



# Saskatchewan Music Festival Association FESTIVAL FOCUS

## 2017 Provincial Finals

The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA), presented the annual Provincial Final Competitions and the Saskatchewan level of National Music Festival Competitions, June 2 to 4, 2017 in Saskatoon at the University of Saskatchewan.

Judges for the weekend competitions were: Senior Piano: Corey Hamm, Vancouver, BC; Intermediate Piano: Esther Bing, Calgary, AB; Senior Voice: Joanne Kolomyjec, Montreal, QC; Strings/Guitar: Christine Bootland, Medicine Hat, AB; Brass/Percussion/Woodwind: William Gordon, Winnipeg, MB; Musical Theatre/Speech Arts/Intermediate Voice: Marie Baron, Milton, ON and Choral: Joel Tranquilla, Langley, BC.

On Friday, June 2, senior musicians vied for the opportunity to represent the province at the National Music Festival (to be held in Ottawa, ON - August 10-12). Previously recorded choral entries were submitted and judged. The following Saskatchewan musicians were chosen to represent our province and are recipients of the following awards:

Voice (donated by Rose Schmalz): .....Joshua Hendricksen, Regina Festival  
Piano (Anna Klassen Endowment): .....Sophie McBean, Saskatoon Festival  
Strings (SOA Bursary): ..... Joanne Z. Peng, Moose Jaw Festival  
Woodwinds (SMFA Board and Staff): ..... Cole Knutson, Battlefords Festival  
Brass (Ross Ulmer and Karen Ast): ..... Dominic Ghiglione, Regina Festival  
Chamber Group (anonymous donor): ..... Trio Rustico, Humboldt Festival  
(Josias Sanchez, Charlee Wielgoz, Danielle Guina)

Musical Theatre (Prairie Mines): .....Louren Sazon, Moose Jaw Festival  
Paul J. Bourret Choral Class: ..... Campbell Collegiate Chamber Choir, Regina Festival  
(Russ and Deidre Baird, Conductors)



**2017 Team Saskatchewan** - Josias Sanchez, Danielle Guina, Charlee Wielgoz, Louren Sazon, Joanne Peng, Sophie McBean, Cole Knutson, Joshua Hendricksen, Dominic Ghiglione

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Saskatchewan Music Educators Association  
Saskatchewan Orchestral Association  
Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers' Assoc.



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# Provincial Finals (continued)

On Friday and Saturday over 260 performances by winners from Saskatchewan's 47 District Music Festivals were heard. Sunday, June 4, senior competitors, chosen from each discipline, competed in the Grand Awards Competitions. Prizes of over \$30,000 were awarded during the weekend's competitions, the most prestigious being the Sister Geraldine Boyle Memorial Gold Award of \$1,000 for the most outstanding performance of the Grand Awards Competition. Prejudged-recorded choral winners were announced during the Grand Awards Competitions.

The following were declared Provincial Winners:

Mary Anderson Memorial Choral Award - \$500 .....	Luther College Senior Choir (Melissa Morgan, conductor) Regina
Saskatchewan Choral Federation Award - \$300 .....	Prairie Spirit Chamber Singers (Marcia McLean, conductor) Swift Current
Betty Tydeman Memorial Choral (runner up) Award - \$200 .....	Yorkton Community Choir (Laurene Jemieff, conductor) Yorkton
Kiwanis Club of Regina Gallagher Memorial Choral Award - \$500 .....	Campbell Collegiate Chamber Choir (Russ and Deidre Baird, conductors) Regina

Goodfellow Memorial Senior Grade A Female Voice - \$400 .....	Kaitlyn Kasha (Regina)
Goodfellow Memorial Senior Grade A Male Voice - \$400 .....	Jordan Dornn (Saskatoon)
Goodfellow Memorial Senior Grade B Female Voice - \$400 .....	Olivia Guselle (Saskatoon)
Thomas & Don Hatton Memorial Senior Grade B Male Voice - \$400 .....	Jayden Burrows (Saskatoon)
Covey Intermediate Female Voice - \$300 .....	Annika Tupper (Saskatoon)
A.L.'s Music Intermediate Male Voice - \$300 .....	Zachariah May (Moose Jaw)
Goodfellow Memorial Senior Oratorio - \$400 .....	Emma Johnson (Regina)
Goodfellow Memorial Senior Operatic - \$400 .....	Joshua Hendricksen (Regina)
Goodfellow Memorial Senior French Art Song - \$400 .....	Emma Johnson (Regina)
Goodfellow Memorial Senior Grade A Concert Group - \$400 .....	Gabriel Benesh (Saskatoon)
Nancy & Alastair Todd Memorial Senior Grade B Concert Group - \$300 .....	Brianna Penner (Saskatoon)
Regina Music Festival Intermediate Vocal Concert Group - \$300 .....	Kieran Kasha (Regina)
Summer School for the Solo Voice Senior Canadian Vocal Music - \$400 .....	Joshua Hendricksen (Regina)
Arlene Stuart Memorial Senior Bach - \$400 .....	Shantelle Mayo (Regina)
June Barber Intermediate Bach - \$300 .....	Kennedy Kosheluk (Parkland)
Wallis Memorial Senior Beethoven - \$400 .....	Sophie McBean (Saskatoon)
Daryl Cooper Intermediate Beethoven - \$300 .....	Ameer Abusada (Qu'Appelle Valley)
Shirley Andrist Senior Haydn & Mozart - \$400 .....	Mark Ancheta (Regina)
Frances England & Hughean Ferguson Memorial Intermediate Haydn & Mozart - \$300 .....	Kara-Marice Seno (Regina)
Sask. Registered Music Teacher's Assoc. (SRMTA) Senior Romantic - \$400 .....	Chantelle Harges (Lloydminster)
Music for Young Children Sask. Teachers' Association Trust Senior Chopin - \$400 .....	Thomas Hu (Saskatoon)
Gordon & Mossie Hancock Intermediate Chopin - \$300 .....	Daniel Jimenez (Rosetown)
MYCTA Inc. Senior French Music - \$400 .....	Mathew Praksas (Saskatoon)
Jackson Memorial Intermediate Piano - \$300 .....	Ameer Abusada (Qu'Appelle Valley)
Gale Glenn Memorial Senior 20th & 21st Century/Canadian Piano - \$400 .....	Sophie McBean (Saskatoon)
Frostad Piano Intermediate 20th or 21st Century/Canadian Music - \$300 .....	Xiaotong Wang (Saskatoon)
Gloria Nickell Intermediate Piano (most outstanding Intermediate piano competitor) - \$400 .....	Xiaotong Wang (Saskatoon)
John's Music (Moose Jaw) Intermediate Piano (runner-up to the most outstanding Intermediate piano) - \$200 .....	Kara-Marice Seno (Regina)
Senior String Concert Scholarship - \$400 .....	Joanne Z. Peng (Moose Jaw)
Clare K. Mendel Memorial Senior Violin - \$400 & Trophy .....	Joanne Z. Peng (Moose Jaw)
Blanche Squires Senior Viola/Cello/Double Bass Recital - \$400 .....	Charlee Wielgoz (Regina)
Robert C. Mitchell Memorial Intermediate Violin - \$300 .....	Eleanor Hector (Regina)
Johanna Mitchell Memorial Intermediate Viola/Cello/Double Bass - \$300 .....	Jonathan Craig Penner (Regina)
Senior Classical Guitar - \$300 .....	Carson Froehlich (Quill Plains)
Stein Farms Ltd. Intermediate Classical Guitar - \$300 .....	Brianna Ai (Saskatoon)
Long & McQuade Senior Woodwind Recital - \$400 .....	Carl Hofmeister (Saskatoon)
Saskatchewan Band Association Senior Woodwind Concert - \$400 .....	Madison Engen (Regina)
Intermediate Woodwind - \$300 .....	Kara Daviduik (Saskatoon)
Senior Brass Recital - \$400 .....	Dominic Ghiglione (Regina)
Saskatchewan Band Association Senior Brass Concert - \$400 .....	Silas Friesen (Saskatoon)
Colin Grunert Memorial Intermediate Brass - \$300 .....	Gillian Engen, (Regina)
Senior Percussion - \$400 .....	No entries
Maple Creek Music Festival Intermediate Percussion - \$300 .....	Maxim Hiske (Estevan)
Ursan Family Senior Musical Theatre Ballad - \$400 .....	Ryan Ramsay (Regina)
Regan Grant Memorial Intermediate Musical Theatre Ballad - \$300 .....	Jayden Burrows (Saskatoon)
Joy McFarlane-Burton Senior Musical Theatre Up-Tempo - \$400 .....	Ryan Ramsay (Regina)
Sandra Ryba Intermediate Musical Theatre Up-Tempo - \$300 .....	Louren Sazon (Moose Jaw)
L.I. Bryson Memorial Senior Speech Arts - \$400 .....	No entries
Heather Macnab Intermediate Speech Arts - \$300 .....	Patrick Benoit (Lloydminster)

## **Grand Awards:**

Alfred S. Uy Memorial Speech Arts Award - \$400 .....	No entries
Saskatchewan Music Educators' Association (SMEA) Guitar Award - \$500 .....	Carson Froehlich (Quill Plains)
Saskatchewan Band Association (SBA) Percussion Award - \$400 .....	No entries
Estevan Music Festival Musical Theatre Award - \$400 .....	Siarra Riehl (Moose Jaw)
Brost Family Woodwinds Award - \$400 .....	Madison Engen (Regina)
Guy Few Brass Award - \$500 .....	Silas Friesen (Saskatoon)
Heather Laxdal Memorial Vocal Award - \$400 .....	Emma Johnson (Regina)
Fred S. Mendel Memorial String Award - \$400 .....	Joanne Z. Peng (Moose Jaw)
Anna Klassen Memorial Piano Award - \$400 .....	Sophie McBean (Saskatoon)
Blanche Squires Memorial Bronze Award & Trophy - \$500 .....	Sophie McBean (Saskatoon)
Wallis Memorial Silver Award & Trophy - \$750 .....	Joanne Z. Peng (Moose Jaw)
Sister Boyle Gold Award of \$1,000 & Trophy to the most outstanding competitor of the Grand Awards .....	Emma Johnson (Regina)

# President's Message



I heard geese honking outside my window this morning, ready to begin their journey south. This season always brings to mind a poem by Rachel Field:

*Something told the wild geese it was time to go.  
Though the fields lay golden something whispered, -"Snow."  
Leaves were green and stirring, berries luster glossed,  
But beneath warm feathers something cautioned, -"Frost."  
All the sagging orchards steamed with amber spice,  
But each wild beast stiffened at remembered ice.  
Something told the wild geese it was time to fly,  
Summer sun was on their wings, winter in their cry.*

Somehow even though the days remain warm, there is something about September that stirs us all to action! Of course, it does have something to do with the fact that September is the month when children and teachers head back to school, farmers must bring the harvest in, and music lessons and many other activities resume after a summer hiatus. It's a little hard to say goodbye to those more relaxed summer days, but also exciting to look ahead to a new season and all the promise it brings.

The September issue of Festival focus is always jam packed as so much has happened since the last one went out in April! We had Provincials in Saskatoon the first weekend of July, Nationals in Ottawa in August, and we look ahead to Fall Conference in Watrous in October as well as farther ahead to the Wallis Opera Competition in February!

Many members of the Nationals team took part in our "Celebrating Excellence" concert in Regina on July 30th. This concert offers our competitors the chance to connect with each other prior to the trip to Ottawa, to perform part of their repertoire to an appreciative audience, and to raise some funds to assist with their travel costs.

I enjoyed the opportunity to represent Saskatchewan as a delegate to the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals. It was a great summer to be in Ottawa with the Canada 125 celebrations and special events. The meetings and AGM preceded the National Music Festival Competitions. This year, all of Saskatchewan's representatives were at Nationals for their very first time! As always, Team Saskatchewan did us proud with their fine performances and strong team spirit.

The SMFA Executive and Board of Directors encourage each of our District Festivals to send at least one delegate to Fall Conference, October 27th and 28th at Manitou Springs, hosted by Watrous and District Music Festival. A wealth of information is presented and shared during this conference and there's wonderful opportunity to network with Festival delegates from across the province. If you miss it, you miss a lot!

Volunteers are the heart of our festivals across the province, and we would not exist without them. You may wish to honour a deserving volunteer from your District Festival by nominating him or her for an SMFA Volunteer Award. Nominations are due October 1st and awards will be presented at our volunteer luncheon at Fall Conference on October 28th.

We appreciate all the sponsors, donors, and patrons of the District, Provincial, and National Music Festivals. Their continued support is integral to the continuation of our competitions and programs. We also gratefully acknowledge the continuing support of SaskCulture Inc. and the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation

I hope you will enjoy these final days of summer and enter the surge into autumn activities with a sense of excitement and anticipation. We look forward to seeing you in Manitou Beach in October!

*Karen Unger, President*



*Though the fields lay golden something whispered, -"Snow."*

Rachel Field



# 2017 National Music Festival

The 2017 National Music Festival was held Aug 6 – 12 in our nation's capital at the University of Ottawa. What a fitting location to celebrate our excellent musicians during Canada's 150!

In addition to the outstanding National Competition of musicians from across the country, delegates from each provincial association also met for a conference and AGM from August 6-8 to attend to the business of the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals.

The week kicked off on Sunday evening with a delegate welcome reception. The conference was held Monday and Tuesday, with the AGM taking place Tuesday afternoon. Following the AGM, Saskatchewan's Joy McFarlane-Burton remains as the President of the Federation and our provincial member of the Board of Governors is Karen MacCallum.

The National Music Festival kicked off Tuesday evening with a competitor briefing and introduction of each province's team. In true Canadian spirit, the Saskatchewan competitors entered wearing their Team Sask red, Canada 150 bunny hugs and carrying Saskatchewan flags. Designate Sherry Sproule introduced the Saskatchewan team:

- Trio Rustico (Josias Abisai Cedillo-Sanchez, violin; Charlee Wielgoz, cello; Danielle Guina, piano): Chamber
- Joanne Peng: Strings (Violin), accompanied by Cherith Alexander
- Dominic Ghiglione: Brass (Trombone), accompanied by Cherith Alexander
- Louren Sazon: Musical Theatre, accompanied by Jeri Ryba
- Cole Knutson: Woodwind (Alto Saxophone), accompanied by Cherith Alexander
- Joshua Hendrickson: Voice (Bass-Baritone), accompanied by Cherith Alexander
- Sophie McBean: Piano, accompanied by Bonnie Nicholson

Saskatchewan also had one choir entry (judged by recording): Campbell Collegiate Chamber Choir, Directors Russ and Deidre Baird.

Saskatchewan delegates included Karen Unger, Sherry Sproule, Wendy Thienes and Carol Donhauser, as well as our National Board members Karen MacCallum and Joy McFarlane-Burton. Former SMFA President, Penny Joynt, was



also in Ottawa to take in the competition. Our official accompanist was Cherith Alexander. We had the pleasure of welcoming accompanists Jeri Ryba and Bonnie Nicolson, and Bonnie's husband Stephen, who served as one of the event photographers. It was also wonderful to see the family and friends of our competitors travel to Ottawa to support and cheer on these fine musicians!

Wednesday was the day for official rehearsals. This was an opportunity for competitors to do a sound check in their performance venue. Our Saskatchewan musicians were a true team, attending each other's rehearsals and performances where possible. Competitions were held on Thursday and Friday. Our Saskatchewan musicians were first class, on and off stage! What a fine group of young adults to work with; the SMFA delegates were so proud of and impressed by each one of them.

Once the competitions were over, it was time to relax and have some fun! Competitors and delegates attended an Urban Quest which took them to various locations around Ottawa for a great evening of challenges in an amazing race style!

Saturday was the final day with a full morning of master classes, followed by announcement of first place winners for the Grand Awards Competition. Saturday evening, everyone dressed in their finest for the Grand Awards concert and award presentations. We congratulate the 1<sup>st</sup> Place and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Grand Award winners, Naomi Ford (flute) of New Brunswick and Phillip Cho (piano) from Quebec.

Our Saskatchewan award winners were:

- Cole Knutson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in Woodwinds
- Joanne Peng, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in Strings
- Campbell Collegiate Chamber Choir, 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Paul J. Bourret School Choir, Directors: Russ and Deidre Baird

There is no better way to spend a week in the summer than to spend time making or listening to beautiful music with friends and family!



Huge thanks to the FCMF Executive and Ottawa Host Committee for another great National Music Festival! We look forward to making more music and memories next year in Sackville, New Brunswick!

*Wendy Thienes*

*SMFA Delegates with Joanne Peng, 3rd Place Strings: (left to right) Karen Unger, Wendy Thienes, Sherry Sproule, Carol Donhauser*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**SMFA Fall Conference and AGM**

October 27 - 28, 2017 (Manitou Springs Resort - Watrous)

**SMFA Adjudicator Boot Camp**

January 2018 (Saskatoon) - visit our website for details

**Gordon Wallis Opera Competition**

February 24 & 25, 2018 (Riddell Theatre, U of R)

**SMFA District Festivals**

March - May 2018 (47 Locations in SK) - visit our website for details

**SMFA Provincial Finals Competitions**

June 1 - 3, 2018 (Saskatoon)

**FCMF Conference/AGM and National Music Festival**

August 12 - 18, 2018 (Sackville, NB)



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# Getting to Know our National Music Festival Competitors

1. **At what age did you start learning your instrument?**
2. **What is your home Festival**
3. **What influence did participating in festival have on your music journey?**
4. **What advice do you have for young musicians?**
5. **What are your plans for the future?**

## Dominic Ghiglione

- I started trombone at age 11. Regina is my Home Festival.
- My teacher pushed me to do festival as a way to become less nervous when performing as well as a chance to challenge myself with new repertoire.
- My aspirations for the future are to become a band teacher, play in a symphony orchestra and or teach at a university.
- My advice to young musicians is to take every opportunity you can get to learn more. Even the best musicians are still learning new things all the time and will continue to do so for the rest of their lives.

## Joanne Peng

- I started violin at age 4.
- My home festival is Moose Jaw Music Festival for 2017 and 2016. Before that, I participated in Regina Music Festival since 2009.
- Music festivals are invaluable in my pursuit of a music career. Festivals motivate me to keep practicing on a regular basis. The adjudicators and peer musicians all provide valuable perspectives and feedback which serve to improve my performance. I also am very grateful for the encouragement and support I received from everyone.
- I would love to pursue a dual degree between a music conservatory and a college. I am also currently planning on globally expanding a program I founded called Musiconex that connects musical youth to senior homes through concerts "on-the-go" to Costa Rica, Thailand, and Japan. As always, I would like to continue to learn from teachers, students, and the musical experiences I will have to constantly grow as a performer.
- My advice to young musicians would be to always perform when you are ready, and not to be afraid of pursuing your musical goals. Performances always add a layer to your interpretation of the piece, and performing often allows you to become comfortable with expressing yourself. Audiences don't judge every little mistake, and you should focus on making the performance memorable rather than perfecting every nuance (which should be done in the practice room!). What happens in a performance happens - but it's the expression that comes across as memorable.

## Lauren Sazon

- I started singing when I was five and I represent the Moose Jaw Music Festival.
- I aspire towards performing on the big stage and to become successful in music. My advice to young musicians, I'd say, is to work hard with passion. Always dream big and if there is something you really want to do, pursue it and never give up. Festival really made me grow into another person. Everyday you learn something and through festival, it developed my skills a lot. I've been on stage performing, singing at amateur contests but taking part at the Festival, I realized that there are still so much more to learn about music. Growing up singing was already my passion and the festival helped me a lot to show it to other people

## Sophie McBean

- I started playing piano at the age of 5.
- My home festival is Saskatoon.
- Festival has taught me how to perform and share my love of music with others regardless of nerves (which has transferred to so many other areas of my life-school, jobs, etc.)

- I am currently in med school at U of S, planning on becoming some kind of doctor (family, paediatrician).
- My advice would be to keep going! There will be days when you feel like not practicing and when you don't see a point, but you will see the immense value in learning your instrument later on, and it will help you in more ways than you can imagine.

## Trio Rustico

- Trio Rustico began their musical studies between the young ages of 3 and 7 years old.
- Their different musical backgrounds allowed them to have varying perspectives and led to an interest in collaborating with other musicians through chamber music.
- They advanced through the Humboldt and District Music Festival to compete in the SMFA Provincial Finals, in addition to competing through the province of Manitoba. Josias Sanchez, Charlee Wielgoz, and Danielle Guina all studied at Brandon University, but Wielgoz and Guina hail from Saskatchewan. Staying true to their roots, Trio Rustico felt it was essential to represent their home province which allowed them to advance to the FCMF National Music Festival.
- Following Nationals, Trio Rustico had to go their separate ways to follow their individual paths. Sanchez aims to pursue further schooling in the area of historic performance practice and baroque violin, Wielgoz hopes to further her solo cello career, and Guina will obtain further study in the area of collaborative piano. This collaboration expanded Trio Rustico's perspectives and allowed them to pursue dreams they never deemed possible. Their advice to young musicians would be to dare to dream, and regardless of where you are right now, anything is possible for the future if you set your mind to it and put the work in. As their mentor once said, "The first step to success is taking the leap of faith." and with that, it created endless possibilities for them as both individuals and musicians.

## Joshua Hendricksen

- I began singing in choir when I was in high school, but I didn't start taking voice lessons and focusing on solo singing until I was 22. (However, I had quite a bit of prior musical training, having begun piano lessons when I was 5).
- Regina Music Festival is my home festival.
- Festival has become a significant part of my life since I started studying voice. It's provided a goal for me to strive towards and an opportunity for me to share the culmination of my efforts through the year. As a vocalist, I also find that it's a wonderful opportunity to meet other musicians and to get a chance to get feedback from an adjudicator who is likely hearing your instrument for the first time.
- Looking into the future, my current hope is to become a professional vocalist and also continue working as a collaborative pianist. Voice and piano have both had such a prominent place in my musical journey that I would really like to find a way to balance my life so that I can continue to be active in both fields if at all possible.
- My advice to young musicians is to learn to be patient with yourself and learn to accept that being a musician is a lifelong journey. As musicians we are always striving to grow and to reach new heights in our craft (and that is really a wonderful thing), but sometimes we get so caught up in our future goals that we don't allow ourselves the patience in our practicing that truly allows us to effectively make those goals attainable.

## Cole Knutson

- I started piano at the age of 12 and saxophone at the age of 13. Quite a bit later compared to almost all of my colleagues.
- Battleford's District Festival. I was born and raised in North Battleford.
- The influence of festival for me was huge growing up as a musician. In Saskatchewan we are lucky to have the amazing educators, volunteers, communities, both artistic or otherwise, and I would argue that all of these people in addition to the support of many parents enable us as Saskatchewanians to have a truly festive festival. As a pianist I have played in a number of festivals, both Kiwanis or otherwise, and I see more festivities during the Kiwanis Festival than any other kinds of festivals. The festivals in Saskatchewan feature the artwork of children, and the atmosphere always encourages celebration of art and music; even though at times we are nervous or stressed out as performers, teachers, and parents. The Battlefords District Kiwanis Music Festival captures the essence of what it means to celebrate music. This enabled me to have a very positive outlook on performing and competing while growing up. I never looked at festival as a competition, rather, I saw it as an opportunity to prepare and refine a piece of music, and to experiment with performing on stage. One of the best ways to learn how to perform is to go out and do it, and although we can have much mental preparation and support from others, ultimately it is only theoretical until we are provided an opportunity to test what we have learned. I swear to this day that I have learned much about who I am as a person by performing at my local Kiwanis Festival.
- Kiwanis Festival is also a great stepping stone to other forms of performance and competition. I think in the five years that I entered festival as a youth, I entered around 100 pieces with an average of 20 pieces per year between saxophone and piano. That's at least 100 times that I had to get up on stage and perform after preparing for months. This enabled me to be less nervous and more vulnerable on stage, which is a very scary thing to do. Looking at this summer, I performed at Carnegie Hall on saxophone, and I performed in front of about 4000 people as a pianist with an opera singer at a concert house in Vienna. Although there is a big physical difference between Carnegie Hall, a Konzerthaus in Vienna, and the stages at the Battlefords Festival, the process of performing is exactly the same. Sure, there is more pressure in the bigger spaces, but for me the excitement of performing never changes. Most importantly, every audience member deserves to hear the best quality performance possible whether it's in a small town or in a huge hall. This is just one of the many values that I learned while performing at Festival.
- I will be starting my fourth and final year of my Bachelor's Degree in Saxophone Performance this year. My end goals as a musician are to be a professional collaborator as a pianist, primarily working with singers, to be a performer on saxophone, and an educator. I studied with a pianist named Julius Drake this past summer and after my studies he agreed to take me on as one of his students at Guildhall School for Music & Drama in London, England. This is very exciting because he is one of the best accompanists in the world, and it is an honour for me to study with him as he takes on only one student per year. Once I am done graduate studies I hope to complete a diploma in Saxophone at the Paris Conservatory, and after that I wish to come home to Saskatchewan to teach for a few years in addition to travelling, touring, and performing. It is my ultimate goal to tour the globe mainly as a performer on saxophone and piano, in addition to teaching master classes.
- My advice to young musicians: Two really important things as an artist is to create opportunities for yourself, and to some-

times go against the grain if that is what you feel you need to do. Music is a really difficult passion to pursue professionally. There are obstacles constantly put in one's way to make succeeding difficult. You have to know and be very aware of this if you choose to pursue music as a career. Be proactive. If you do not have a good instrument to play such as a piano, find a way to get access to a good instrument. For me, not having a good piano, that meant contacting a church, asking to use their instruments to practice, which meant either driving or walking 5 kilometres every time I wanted to practice. Doing this ultimately lead to me meeting a bunch of wonderful people who are still very active in my life today. By establishing a good relationship with this church I have had many opportunities to develop as a musician. After years of using their pianos I started to learn how to play organ by one of my teachers who was in the music ministry at the church. This lead to me playing many services on piano and organ in many parts of the world. When in Austria this summer I played a service and recital in a church that Mozart worked at for 12 years, on the same organ he played for 12 years, and the same organ he wrote "Ave Verum Corpus" on. Asking permission to practice piano at the church in North Battleford almost ten years ago, led me to grow so much, and enabled me to have many opportunities. These opportunities did not just come by sitting by the phone, waiting for something to happen. These opportunities came because I went out, inserted myself into the community, and created the atmosphere for opportunities to come. To this day I am very thankful that Third Ave Church in North Battleford allows me to practice as much as I do on their lovely instruments when I am home, and to my parents who for years drove me to that church every day, sometimes several times a day to practice.

- Secondly, I think it is important to go against the grain if we feel the urge to do it. I think that using the analogy of a salmon swimming upstream is appropriate. The water wants to go downstream, and yet, rather than go downstream with the water the salmon decides to swim upstream against the current. Sometimes as a musician we feel the need to go with the flow of what is happening around us. But sometimes if we feel like we want to go a different direction we need to know that it is okay to follow our curiosity and our gut.
- Finally, although the above comments are on the more serious side, I think that sometimes we can forget to enjoy ourselves as musicians. Above all, love what you do. Working hard and loving what I do has led to me having so much fun and joy in life. It is important to not forget that the essence of music is to experience emotion. Sometimes pieces are so sad that I am moved to tears. Other times I find it to be so funny that I am tearing with laughter. Despite the huge range of emotion that music has, it is meant to bring enjoyment. Even though music can move one to tears, it enables us to feel in ways sometimes words or actions cannot express. Embrace that, and enjoy all that it has to offer.



## Passing of former SMFA President



### Jeanette (Jean) Catherine Bews (nee Dixon)

7/7/1943 - 6/4/2017 - Jean was born and raised in Neudorf, SK. Jean's family owned, ran and lived in the local hotel, the Leland Hotel, where the family's love of laughter and music filled the rooms - throughout her life, Jean would carry on this tradition and share her good humor, wit, love, compassion and music with all she met.

An accomplished pianist at an early age, Jean moved to Regina to complete Grade 12 at Luther College and further her music studies in a bigger centre. After graduation, Jean moved to Winnipeg, where she attended the University of Manitoba. It was here that Jean would meet the love of her life, Gary, in the fall of 1962. Jean & Gary's first "travel adventure", together, was a train trip that they took to Saskatoon - with 600 other U of M students! - to attend a football game at the U of S. This was surely a good sign of the life that they would lead together - great times, great people, great travels, great love.

February 1, 1964 marked the beginning of a wonderful new era for Jean. Jean and Gary married and Jean began shining in the roles for which she was clearly intended - wife, then mother, then grandmother. As each new role in Jean's life unfolded, she embraced it with the love, enthusiasm and pride of the "world's best" wife/mother/grandmother. Jean gave many gifts to her family, but those which are most memorable to those who knew her, and prevalent in her children, were her fantastic sense of humor (and endless teasing!), compassion for others, easy laugh (especially at herself), the importance of giving back to your community and, of course, her love of music...all music...well, except really, really old country music;) In 1970, Jean and Gary moved their young family from Winnipeg to Shaunavon, SK, where they undertook an exciting business opportunity. A small town Saskatchewan girl at heart, Jean quickly immersed herself in the community. She was soon playing the piano for school functions, choirs, weddings - you name it! - volunteering to help with all of her children's activities, happily hosting social events and becoming very involved with the local Music Festival Committee. Jean's passion for music, and a desire to encourage all to explore their musical potential, dreams and enjoyment, led her to terms as the President of the Saskatchewan Music Festival Assoc and terms on the National Music Festival Association board, positions in which she took great pride.

After 11 wonderful years in Shaunavon, Jean was very sad to move. However, another business opportunity presented itself and the family relocated to Saskatoon in the summer of 1981. Once again, Jean dove into the community and soon made new friends through the many hours she spent happily lending a hand, playing the piano for events, volunteering and staying active in both the Saskatchewan and Saskatoon Music Festival Associations.

As retirement age approached, Jean and Gary were drawn to the lifestyle and majestic beauty of another small town, Canmore, AB, where they moved in 2005. Jean was keen to explore all the community and area had to offer, joining the Seniors hiking group (The Meanderthals), supporting local businesses and immersing herself in the world class cultural activities and events at the Banff Centre for the Arts. Though not particularly "sporty", Jean was so very encouraging of all of Gary's mountain pursuits - from epic hikes to cycling adventures, Jean would pack the lunches, take a keen interest in the plans, marvel at Gary's determination, excitedly engage in the telling of the outing, and boast of Gary's latest adventure. She was his biggest fan.

Though home was always Jean's favorite place to be, with family and good friends nearby, she did love to travel. In the same vein, her favorite trips were, of course, trips with family or to visit family & friends. Wherever she went, people gravitated to Jean - her easy laughter and gentle nature pulled you in and her quick wit and willingness to tease kept you laughing. Hers was a soul that made many a heart sing and Jean made the world a better place for those lucky enough to know her. She will be dearly missed. Jean is survived by her husband Gary, her much loved children Shannon (Grant), Reid (Carolyn) and Jason (Sherrie), her adored grandchildren Eric, Monique, John & Billy, and by her siblings Helen Williams of Calgary and Gerald Dixon of Midale/Regina. She was predeceased by her mother and father and brothers, Ross and Tom.

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## Nominations for Provincial Board Position

Consider nominating someone from your district festival to serve on the Provincial Board of Directors or consider running yourself. The Board consists of nine elected members. This year there is one three-year position open.

Board Members will always be on one or more committees and although there are some very busy times, we have a great deal of fun. Knowledge of music is not mandatory – a good board is made up of people with a wide range of strengths, backgrounds, and areas of expertise. Everyone has something to offer. The Nomination form can be found on our website.

Please send the nominations to: Karen MacCallum, Past President (karenmaccallum@sasktel.net)

## Volunteer Recognition Award



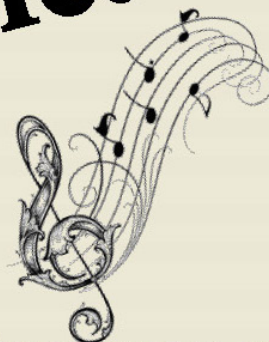
The Volunteer Recognition Awards will be presented on the Saturday of SMFA Conference during a luncheon. A SaskEnergy representative will be in attendance to celebrate our volunteers and provide a small token of appreciation.

While SMFA recognizes the importance of all volunteers, this award is intended for those ***who have made a significant contribution to your organization.***

- A maximum of two Volunteer Recognition Awards may be presented per Festival Unit per Fall Conference.
- Volunteer Award recipients should be present at the volunteer luncheon.
- Nominations including biography must be received at the Provincial Office by October 1.



# “In Musical Style”



## SMFA Conference and AGM

## October 27 & 28

## Manitou Springs, Watrous, SK

*Join us for fall conference, fun, and fashion!*

## From the Provincial Office



Greetings from the Provincial Office! It's good to be back in the office, and although it was a wonderfully sunny summer, the return to a routine and productivity is healthy for all.

Dates are set for all of the 2018 District Festivals, with a few Adjudicator Time-Frame Requirement Forms still to be submitted. Please, if you have not already done so, submit that form as soon as possible so Karen can book your adjudicators. Please consider carefully the number of days required for each adjudicator and try to estimate as closely as possible, based on recent years, trends and the activity in your district.

We appreciate those festivals who have submitted all of their report forms to date! You make our work easier and we thank you! If you have outstanding reports, your Corresponding Secretary will have heard from me via e-mail. Please ensure that your reporting is up to date. This information

is important to the Provincial Association and to our funders. We archive it for future reference, should you ever need to recover lost records. And if you need added incentive...you must be compliant with your report forms in order to apply for SMFA Member Funding.

A few festivals have not yet submitted their District Festival Report for 2017. We need your reports as soon as possible, for inclusion in the Annual Report. What are we looking for in terms of a Festival Report? A brief summary of your festival, including highlights and newsworthy items. Try to include something that made your 2017 Music Festival unique and special. Revenue & Expense Forms are due October 1. Please remember to include a copy of your bank statement for the month ending June 30, 2017. Supply Order Forms are also due October 1; we ask that you use the form (found on our website) to order your supplies for the coming year. We submit a bulk order for stationery in November and keep a limited supply in the office, so we may not be able to fill late requests on short notice.

Following your Annual General Meeting, please send us a copy of the minutes. Web page updates are a work in process, so send your updates as soon as they are known, particularly any changes in executive and committee members. Good communication between the office and District Festivals is imperative and begins with committees updating their contact information in a timely manner.

I look forward to our continued communication, both by e-mail and phone, and I hope to see many of you at Fall Conference. Best wishes for a great Festival year ahead!

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Nancy Toppings, Administrative Assistant*

## Adjudicator Boot Camp

This workshop will explore the philosophy behind music festival adjudicating and provide plenty of practical advice about constructive adjudication, assigning marks and awarding scholarships, as well as working with local festival committees.

Facilitator, Cherith Alexander, has more than twenty years of experience adjudicating throughout Western Canada at festivals large and small. The boot camp is helpful to anyone considering working as a music festival adjudicator in the future and may also be of interest to those already working in the field but looking for some new ideas or a refresher course.

The next workshop will take place January 2018 in Saskatoon. Watch for more detail on our website ([www.smfa.ca](http://www.smfa.ca)).



# From the Executive Director



While I do enjoy the rest and relaxation of summer, I can't help but look forward to a new festival season. Even though we are busy preparing for our year-end audit, booking adjudicators, collecting reports from last year, and planning conference, one cannot help but get excited for the upcoming events.

First on our agenda is the SMFA Fall Conference and AGM (October 27 & 28 - Manitou Springs, Manitou Beach, SK - hosted by Watrous & District Music Festival). As well as the usual door prizes, roundtables, Annual General Meeting, volunteer luncheon, and entertainment, we have a local retailer providing a fashion show. We hope you will mark this event on your calendar and visit our website for registration and more details. For a listing of other events planned throughout the 2017/2018 festival year, see our Calendar of Events on page 5 and District festival listing on page 9.

Saskatchewan is more diverse than it was even 5 years ago. Although historically Saskatchewan has always had a diverse immigrant population, with immigrants from many European and Eastern European countries, recently there have been other large immigrant communities arriving from several parts of the globe through various significant government initiatives and policies; some as refugees, some as guest workers, some as international students with their families. Not only is this diverse immigrant population growing, but the social make-up of the new immigrants is also changing. SMFA has recently completed a new Strategic Plan focussed on diversity. We look forward to sharing it with our members and encouraging adopting a similar plan into your programming in order to remain relevant as a cultural organization in the province of Saskatchewan.

As a non-profit, diversified funding is healthy and allows for programs to be sustained in order to meet our mission of "promoting music". SMFA funding is received in the form of self-generated revenues, corporate sponsorship, donations, and Lotteries Grant for Sport, Culture, and Recreation administered by SaskCulture. We are appreciative of our diverse population and our diverse funding.

*Carol Donhauser*, Executive Director

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- Malcolm Forbes



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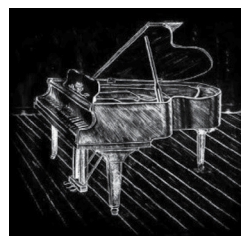


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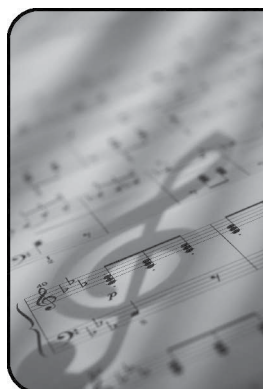
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