Brenda Robinson, "Celebrating Volunteers", a theme very close to the hearts of our District Festivals. She was absolutely hilarious and we will remember her for years to come. Alas, only one other non-SMFA conference person attended this session. The afternoon ended with more roundtable discussions presented by well-informed presenters – so little time, so much to discuss!

The Conference concluded with the Honour Groups Concert at Circle Drive Alliance Church performing wonderful selections showing the excellent talent of the province's young people and their instructors.



Honorary Life Member – Doris Covey Lazecki

At the Awards Banquet of the Saskatchewan Music Conference, SMFA President Theresa Brost presented Doris Covey Lazecki with an Honorary Life Membership. A portion of Doris' acceptance speech follows:

"This is a great honour for me to be listed in the company of so many of my heroes, Gordon & Mossie Hancock, Jean Bradley, Betty Tydeman, and Lillian Mitchell, who is with us this evening. I have been involved with the Saskatchewan Music Festival for a long time, indeed since I was a student in Betty Mauchel's class at Caswell School, and we entered and won the singing games class of the Saskatoon Music Festival. From that time forward I was aware that the volunteers of the Music Festival were special. I look back on encouraging teachers and later, when I worked at the Provincial Office, I encountered the most amazing sector of volunteers, all the provincial board members, and wonderful presidents who gave strong leadership to the 49 member festivals who make up our Association. So I thank you all most sincerely for this tremendous honour."





Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



Established in 1908

Winter 2011

Meet the SMFA Board Members & Staff

Joy McFarlane-Burton, President

Joy was born and raised in the Biggar area and has been active in that community since her youth, working with numerous community associations. Her involvement with the Biggar & District Music Festival began as a competitor and continued as teacher, volunteer, and committee member as well as serving as President for two terms.

Joy holds an ARCT in Singing Performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music and is a member of NATS, Canadian Music Festival Adjudicator's Association, as well as the Saskatchewan and Canadian Registered Music Teachers Associations.

In 1975 Joy established her voice studio. Since that time she has continually taught students from across West Central Saskatchewan. She has been a choral director for over 30 years, working with children, youth, church and adult community choirs. Joy adjudicates voice, musical theatre, and speech arts across the western provinces.

Joy is married to Rick Burton and they have four adult children and four grandchildren. Joy and Rick enjoy travelling, walking, reading, and entertaining in their Saskatoon home.

Theresa Brost, Past President

Theresa was born in Macklin and raised in Ponoka, Alberta. Music was encouraged and nurtured from an early age in her large family. Theresa and her siblings competed in the family class at the Alberta Wood River Music Festival, accompanied by their father. She says many a sing-song took place, while doing dishes, with her Dad accompanying on piano, guitar or accordion.

Theresa has been involved with the Prairie Sunset Music Festival for 21 years. Her seven children were active participants at both the local and provincial levels. She has served on the committee in many capacities and currently holds the President's position.

Theresa has attended SMFA Fall Conference since 1998, and in 2003 she joined the SMFA Board of Directors, serving as President from 2008-2010. Theresa has enjoyed working with and for the amazing volunteers of the Provincial Association. She says "I will continue to be a supporter of the festival movement in Saskatchewan because it is a wonderful program for young people to learn lifelong skills that will help them.....in whatever walk of life they choose."

Theresa has been active in the life of her community and church, including directing two musicals and serving as President of the school band parents association. In 2006, she enrolled in the Practical Nurse Re-Entry Distance Learning Program at SIAST and is presently employed as an LPN in the Heartland Health Region. In her spare time, Theresa enjoys sports, cooking, reading, going for walks, music, and her granddaughters, Annika and Avery.

Karen MacCallum, First Vice President

Music has been a great career and a wonderful journey. Karen started piano lessons at age six in her home town of Hazlet. Her teacher, Bessie Rowe, introduced Karen to the wonders of music festival. Karen married, moved to Swift Current, and with two young daughters continued to go back home to teach students. She bought her first piano in the early seventies and began teaching students in Swift Current.

Karen stepped back into the Music Festival scene when a voice teacher approached her to accompany some students. She became involved with the festival committee, eventually serving as President of the Swift Current & District Music Festival from 2001-2008. Karen currently serves as Scholarship Committee Chair in Swift Current and joined the SMFA Board of Directors in 2007.

Karen says "Attending Provincial Finals, Concerto Competitions, Wallis Opera Competitions and three National Competitions has been an incredible opportunity to meet the young talents of our province and country. Also, meeting the most wonderful adjudicators, collaborative artists, other festival organizers and parents of competitors that take part in this amazing network is a most memorable journey."



Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



Established in 1908

Winter 2011

Nancy Toppings, Second Vice President

Nancy began teaching piano lessons Kipling when her children were babies and has maintained a busy studio in the community for over twenty years. Her students are active participants in the local festival, and several students have earned silver medals for their Royal Conservatory Exams. Nancy's involvement with the Kipling & District Music Festival began as a participant and continued as an accompanist, choir director, and committee member. She has held the position of entry secretary for the Kipling Festival for many years and joined the SMFA Board of Directors in 2008.

Nancy's and husband Richard's three children grew up at the Kipling Festival and now live in Regina. When the children were young, together with their extended family, a choir was formed called "Kindred Spirits" and they entertained at many events, including the festival every year. After the children left home Nancy resumed her own music studies and is enjoying furthering her education.

Presently Nancy is choir director/pianist for the Kipling & District Community Choir. Her love of choral music led her to the Saskatchewan Choral Federation Summer Camps where she served as a counsellor for 11 summers. She enjoys gardening, reading, large family gatherings, and most genres of music.

Sandra Senga, Director

Sandra is a retired teacher. She taught in the classroom as well as teaching music to upper elementary students for many years. She also directed the school choir and presented a musical production annually. She entered her choir and classrooms in the festival every year. Although Sandra has been retired since 1998, she keeps busy substitute teaching and with many other community activities.

Sandra has been involved with the Meadow Lake & District Music Festival since its inception. Over the years, she has sat on almost every committee and served as President for many years. Sandra is currently the convener of the Finance Committee and the Program Committee.

Sandra is an avid reader, when she finds the time. She loves to work in her yard on her acreage in the summer. In winter she turns to curling to keep busy. Sandra also enjoys the fellowship of the "Over 50" club every week.

Darren Schwartz, Director

Darren was born in Ottawa, Ontario. Music studies, which began at age seven, included organ instruction with Dorothy McFaul of Saskatoon. He continued to study with Bill Young and Hart Godden until age eighteen. He completed his Grade X Pipe Organ in 1989.

At age nineteen Darren started his own business, Darren's Music Place, in Saskatoon. The business began solely as a teaching studio for two years and then expanded into instruments and music books. Karaoke was added as a sideline eleven years into the business and for the past twenty-two years Darren's Music Place continues to change with the times and needs of the local music community.

Darren keeps busy helping substitute at churches throughout Saskatoon during the summer months and helping with local choirs, such as the Cecilian Singers and Choraliers. He is currently working with a new group called Studio 54, which performs cover tunes from the '70's and '80's.

Darren has served as President of the Royal Canadian College of Organists, Saskatoon Branch as well as President of the Saskatoon Music Festival Association. He continues to volunteer with the Saskatoon Festival as Administrator.

In his spare time Darren enjoys arranging music, spending time with family, and looking after his two collies. He finds time for teaching, one day a week, which has been a passion from the very beginning.



Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



Established in 1908

Winter 2011

Anita Kuntz, Director

Anita grew up on a farm near Torquay, later moving to Estevan. After the birth of her fourth child, she began upgrading her piano and theory skills. Studying as an adult was both exciting and difficult, but rewarding to live out her passion. In 1989 Anita trained as a teacher with Music for Young Children and this summer she received her “700 Student” pin award. In 1999 Anita was appointed the provincial coordinator for MYC and continues to hold that position.

Anita joined the local festival committee in 1995 to help make the festival more “kid-friendly”. Although she believes competition is both motivating and important, her philosophy is that young beginners should be encouraged to create and perform, first and foremost. Anita was instrumental in implementing a non-competitive rule for age 7 & under classes, which has met with success in Estevan.

Anita has held the positions of entry secretary, vice president, and is currently serving as President of the Estevan & District Music Festival for the seventh year.

Other volunteer activities include church, meals on wheels, accompanying for an elementary school and entertaining at various events. Anita and her husband Barry continue to live in Estevan and enjoy visiting with family and friends, camping, golf, playing cards, and traveling. Their three sons live in Alberta, and their daughter currently teaches school in Australia.

Anita is excited to join the SMFA Board and looks forward to the challenges it brings.

Gail Mergen, Director

Gail has been involved in Saskatchewan Music Festivals for most of her life – as performer, teacher, adjudicator, parent, volunteer, and local festival executive member. She believes the festival still holds a place of importance for today’s families, despite the busy-ness of school, sports, appointments, and electronics.

An active piano teacher, Gail takes great interest in each student’s challenges and accomplishments. She was the Saskatchewan coordinator for Music for Young Children for 12 years. Besides teaching, her musical endeavours include accompanying the Assiniboia Community Choir and directing the Limerick United Church Choir. Since 2005, Gail has been General Manager at the Shurniak Art Gallery in Assiniboia. She has three adult children and continues to reside with her husband on the farm at Limerick, Saskatchewan.

Gail joined the SMFA Board of Directors in the fall of 2010.

Robyn Rutherford, Director

Robyn was raised on a farm near Unity, with her three sisters and two brothers. She and her husband Wade have twin children, a son and a daughter, who now live in Saskatoon. Music played an important role in the life of the family. Robyn began private piano lessons at age seven and completed her ARCT degree with Doris Green and Blanche McDonald.

Robyn is an active member of the Battlefords Registered Music Teachers Association, having served as treasurer and currently as President. She enjoys accompanying students for festival and exams, as well as playing for various churches in the community. Robyn describes herself as “a life-long learner of piano study and appreciation of music”. She has attended various workshops in organ and piano.

Robyn is a solid supporter of Music Festival because of the knowledge and encouragement she and her students have received from adjudicators. She has served as President of her local festival committee and is currently one of the entry secretaries. Robyn looks forward to serving on the board of SMFA.

LET US KNOW

If your festival will be celebrating a special event or a milestone year in 2011

Please send your information to Board members [Nancy Toppings](#) or [Sandra Senga](#)



Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



Established in 1908

Winter 2011

Carol Donhauser, Executive Director

In January of 2003, after 11 years of owning and operating a home-based desktop publishing business and several administrative positions, Carol joined the SMFA as Assistant to the Executive Director (Doris Covey Lazecki). In January 2006, when Doris retired, Carol excitedly took on the position as Executive Director. With limited knowledge in the music field (she played accordion as a child and the flute in high school), a strong administration background and the Board of Directors' encouragement Carol tackled this new role. She has enjoyed every minute.

Carol and her husband John have two teenage daughters, ages 17 and 19, and reside in Regina. Carol has served on the Board of the Regina Optimist Dolphin Swim Club and volunteers for several charities in the Regina area. In her spare time, Carol enjoys watching sports, reading, spending time with family, friends and her dog Buddy, a ten-year old Bichon-Poodle.

Sandra Kerr, Assistant to the Executive Director

Sandra is a native Saskatchewanian who was a regular competitor at the Regina Music Festival during her youth, and later contributed primarily as an accompanist but also as a teacher. She obtained an ARCT (piano performance), a B.Mus. (pipe organ), and an MA (music theory), while raising a family of three with husband Grant.

Though her working career included various office and music retail jobs, for over thirty years Sandra served as organist and choir director at a number of churches (though now on her third attempt to remain retired from that vocation), accompanied for numerous soloists and choirs, and taught piano and theory. In 2006 she began working at SMFA.

As a volunteer, Sandra has served on the boards of the Saskatchewan Centre of the Arts (now named the Conexus Arts Centre), the Regina Musical Club, the Regina Japanese Canadian Club, and the South Saskatchewan Youth Orchestra. She is active with the Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers Association (SRMTA), as a former Treasurer and Past President of the Regina Branch, and as President of the provincial organization. In addition to her work at the Provincial Office, she currently accompanies for the Juventus Training Choir, maintains a teaching studio, and tends to two feline friends.

Doris Covey Lazecki, Adjudicator Liaison

Doris Covey Lazecki (ARCT) was born in Saskatoon and began her early vocal training with the late Mrs. L.D. (Mary) Anderson, who entered all her students in the annual Saskatoon Music Festival competitions. Doris taught singing at the Conservatory of Music for ten years and prepared her vocal students for examinations at festival competitions at the local, provincial and national levels, and she adjudicated at Music Festivals in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba.

Doris assumed the position as the first Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Choral Federation (SCF). SMFA provided office space for the newly formed SCF. She became Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association in the fall of 1982 and retired on October 22, 2005. The opportunity to work with and for the amazing volunteers of the provincial association was gratifying. She visited all 49 festivals throughout her career and during her time as Executive Director saw the completion of the 80-year history of SMFA, *Music for One...Music for All* and a *Speech Arts Resource Manual*, both written by Mossie Hancock. The late Gordon Wallis and Doris planned and executed the Wallis Opera Competition, which now alternates with the SMFA Concerto Competition, both competitions co-sponsored by the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras. She implemented the Canadian Composer Series, honouring Saskatchewan composers and listing their works in the annual SMFA Syllabus. One of the highlights of her career was assisting with the production of the 100th Anniversary Re-enactment Concert in May of 2009.

Doris has been an executive member of the Association of Canadian Choral Conductors, the Saskatchewan Council of Cultural Organizations, the Saskatchewan Choral Federation, and a voting member of the Canadian Music Centre, Prairie Region. She has been an active member of the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals, serving as chair of Membership and Choral Committees and as President, and served a three-year term as President of ArtSchool Saskatchewan. Doris continues to assist the Festival Association as the Adjudicator Liaison for the province, hiring over 250 musicians annually. Currently, Doris is a member of St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral Choir in Regina.





Festival Focus

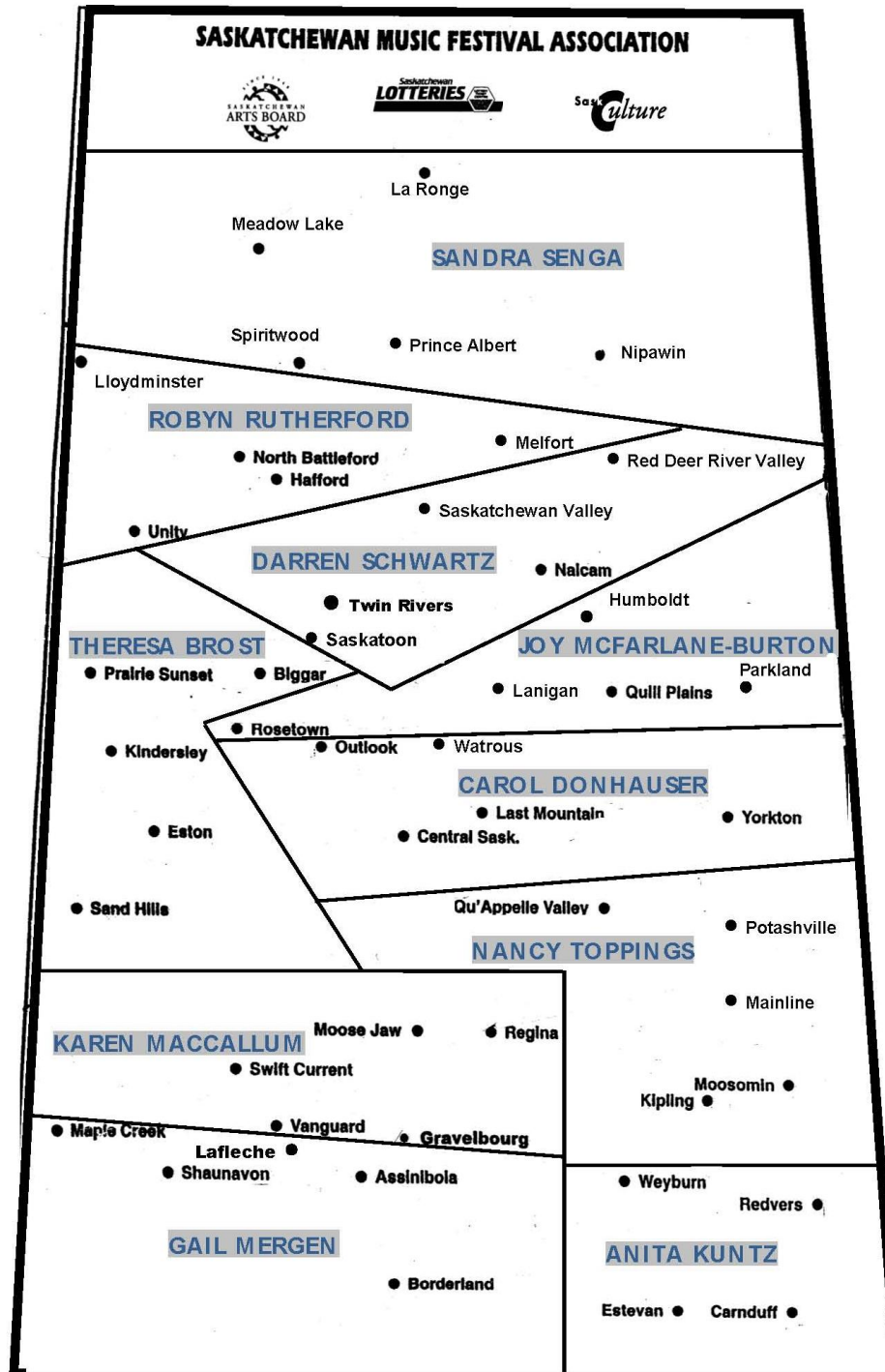
SMFA Provincial Office



Established in 1908

Winter 2011

SMFA Board Liaison Map





Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



Established in 1908

Winter 2011

Gordon C. Wallis Memorial Opera Competition



Meara Conway

Meara Conway's performance impressed judges Valdine Anderson of Winnipeg and Kim Mattice Wanat of Edmonton on Saturday, November 20, 2010 so much they awarded her the \$5,000 prize in the Gordon C. Wallis Memorial Opera Competition. The Regina-born singer performed works by Chausson, Handel and Stravinsky in a hotly contested all-female competition.

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. It is held every two years, alternating between Saskatoon and Regina and is intended to support young singers in further studies in opera.

Recipient of the Maureen Forrester Award, Soprano Meara Conway completed her Masters degree in Opera Performance at McGill University. Winner of the Canadian National Music Festival Competition and a Schulich Academic Scholar, she began attending law school at McGill University in fall of 2009 and continues to study and perform opera intensively across Canada.

Winning the Wallis competition provides Conway with the opportunity to perform with the Regina and Saskatoon symphonies in an upcoming season.

To view photos see our website.

Adjudicator Liaison

Doris Covey Lazecki

As we approach the 2011 Festival Season there are a few items you may wish to consider. Hundreds of professional musicians will be making their way across our province to assist at your local festival. These wonderful adjudicators are willing to share their musical expertise as they work for you and your committee members to provide a good festival experience for our Saskatchewan students.

The Briefing Session before your festival begins is one of the most important steps to ensure that your festival will run smoothly. Please provide your adjudicators with a listing of the scholarships for which they are responsible, pointing out the various classes that will be in competition for your local scholarships. This initial meeting with your adjudicator is your opportunity to welcome them to your community, while providing guidelines that apply to your local festival. This is the time to present your adjudicator with the pertinent information about where they can sign for meals (or not) and to give them their meal allowance (in cash) for the duration of the festival, and to make sure they know the location of their classes. At this time you can point out that we do not appreciate first place ties in our festivals – it is too confusing when the scholarships are awarded.

Speaking of the scholarship session, it is very important in a competitive system such as ours that members of district festival committees, whose family members or students are eligible for scholarships, must not attend the final scholarship meeting of the adjudicator and scholarship committee. The adjudicator is responsible for choosing winners and this keeps our competition on a level playing field for everyone.

A complete list of
2011 District Festival dates can be at
www.smfa.ca





Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



Established in 1908

Winter 2011

Did You Know?

- ✦ Provincial Competition provides students at the Intermediate and Senior levels the opportunity to compare their efforts to those at a similar level. This venue is especially valuable because of the vastness of our province. Students generally are exposed only to other students from their local festival.
- ✦ Scholarships are available at the provincial level in all disciplines: Piano, Voice, Choral, Woodwind, String, Brass, Percussion, and Speech Arts. These scholarships range from \$200 to \$1000. Intermediate and senior competitors who compete at the local level and are recommended by the adjudicator are eligible to compete for these scholarships.
- ✦ If you want to hear some incredible musicians, just attend some of the sessions at our next Provincial Competition in Moose Jaw. Bring a friend or two and a few students. I am sure they would all enjoy the experience thoroughly.
- ✦ **New Regulation for National Classes:** There is now a MINIMUM AGE of 14 years to compete at Nationals (as well as the maximum age of 28). This applies to entry into the National class at the district & provincial levels as well.



SMFA Travel Lottery Fundraiser

The Saskatchewan Music Festival Board notified the 49 District Festivals in October regarding a Travel Lottery fundraiser, which was then voted on at the AGM. The delegates supported the initiative of the SMFA Finance Committee.

Each of the 49 District Festivals will be required to sell 30 tickets at \$10.00 per ticket and will be invoiced for \$300.00. Fifty percent (50%) of the money each District Festival raises in ticket sales will be returned to them. More tickets will be available from the SMFA Provincial Office if requested. All monies and unsold tickets are to be sent to the Provincial Office.

The Early Bird draw for an iPod will be made at the Grand Awards in Moose Jaw on June 5, 2011. The First Prize is a trip for 4 persons to Disneyland, California and Second Prize is a Weekend Getaway to the Moose Jaw Temple Gardens Spa (some conditions apply). The First and Second Prizes will be drawn at the Saskatchewan Music Conference in Regina on November 5, 2011.

The purchaser, or the name of the person on the ticket, must be 19 years of age or older.

We look forward to this co-operative Fundraiser that will be of mutual benefit to both the District and Provincial Music Festival Associations.



To SMFA Board, Carol, & Sandra

Thank you so much for the lovely weekender set. I feel that I should have been distributing gifts for the privilege of serving on the SMFA Board of Directors for the past three years with such a dedicated, energetic, knowledgeable group of people. I have many times boasted about the productivity and congeniality of this particular board.

I should be mandatory service for those who may question the value of the provincial association and for those who never attend provincial functions. What an education they would get.

I wish all the best to the new board and expect to maintain ties with all of you at future competitions and conferences.

Thank you again, it's been a great three years.

Nancy Wilkins



Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



Established in 1908

Winter 2011

From the Provincial Office

Carol Donhauser, Executive Director

After a very busy fall, I am happy to report that Sandra and I survived an office move on the 1st of November followed by Fall Conference and the Wallis Opera Competition. The provincial office is located in the same building, but we are now on the third floor (#14 – 62 Westfield Drive). We hope to be settled by the New Year.

The supply orders, including the 2011 Directory, have recently been shipped. The website is in the process of being updated with all the forms having to be changed due to the new address. The website continues to be our main communication tool providing information on entering festivals to teachers and competitors as well administrative forms for festival committee members. Please be sure to download the most current forms when submitting reports to the provincial office.

Doris is working hard to hire those last few adjudicators' spots and, as each festival is completed, Sandra will send out the Report Form to the corresponding secretary of each festival, confirming adjudicators and providing you with the adjudicator's contact information and biography. Once the entry close date has come and gone for each festival and you have had a chance to look at your schedules, **please notify us as soon as possible of any changes.**

At the Annual General Meeting this November, information was presented on affiliation dues noting that the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals (FCMF) has increased their fees for this year to \$.75 per entry based on the 2010 festival entries with further increases planned in the next two years (\$.85 based on 2011 entries and \$1.00 based on 2012 entries). Affiliation fees are currently \$3.50/entry with \$2.85 for the Provincial association and \$.65 paid to the Federation (FCMF). A motion was passed last year by the SMFA Board of Directors to absorb the recent increase in the FCMF share of affiliation dues for the current year (2010 entries) but that we may have to look at an increase in the near future as the Provincial Association may not be in a financial position continue to absorb this extra expense. We are endeavouring a co-operative fundraising campaign with the Travel Lottery and your participation is crucial in order to keep affiliation dues at their current level.

Another issue discussed regarding Affiliation dues was the timing of the invoicing. Currently, affiliation invoices are sent to District Festivals in November. This has been a bit of an issue for rotating festivals that do not share the same set of financial books. Furthermore, this expense should be reconciled in the same fiscal year that the entry fees are collected. According to the SMFA Constitution, District Festivals' fiscal year-end should be June 30. In order to have this payable off the books in the same fiscal year that the entry fees are collected, invoices must be issued earlier. Beginning in 2011, affiliation dues will be invoiced before May 30 as per a motion made by the SMFA Provincial Board. We realize that this could prove to be a hardship for some festivals in the first year, as affiliation invoices will be issued in November of 2011 (based on 2010 entries) and then again in May of 2011 (based on 2011 entries). For festivals that are struggling financially, a pay arrangement will be implemented.

I would like to provide a bit of background information on what exactly your affiliation dues/fees contribute to the association. Please see of the following list:

What does the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association do for each District Festival?

- ✓ Promote SMFA as an important cultural movement in the province of Saskatchewan
- ✓ Prepare budgets, supporting documents, and interview with The Saskatchewan Arts Board to obtain Association funding as a Provincial Cultural Organization
- ✓ Be accountable for the expenditure of funds as provided through Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation, SaskCulture, and The Saskatchewan Arts Board
- ✓ Supports each District Festival as they provide relevant programming in their communities
- ✓ Provide certificates to district festivals at no charge
- ✓ Orders, stocks, and provides SMFA stationery at cost
- ✓ Design and update of the SMFA website which members are encouraged to use to its full potential
- ✓ Public Relations and promotion of music festivals in the form of advertisements, press releases, annual reports, brochures and signage
- ✓ Prepares Festival Focus Newsletter with up to date information
- ✓ Hires adjudicators according to each Festival's needs
- ✓ Provides member funding when requested and approved by SMFA Finance Committee



Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



Established in 1908

Winter 2011

- ✓ Liaison with adjudicators on members behalf
- ✓ Board and Staff clarify many Rules and Regulations questions through the year
- ✓ President and Executive Director act as arbitrators for Festival units in conflict
- ✓ Provide opportunity for young people in our province to progress from District to Provincial and District to National levels of competition
- ✓ Continue to be a leader in the Canadian Music Festival movement with our unique Programming
- ✓ Provide representation on SMFA Association members behalf at Canadian Music Festival AGM and Conference
- ✓ Actively seek other sources of funding through corporate sponsorship and grants

SMFA Organizes and Operates the following Programs for the Province:

- ✓ Provincial and National Music Festival Competition
- ✓ Concerto Competition
- ✓ Administer Opera Competition as provided by the Gordon Wallis Memorial Trust Fund
- ✓ Commission works for our Organization as required
- ✓ Produce the three-year Syllabus with much volunteer support!!!
- ✓ Annual General Meeting and Fall Conference
- ✓ Hosting the National Music Festival Competition as part of a provincial rotation in Canada
- ✓ Member Assistance
- ✓ Festival Unit Promotional Workshops
- ✓ Special Projects (e.g. Centennial)
- ✓ Promotional Power Point Presentation
- ✓ Adjudicator Training Video

Another important issue discussed at the AGM in November was liability insurance. As a Provincial Cultural Organization and member of SaskCulture, SMFA receives \$2 million liability insurance. Unfortunately, member organizations, in our case district festivals, are not covered under this insurance policy. It has been recommended that the SMFA purchase a similar group liability policy to cover events that are hosted by our district festivals. We are currently in the process of obtaining quotes from insurance agents in order to purchase group liability that would cover each festival unit. The cost will be invoiced back to the individual district festivals. Details will be provided once we obtain the necessary information.

We wish everyone a happy holiday season and a successful festival season! If Sandra or I can assist you in anyway, please do not hesitate to call the office toll free at 1-888-892-9929.

The assistance of the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation, Saskatchewan Arts Board and SaskCulture Inc. is gratefully acknowledged.

