



# 2021

## ANNUAL REPORT

August 1, 2020 • July 31, 2021

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as well as homeland of the Métis.

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**Executive Director**  
Carol Donhauser

**Administrative Assistant**  
Nancy Toppings

**Adjudicator Liaison & Program Manager**  
Mariel Unger



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# Board of Directors

President..... Tammy Villeneuve  
First Vice President ..... Jeri Ryba  
Second Vice President.....Dianne Gryba  
Past President.....Sherry Sproule  
Director .....Valentina May  
Director .....Krista Brost  
Director .....Jeff Froehlich  
Director .....Claire Seibold  
Director ..... Myra Schmidt



## Vision

Enhancing lives and community through music and the spoken word.

## Mission

Promoting excellence in music and speech through competition, performance, and educational opportunities for people of Saskatchewan.

## Values

### Life-long learning

- Keeping people involved throughout their lifetime

### Collaboration

- Working together
- Patrons, teachers, performers, educators, volunteers

### Inclusiveness

- Opportunities for all

### Excellence

- High standards

### Leadership with integrity

- Honesty
- Accountability
- Visionary







# History of the SMFA

*The Association, envisaged and organized as a provincial body in 1908, was highly successful in achieving its objective; to unite musical societies, individual musicians or groups in Saskatchewan, into one organization for the purpose of holding annual music festivals. But the size of Saskatchewan (about that of Texas), along with its expanding population and transportation system, made District Festivals inevitable, with Unity being the first in 1926.*

*The SMFA is very proud of its place in history as one of the province's oldest cultural organizations. Its structures and programs have been followed throughout Canada. Inspired by Governor General Earl Grey's vision of a Dominion-wide festival, with support from Fred Chisholm and Frank Laubach, all Saskatchewan musical groups were invited to the first Provincial Festival in 1909, in Regina. The annual festival moved to Saskatoon, Prince Albert and Moose Jaw, and then continued the rotation. Excellent railway service allowed participants, including large ensembles, to come from all parts of the province. Expansion of District Festivals continued until there were fifty-one in 2002, including one fully bilingual event at Gravelbourg. Today, there are 47 affiliated District Festivals.*

The Concerto Competition (1979) and the Gordon Wallis Opera Competition (2000), administered by the SMFA, are held in alternating years. In addition to cash prizes, the winners are featured as guest soloists with the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras. With the increased popularity of Musical Theatre, SMFA established a biennial competition in 2020, held parallel to the Opera Competition.

In 2009, the SMFA celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first Provincial Festival with a Centennial Re-enactment Concert held in Regina. In addition, special Centennial classes were heard at the SMFA Provincial Finals, and the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals AGM/Conference and National Music Festival Competitions were held in Saskatoon. SMFA also hosted the FCMF National Convention in 2019 at the University of Saskatchewan. It was a moment of great pride when Saskatchewan competitor, soprano Emma Johnson, was chosen as the Grand Award winner.

At the annual Fall Conference in 2019, SMFA celebrated 110 years! Delegates at this conference were unaware of what was to come with the cancellation of most festivals in the 2020 season due to the threat of the COVID-19 Global Pandemic. The past 18 months (since March 2020) have been very challenging. The 2021 festival season is now history and we can proudly report that the organization worked together to deliver safe and successful District Festivals and a virtual Provincial Finals. We have survived, adapted and are stronger as a result of this challenge.



To summarize we will again look to the wise words of Ms. Hancock: *We give thanks for the vision and the effort of all of those who brought us this far in the service of music. We believe that the firm foundation on which the Association has been built will support the vision and effort of our present leaders and those of the future.*

*\*italicized text from Music for One, Music for All by Mossie Hancock*

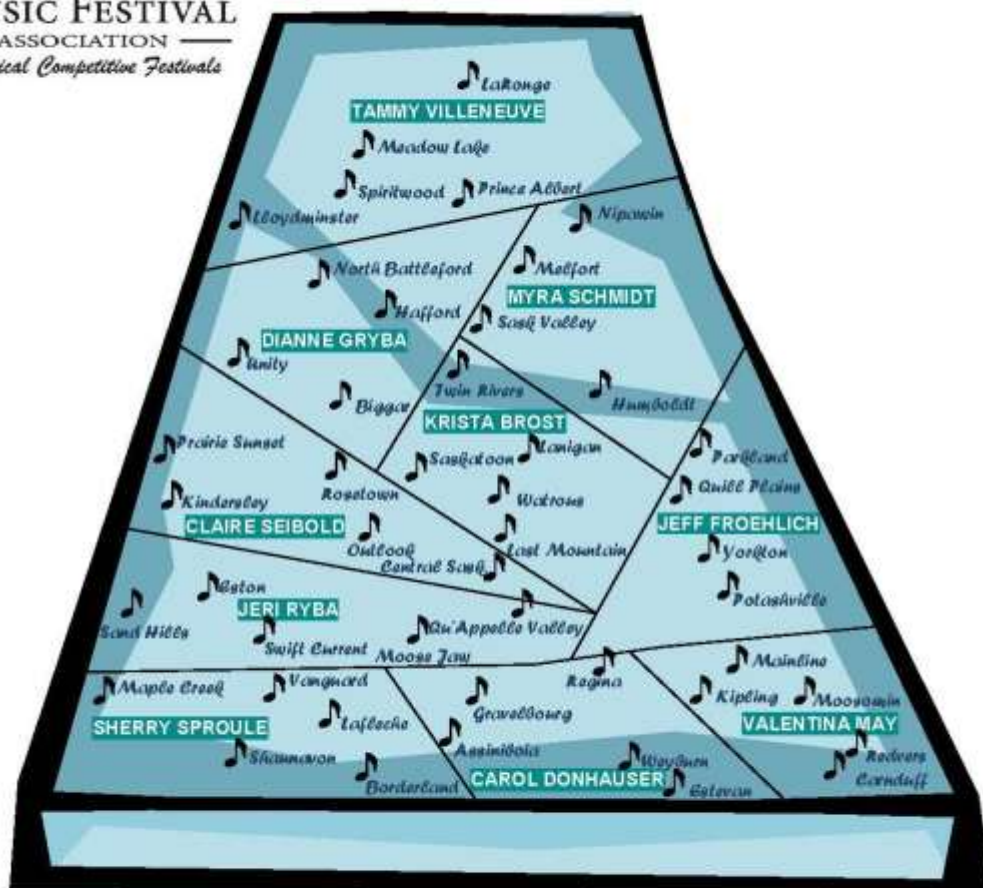




## Board of Directors Liaison Map



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## Cultural Impact Statement

*In 1905, Saskatchewan became a province. Since 1908, the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA) has grown with our province, always in step, always in tune. The SMFA reaches out to people of all ages and all backgrounds across the province of Saskatchewan.*

Our mandate, which is *"promoting excellence in music and speech through competition, performance, and educational opportunities for people of Saskatchewan"*, requires us to work closely with the many people who come together to keep the festival movement in Saskatchewan alive and well. These people include music and speech students, teachers, parents, volunteers, donors and audiences. There are 47 annual festivals across the province, therefore the impact that is created in all these 47 festivals and surrounding areas is significant.

These communities have embraced the festival concept because it provides:

- an element of educational growth as well as entertainment that brings their community together
- the opportunity for communities to acknowledge and support the success and endeavours of their young people
- encouragement for students to set goals and showcase their abilities while receiving constructive adjudication from professional musicians
- local volunteers an opportunity to be involved with young people in their community in a positive way
- participating students with the performance opportunity to develop confidence and self-discipline while demonstrating positive role models for their peers

Since its early days, the Association has provided competitive and non-competitive classes for not only solo and individual competitors, but for community and schools in choruses, bands and orchestras. SMFA's continued expansion encouraged the formation of other provincial music organizations. Saskatchewan was not only the first to form a Provincial Music Festival Association, but also the first to use a common syllabus for all its member festivals. The use of the common syllabus assures that a high standard is maintained.

SMFA partners with the other music organizations across Saskatchewan to ensure that the programs we develop are relevant to the needs of our young people. Accessibility to programs and recognizing changing demographic circumstances within the province is a high priority. The broad-based volunteer component of SMFA allows the organization to operate at the grass roots level, thereby closely monitoring these changes and adapting to them. Every attempt is made to ensure that the experience attained by participants is beneficial and works in concert with the SMFA vision: *"enhancing lives and community through music and the spoken word"*.

SMFA believes that the need for a culturally aware society is of increasing importance given the pressures exerted upon us by the rapid, electronic environment in which we live. Our organization is committed to cultivating that awareness by providing information, education, opportunity and a clear vision of the role we play in this task.



## President's Report

*SMFA programs reach lands covered by Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10, the traditional lands of the Cree, Dakota, Dene, Lakota, Nakota and Saulteaux peoples, as well as homeland of the Métis. We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.*



The mission of the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association is “promoting excellence in music and speech arts by providing performance and educational opportunities”. As with many performance-based organizations, 2021 proved to be a challenging year with the nation gripped in a global pandemic. SMFA found a way to persevere through the challenges. We learned very quickly how to “pivot and turn” as we navigated through the Saskatchewan Health Authority Public Health Performance

Guidelines which changed often with little, to no, notice. Many of our “live” events were held virtually. While the year was full of challenges, it was also full of successes.

Our 2020 AGM, held November 7, 2021 via Zoom, saw over 40 of the 47 festivals represented and 84 delegates registered. We welcomed Myra Schmidt of Nipawin to the SMFA Provincial Board of Directors.

The 34<sup>th</sup> SMFA Concerto Competition was also held virtually with nine competitors taking part. The winner was pianist Jerry Hu of Saskatoon. Jerry’s impressive performance earned the \$2,000 first place prize along with the opportunity to perform as a soloist with the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras. SMFA is grateful for the generous support of long-time event sponsor, the late Mr. William Shurniak.

SMFA partnered with the Saskatchewan Drama Association (SDA) on the second Spoken Word e-Festival in March for Saskatchewan students, ages 5 to 17 years and any level.

Throughout March to May, thirty out of the forty-seven District Festivals were held across the province, either virtually or live with limited in-person audience and live streamed. SMFA Provincial Finals followed virtually in June, with almost 500 solo entries and 133 scholarships, valued at more than \$35,000 in total awarded.

In between all of these highlights, the SMFA Board of Directors met more often than ever before. Using Zoom, SMFA committee work continued and the board achieved goals that have been on the radar for several years. While we miss the personal connection that our festivals bring to communities, we are grateful for modern-day technology which has made it possible to continue our mission.

It is a pleasure and honour to serve with the SMFA Board of Directors. These enthusiastic, devoted volunteers work hard for the organization in developing policies, procedures, and overseeing the delivery of our programs. This AGM we will say thank you and good-bye to Krista Brost and Valentina May as they complete their three-year terms.

We also must thank the SMFA staff, led by our Executive Director, Carol Donhauser. Their hard work didn’t go unnoticed, particularly during 2021 festival season.



The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association acknowledges funding received through the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation. SMFA programs reach lands covered by Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10, the traditional lands of the Cree, Dakota, Dene, Lakota, Nakota and Sauteaux peoples, as well as homeland of the Métis. We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.

We sincerely appreciate our many supporters across all levels, which include our many dedicated volunteers, participants, donors, sponsors, teachers, adjudicators, parents, and music lovers. Your support is integral in delivery of the SMFA mission and vision of enhancing lives through an appreciation for music!

*Respectfully submitted, Tammy Villeneuve*





## Executive Director's Report

*Many performing arts industries will be among the last to reopen, and it may take significant time before audiences return and organizations can resume operating at the same scale as before the pandemic.*



The 2020/2021 continued to be a challenging environment due to the pandemic for the culture, arts, and entertainment sectors, and saw accelerated digital trends. The financial impacts were significant. SMFA witnessed this first-hand with all of the Provincial office events going totally virtual and District Festivals either going virtual or live with little audience and using livestreaming. Some festivals did both, over the course of a two-week festival.

The Provincial office staff, through direction of the board, continued to provide support to the District Festivals through navigation of the Saskatchewan Performing Arts Guidelines as presented through the Saskatchewan Health Authority and Saskatchewan Business Response Team.

Thank you to Nancy and Mariel for your support in delivery of the Provincial programs and services. Nancy is very diligent in her communications with the District Festivals to deliver the information required and collect the required reporting, along with her many other tasks. I know she is very much appreciated by our District Festivals! We were also very fortunate to have Mariel on staff this past year to help us with the virtual competitions and complete the adjudicator hiring. I can't say enough how much you are both appreciated.

We are very proud of all of our volunteer festival committees with 30 out of 47 festivals taking on the challenge to deliver their festivals through these guidelines and restrictions. "Unmasking the singer" will go down as a historical event and as evidence of advocacy-at-work through our many music teachers across the province.

Without the support of thousands of volunteers, including the SMFA Board of Directors, SMFA festivals would not be possible. We are extremely grateful to these special people. Your willingness to give freely of your time and talent is greatly appreciated, and your efforts are making a difference in the community as witnessed through the testimonials you will find later in this annual report.

We are grateful to be able to deliver programming through the pandemic when many organizations aren't. The funding received from the Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation enables SMFA to do so. Stable operational funding and generous stakeholders are always welcomed in any non-profit, charitable organization.

Lastly, but not least, thank you to the SMFA Board of Directors for putting their trust in me to lead the operations of the SMFA. Their leadership is innovative, resourceful and unintimidated by the unique challenges of the current world.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Donhauser*





## 2020 AGM Minutes

**Saskatchewan Music Festival Association,  
Annual General Meeting, November 7, 2021  
Via Zoom**

Sherry Sproule, President, welcomed everyone to the 2020 Saskatchewan Music Festival Association Annual General Meeting after a photo album of past conferences was played for delegates to enjoy, as everyone waited to be let into the meeting.

The roll call was conducted by Nancy Toppings as delegates were admitted into the meeting. Sherry Sproule confirmed the roll call. Representatives from 40 District Festivals were present: Assiniboia, Battlefords, Biggar, Borderland, Carnduff, Central Sask, Estevan, Eston, Gravelbourg, Hafford, Humboldt, Kindersley, La Ronge, Lafleche, Lanigan, Last Mountain, Lloydminster, Mainline, Maple Creek, Meadow Lake, Melfort, Moose Jaw, Moosomin, Nipawin, Outlook, Parkland, Potashville, Prince Albert, Quill Plains, Redvers, Regina, Rosetown, Sask Valley, Saskatoon, Twin Rivers, Unity, Vanguard, Watrous, Weyburn and Yorkton. Not attending were Kipling, Prairie Sunset, Qu'Appelle Valley, Sand Hills, Shaunavon, Spiritwood, and Swift Current.

Sherry recognized that SMFA programs reach lands covered by Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10, the traditional lands of the Cree, Dakota, Dene, Lakota, Nakota and Saulteaux peoples, as well as homeland of the Métis. We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.

The singing of O Canada by Isabella Girardin was played, followed by a moment of silence in memory of volunteers and committee members departed. Larry Johnson (Music Festival

Organizer), Mr. William Shurniak (Concerto Competition sponsor), Greg McLean and Sandra Ryba (SMFA Adjudicators), Mr. Alan Few (long-time scholarship donor), and June Sutton (past SMFA President) were recognized.

Sherry Sproule appointed Carol Donhauser as recording secretary.

***Motion: to approve the agenda.***

***Kaylene Bagwell/Bonnie Nicholson  
CARRIED***

Karen Unger announced one Board position to be filled. Myra Schmidt (Nipawin) has been nominated for the 3-year position. Karen called for further nominations from the floor. None were forthcoming.

The minutes of the 2019 AGM as recorded in the Annual Report were presented. Sherry noted a dating error under Business Arising – fourth line should read Total Assets for **2018/2019**).

***Motion: that the minutes be approved with changes.***

***Bren Keenan/Yvonne Sutherland  
CARRIED***

### **Business Arising**

Finance Chair Tammy Villeneuve, presented a summary of the Investment Report.

"SMFA investments are managed by Leander Dueck of Beyond Wealth Management. Leander reports that our rate of return for the period of August 1, 2019 to July 31, 2020 is -0.99%. During the same period the TSX was -0.01%. The rate of return was caused by the timing of redemptions for scholarships in October of 2019 and Wallis Opera Competition in July of 2020 and the percentage of Canadian equity. Given the uncertainty the Canadian and financial markets



have faced, this is considered satisfactory performance.”

The auditor’s report was presented as printed on page 64 to 77 of the Annual Report.  
Total Assets for 2019/2020 - \$672,309;  
Total Liabilities - \$165,535;  
Net Assets - \$506,774

*Motion: to accept the auditor’s report.*  
*Carmen Ledding/Chelsea Cox*  
**CARRIED**

*Motion: to appoint Marcia Herback as Auditor for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.*  
*Karen Unger/Michelle Blohm*  
**CARRIED**

Karen Unger made the 2<sup>nd</sup> call for nominations from the floor. None were received.

Sherry Sproule presented an overview of the 2020 Annual Report.

*Motion: to adopt the annual report as presented.*  
*Carmen Ledding/Pam Dmytriw*  
**CARRIED**

*Motion: That the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association withdraw from the National Music Festival.*  
*Kelly Stein/Krista Brost*  
**CARRIED**

*Motion: That the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association enter into a three-year Memorandum of Understanding with Alberta and BC to participate in a Western Canadian Festival starting in 2022.*  
*Krista Brost/Kaylene Bagwell*  
**CARRIED**

#### New Business

Syllabus Changes can be found in your conference handouts. You will note some 12 &

under Provincial classes added, as well as the SK Excellence Classes.

Adjudicator Hiring: As many of you know, Saskatchewan is unique in that the Provincial Office performs the adjudicator hiring, recruiting, and training for our member festivals. Some of you may not know that you can make requests for adjudicators on your adjudicator time-frame form when you submit your dates. There is an Adjudicator Directory (under Guides and Forms) on the SMFA website to assist you with your selection. Please do not contact the adjudicator directly until the hiring process has been completed. For the 2021 festival season, we will attempt to slot in adjudicators that were hired last year when possible.

SDA & SMFA Spoken Word e-Festival: The Saskatchewan Drama Association (SDA) and the (SMFA) Spoken Word e-Festival is for Saskatchewan students, ages 5 to 17 years and any level. This program seeks to allow students to prepare, perform and develop their ability to speak with purpose to an audience. Entering the Festival will give you a chance to work towards a goal, improve your public speaking skills, perform and have fun! Deadline for the next Spoken Word e-Festival is November 30, 2020. Classes offered & entry information can also be found on the SMFA home page.

The 2021 Concerto Competition will be held February 20, 2021 as a virtual competition. The Competition is a partnership project with the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras and sponsored by the late Mr. William Shurniak. The winner earns a scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 and the opportunity to appear as a guest artist with the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras. There are also 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place prizes of \$750 and \$500.

The 2021 Provincial Finals Competition will take place June 4 to 6, 2021. This competition will also be virtual.





Claire Seibold brought greetings from Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers' Association.

Karen Unger made the third and last call for nominations from the floor. There were none.

*Motion: to close nominations.*

*Carmen Ledding/Krista Brost*  
**CARRIED**

*Motion: to elect by acclamation: Myra Schmidt, to the SMFA Board of Directors, for a 3-year term.*

*Carmen Ledding/Yvonne Sutherland*  
**CARRIED**

Myra outlined her involvement with music festivals. Sherry Sproule welcomed Myra to the Board. Sherry thanked outgoing Board members Karen Unger and Bonnie Nicholson (ad hoc) for their service over the past number of years.

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 am.**

Following the AGM, President Sherry Sproule led a discussion regarding COVID-Safe Festival Planning for the 2021 festival year.





## Shurniak Concerto Competition

*William (Bill) Shurniak enjoyed a long and successful career in international banking and corporate business in Canada, Jamaica, Hong Kong, Australia, and the UK. Upon his retirement, he returned to his native Saskatchewan, and established the Shurniak Art Gallery in Assiniboia to showcase his extensive collection of international and Canadian art. Mr. Shurniak was a generous supporter and true friend of education and the arts community, and sponsor of the Concerto Competition since 2013. Bill Shurniak passed away on August 8, 2020.*

The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA) Tammy Villeneuve, President is pleased to announce that the 34<sup>th</sup> SMFA Concerto Competition was won by pianist Jerry Hu, with his performance of Tchaikovsky's *Piano Concerto in B Flat Major No. 1, Op. 23*. He was accompanied by Bonnie Nicholson. Jerry received the first prize of \$2,000 and the opportunity to be a featured soloist in an upcoming season with the Regina Symphony Orchestra and the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra.

Jerry Hu is a 15-year-old pianist from Saskatoon. He has studied piano under Bonnie Nicholson for many years and has received many awards for his excellent performances. He was chosen as the top senior pianist at the 2019 SMFA Provincial Music Festival and placed second overall in the senior piano discipline at the FCMF National Music Festival held later that year. Jerry has also had the opportunity to study under renowned pianists such as Jan Lisiecki, Ian Parker, Peter Miyamoto and Natalie Zhu.



*Photo courtesy of Stephen Nicholson*

Nine young musicians competed in the 2021 Shurniak Concerto Competition, which was held virtually on February 20. Alice Li, pianist from Saskatoon, placed second and Bradley Little, pianist formerly of Regina (now living in Vancouver) earned the third place prize. The competition was judged by Gordon Gerrard (Music Director of the Regina Symphony Orchestra) and Stephanie Unverricht (Principal Bassoonist of the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra).

The next Concerto Competition will take place in 2023.





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## Testimonial – Bonnie Nicholson



*Bonnie Nicholson is a highly respected pianist, teacher, adjudicator and chamber musician from Saskatoon. Her degrees include a Bachelor of Music (Performance) and a Master of Arts Degree from the University of Saskatchewan, as well as an A.R.C.T. in Piano Performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music. Since 1986, Bonnie has served as a Sessional Lecturer in Piano at the Department of Music, University of Saskatchewan. Students and colleagues have commented on her “innovative and insightful teaching methods” and her “enthusiasm and encouragement”. Ms. Nicholson’s students consistently excel at competitions, festivals and exams, locally, provincially and nationally. She travelled to the National Music Festival over nineteen times as the official accompanist for Saskatchewan competitors. Bonnie is the current President of the Saskatoon Music Festival Committee and recently served on the provincial board of the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association.*

### *For the Joy of Music*

When I was a child, I loved the experience of playing piano pieces at the Prince Albert Music Festival at Calvary United Church. I found such joy in the order of the Festival experience – missing school to put on a nice outfit and warm up my fingers, pressing my nose against the front door window as I watched for my Dad to come pick me up and take me to the venue, leaving my score with the friendly Festival volunteers at the back of the Hall, taking my turn to play, and sitting at the front after each performance waiting for the adjudicator’s remarks. I especially loved being asked to organize and change the numbers on the wooden stands used for prompting hymn numbers on Sundays, which for us served to show Festival class numbers and competitor order. I loved it all so much that in grade school, one of my friends and I play acted “Festival” in our homes after school, re – creating the adjudication sheets and certificates on looseleaf paper. My hero was my piano teacher’s daughter Cheryl Wendland whose performances I idolized.

Over the course of many years, Mom kept all of my adjudication sheets, and arranged my certificates in binders. When I went through those paper memories during our COVID housecleaning in 2020, I noted that my Festival marks were not typically very high – 80% - 85%. And yet, the Festival was my year’s highlight and I truly remembered much more obvious successes than the adjudicator’s written marks and number of certificates seemed to warrant. I loved the Festival! and it was not because I won all the time.

The SMFA’s Provincial Protocols in the early 1980’s grouped competitors as representing the “North” or the “South” of the Province. Soon my heroes were a group of Piano Stars from Regina, including Tannis Gibson and Audrey Andrist, as well as Saskatoon Stars Sylvia Shaddick and Guy Few. I was also in awe of the incredible talent coming out of Melfort, thanks in part to the mentorship of Bernice McCosh –



Connie Gitlin and Dianne Gryba and Lori Erhardt and many, many others. It was so influential to have these artists as role models. My life was changed for the better. And my path in music was confirmed.

I continued my Saskatchewan Music Festival involvement through University as a performer and then as an accompanist, a teacher and an adjudicator. My heroes became Robin and Marilyn Harrison and Sheila Shinkewski, as well as my current heroes Dianne Gryba, Janice Paterson and Marilyn Whitehead. I joined the Community of volunteers for the Saskatoon Music Festival and the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association.

Today, I love the order that the Music Festival experience brings to my work as a teacher and Festival volunteer. I continue to witness students rising up so much higher than without the Festival as a goal. I celebrate the joy on their faces when they perform in a way that exceeds their expectations. I cheer when they find joy in the journey of preparation and commitment to craft, because at that moment they have truly won. I find even more joy as students grow together as a community and draw strength from each other.

The picture that my husband Stephen took of current student Jerry Hu, former student Godwin Friesen and I after a Festival performance at the National level in 2019 is a really good example of the joy of the journey towards a life long memory.

I think our Saskatchewan Music Festival System grew even stronger during the last two years, when students, teachers and volunteers went way beyond the norm to re-create the Festival journey. The Festival traditions mattered even more than we imagined.

Long live the Saskatchewan Music Festival!!  
May we all be smart enough to preserve the joy of this experience for generations to come.



*Photo courtesy of Stephen Nicholson*





## Testimonial – Maria Fuller



*Maria Fuller is an internationally active performer as conductor, pianist and trumpeter, and is also an acclaimed vocal coach, composer and arranger. Equally adept in the opera pit and on the concert stage, she shows a winning charisma and infectious joy in her music-making. At the piano, Ms. Fuller is a two-time laureate of the FCMF National Finals, of the CMC National Finals and of the CFMTA National Finals. In 2010, she was selected as the principal pianist for the National Youth Orchestra of Canada. As a chamber musician, Fuller has performed throughout Europe and North America. For three consecutive years, Maria won the brass title in the SMFA Provincial Finals and has received praise throughout North America for her trumpet work. Recently, her piece “Resolution” from “Fractals” won second prize in the “Women Composing for Trumpet Competition in Texas”. In 2020, Maria competed in La Maestra International Competition for Women Conductors, in Paris. 12 candidates were selected from a pool of 220 applicants representing 51 countries. In addition to composing, Maria is becoming increasingly recognized for her choral and orchestral arrangements. Maria holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano from McGill University, a MM in Piano, an Artist Diploma in Operatic Coaching, and a MM in Orchestral Conducting at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM). She is currently the Resident Conductor and Chorus Director of the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra. Read her complete biography at <https://www.mariafuller.com/bio>.*

I grew up on a 2000-acre grain farm, an hour north of Regina. My parents, four siblings and I were surrounded by the clean and wild prairie air, the vastness of our great farming countryside, and the sound of music. Homeschooled from K-12, music took on a magical relationship with each one of us and presented us with the opportunity to learn, feel passion, develop discipline and respect, and learn how to work with others. In addition, music clothed itself in the form of community, friendships, gatherings and experiences that would result in warmhearted memories to last a lifetime. At age four, my heart brought my little feet to stand in front of a piano, where I began to imitate the sounds I heard on the radio. By age six, it brought me to the concert hall and marching fields of Regina to be with my friends and mentors in the Lions Band. By age eight, music brought my imagination to compose “A Walk in the Woods”, for which I was awarded first prize in the Last Mountain District Music Festival. Fast forward to 2013, when music brought me to receive the Grand Award prize in both the Regina Music Festival and the Provincial Music Festival. Today, I have four degrees: two in piano, an operatic coaching and orchestral conducting, and find myself conducting all over the world. I have since learned who, and what, to credit for my ability and experiences, but it took maturity in other areas to learn that secret.

My musical journey is a story rooted in the success of the training and psychological formation that I experienced in my home province. Saskatchewan Music Festivals created, in me, an intensity in which I was driven to grow, accomplish and achieve. The experiences of yearly preparation with my coaches to



compete in the festival created an unparalleled opportunity to gain skills that are second nature to me now. Not only did I compete hundreds of times in trumpet and piano, and as an accompanist to my siblings, but I had the opportunity to watch and listen to other competitors and adjudicators, where I was given further opportunity to form opinions.

Although I now attribute my foundation to what I learned in Saskatchewan at a young age, it wasn't until I left for university and began talking to my classmates that I began to realize just how fortunate I was. Because the festival afforded me the ability to perform and compete from such a young age, it also taught me how to practice effectively and efficiently, how to be disciplined, how to memorize, how to perform well, and so many other things that I still take for granted. In Saskatchewan, teachers do not – at least my teachers did not – tell me how “hard” things are. They never told me how “hard” Schubert's *Der Erlkönig* is, or how “hard” a musical career is. Thank God I already had a music career before I started hearing this! I was never once discouraged or dissuaded from my passion. I believe that this contributed to allowing it to grow exponentially. The adjudicators at festival were almost always wonderful and very informative. This, too, I later learned not to take for granted.

The festival allowed me to compete at the National level and to meet other competitors who, several years later, are at the top of their field in Canada. Networking is huge in our career – although unfair, it can be more about who you know than how you play. One musician that I got to know very well at Nationals is now a world legend: pianist Jan Lisiecki. In 2008, Jan placed first at Nationals in Edmonton and I placed second. We were inseparable – we did everything together: got up at the same time, caught bugs, ate, shopped, threw rocks at each other (resulting in my hand bleeding all over the keys for the rest of the week), and talked for hours. These good memories and strong ties were not only evident among competitors, but also with the “festival ladies”. I remember being at Nationals where the festival ladies ran all over the city to find bobby pins and nylons for me, and even helped me with my unruly hair. The support and memories gained from participating in Saskatchewan Music Festivals will last a lifetime.

The Saskatchewan Music Festival also taught me the importance of giving back. I was the recipient of so much attention, love, positive experience and prizes, that this has motivated me to give back to others in the same way. The festival doesn't just train musicians; it trains people, whether in the form of the audience blessed by the joy of music, parents who learn how to sacrifice in order for their children to achieve, or adjudicators who come and are challenged beyond belief. I owe many thanks to this organization, and I hope that for many, many more years, other Saskatchewan musicians will have the same opportunity.







## 47 District Music Festivals

*In addition to 47 annual district music festivals, SMFA provides: a provincial Syllabus; entrance to Annual Provincial, Concerto, Opera and Musical Theatre Competitions; and coordinates training, hiring and scheduling of adjudicators. SMFA also provides workshops, fosters recognition of volunteers, organizes provincial archives and maintains a provincial website. In 2020, SMFA partnered with Saskatchewan Drama Association for the first SDA & SMFA Spoken Word e-Festival.*

|                 |                   |               |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Assiniboia      | Last Mountain     | Redvers       |
| The Battlefords | Lloydminster      | Regina        |
| Biggar          | Mainline          | Rosetown      |
| Borderland      | Maple Creek       | Sand Hills    |
| Carnduff        | Meadow Lake       | Sask Valley   |
| Central Sask    | Melfort           | Saskatoon     |
| Estevan         | Moose Jaw         | Shaunavon     |
| Eston           | Moosomin          | Spiritwood    |
| Gravelbourg     | Nipawin           | Swift Current |
| Hafford         | Outlook           | Twin Rivers   |
| Humboldt        | Parkland          | Unity         |
| Kindersley      | Potashville       | Vanguard      |
| Kipling         | Prairie Sunset    | Watrous       |
| La Ronge        | Prince Albert     | Weyburn       |
| Lafleche        | Qu'Appelle Valley | Yorkton       |
| Lanigan         | Quill Plains      |               |



## District Festival Reports

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### Assiniboia & District Music Festival Cancelled due to COVID-19

This year our committee made the difficult decision not to have a music festival. When we met on November 26, 2020 the COVID situation seemed very uncertain. COVID regulations were changing frequently (as they still are) and we did not know if an in-person festival would be allowed in five month's time. A virtual festival did not seem like a good option as most of our participants are younger students who benefit the most from playing for other people. We are optimistic that an in-person event will be possible for 2022 and are looking forward to a time when we can gather together and hear our students play!

*Respectfully submitted, Heather Delorme, President*

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### Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival April 19 to 25, 2021

In the fall of 2020, the Battlefords Music Festival met several times on zoom calls and ultimately decided to mount a live festival in 2021. Plans evolved throughout the early months of the year, eventually settling into place. SO many aspects of the festival had to be considered in new and creative ways, but committee members rose to the challenges with determination and positivity.

There were a lot of questions to answer...

*How could we run a safe event, considering all our needs, including intense cleaning and good ventilation?*

We chose to rent the beautiful, professional theatre in our community, the Dekker Centre, for our festival. The theatre provided access to professional cleaning, an effective ventilation system, lots of space, a concert grand piano on the stage, COVID barriers hung from the fly, and staff to run a livestream throughout all the festival sessions. It was a special treat for entrants to perform on the big stage and our need for volunteers was greatly reduced.

*Would there be enough entries?*

Many teachers worked through the challenges of giving lessons through the pandemic, and we had about two-thirds of our 2019 number – just over 200 entries, which was enough to move forward. Sadly, we lost about 40 group entries from bands and choral speaking entrants as well as receiving a lower number of vocal, speech arts and instrumental entries. The number of piano entries went up slightly.

Vocal, speech arts, and musical theatre performances were heard on April 19-20 by Chris Kelly. Jim McCarthy adjudicated strings, brass, woodwind and percussion entries on April 21. Coincidentally, one student owns a marimba crafted by Jim, which was moved to the venue for his festival performances. Pianists played their pieces for Janet Gieck on April 22-25. 15 family teams entered duet or trio classes which was an entertaining highlight of the festival. 6 students entered the new Provincial Excellence classes, performing short programs of 3 or 4 pieces.

The committee, teachers and students appreciated the positivity of our adjudicators and their generosity in coming to our community to share their enthusiasm and expertise.



*How would we organize the festival schedule to comply with SHA guidelines?*

The festival schedule was organized so that between 5 and 10 participants would be seated in specified theatre seats for a short session. 2 or 3 volunteers took care of cleaning surfaces in between performances. The adjudicator and the videographer were also in attendance along with teachers and accompanists. It all worked smoothly. Lots of work was done to prepare sign-in sheets for each session and collect waivers. Our committee felt well-supported by the SMFA and we depended on their COVID festival guidelines and ready advice throughout the year.

*What kind of program would we use?*

Paper programs seemed a poor fit with SHA regulations about touching surfaces, so we opted to create a digital program. We stumbled through this a bit, starting off with the idea of just listing the performances, but ending up with more of a traditional program. It included a lot, but not all of the things we would usually print. We were able to insert artwork done by Battlefords students into the document.

*How would friends and family hear the performances?*

All sessions were livestreamed and real time access was provided by simply clicking a link on the Dekker Centre homepage. There was no password needed and no cost to viewers. There were a few glitches in the first session, but they were soon remedied. Lots of people watched and listened who wouldn't have been able to attend the sessions in person.

*Could we celebrate the students' outstanding performances and present awards at a gala concert?*

22 excellent performances recommended by our adjudicators were recorded individually on April 27 at the Dekker Centre. Karen Ulmer

provided commentary, and each student's awards were announced and rolled onto the stage on a cart! After the filming, photos of the student were taken to be sent to parents. The recordings were made into a livestream gala show that was accessed on the Dekker Centre homepage. All award recipients were announced, as well as district winners for provincial festival. 74 awards, totalling \$8,950.00 were given to the students.

Students chosen by the adjudicators to submit a recording for the provincial finals were as follows:

#### VOCAL

Shanti Odishaw – Elementary Vocal

Ava Smith – Junior Vocal

Marielle Bala – Junior Vocal

Ava Bahrey – Intermediate Female Vocal; Concert Group; Vocal Provincial Excellence 17 years and under

Zwyneth Rono – Intermediate Female Vocal; Folk Song; Vocal Provincial Excellence 17 years and under

Keegan Isaac – Intermediate Folk Song

#### PIANO

Jill Kroczyński – Provincial Excellence in Piano 12 years and under

Clara Higgs – Provincial Excellence in Piano 12 years and under; Elementary Piano

Sam Haase – Elementary Piano

Jacob Lawrence – Junior Piano

Ava Bahrey – Intermediate Piano Bach; Int. Piano Haydn/Mozart; Int. Piano Recital

Dmitri Masich – Intermediate Piano Concerto

#### BRASS

Keegan Isaac – Intermediate Brass

Daly Haas – Intermediate Brass

#### PERCUSSION

Dmitri Masich – Intermediate Percussion

#### MUSICAL THEATRE

Elise Morin – Elementary Musical Theatre



Ava Bahrey – Intermediate Musical Theatre  
Ballad; Intermediate Musical Theatre Up-  
Tempo

*How will we manage our festival expenses?*

The Battlefords Music Festival is extremely  
fortunate to be supported by these major  
donors:

Battlefords Kiwanis Club  
Jim Pattison Broadcast Group and CJNB 1050  
City of North Battleford  
Town of Battleford  
Lakeland Veterinary Service – Dr. Haas

As well, numerous businesses and individuals  
provide sponsorships, awards and donations.

2021 festival income, including donations from  
local sponsors held over from 2020, grants and  
advertising revenue totalled \$20,663.25.  
Expenses came to \$21,359.90, so we had a deficit  
of \$696.65.

We are grateful that community support  
allowed us to exceed our 2021 festival budget in  
order to provide a safe and inspiring event for  
our students.

*Would the 2021 festival be worth the extra planning  
and effort?*

The 2021 Battlefords Music Festival gave  
students, teachers and the wider community a  
positive and exciting event to anticipate and  
enjoy. Performers were genuinely grateful for  
the opportunity to share their music and speech  
arts. Audience members watched and listened  
from a distance on the livestream, but they were  
still happy to be a part of things.

The festival was a community highlight during  
these strange and isolating times. It was  
certainly worth the effort. Our committee  
teamwork and bonds became stronger!

#### BMFA COMMITTEE

Beth Walls – Recording Secretary; digital  
program  
Grace Lang – Treasurer  
Dianne Gryba – President, SMFA board  
member and representative to SMFA  
Conference  
Karen Ulmer – awards; adjudicator liaison  
Jaki Esquirol – sponsorships and advertising  
Loralee Cawood – volunteer recruitment,  
session sign in and contact tracing sheets,  
gala photography  
Jennie Friedman – tech support for entrants;  
programming  
Lindsay Charabin – programming  
Lorenzo Bacchetto – certificates  
Trina Bahrey – gala  
Meagan Kachur – gala

*Respectfully submitted, Dianne Gryba, President*





### **Biggar & District Music Festival March 8 to 13, 2021**

The 93<sup>rd</sup> annual Biggar and District Music Festival was held virtually from March 8-13. Our festival included two days of piano, one day of instrumental, and two days of vocal. Our week-long festival ended with a very enjoyable Performers' Concert and presentation of awards given on Saturday evening. The weekday performances were livestreamed to the community via Zoom, and our Saturday evening Performers' Concert was streamed via Facebook Live. Three rose bowls were awarded to Laryssa Raddysh in vocal, Kolby Zagoruy in instrumental and Kolby Zagoruy in piano. Kolby Zagoruy, Emily Rempel and Tyra Suter were recommended to Provincials in piano. Thank you to all of our scholarship supporters, award donors and patrons.

In early December, our annual Carol Festival had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 updated safety guidelines. The Carol Festival is an annual fundraiser for our spring music festival. This year we held three nights of outdoor caroling throughout our town instead. We received overwhelming support from our community and raised approximately \$1400.

At our spring music festival there were a total of 161 entries including four band entries. We were pleased to see so many entries with everything going on this year! We welcomed three adjudicators: Dianne Gryba (piano), Mark Preece (instrumental) and Melissa Wood (vocal). We extend sincere thanks and appreciation to the adjudicators for the encouragement and advice provided to our festival participants.

On behalf of the Biggar Music Festival Association, I would like to thank all of our many volunteers who ensure that everything runs smoothly during the music festival. The

93<sup>rd</sup> Biggar Music Festival was once again a success!

*Submitted by Jackie Zagoruy, President*



### **Borderland Music Festival (Coronach) March 21 to 24, 2021**

Our Borderland Music Festival was held at the Coronach Alliance Church. It was an amazing, awesome virtual/live festival! Our BMF worked extremely hard to organize this festival. Our Vice-President, Raelynn Gerde, was in charge of all SHA and government regulations and SMFA regulations for a virtual live festival. Kalissa Regier was in charge of livestream performances. We all worked hard to exceed the guidelines to have the most sanitized church. We had transparent barriers for performers and adjudicators and entries.

Our adjudicators were Jeri Ryba for musical theatre, speech arts, and voice, and Janis Smith for piano. With a COVID year of ups and downs, festival plans on and off and back on, we felt so very blessed to have such kind, considerate, knowledgeable adjudicators for our students. Entries were at the lowest ever, with 67 entries. Each competitor was very important to us, as was music festival!

Our Festival of Stars was Friday, March 26th. This was also livestreamed.

A few weeks prior to music festival, we had masterclasses with clinician Melissa Wood for musical theatre and voice performance, and clinician Janet Gieck for piano performance. Janet played some of her piano compositions for us, which was a great highlight, and families were able to purchase her books.



Thank you to all the sponsors of our festival. The community and provincial support was wonderful! Thank you, SMFA! Thank you to our BMF committee Vice-President - Raelynn Gerde; recording secretary - Marie Lermينياux; treasurer - Marilyn Remoue; awards and scholarships - Shelly Rousseau; advertising and media - Kalissa Regier; and members Haley Hovorka and Carlyn Beliveau. With your fierce strength, abilities and positive encouragement of one other, we were able to host 2021 BMF at Coronach!

We all look forward to an easier festival in 2022!

*Respectfully submitted,  
Dorothea Trithardt, BMFA President*



### **Carnduff & District Music and Arts Festival Cancelled due to COVID-19**

It was with a heavy heart that we opted not to host the 2021 Carnduff & District Music & Arts Festival. We made this decision because we decided that a very reduced in-person festival or a virtual festival was not a fit for what we believe music festival is all about in our area. We also have terrible bandwidth here and we felt that would greatly affect the quality.

Instead, we tried to embrace the spirit of community – for even if we couldn't be together, we wanted to take the performances to the community. We held a March Showcase that took place from March 1-30. Participants were encouraged to enter a performance each week to be entered in the weekly draw for a local gift certificate. Having this virtual showcase was definitely a learning curve for us as we learned about all things YouTube and how challenging Facebook notifications can be sometimes when

parents tagged our page in their submission. Showcase was mostly wonderful piano performances, but we also had band instruments, guitar and some art submissions as well.

Thankfully we have a very supportive community and this allowed us to present a \$25 local gift card to every participant in the Showcase. We awarded three \$50 local gift certificates chosen at random from the participants who entered 3 or more times. We had a total of 98 entries from 48 participants and gave out \$1375 in local gift cards which also helped out our local businesses in this challenging time. We wish to thank all of our sponsors and patrons for their continued support in making Carnduff and District Music and Arts Festival the success that it is. It is also important we thank our publicity board members who went above and beyond in their duties this year as the technical aspect of a virtual showcase took up a great deal of time and effort but was so very well received by the community.

This was definitely not the year we had hoped or planned for, but we are grateful for the opportunity to share music and art in our community. We look forward to 2022 with a full house of audience and wonderful adjudicators that will help our participants to learn and grow. Looking ahead to a fantastic future!

**SaskTel**   
Today is the day



### **Central Saskatchewan Music and Speech Arts Festival (Davidson) Cancelled due to COVID-19**

This year we were able to have an "Extraordinary General Meeting". We e-mailed a copy of our financial statement to all executive members, as well as all teachers who usually participate in our festival. We have confirmations from five executive members: Nancy Wilkins, Lorraine Zoerb, Colleen Spelliscy, Terra Fazakas and Donna Stone, and two of our three music teachers: Kristine Cool and Pearl Unger, who acknowledged our financial statement. We will be holding our regular fall meeting in early November, to discuss preparation of our 2022 festival.

*Lorraine Zoerb, President, CSMF*



### **Estevan & District Music Festival April 11 to 17, 2021**

The Estevan and District Music Festival was pleased to hold the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Music Festival this year from April 11-17, after the cancellation of the 2020 festival due to the worldwide coronavirus pandemic. We appreciated the guidance of the hard-working board of the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association, as they navigated through the changing Saskatchewan Health regulations in order to ensure that the province was able to continue the district festivals and the provincial festival in a safe manner for all.

We had planned to have a live festival, but on January 10, we changed our decision to have a

completely virtual festival, which meant that all entrants recorded and uploaded their performances online, so that the adjudicators could adjudicate virtually. This was a new experience for all, and we worked together as committee members, teachers, parents, entrants and volunteers to tackle the new and unfamiliar procedures that comprised this virtual event. It was a challenging and satisfying process, as we learned more about YouTube than we really wanted to know.

We had 251 entries this year, which was down by more than half from the previous years.

Our adjudicators were Laurel Teichroeb from Yorkton for piano, Anna Marie Bekolay from Saskatoon for vocal, musical theatre and speech arts, and James McCarthy from Saskatoon for instrumental entries. As a committee, we decided to change the adjudication process this year and ask them to provide more of a workshop adjudication than has been done before at our festival. All three adjudicators were willing to comply with our suggestion and they provided video workshops and individual Zoom meeting workshops for those who wanted more specific comments for their performances.

Two of our entrants were recommended to SMFA provincials and represented our festival at the virtual competition: Kaylee Carlson, in four classes of Intermediate Piano and Sadie Aspinall, in Elementary Piano.

Thank you to the sponsors, contributors to our scholarships and our Friends of the Festival from Estevan and the surrounding area for their generous and continuing support of music education of our local students.

*Submitted by Esther Bangsund, President*





### **Eston Music Festival** **April 19, 2021**

The Eston Music Festival was held April 19. We held a recorded virtual festival. Performances were recorded at the festival venue the week prior to the festival. These were then sent on to our adjudicator Dr. Christopher Kayler. On April 19<sup>th</sup>, we met via Zoom with our adjudicator and small, age-related groups of participants. Our internet connections worked very well and we had a terrific day! Dr. Kayler was very engaging and his time with the participants was most rewarding.

Our festival wouldn't happen without all our scholarship donors. With our festival cancelled last year, we have used our scholarship dollars from last year for this year. We have had some donations sent in again this year, and we are very grateful for their support. We look forward with hope that next year we are once again able to host a live festival.

With pandemic restrictions still in place, we are again postponing our quilt raffle to a later date. All those who have purchased a ticket, be rest assured it is looked after and your name will be in the draw.

A special thank you to our piano and voice/strings teachers, Laura Saar and Clayton Braybrook for teaching through this pandemic year with all its hurdles!

"Music is Life... that's why our hearts have beats".

*Submitted by Brenda Ormsby, President*



### **20 Years of Festivals**

### **Gravelbourg & District Bilingual Music Festival** **April 21 to 23, 2021**

After our 2020 season was cancelled, the Gravelbourg Music Festival committee made the difficult decision to host our festival virtually this year. With the ever-changing restrictions, and new COVID-19 variants, we didn't want the students to be denied a festival again. We are so very pleased that so many chose to join the festival and submit videos for adjudication. In total, we had 40 competitors enter 162 compositions in piano, voice, French and English speech arts, musical theatre, and instrumental classes. We are so fortunate to see this wide range of talents represented so well in our small towns. 7 of our participants received recommendations from the adjudicators to move on to Provincials in 14 different classes. I think that is quite an amazing accomplishment, especially in a COVID year. Our final concert and scholarship award ceremony, The Gravelbourg Grammys, was also held virtually, and broadcast live via Facebook.

There were many complications to hosting a virtual festival, the greatest of these being access to dependable internet connections. Many of our competitors had trouble uploading their videos, and we had trouble downloading them as well. Some rural areas are still on dial-up. Rural internet still isn't at the same level as in the cities, and many of our competitors became frustrated as they would time out before the video could be uploaded. We tried our best to face these issues as they arose and found other ways to receive videos.



Another issue was the actual taping of the performances while following COVID restrictions. Accompaniment (piano) was taped, and then parents needed to run the music and camera so that the children could be maskless. This all took time and scheduling of the public spaces.

All of the videos needed to be stored so that our adjudicators could access them. We needed to purchase extra file storage on 2 file sharing sites so that we could accommodate all our competitors. This was an added expense that we needed to budget for.

We were honoured to have 2 wonderful adjudicators join us this year, Hannah Marple for piano and instrumental, and Chelsea Mahan for speech, vocal and musical theatre. Both of our adjudicators came from Saskatoon, and were supposed to be our adjudicators last year before our season was cancelled. We are so glad they were able to join us virtually for our 2021 festival. All award recipients are chosen by the adjudicator. Except for ensemble classes and musical theatre, participants must compete in two classes of the same discipline to be eligible to receive an award. Our adjudicators also chose the performances for our final program.

Performances and adjudications were shared with our festival community via our Facebook page. This seemed to work for all our families, and it is nice that we can go back and watch the performances again. All in all, I would call the 2021 Festival a success. Some special individuals and organizations who contributed greatly to the success of this year's festival who we would like to acknowledge:

- Pastor Darryl Buchanan and the congregation of the Church of Christ, for welcoming us into this wonderful facility once again. Most piano classes were videoed in the church using the festival piano.

- Nolan Jacobs, our tech support for the Grammy evening.
- The Lutheran Church for providing space for our vocal and musical theatre numbers to be recorded.
- The Baedke family, for donating a gift basket of items which was drawn that evening. Every student who entered our festival this year had their name entered into the draw.
- Michelle Blohm, our entry secretary, for her countless hours spent putting together the videos, so that the festival could happen. Michelle worked very closely with our adjudicators, organizing the videos into classes, sending them off to be adjudicated and then posting them on our webpage.
- Gravelbourg Tribune for our advertising, all of our sponsors and advertisers, our amazing group of volunteers, SMFA and to Sask Lotteries for their support.

Our 2021 GDBMF committee:

Yvonne Sutherland – Chair/ President

Vacant – Treasurer (currently being covered by our previous treasurer, Jocelyne Lorrain)

Michelle Blohm – Entry Secretary

Kristine Goepen-Bourgeois – Corresponding Secretary

Allan Sutherland – Scholarships and Awards coordinator

Lorna Bell – Venue and Volunteers

Melanie Gosselin – School Liason

*Submitted by Yvonne Sutherland, President*



**Hafford & District Music Festival  
Cancelled due to COVID-19**

No report submitted.



## **Humboldt Music Festival**

**March 22 to 24, 2021**

Humboldt Music Festival hosted their 84<sup>th</sup> Festival from March 22-24, 2021 at Westminster United Church. Taking in to consideration the COVID restrictions at the time, it was decided to proceed with only the piano discipline.

The festival was successful despite the challenges that COVID presented. There were 168 entries in total. We were pleased to be able to offer our festival in-person following proper safety protocols and had an amazing adjudicator, Cherith Alexander, who was willing to be present with us. With the help of volunteers, we were able to livestream every performance on our festival's Facebook page. We are thankful to all our volunteers who make our festival happen each year, as well as the parents who continue support our festival and encourage their children to participate.

We look forward to having our 2022 Festival.

*Submitted by April Pauli, Festival Coordinator*



## **Kindersley & District Music Festival**

**March 15 to 18 and April 26 to 27, 2021**

Our story of 2021 actually starts March 15, 2020. Our second week was ready to go, our students and teachers had worked REALLY hard...then, hour by hour things changed, until we were completely shut down, leading to great disappointment for many...

Fast forward a few months and COVID changed our world in every way possible. SMFA specified 3 possible ways to hold a festival, virtual, recorded, or live. We held our first planning meeting for the 2021 festival on November 16. We discussed our options for a

VERY long time. Finally deciding there was simply too much unknown, and the obstacles were too great, we made the motion to postpone until 2022. We all sat there, with our masks on, not one of us able to actually pass this motion. The idea of not having festival was simply something none of us could support. So, we quashed our motion, had more discussion and said, "we'll try"! We sent out a survey to our members, and teachers; the ONLY option anyone wanted was the LIVE festival, so again we said, "we'll try". We kept moving forward, reading the guidelines, and making plans.

In early March all festivals were moved to virtual, which meant we could no longer have any audience, but we could still have our adjudicator come hear the students perform and adjudicate live. Of course, we followed all the COVID restrictions: masks, contact tracing, social distancing, sanitizing, etc. The students were able to perform live on the stage, and they were so happy to be able to do so!

Our festival was split into 2 parts:

Vocal, speech arts, and musical theater were held March 15; piano March 17 & 18 at the Norman Ritchie Community Center. Instrumental, including percussion, was held April 26 & 27 at the Kindersley Alliance Church

Shortly before the start of our festival, restrictions changed which allowed vocal performers to remove their masks if they were behind a barrier. BUT we didn't have a barrier, and we had very little time! Clayton Braybrook and Sam Boychuk took up the cause and created the "Braybrook Barrier" which enabled students to be use their entire faces to tell their stories as they sang their songs and performed their poems. We were so happy to have vocal adjudicator Chris Kelly with us, and he had encouraging comments for all performers.

Piano students were able to perform on the stage with their masks on and their hands sanitized before they began. The piano was sanitized between every performer. Hannah Marple was our adjudicator, and she was



fabulous! She had so many encouraging comments for all the performers and often said “our world needs live music right now.”

Sanitizing was a big part of what we did – our vocal shield was sanitized 26 times. The piano and bench were sanitized 103 times and 206 hands were sprayed with hand sanitizer!

April 26 & 27 we held our instrumental and percussion festival. 10 days before we were to start this portion of our festival, COVID variants started escalating in our province, and it looked like we would be shut down again. These were the same students that had been unable to perform last year. Again, we said, “we’ll try”. We continued to forge ahead with a last-minute change of adjudicators. We were incredibly pleased to have Gene Aulinger come to hear our students and adjudicate live! Students were SO excited to be able to perform live on a stage, it didn’t matter that few were there to hear them. Every one of them were so prepared, they BROUGHT IT!! Gene Aulinger expressed his enjoyment by saying “Anyone that goes to a lot of music festivals will always look forward to the quality in Kindersley!”

Video was another big part of what we did! For the first time ever, recording was allowed during music festival. Huge thanks to Hannah Townsend who recorded, edited, and compiled playlists of all our vocal and piano students! Huge thanks to Vanessa Klassen who was home in April and recorded, edited and compiled playlists of all our instrumental and percussion students. This way, we were able to share these wonderful performances with the family and friends that we couldn’t allow in the venue. Ben Glass put together two great virtual “Stars of the Festival” videos. This way, we were able to present the scholarship awards and announce our district winners who were recommended to Provincial Finals! We had 9 students in 15 classes recommended to Provincials!

Entries received: Brass 5; Guitar 2; Musical Theater 9; Percussion 11; Piano 104; Speech Arts

6; Strings 2; Vocal 17; Woodwind 16 - Total Entries 172

Thank you to our committee for 2020/2021 – Deborah Klassen, Helen Barclay, Clayton Braybrook, Sharleen Gilmour, Cheryl Glass, Laura Ewson. A HUGE thanks to Ted Glass – he took holidays to come and be our official door person/contact tracer/venue sanitizer! It takes a village to put on a music festival, and Kindersley has a great village!

Finally, a huge thank you to the students and teachers that persevered, worked so hard, and showed up! We have AMAZING teachers in Kindersley, they have spent years making these students into the excellent performers they are!

I had parents tell me “this made my kids year.” It wasn’t normal and it definitely wasn’t easy. There were tears, stress, and sleepless nights, but it was 100% WORTH IT!!

We TRIED and WE DID IT!

*Submitted by Calla McLean, President*



### **Kipling & District Music Festival Cancelled due to COVID-19**

Our music festival was not held in the 2021 year, but we are hopeful for a successful “non-COVID” 2022 season. We are thankful for a committee who are largely health care workers working tirelessly on the front lines in our hospitals and emergency services.

*Submitted by Caroline Puffalt, President*



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### **La Ronge & District Music Festival** **March 22 to 25, 2021**

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual La Ronge and Area Music Festival was held from March 22-25. It should have been the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual La Ronge and Area Music Festival but COVID-19, as we are so used to hearing by now, put a damper on that as it has with so many things. We held a hybrid virtual festival with some disciplines' performances sent to a remote adjudicator and others performed before an on-site adjudicator. The number of entries was down from what had been scheduled for the previous year, with 109 performances performed by over 30 participants. It is always good to see young people participating for the first time. The categories represented included: classical piano, arranged piano and student-arranged piano, orchestral piano, violin, vocal solo, musical theatre, and musical theatre duet.

We are grateful for the dedication of the adjudicators, Karen Langlois and Kristine Beer. The feedback they provided the students and teachers is greatly appreciated.

There were 26 scholarships presented and recognized in the form of a highlight reel of the best music festival performances in lieu of our usual Outstanding Performances Concert. The total value of the scholarships was over \$1500. We continue to enjoy generous financial and in-kind support of organizations, local businesses, and individuals, some of whom have supported the festival for many years, and some who were new this year.

We hired a local company, Videaste Productions, to broadcast live our virtual on-site music festival via Zoom and to prepare recorded videos of the performances for upload to our Facebook page in addition to the

highlight reel. This was an extremely important measure to promote the festival with live audiences not being allowed due to current health restrictions.

Despite no festival last year, we awarded a La Ronge and Area Music Festival Association 2020 post-secondary scholarship to Morgan Layton. Graduating students are encouraged to apply for this year's scholarship and are also encouraged to continue participating in future music festivals.

There were 13 music teachers with students in the festival this year. We had a member of our committee resign earlier in the year but also welcomed a new one, and our volunteer members of the festival committee took on various duties to ensure the success of the festival. In the year of a virtual festival that saw us adopt new technological methods for entries and payment, program distribution, and video sharing, there were perhaps more duties than ever before, and a festival is only strong as long as there are people who are willing to dedicate their time and energy towards it.

As always, we are grateful to the Alliance Church for allowing us access to their facility for such an extended time, and especially for their help maintaining the expectations of public health with regard to cleanliness. We look forward to next year!

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### **Lafleche & District Music Festival** **March 21 to 28, 2021**

The Lafleche & District Music Festival made history as we held our first Virtual Festival from March 21-28. This year marked our 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Music Festival. We welcomed voice adjudicator,



Ron de Jager and piano adjudicator, Dr. Katherine Dowling. We had a total of 210 entries: 103 piano, 49 musical theatre, 43 voice and 15 speech arts.

This year we implemented many changes to our festival to follow all COVID guideline restrictions implemented by SMFA and SHA. Our festival is held in the Lafleche United Church, so assigned pews were 6 feet apart for all performers. There was signage to control flow of traffic and assigned seating for all performers. We constructed a barrier for all singers and speech arts to perform behind. All piano players and accompanists were masked for their entire performance. We had a very limited audience consisting of our adjudicators, performers, accompanists and dedicated volunteers. A sanitizer was hired to make sure all cleaning procedures were followed. The festival was livestreamed so audiences from near and far would be able to tune in to watch. This was received with much praise and will be something we consider having each year.

Our third annual Adrian Frank Competition was held on Friday, March 26 at 7:00pm. The adjudicators chose eight outstanding performers from the festival week to compete. The winner of the competition this year was vocalist, Isabella Girardin.

The Lafleche & District Music Festival Final Concert was held on Sunday, March 28 at 2:00pm. Performers were selected by the adjudicators. A special tribute was given to our music teacher, Mrs. Sherry Sproule, on her retirement. We cannot thank her enough for the past 31 years that she has dedicated to our community with her gift of music. Special thanks to Dave, Emily, Audrey and Duncan, Mrs. Sproule's family, for sharing with us some kind words and stories that we could share with our virtual audience.

Special thanks was given to music teacher Becky-Jo Jones, who taught for the past 5 years

in Lafleche & District and for her 2 years prior to that. We wish Becky all the best in her new adventure. This upcoming music season we will welcome teachers from Briercrest Performing Arts Center to commute to the communities of Kincaid and Lafleche.

I personally want to thank my fellow board members and our dedicated volunteers. Our festival would not be able to continue without the work of these people. We worked diligently to have a virtual performance with in-person adjudicators to allow participants this experience. There were definitely moments of taking one step forward and two steps back. I am very proud to be part of this team!

In the words of Sherry Sproule "Thank you for the music!"

*Submitted by Sharla Davidson-Girardin, President*



## **Lanigan & District Music Festival**

### **April 26 to 29, 2021**

The 44<sup>th</sup> Lanigan and District Music Festival took place May 26-29 at Christian Fellowship Church in Lanigan. Our festival this year was run as a virtual in-venue festival, with an in-person adjudicator, Gaye-Lynn Kern, who graciously agreed to adjudicate all the disciplines. This year, that included piano (Monday and Tuesday), and vocal, musical theatre, speech arts, and guitar (all on Wednesday). There were sixty students from nine teachers, with a total of 167 entries in the festival this year, which is more than half of the entries (279) in our 2019 festival. Our 2020 festival had been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Much time was spent and extra meetings attended (including some very helpful Zoom meetings hosted by SMFA) to plan and prepare



for running a festival in a pandemic. It was strongly felt by our committee that we would like to do everything we could to provide an in-person festival experience for students in our area. A COVID-19 mitigation strategy was carefully prepared and communicated to all involved parties. This document included detailed plans, policies, and procedures regarding registration, sanitization, physical barriers and distancing, scheduling, traffic flow and signage, health screening and contact-tracing, masking, attendance, performance and seating, and more. The SHA Performing Arts Guidelines and the SMFA Guidelines for Live Music Festivals were instrumental in the development of our strategy, as was the Mitigation Plan developed by Mainline Festival. As a result of all the extra tasks involved in preparing for and running our festival this year, our volunteer hours were much higher than usual!

A big highlight from our festival was the livestreaming of all of our sessions on our festival's Facebook page, which allowed family members, relatives, and friends from near and far to tune in to enjoy the excellent performances of all our entrants. We received many accolades from online viewers, community members, and families about this opportunity. As a result, our festival had a much greater reach than in past years, including viewers in other provinces, with over 3000 views on Facebook! We also accommodated video submissions by students who were unable to attend in person due to pandemic-related isolation. Our excellent audio-visual team worked diligently to manage the technical aspects of videography, streaming, and broadcasting the performances, and we are very grateful for their efforts!

Our final concert took place on the online platform Flipgrid. Students submitted videos of their performances, which could then be viewed individually on the site. To date, views of these have totalled 812. A video presentation of

trophy recipients was also posted on this platform, along with a list of scholarship recipients. Trophies and scholarships, as well as adjudication sheets and certificates, were distributed by teachers following the publication of the virtual final concert.

Two students from our festival were recommended to Provincials, Kaitlyn Mau for senior musical theatre and Jenevieve Melin for elementary speech arts. As Provincials were held online this year, both submitted YouTube videos of their selections to SMFA, and were able to attend Zoom meetings for the awards presentations. Jenevieve was the winner of the SMFA Conference Delegate Elementary Speech Arts Scholarship - \$100.

With revenues of \$6914.00, and expenses of \$4884.55, our festival recognized a surplus of \$2029.45 this year, in spite of lower entries and additional expenses related to pandemic mitigation. This was a great relief, as in our initial planning stages, we did not know whether holding a festival this year would be financially viable.

None of this could have been possible without the outstanding contributions of two groups of people: our volunteers, and our donors and sponsors. Executive and committee members for Lanigan and District Music Festival are Nata Kline (President), Laura Melin (Corresponding Secretary), Angel Liebrecht (Entry Secretary), Heidi Craig (Treasurer), Amy Ewert (Awards), and Cindy Riemer (Patrons and Donors). Financial Supporters of the 2021 Lanigan and District Music Festival were: Drake Meats (Bronze Sponsor); Jansen Players, Renee Nunan-Rappard, Pound-Maker Agventures, St. Mary's Catholic Women's League, and Lanigan Agencies (Silver Sponsors); and Daniel Bushman - Lanigan Advisor, Humboldt Co-op, Eva Elke / Al Shumaker, and Nutrien - Lanigan Potash (Platinum Sponsors). We also gratefully acknowledge the corporate sponsors through SMFA: Sask Lotteries, and SaskTel. A total of 41





scholarships totalling \$2160 and eleven trophies were awarded to festival performers. We are truly thankful to each of our many award donors for their support of musicians in our area!

The following committee members attended the 2020 SMFA AGM by Zoom this year: Nata Kline, Laura Melin, and Heidi Craig.

We look forward to what 2022 has to bring!

*Respectfully submitted by Laura Melin*



### **Last Mountain District Music Festival (Strasbourg) Cancelled due to COVID-19**

Last Mountain District did not hold their Music Festival in 2021. After working so hard to prepare for the 2020 Festival, only to have it cancelled just weeks before our dates, we really didn't want a repeat of that, so we decided it was best to cancel. There has not been any activity this year but with restrictions being lifted gradually we are optimistic for a much more positive year for 2022.



### **Lloydminster Kiwanis Music Festival April 19 to 28, 2021**

This year marked another first for music festivals in Lloydminster. According to information found at our local archives, 1931 was the first year of the Lloydminster Music Festival. It ran for 2 full days, had 49 entries (with a large number of church and community choirs) and the adjudicators were Madame Helen Davies Sherry and Mr. Geo. C. Palmer. Unfortunately, because of COVID-19, we were unable to have a celebration for our 90th year. But because of COVID-19, we did celebrate another first: 2021 was the first ever Kiwanis Lloydminster & District Virtual Festival. We had 9 full days of sessions. Our entries this year were 372, about 45% of what we have had in the past. We are so happy that we were able to offer our students this opportunity to perform. Our adjudicators were Viktoria Reisch-Dapp (piano); Garry Gable (vocal, musical theatre and speech arts); James McCarthy (instrumental). We ended the year with a formal (revised to accommodate distancing) awards presentation at the Vic Juba Community Theatre. We had the recipients arrive at designated staggered times to receive their awards on the stage. A professional photographer was there to capture this.

We were very pleased to have a large contingent recommended to Provincials:

**Jonathan Tait** - Senior Woodwind

**Chinha Youn** - Intermediate Piano Beethoven and 20th/21st Century/Canadian

**Janessa Andres** - Sask Excellence Piano 24 yrs & under, Intermediate Piano Bach, Intermediate Piano Beethoven (**\*1st place**), Intermediate Piano Chopin, Intermediate Piano Recital

**Jayden Cey** - Sask Excellence Piano 17 yrs & under, Intermediate Piano Haydn/Mozart, Junior Piano



**Rebecca Nowosad** - Sask Excellence Piano 17 yrs & under, Intermediate Piano

20th/21st Century/Canadian, Junior Piano

**Daniel Kvitka** - Elementary Piano

**Tess Andres** - Sask Excellence Piano 12 yrs & under

**Kayla Andres** - Sask Excellence Piano 12 yrs & under, Elementary Piano

**Jonathan Rollheiser** - Junior Speech Arts (\*runner-up)

**Valerie Rollheiser** - Elementary Speech Arts

**Hannah Hougham** - Elementary Speech Arts

**Layla Scott** - Sask Excellence Musical Theatre

17 yrs & under, Intermediate Musical Theatre

Ballad, Intermediate Musical Theatre Up-Tempo

**Julia Gordon** - Intermediate Vocal Folk Song/Ballad, Intermediate Musical Theatre Ballad

**Daniel Tepper** - Intermediate Vocal Folk Song/Ballad, Intermediate Musical Theatre Up-Tempo (\*1st place)

**Brooke Tluchak** - Junior Vocal (\*runner-up), Junior Musical Theatre

**Ruby Hickman** - Sask Excellence Musical Theatre 12 yrs & under (\*1st place), Elementary Musical Theatre

**Alizay Hickman** - Junior Musical Theatre

**Corie Groome** - Sask Excellence Musical Theatre 24 yrs & under (\*1st place), Senior Musical Theatre Ballad, Senior Musical Theatre Up-Tempo (\*runner-up)

Congratulations to all of you!!!

This year was quite a challenge and a huge learning experience for our committee. Without their support this could not have happened. The parents were asked to push their comfort boundaries too, with the recordings that they did, and we are so thankful for their dedication. The adjudicators stepped up to the new virtual format and did exceptional jobs. A huge thank you to our donors for supporting us and acknowledging the efforts of the entrants. We are looking forward to see what the 2022 festival season will bring us.

*Submitted by Kerry Taylor*



### **Mainline Music Festival (Wolseley)**

**April 19 to 22, 2021**

Mainline Music Festival met the challenges of having a COVID-Safe Festival, hosting both a virtual and live competition in April 2021. Our young musicians rose to the occasion, and we saw 11 provincial recommendations come from our small pool of entrants. We thank our committee members and volunteers, the communities surrounding Wolseley, and all of our participating families and music teachers for their support. We're looking forward to a hopeful return to normalcy for Indian Head's turn to host Festival in 2022.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Valentina May & Penny Miles*



### **Maple Creek & District Music Festival**

**April 12 to 15, 2021**

The MC&D Music Festival was a virtual festival this year – which meant the competitors performed in front of a camera instead of an in-person adjudicator and audience. We experienced a different level of stage fright with our competitors – a video camera is not as reassuring as a friendly smile from the adjudicator, so the onus was on the necessarily limited number of committee members in attendance to be reassuring and to make decisions about restarts. Our schedule was set to accommodate all the performers in a family



unit to reduce exposure, so family support was available to our competitors.

Scheduling this year's festival was the easy part, truth be told. Because we were working with such reduced numbers (13 competitors, 45 entries, 5 band classes), it simplified staffing and sanitizing. Each competitor performed all their selections in one sitting. Each song from each competitor was recorded, with easier to book recording time for family/household blocks. A clapperboard-style entry identification sheet was held up to the camera before each piece for positive identification when working with the video files as each selection had to be placed in its correct class for adjudication. Video files, forms, and adjudications were all uploaded to a Google Drive folder for transmission between the festival committee, the adjudicator, and the competitors and teachers. Although the uploading process was rather slow for files of that size, it was the best available option. The adjudicator recorded his adjudications for each piece, which were put on the Google Drive for return to the competitors.

It was an interesting new experience, but I'm certain that we'll be happy to return to in-person performance and competition. It was the experience of our adjudicator, and of local teachers who are also adjudicators, that virtual festivals are much more time consuming, and much more taxing, than we first expected. The extended time frame from performance to receipt of results was also a challenge but required to allow for circumstances beyond human control and to accommodate individual schedules.

The most significant challenge facing our festival is finding enough committee members to spread the load to a manageable extent. Although we have a healthy (albeit lean) number of members, nearly all of us have full-time, or nearly full-time occupations, which was not the case even a decade ago. We have a good body of on-site volunteers for the actual festival,

for which we are truly grateful. The state of the pandemic also had a dramatic effect on the ability of our members to attend to the work of festival, as 50% of our committee have pre-school aged children. We remain committed to our festival, but we are in need of more committee members.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Andrew Hecker, President*



## **Meadow Lake & District Music Festival**

**April 19 to 23, 2021**

Wow! What a year it has been for our festival! With the uncertainty of COVID-19 and its ever changing restrictions, our committee decided very early on that we were going to have a virtual festival.

We had a total of 39 registrants with 108 entries: 11 voice/musical theatre, 6 strings, and 91 piano. Our total entries were down as we had no band or choirs due to COVID restrictions, and the allowance of duets from members of the same household only.

The committee scheduled and recorded the performances by family groups before the date of our festival at one of our venues, and then sent off the videos to the adjudicator via Music Festival Suite. Our wonderful adjudicator, Heather Macnab, did block recorded adjudications that were shared with the entrants. Her adjudications were done during our scheduled festival days. There were a few bumps in the road, getting the technology to work consistently, but in the end, it turned out great!

At the end of the festival, we chose to have a Live Virtual Zoom Awards Celebration. We invited 11 of our 24 award winners to perform live from the comfort of their own home. To our





surprise all eleven said accepted our invitation! To have our celebration work smoothly, we had a 'Soundcheck Zoom' roughly an hour before our virtual doors opened. This was used to check that we could hear each performer and see them clearly.

Our event lasted approximately 35 minutes and went effortlessly. Our President, Tanya, welcomed our viewers, thanked our sponsors, and introduced our committee members. Each committee member took their turn introducing a few performers, and each performer then performed full screen using the 'Spotlight' feature in Zoom – which a committee member oversaw. This allowed us to make sure that each performance was seen by all in attendance. After the performances we announced our award winners. Many of our recipients, although they had not been asked to perform live, still watched the Awards Celebration. We had thirty-three people attend, including performers, parents, grandparents, and teachers. The committee was ecstatic to find out that three of our entrants had received provincial recommendations!

It was a very tough year for our committee and our entrants. The feedback we received from all parties involved was that we were happy and grateful to have a 2021 festival. Although every person would have preferred a regular in-person festival, with doughnuts and coffee, we were happy that everything went better than we could have imagined – and that we could offer a festival to our community.

*Submitted by Krista Brost*



## **Melfort Music Festival**

**March 7 to 11, 16 and 19, 2021**

This year, Melfort held their 93rd annual Melfort Music Festival! We held an in-person virtual festival and had a total of 212 entries with participants in 5 disciplines. Our numbers in these five disciplines were down by about 30% from 2020 due to COVID-19 and all the constraints that had to be in place. Of this 30% decrease in numbers, over half was due to restrictions on full bands, choirs, ensembles, trios and duets.

We welcomed 3 wonderful adjudicators in 2021: Olivia Adams (piano), Anna Marie Bekolay (strings), and Ron de Jager (vocal, musical theatre, speech arts). Since our Melfort high school was on a quarter semester this year, the band program wasn't able to run for the full year. With some students finishing band in mid November, and other students not starting until mid April, the band instructor wasn't able to get enough interest for us to warrant having a band portion to festival this year.

As a result of the generosity of businesses, sponsors, and the SOA who support our festival scholarships, we were able to give out 56 Awards and Scholarships which totalled \$3540! We are thankful to be able to bring recognition to these 2021 Award Winners through our Melfort Music Festival website and Facebook page.

The overall winners for 2021 were:

Piano – Danielle Itakura  
Strings – Keely Hadwen  
Vocal – Megan McAvoy

The Sefton Memorial Competition, worth \$300, was won by piano performer, Heidi Klettberg.

Five performers were recommended by the adjudicators to advance to Provincial Competition: Jennifer Summach (Elementary Strings), James Carrier (Junior Piano), Amy



Szakacs (Junior Piano), Heidi Klettberg (Intermediate Concert Group Vocal and Intermediate Musical Theatre Ballad), and Megan McAvoy (Senior Musical Theatre Up-Tempo).

Four performers were recommended to Provincial Competition in the Saskatchewan Excellence Classes: Heidi Klettberg (Saskatchewan Excellence Class, Piano, 17 & under), Natalia Stephaniuk (Saskatchewan Excellence Class, Strings, 12 & under), Keely Hadwen (Saskatchewan Excellence Class, Strings, 17 & under), Samuel Petersen (Saskatchewan Excellence Class, Strings, 17 & under).

Our committee members include Dawne Glanville, Karen Hadwen, Maren Hantke, Rachelle Heavin, Nadine Hoffman, Matt Johnson, Pam Kellington, Rebecca Miller, Janice Mindiuk, Victoria Riley, and Tena Vanden Boomen.

Through the options that SMFA offered this year, Melfort chose to host an in-person festival. While we deem our 2021 festival to have been a success, it proved to be more difficult and a lot more work for everyone involved. Singers distracted by having their mask slip down during their performance. Students needing to hand sanitize just before going up to perform piano, meant not having quite the same feeling of their fingers on the keys. Committee members needing to wipe down the piano after every performer. Parents sanitizing their own chairs before exiting the venue. Teachers having to send a photo of music for committee to upload into a Google Drive document for the adjudicators. Teachers having to search for extra music books and get them to a Committee member so they could be "quarantined" well in advance of the adjudicator handling them. Adjudicators having to source their own music. No secretaries to help adjudicators this year. More work trying to minimize session numbers to comply with the SHA maximum of 30.

Finding ways for performers to receive their adjudication papers, certificates, and awards as we were not allowed to directly hand them out until they had been "quarantined".

On the bright side, Students were quite eager to perform in public again! Parents were very happy that their children were actually able to perform in person after having a year with so many activities taken away from their kids. Parents were also thankful to be able to record their child's performance and share with family not able to attend. Teachers were relieved that our festival wasn't fully virtual, as they didn't want the hassle of recording each student. Our adjudicators were excited to be able to adjudicate face to face (or shall I say "mask to mask") after a year of everything being on-line! The Program Co-ordinator at the Kerry Vickar Centre was thrilled to have participants using their venue again and she worked hard with our committee to help ensure this 2021 festival be a success during COVID times. All of this was extremely encouraging to our festival committee, and made all the extra work this year seem to be worthwhile.



## Moose Jaw Music Festival

April 17 to 22, 2021

The 2021 Moose Jaw Music Festival was presented in a hybrid format, with vocal and musical theatre held live, and band and piano presented as a recorded festival. In total we had 299 registrations (19 band ensembles, 8 band solos, 3 strings, 45 piano, 120 vocal, 96 musical theatre and 8 excellence), which is about 75% of the registrations we receive in a normal year; however, in this year we consider that rate of registration to be very encouraging.

We appreciate the flexibility and positive approach of our adjudicators – Dale Malden, Laurel Teichrob and Spencer McKnight – to



work with us through changing circumstances. Though there were concerns about a live festival voiced by a few parents and teachers leading up to the festival, we also received considerable positive feedback about the live performances once the event had concluded. In particular, families greatly enjoyed the livestream capability and the elimination of the need to provide multiple copies of sheet music.

Moose Jaw sent 15 representatives to Provincials this year, resulting in eight wins and two runners-up, the best showing for our festival at Provincials in recent memory. All in all, 2021 was a challenging but rewarding festival year.



### **Moosomin & District Music Festival March 15 to 22, 2021**

This certainly has been a music festival like no other year in the history of the Moosomin & District Music Festival (our 55<sup>th</sup> consecutive festival). It became apparent during the SMFA Annual Fall Virtual Conference that we most likely would not be able to host an in-person festival. Attending the Conference were Rosanne Kelly, Miriam Everett, Sandra Poole and Alice Abrahamson. Discussions on what form our festival would take continued at our January meeting and the decision was made to host a virtual festival.

The dates for our festival were March 15 & 16 for piano and strings with Cherith Alexander as our adjudicator. March 22 was vocal, speech arts and musical theatre with Adria McCullough. Both adjudicators did an excellent job of adjudicating the students. The videos created by the adjudicators for the students offered helpful advice to make their

performances even better. We hope they are able to visit our festival in person some year.

Entries for the festival were down substantially from previous years: piano-77, strings-4, vocal-17, speech arts-14 and musical theatre-25. Entrants totaled 39. We had two students recommended to Provincials: Megan Kelly in Sr. Musical Theatre and the Excellence Class and Shaughny Fingas in Jr. Musical Theatre. Jaime Finlay, Sherrie Meredith and Sandra Poole compiled an Adjudicators Showcase on YouTube for students, parents and teachers to enjoy. The feeling of attending the festival was definitely caught in this video. Thank you so much ladies for leaving us with these amazing memories.

Thank you to our many sponsors both provincially and locally. Without this support students would not have the opportunity to receive extra advice and be encouraged by professionals. The names of all sponsors were printed in the program and in the local Moosomin World-Spectator for the two weeks of festival.

Thanks to teachers and parents that put the extra effort into preparing for our virtual festival this year. Thanks to our executive members who worked so hard to see that the festival happened this year.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Alice Abrahamson, Corresponding Secretary*



### **Nipawin Music Festival March 22 to 27, 2021**

This year Nipawin Music Festival celebrated its 80<sup>th</sup> year. The festival ran from March 22 to 27. Our participants came from Nipawin, Tisdale &



Carrot River with 73 participants and 253 entries.

We had one day of strings, adjudicated by Scott McKnight. We had a full day of vocal and musical theatre with Melissa Wood adjudicating. There were no speech arts entries this year, due to schools being unable to enter. We had one afternoon of guitar with adjudicator, Kevin Ackerman. We ended the festival with 3 days of piano, adjudicated by Olivia Adams. We appreciated the efforts and input from the adjudicators. Each adjudicator was encouraging to the participants, giving them instruction and ideas of how to improve and encouraged them to keep on going and pursuing their musical interests.

We tried to keep the festival as normal as possible while following the guidelines put in place by SHA. A few things that were done differently this year were: no money taken at the door, no in-venue audience, sanitizing of hands and the piano, participants and parents signing in, many updates on the NMFA Facebook page and fewer performances for the final concert.

We finished off the 2021 season with a final concert on Wednesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, with 10 performances. We were unable to have a live audience, except the parents of those performing, but the concert and awards were livestreamed for others to watch. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, many awards, scholarships and trophies were handed out.

Once again, we could not have had a successful year without the hard work of teachers, students and parents, as well as the support of the community through hosting, volunteering, sponsoring the various sessions and watching online. We look forward to the upcoming 2022 year and continue to promote excellence in music.



### **Outlook & District Music Festival Cancelled due to COVID-19**

NO REPORT SUBMITTED



### **Parkland Music Festival (Preeceville) Cancelled due to COVID-19**

Our district decided not to hold a festival in 2021 due to the COVID pandemic. Extensive phone and email discussions took place in August and September, and then at the request of SMFA we met Sept 17, 2020 to repeat these discussions and check for any new ideas, options, and opinions. The safety risks of mixing children from different schools and volunteers who are mostly seniors was a risk we were not willing to take. The schools, who are a large component of our festival would not be taking part. After a canvas of most of the music teachers who might have students participating, it was determined that approximately 20 students might participate in a virtual festival and there were only two persons with the ability to manage all the technical needs that would be required of a virtual festival so that option was not used either. We have met for our AGM Sept. 8, 2021 and are making initial plans for a festival in the spring of 2022 but are cognisant that this may need to be cancelled due to ongoing COVID spread.



### **Potashville Music Festival (Esterhazy) Cancelled due to COVID-19**

NO REPORT SUBMITTED





### **Prairie Sunset Music Festival (Macklin)**

**April 12 to 14, 2021**

Festival was held from April 12-14, 2021 in a virtual format. Participants uploaded their videos to a personal YouTube channel and shared the link for that channel with the committee. We then uploaded all the videos to our Festival YouTube channel and created playlists for each session. These were shared with the adjudicators. A Google Drive was created to give adjudicators access to marking sheets, music, scholarship information and other necessary documents. All adjudicators met with participants via Zoom for adjudication - this was very effective. After scholarship recommendations were made we had a Zoom scholarship presentation and from there created a Festival of Stars playlist which was made available for viewing on April 16.

Our adjudicators were Peggy L'Hoir (piano), Brett Mitchell (speech/vocal) and Mark Ward (instrumental). We had a total of 101 entries from thirty-nine participants.

Willem Hoogstad and Steyn Hoogstad were recommended to Provincials in the Excellence Classes for Speech. Taryn Stempfle was recommended in Junior Musical Theatre but did not qualify as she is an Alberta resident and has not performed in Saskatchewan festivals prior to this year.

No committee members attended the SMFA conference.

Due to the 2020 festival being cancelled, we did not need to fundraise for 2021. Most donations were carried forward to this year. Our expenses were very minimal this year due to the virtual format. Final numbers are not in yet but we anticipate a significant profit. We are grateful

for our local sponsors as well as the major sponsors of SMFA.

At date of writing this report, plans for 2022 are uncertain. Prairie Sunset Music Festival is a 3-point rotation with Macklin, Kerrobert and Luseland. Kerrobert and Luseland are unable to find committees so are not in a position to host in the near future.

*Submitted by Jackie Golden, President*



### **Prince Albert Music Festival March 2, 8-9 & 16, 2021**

The 2021 Prince Albert Festival this year was run over a total of four days. Vocal/choral took place on March 2, with Chris Kelly adjudicating. Piano ran March 8-9 with Sarah Konecsni adjudicating. Instrumentals/Band occurred on March 16 with Jim McCarthy adjudicating.

As was the case everywhere, this festival was somewhat challenging because of the COVID-19 environment. Our numbers were small (as anticipated), but the committee felt strongly that it was important, in the absence of other opportunities to participate in musical endeavours, to provide an opportunity for our young musicians to perform the music they have worked hard on. Our choice was to go with a completely virtual approach. In the case of instrumentals/band and choral/vocal, this meant that written adjudications were provided for participants. For piano, Ms. Konecsni provided an extensive video adjudication for each of the entries.

Our overall entries were very small, with 13 band/instrumentals (including one virtual band), 26 entries in the vocal category (including 1 virtual choir), and 53 piano entries. We also had some innovative entries with single musicians performing multiple parts to create their own ensemble.



The district winners from Prince Albert this year were:

- Spencer Dmytruk (piano)
- Maria Janser(piano)
- Sullivan Smith Windsor (piano)
- Monica Steinke (vocal)
- Ava Clifford (vocal)
- Tori Korczak (vocal)

Along with a small festival, expenses were small this year (due to a decrease in venue costs, adjudicator travel, and a limited numbers of days). This left us with some additional funds available that the committee is hoping to use to create events and opportunities to support our young musicians outside of just the actual festival. This is an area of endeavour the group is excited to pursue.

As always, our festival is extremely fortunate to have very generous donors for scholarships. This year was no exception. Due to the lack of ensembles across disciplines, there were some scholarships not awarded this year. However, the festival was able to award a number of scholarships to our hard working musicians! We are also fortunate to have an ongoing sponsor in the Prince Albert Kiwanis Club. Although they are no longer active, there have been funds set aside for the music festival into the future. We have also benefitted from generous funding provided by the Jim Pattison Group. However, 2022 is the last year we will receive money from this source. We appreciate enormously the financial support we receive in the community of Prince Albert, whether from individuals or from organizations.

The committee members attending the 2020 SMFA conference were Brock Skomorowski and Colleen Bowen (partial attendance). Although these meetings are normally great opportunities to meet and network with other festival people from across the province, holding this meeting virtually has made it much more accessible to members who may not be able to travel.

Although 2021 was challenging, we are thankful that we were able to provide opportunities for our young people to perform. We look forward to Festival 2022 and hope that, with it, we will see a return to in-person events, ensembles, and all the joy that comes from sharing music in the community.



### **Qu'Appelle Valley Festival (Fort Qu'Appelle) Cancelled due to COVID-19**

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Qu'Appelle Valley Music Festival Association did not host a festival in 2021. We have a very small committee, so we will be searching for more members. We are currently pursuing a partnership with a local arts centre as a possibility for future festivals.

*Submitted by Jill Andrychuk, Chairperson*



### **Quill Plains Music Festival (Kelvington) April 19 to 21, 2021**

We chose to go with a virtual format, with recorded performances.

Entries received: 202  
vocal: 15, musical theatre: 3, speech arts: 13,  
piano: 136, guitar: 33, woodwind: 2

Fifty-nine scholarships were awarded. (Five were passed on to the Foam Lake branch for 2022 as there were no camps available this year.)

Virtual Dropbox format was used for uploading of recordings and marking sheets. We had one day of vocal and speech arts, two piano and one strings. Our adjudicators were Gail Fry, Kathy Gable and Trevor Cooper. Each day was



followed by two to three live Zoom adjudications with students in organized classes.

There were definitely extra hours required to address technology concerns and issues from participants and teachers plus adjudicators to assist in this virtual format. Uploading of videos took time, as well as getting them into Dropbox under the proper classes. We shared the Dropbox links to all participants and the public for viewing the week of the festival. This was very beneficial for family members that can't even normally come to a live festival. This increased the visibility of our festival in the eyes of the public.

The performances were shared with the adjudicators prior to festival week, giving them more time to adjudicate.

At the conclusion of the festival, some marking sheets were e-mailed and others were mailed, along with all certificates, awards and cheques. We chose to give out medals instead of trophies to fit with the virtual format. A medal was also given to all new participants.

The Final Concert was done with a blend of pre-recorded performance and scholarship presentations. This was also shared with the public. Four newspaper articles were created to showcase our festival, first time participants and the scholarship winners.



### **Redvers & District Music Festival Cancelled due to COVID-19**

Our music festival was cancelled at the AGM in September, 2020. There was no revenue and no expenses, since everything was completely cancelled. No fundraising was done for the

2020-2021 year.

We look forward to 2022.

*Submitted by Delynn Benning, President*



### **Regina Music Festival April 19 to May 1, 2021**

Because of COVID-19, the Regina Music Festival 2021 was 100% virtual. We did start by planning to hold COVID safe classes in churches across the city, but it quickly became obvious that we did not have enough volunteers to manage this. Each church seemed to have different protocols and the SHA changed their rules as case numbers grew. In the end, we abandoned the idea of a live festival but knew that we had to provide some festival experience for our young musicians.

We were very fortunate to connect with the Ontario Music Festival Association who had already held virtual festivals in 2020. Their insights and experience were invaluable for us as we ventured into the unknown. Music Festival Suite stepped up and added features to their software to support a virtual festival. Our Production Manager, Robin Tinani, was the driving force learning the underlying technologies and writing out clear instructions for teachers and students about recording and submitting their performances. She worked with Saskatoon and Lloydminster sharing her ideas and experience.

Orientation with adjudicators was done through Google Meet. Notification of 1st & 2nd places as well as distribution of certificates was done by a Board member volunteer, as was the notification of scholarship winners. Materials for the adjudicators was electronic and in their own folders. Scholarship meetings were done online. Scholarship sponsors and donors were





offered an opportunity to “sign in” and view any and all classes that they wished.

We were pleasantly surprised that we had just over 720 registrations. Although this was lower than in previous years, it was more than our original guesstimates. We elected to not offer the choral discipline because of COVID, but all other disciplines were offered. We did allow family members to enter duets and small ensemble classes. We wish to thank the teachers and students for their patience and persistence in learning how to record and submit their entries.

We had the following adjudicators:

|                  |                                |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Grant Wenaus     | Musical Theatre                |
| Nancy Nowosad    | Junior Piano                   |
| Oleg Pokhanovski | Strings                        |
| Sarah Hall       | Junior Voice                   |
| Alan Crane       | Senior Piano                   |
| Lauren Eselson   | Brass/Woodwinds/<br>Percussion |
| Joanne Hounsell  | Senior/Intermediate<br>Voice   |

Their efforts to work in our virtual festival world were outstanding and must be commended. Suddenly they were without a class secretary. They had to provide the music, schedule/time keep their work, write out their adjudication forms and submit them and then video their remarks for each class and submit them as well. All of this required a great deal of organization and increased their workload significantly. On top of all that, they had to learn the technology required to do their job.

Funds that had been raised for Festival 2020 were rolled over with the permission of the donors. Additionally, many Festival 2020 registrants allowed us to keep their registration fees as a donation. This meant that we were not faced with extraordinary financial pressures to produce Festival 2021.

Festival 2021 was an unusual experience for all of us: no milling about between classes, visiting with friends and chatting about life in general. A virtual festival was truly unique and lacked the spirit and ambience of a live festival. Nonetheless, students, teachers and donors were thankful that a festival was produced in 2021.

*Submitted by Susan J. Gorges, President*



### **Rosetown & District Music Festival March 8 to 11, 2021**

Our committee decided to hold a recorded festival for 2021, due to the restrictions and concerns around the COVID-19 virus. We had family time slots at the Rosetown United Church on March 8 & 9, 2021. Students were able to perform their selections on our grand piano and we hired a committee member to videotape. The performances were uploaded on YouTube for the parents and on Google drive to send to the adjudicator.

Katherine Dowling adjudicated all the disciplines of our festival. She listened to the performances from her home and then gave 7 separate Zoom sessions on March 19. Registration stats for this past season are as follows: (57 total entrants in the following disciplines):

Speech arts – 2  
Vocal – 4  
Musical theatre – 2  
Guitar – 2  
Piano – 144

The following individuals were recommended as District Winners to Provincial Finals:

**Kaitlyn Epp** – Intermediate Beethoven Piano, Intermediate Recital Piano, Intermediate 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> Century/Canadian Piano



**Erika Mourre** – Intermediate 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>  
Century/Canadian Piano  
**Amaris Manning** – Intermediate 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>  
Century/Canadian Piano  
**Levin Wiebe** – Junior Piano  
**Temidire Igbekoyi** – Elementary Piano  
**Malcolm Ledding** – Elementary Piano  
**Cecilia Ledding** – Junior Voice  
**Kenzie Cowan** – Excellence Class, Piano, 12 &  
under

Anniversary Trophy Winners (most promising performers) were:

**Kaitlyn Epp** – Piano  
**Cecilia Ledding** – Voice  
**Madison Rawson** – Speech Arts  
Instrumental – not awarded

We did not do any fundraising this year, nor did we hold our annual carol festival to generate funds. There was no final concert this year, however, the awards committee posted an awards ceremony video on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/t2eqt1zfPAo>

*Submitted by Felice Mourre, President*



### **Sand Hills Music Festival (Leader)** **May 25**

The committee of the Sand Hills Music Festival decided in late 2020 that we wanted to have an in-person festival, as we felt that in-person was really the best experience for our participants. We then booked it for late April and crossed our fingers. We had quite a bit of interest although our local school - Leader Composite School - who usually sends every classroom from Grade 1 to Grade 6 to perform choral speech, could not send anyone because of the social distancing mandate and the fact that it was considered a "field trip" and those were not allowed either.

As we got closer to our date in April, things were not looking promising in our community, as there were quite a number of positive COVID cases from various social gatherings over the Easter holidays. The day before the festival we decided to postpone it, as the entire school was moved to remote learning, which meant that inevitably the kids would not be able to come and perform. We did not want to cancel as we still felt that an in-person festival was a possibility at a later date. Our adjudicator agreed, and also wanted to do an in-person festival when we felt it was safe to do so. So we waited...

After a month of waiting we were able to have our in-person festival on May 25! It was a one day festival with speech arts performances in the morning and piano performances in the afternoon. We followed all COVID protocols with masks, sanitizer, social distancing, and screens. We had a "photo booth" set up so that we could get everyone's picture before they performed. We then used those pictures to make a social media slide show of the kids that performed so that we could have a bit of coverage in the area and promote music festival too! The kids were thrilled to be a part of it, and it almost felt like the old days...(sigh)

We did not get to have a concert, but the next week the kids were presented with their scholarship money and trophies at the school.

*Submitted by Deanna Prosser*





## 80 Years of Festivals

### **Sask Valley Music Festival (Rosthern) March 22 to 24, 2021**

**How could we possibly host a festival in 2021 after cancelling last minute in 2020?** That question began to find some answers when some of our committee attended Zoom meetings with SMFA staff and board last fall, exploring possibilities and nudging us forward. Our gratitude to our provincial people for being creative and flexible as government guidelines changed from week to week.

From there, some of our more creative and technically skilled members caught the vision and it was decided that the only way possible for us was entirely virtual.

This year involved much more work for some and much less for others of us. Since we were set up financially from unused scholarship money and donations from 2020, we did not have to canvass for funds. One member took on the YouTube duties which included providing packages describing how to record and submit entries, downloading entries and uploading them in classes to our channel for audience and adjudicators. Another manned our Solaris site for entries and provided the adjudicators with lists of entries, classes and awards. These tasks were above and beyond her usual duties, involving a great deal of formatting to achieve. She also received adjudication sheets from the adjudicators and sent them out to both teachers and participants. We could not have done this without the dedication and skill of Sanne Gillingham and Corinne Scheetz.

We had 160 entries, about 30% fewer than usual, in piano, voice, musical theatre and speech arts. Our very capable adjudicators, Dianne Gryba and Casey Peden, were very cooperative and

adaptable. I heard reports that their comments were both encouraging and helpful. They were each impressed with the high level of competition. There were 18 recommendations to Provincials in 16 classes. I believe all 18 took part. Special congratulations to Connor Elias, Emma Gillingham and Mia Gillingham who won awards. We also had 6 recommendations in Excellence classes.

We ended our virtual festival with a pre-recorded awards concert where we announced the winners of our scholarships and trophies, preceded by a showcase of some fine submitted performances.

We discovered benefits to the virtual process. It was visible to family and friends near and far for about 10 days. It was a benefit to anxious students who have difficulties performing in person. Everyone learned how hard it is to make recordings! Students could hear others, in fact one could easily watch the entire festival rapidly. Miraculously, there were no major technical glitches. We were grateful for the interest of our local newspaper the Clark's Crossing Gazette and reporter Terry Pugh. They published stories both before and after our festival including a screenshot of our awards ceremony. One other big benefit was not having to worry about weather, in particular March storms, which in the past have caused concern for our adjudicators' safe travel and disrupted our program.

A couple of downsides to our virtual festival: Adjudicators who had direct communication with only our excellence entries, expressed that in person they get to know the students, can demonstrate skills and methods, and worry less about how their comments will be received or come across. We all missed the socializing that festival brings with adjudicators and other committee members and volunteers. We are sad to lose 3 committee members this year and are looking to replace them. One of our favourite venues, Zoar Mennonite Church in Waldheim,



has closed its doors and been sold to the town. This will leave a hole in our Rosthern/Waldheim rotation.

It remains to be seen how this 2021 experience impacts our future festivals.

*Submitted by Linda Swab, President*



## **Saskatoon Music Festival**

**May 3 to 8, 2021**

This year the Saskatoon Music Festival held an entirely virtual festival, via Music Festival Suite, from May 3 to 8. We had 8 adjudicators for 5 disciplines. Adria McCulloch and Robyn Driedger-Klassen adjudicated voice (254 entries); Audrey Andrist, Claire Siebold and Corinne Groff were our piano adjudicators (456); Christine Bootland adjudicated strings & guitar (83 and 14); Kim Mattice-Wanat adjudicated musical theatre (146); and Wendy Zander McCallum adjudicated brass, woodwinds & percussion (29, 36 and 6).

361 students entered in the Saskatoon Musical Festival this year for a total of 1,024 entries. This is a decrease from the previous year, as expected, but not as drastic a decrease as could have been warranted by this pandemic year.

We were very pleased to see no decrease in our scholarship funds. This is helped by the fact that by the time we cancelled our festival last year, many donors had already sent in their funds for 2020 and elected to carry them over for this year. In total, we awarded \$21,200 to deserving students. We're grateful, as always, for our partnerships with the Kinsmen Club of Saskatoon and the Kiwanis Club of Saskatoon, who make up about one quarter of the total scholarship funds we're able to distribute.

Because the festival took place via pre-recorded videos this year, there wasn't a strict schedule

during the week. However, we did hold to tradition by having a final program, showcasing our Kinsmen winners and runners-up. A video was put together and livestreamed on the evening of Saturday, May 8 via YouTube Premiere. After a week of a "ships in the night" sort of festival, having an event that people could tune in to all at the same time felt like a breath of fresh air. We're looking forward to holding a live festival next year, but may consider continuing to livestream our final program as well so that more people can enjoy the music.

In the midst of a frustrating year, we felt nothing but encouragement and support from the music community in Saskatoon. Teachers, parents, students, volunteers, sponsors, donors – all approached these new challenging circumstances with grace and a great attitude. There's always a bit of trepidation when trying something new like this, and it's beyond comforting to know that our community will rally behind us if we ever need to redirect our efforts this way again.

*Respectfully submitted by Mariel Unger,  
Coordinator*



## **Shaunavon & District Music Festival Cancelled due to COVID-19**

Shaunavon & District Music Festival committee met in September for our AGM and made the decision to hold off on hosting a 2021 festival. There were too many uncertainties with COVID-19, as well as the lack of school groups and choirs able to enter. We have a lower number of teachers in the area, with one who retired in the past year and two on maternity leave. We have chosen to regroup and meet again in September of 2021 for our AGM and move forward.





As a committee we have chosen to award our three graduating students a one-time bursary, as they were not able to participate two years in a row. We wanted to acknowledge all the years they have spent in lessons, practicing, and participating. Their teachers have been asked to supply us with a small write up, and our local newspaper will do a writeup including these highlights and a photo.

Heading into the AGM, we will be looking at filling some positions on our board; some of us are stepping down and hoping for new faces that are passionate about the things that music and festival entail. This is my final report as President. I have thoroughly enjoyed every aspect and learned way more than I ever thought possible from this volunteer position. Thank you to each and everyone of you who has walked with me on this journey.

*Submitted by Nancy Phillips, President*

### **Spiritwood & District Music Festival Cancelled due to COVID-19**

Due to many of the COVID-19 regulations and the fact that we are a small group, we didn't have a festival in 2021. We were unable to offer the different virtual options for a festival. We are hoping to have an in-person festival for 2022 if things work out. Music student enrolment was severely down from previous years but we hope that it grows for 2022. Most of our teachers prefer an in-person festival, since the wonderful adjudicators we have had in the past like to show examples of "improvement suggestions" and like to interact with the students. After the festival, our teachers have mentioned that the students are excited and encouraged with that one-on-one time and we feel that doesn't happen with the virtual festivals. Thank you to our music teachers and volunteers for all their hard work.

*Submitted by Heather Gatzke*

### **Swift Current Music Festival No Festival in 2021**

### **Twin Rivers Music Festival (Dalmeny)**

#### **Cancelled due to COVID-19**

Hello from TRMFA! Our year took another unexpected detour as we were unable to hold a virtual festival yet again. The difficulty was related directly to the impact COVID-19 has had on our communities. As disappointing as this has been, we did find another way to celebrate our young musicians and provide incentive for them. We set up a Virtual Showcase on our Facebook page inviting students in our district to record and post their recordings on a specific day during a particular week in March. Each day featured a different age group, and at the end of each day, a random draw was made for a substantial financial reward or prize. We ended up with over 100 participants and gave around \$500 in prizes. This event was very well received.

We held several Zoom meetings as a committee through the year and had one in-person meeting. Our committee consists of 12 members from four different towns/cities in our district.

We very much look forward to planning and implementing a live festival in 2022!

*Doreen Benson, President*



## Unity Music Festival

April 20 to 21, 2021

Ah yes, 2021 – a year to definitely remember for Unity Music Festival! We began the festival season as we always do with our Carol Festival in December which we did as an online Facebook event. That meant that our usual “one Sunday afternoon” festival carried the presentations (which numbered 55!) on into the Christmas holidays, after we received enthusiastic requests to do so. We were also able to present the awarding of our 2020 Volunteer of the Year Award to Nadine Keller who is not only a committee member but a teacher at one of the Unity elementary schools and has provided many well-performed school entries in both singing and band. She provided us with a beautiful vocal response!

With the realization that COVID wasn’t going away anytime soon, we met in November 2020 and decided that we would send out a survey to our students to see if they wanted to have a recorded festival. Over 90% voted to have a recorded festival, so as of November 29, 2020 we were committed to have a festival – not really knowing what that would look like. But with a few more committee meetings (thank goodness for ZOOM) and lots of work behind the scenes, we forged ahead.

The festival was slated for April 19-23. We had 96 piano entries, 23 musical theatre entries, 7 speech arts entries, 1 percussion and 2 guitar entries. Piano was down 38% and musical theatre down 57%. (We also need to take into consideration that one of our voice teachers retired prior to the beginning of the year). Our adjudicators were Claire Seibold (junior and senior piano, guitar and percussion) and Allison Arends (vocal, musical theatre, speech arts and school music).

We recorded the performances from April 11-14. We just used one venue – the Baptist Church which we normally use for piano. We only

allowed one parent and each entrant could only come 10 minutes before their performance. Each was asked to answer the designated COVID questions and then all the important places in the church were sanitized after each family had finished. Singers did not have to wear masks but we purchased some plexi-glass for a barrier.

The sound man from the Baptist Church was willing to work with one of our committee members who is very knowledgeable with computers. At the end of the day, the recordings were put on an external hard drive and then our committee member took that home and uploaded the videos to Google Drive for the adjudicators to access. Each adjudicator had been provided with a program.

The vocal adjudicator used the Music Festival Suite Program in which she entered her adjudication and sent it to us. As the other adjudicator lived close by, she was given the actual sheets. Each adjudicator prepared one video for the students at the end of their adjudication.

The Final Performances were uploaded to YouTube, with the link on our Festival Facebook page so they they could be viewed by the public.

There were challenges, especially for those students who had to do several numbers one right after the other, but one of those students went on to Provincials (along with seven others) and to win Runner-up in the Regan Grant Memorial Intermediate Musical Theatre Ballad Scholarship Competition

We are so thankful for the resilience of our teachers and students; the committee members with lots of computer savvy, willing to spend long hours making use of it. We are very thankful that we went ahead with the festival – to have it cancelled two years in a row would not have been fair to the students, especially those graduating from high school.



Footnote of interest: For our Carol Festival we had 622 people from at least 8 countries who viewed our posts 11,039 times.

Final Performances: (As of June 21 – 378 people from at least 5 countries viewed our post 5148 times)

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### **Vanguard & District Music Festival**

**Cancelled due to COVID-19**

NO REPORT SUBMITTED

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### **Watrous & District Music Festival**

**Cancelled due to COVID-19**

Another COVID season overshadowing the world and the Watrous & District Music Festival...Because no voice or band teachers were teaching this past year, and with few piano students, the committee offered a different option for the 2021 season. During April 2-29, 2021, 42 performances were hosted in a video entitled Celebration of Music. This was shared on the Watrous Music Festival Facebook Page for family and friends to view and enjoy.

Again, because of COVID restrictions, we were unable to host our annual Pancake Breakfast during the FunRun Car Show normally held the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in July.

The SMFA AGM was attended by Kelly Stein on the Zoom meeting in the fall.

We look forward to everything being back on schedule in the next season. The committee very much appreciates the continued support of teachers, students, parents, patrons and surrounding communities as we waded through this unprecedented time.

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### **Weyburn Rotary Music Festival**

**March 8 to 16, 2021**

This was Weyburn's 63<sup>rd</sup> year for Music Festival. Because of COVID, we had to make some adjustments to the way festival was held. The piano portion was March 8-10, and our adjudicator was Janis Smith. We were able to have a live piano festival, however, we had to limit our audience numbers. For vocal, we had a virtual festival. We had the students record their performances and submit them to us; then adjudicator, Louella Friesen, listened to them. We only had a few band entries, so they were grouped with the vocal entries, and strings were included with the piano discipline.

Piano entries totalled 141. Vocal entries came to 55, band had 7 entries and strings had 6, which makes a grand total of 209 entries.

Weyburn is very fortunate to have the Rotary Club as a sponsor of our festival.

Bridget Alexander was recommended to Provincial Finals in strings and piano. Skylar White and Ross Van De Weyer were recommended in piano. In voice and musical theatre, Tori Mahnke, Ross Van De Weyer, Keira Mahnke, Lindsay Van De Weyer and Lila were recommended to Provincials.

*Submitted by Brenda Milatz*



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## Yorkton Music Festival

March 15 to 19, 2021

The 2021 Yorkton Music Festival was held from March 1-4, then adjudicated virtually March 15-20. We had a total of 188 entries perform in choral, vocal, musical theatre, speech arts, band, strings and piano sessions. Our festival committee recorded all of the piano performances, and some of the vocal, strings, and band performances, at Heritage Baptist Church. The rest of the performers submitted videos that were recorded at home.

Thanks to our adjudicators, Melissa Morgan for band and vocal, and Audrey Falk Janzen for piano. Both adjudicated virtually and did a wonderful job, offering many positive and constructive comments to our performers.

We once again enjoyed the generosity of our patrons and scholarship donors, who are essential to the success of the Yorkton Music Festival and our extensive awards program. Their donations ensure that the festival tradition will enrich the lives of performers and audiences today and in the future.

Congratulations to the competitors recommended to Provincial Finals: Angela Fetsch, Nora Kesler, Evia McDowell, Keisha Quinto, Susanna Reed, Erika Riffel, Juliana Ubongen and Charis Winslow.

We held a virtual Yorkton Music Festival Hi-Lights concert this year. We were delighted to share this concert with performers, parents, grandparents, teachers, and friends. We had much positive feedback following the concert. Scholarship and award winners were announced during the concert and winners received their awards via mail.

I have appreciated the time and talents of the Yorkton Music Festival committee. This year

was like none other and many of our group were called upon to do duties that were not in their wheelhouse at the beginning of the year. We all learned together and managed to do things that none of us thought initially possible. We made two separate schedules, one for the performers, one for the adjudicators. We recorded the lions share of the performances, posted them to an unlisted YouTube channel and made them available on Music Festival Suite. We were not allowed audience members and had to disinfect after every performer. Many, many performers and parents appreciated our efforts and were thankful that, in a year when many activities were shut down, they were still able to perform their pieces and receive feedback on them.

*Submitted by Jean Fetsch, President*





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## District Festival Statistics

| Member Festival   | 2021<br>Entries | 2020<br>Entries | 2019<br>Entries | 2018<br>Entries | 2017<br>Entries | Solo<br>Fees | Num.<br>Adj. | Total<br>Awards  | Vol.<br>#s | Vol.<br>Hours | Audience     |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|------------|---------------|--------------|
| Assiniboia        | 0               | 0               | 119             | 111             | 78              | 0            | 0            | 0                | 5          | 10            | 0            |
| Battlefords       | 209             | 0               | 383             | 363             | 347             | 15           | 3            | 8,950            | 37         | 400           | 650          |
| Biggar            | 170             | 228             | 196             | 180             | 120             | 15           | 3            | 2,575            | 20         | 980           | 810          |
| Borderland        | 67              | 0               | 118             | 52              | 129             | 15           | 2            | 1,500            | 37         | 310           | 200          |
| Carnduff          | 98              | 273             | 315             | 313             | 328             | 0            | 0            | 1,375            | 11         | 160           | 2500         |
| Central Sask      | 0               | 0               | 138             | 120             | 140             | 0            | 0            | 0                | 7          | 35            | 0            |
| Estevan           | 251             | 0               | 588             | 585             | 633             | 20           | 3            | 7,325            | 30         | 350           | 250          |
| Eston             | 44              | 0               | 114             | 120             | 139             | 15           | 1            | 1,195            | 8          | 200           | 40           |
| Gravelbourg       | 162             | 0               | 186             | 170             | 223             | 12           | 2            | 1,725            | 8          | 600           | 600          |
| Hafford           | 0               | 0               | 124             | 178             | 153             | 0            | 0            | 0                | 3          | 7             | 0            |
| Humboldt          | 168             | 114             | 289             | 266             | 396             | 18           | 1            | 1,225            | 35         | 400           | 800          |
| Kindersley        | 172             | 175             | 292             | 292             | 338             | 15           | 3            | 3,275            | 15         | 200           | 290          |
| Kipling           | 0               | 0               | 237             | 232             | 206             | 0            | 0            | 0                | 0          | 10            | 0            |
| La Ronge          | 109             | 0               | 233             | 224             | 209             | 15           | 2            | 1,525            | 11         | 200           | 1400         |
| Lafleche          | 210             | 0               | 283             | 278             | 265             | 10           | 2            | 4,375            | 35         | 1200          | 580          |
| Lanigan           | 169             | 0               | 279             | 259             | 261             | 12           | 1            | 2,160            | 9          | 373           | 4366         |
| Last Mountain     | 0               | 0               | 140             | 149             | 134             | 0            | 0            | 0                | 6          | 0             | 0            |
| Lloydminster      | 372             | 0               | 809             | 834             | 780             | 18           | 3            | 6,815            | 9          | 300           | 800          |
| Mainline          | 92              | 0               | 165             | 209             | 162             | 20           | 2            | 1,605            | 15         | 1100          | 1222         |
| Maple Creek       | 44              | 0               | 77              | 116             | 117             | 11           | 1            | 880              | 10         | 120           | 40           |
| Meadow Lake       | 108             | 0               | 164             | 192             | 218             | 15           | 1            | 1,650            | 9          | 178           | 300          |
| Melfort           | 212             | 296             | 397             | 374             | 372             | 16           | 3            | 3,540            | 22         | 461           | 342          |
| Moose Jaw         | 299             | 0               | 429             | 514             | 486             | 25           | 3            | 8,825            | 7          | 700           | 1,320        |
| Moosomin          | 137             | 0               | 421             | 377             | 384             | 5            | 2            | 1,780            | 9          | 325           | 200          |
| Nipawin           | 254             | 0               | 311             | 316             | 295             | 14           | 4            | 4,885            | 60         | 600           | 148          |
| Outlook           | 0               | 0               | 214             | 195             | 135             | 0            | 0            | 0                | 8          | 5             | 0            |
| Parkland          | 0               | 0               | 181             | 180             | 221             | 0            | 0            | 0                | 9          | 41            | 0            |
| Potashville       | 0               | 0               | 154             | 143             | 137             | 0            | 0            | 0                | 10         | 20            | 0            |
| Prairie Sunset    | 101             | 0               | 175             | 139             | 98              | 15           | 3            | 1,965            | 10         | 202           | 250          |
| Prince Albert     | 92              | 375             | 366             | 434             | 416             | 20           | 3            | 3,775            | 10         | 132           | 200          |
| Qu'Appelle Valley | 0               | 0               | 124             | 118             | 114             | 0            | 0            | 0                | 4          | 10            | 0            |
| Quill Plains      | 202             | 0               | 360             | 505             | 460             | 10           | 3            | 2,020            | 6          | 752           | 125          |
| Redvers           | 0               | 0               | 124             | 93              | 116             | 0            | 0            | 0                | 7          | 140           | 0            |
| Regina            | 724             | 0               | 1,048           | 1,141           | 1,147           | 28           | 8            | 21,200           | 8          | 1,000         | 500          |
| Rosetown          | 154             | 0               | 247             | 265             | 263             | 15           | 1            | 3,175            | 19         | 400           | 1,120        |
| Sand Hills        | 38              | 0               | 73              | 85              | 81              | 10           | 1            | 2,000            | 11         | 150           | 20           |
| Sask Valley       | 159             | 0               | 225             | 251             | 276             | 15           | 2            | 2,810            | 12         | 500           | 550          |
| Saskatoon         | 1,024           | 0               | 1,627           | 1,479           | 1,323           | 28           | 8            | 21,200           | 35         | 240           | 2,068        |
| Shaunavon         | 0               | 0               | 131             | 115             | 114             | 0            | 0            | 3,000            | 10         | 15            | 0            |
| Spiritwood        | 0               | 0               | 89              | 90              | 84              | 0            | 0            | 0                | 0          | 10            | 0            |
| Swift Current     | 0               | 0               | 278             | 276             | 256             | 0            | 0            | 0                | 0          | 0             | 0            |
| Twin Rivers       | 180             | 0               | 413             | 263             | 344             | 0            | 0            | 0                | 12         | 150           | 17,390       |
| Unity             | 168             | 0               | 364             | 307             | 327             | 15           | 2            | 2,100            | 22         | 590           | 4,235        |
| Vanguard          | 0               | 0               | 65              | 55              | 84              | 0            | 0            | 0                | 4          |               | 10           |
| Watrous           | 42              | 0               | 0               | 147             | 124             | 0            | 0            | 0                | 8          | 175           | 0            |
| Weyburn           | 209             | 189             | 299             | 351             | 351             | 15           | 2            | 5,175            | 16         | 325           | 800          |
| Yorkton           | 188             | 229             | 446             | 434             | 388             | 18           | 2            | 4,240            | 20         | 500           | 500          |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>6,440</b>    | <b>1,879</b>    | <b>13,810</b>   | <b>13,890</b>   | <b>13,772</b>   |              | <b>77</b>    | <b>\$139,845</b> | <b>659</b> | <b>14576</b>  | <b>44626</b> |

Carnduff, Twin Rivers and Watrous Festivals held Virtual Showcases in lieu of a festival in 2021.





## Provincial Finals Report

*From Thursday to Sunday, nearly 500 performances by winners from District Music Festivals across Saskatchewan were heard. Competitors submitted videos of their performances, which were evaluated by the adjudicators, and then had the opportunity to receive feedback at the awards presentations held via video conferencing throughout the weekend.*

The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA), now in its 112<sup>th</sup> year, presented the Annual Provincial Finals Competitions and the Saskatchewan Excellence Competition in a virtual format from June 3 to 6, 2021. Judges for the weekend competitions were: Senior Piano: Darryl Friesen, Winnipeg, MB; Intermediate Piano: Alison Kilgannon, Sherwood Park, AB; Voice: Monica Huisman, Winnipeg, MB; Strings/Guitar: Leanne Zacharias, Brandon, MB; Brass/Percussion/Woodwind: Richard Gillis, Winnipeg, MB and Musical Theatre/Speech Arts: Marion Abbott, Brampton, ON.

Prizes of over \$35,000 were awarded during the weekend's competitions, the most prestigious being the Garth Beckett/Gustin House Senior Piano Scholarship for the most promising performer of 20 years of age or under in the Senior Piano category. This year, the runners-up in each class were also honoured with scholarships provided by the SMFA. The following were declared Provincial Winners:

|                 |  |                               |
|-----------------|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>Class 5</b>  | <b>Goodfellow Memorial Senior Grade A Vocal Scholarship - \$400</b> .....                              | Ross Van De Weyer (Weyburn)   |
|                 | Runner-up Scholarship - \$150 .....  | Grace Liu (Regina)            |
| <b>Class 6</b>  | <b>Heather Laxdal Memorial Senior Grade B Female Vocal Scholarship - \$400</b> ...                     | Elizabeth Booker (Regina)     |
|                 | Runner-up Scholarship - \$150 .....  | Tori Mahnke (Weyburn)         |
| <b>Class 8</b>  | <b>Covey Intermediate Female Vocal Scholarship - \$300</b> .....                                       | Brooke Zarubin (Moose Jaw)    |
|                 | Runner-up Scholarship - \$100 .....  | Emily Malmgren (Saskatoon)    |
| <b>Class 9</b>  | <b>AL's Music Intermediate Male Vocal Scholarship - \$300</b> .....                                    | Adam Brookman (Saskatoon)     |
|                 | Runner-up Scholarship - \$100 .....  | Kai Batycki (Saskatoon)       |
| <b>Class 10</b> | <b>Goodfellow Memorial Senior Oratorio Scholarship - \$400</b> .....                                   | Daniel McElroy (Moose Jaw)    |
|                 | Runner-up Scholarship - \$150 .....  | Jayden Burrows (Saskatoon)    |
| <b>Class 11</b> | <b>Goodfellow Memorial Senior Operatic Scholarship - \$400</b> .....                                   | Jayden Burrows (Saskatoon)    |
|                 | Runner-up Scholarship - \$150 .....  | Daniel McElroy (Moose Jaw)    |
| <b>Class 12</b> | <b>Goodfellow Memorial Senior French Art Song Scholarship - \$400</b> .....                            | Kennedy Siba (Saskatoon)      |
|                 | Runner-up Scholarship - \$150 .....  | Grace Liu (Regina)            |
| <b>Class 14</b> | <b>Henri Loiselle Senior Vocal Grade A Concert Group Scholarship - \$400</b> .....                     | Jayden Burrows (Saskatoon)    |
|                 | Runner-up Scholarship - \$150 .....  | Grace Liu (Regina)            |
| <b>Class 15</b> | <b>Nancy &amp; Alastair Todd Memorial Senior Vocal Grade B Concert Group Scholarship - \$400</b> ..... | Lauren Hope (Saskatoon)       |
|                 | Runner-up Scholarship - \$150 .....  | Kennedy Siba (Saskatoon)      |
| <b>Class 16</b> | <b>Regina Music Festival Intermediate Vocal Concert Group Scholarship - \$300</b> .....                | Brooke Zarubin                |
|                 |  | (Moose Jaw)                   |
|                 | Runner-up Scholarship - \$100 .....  | Emma Gillingham (Sask Valley) |
| <b>Class 17</b> | <b>Kiwanis Club of Regina-Wascana, Inc. Senior Canadian Vocal Music Scholarship - \$400</b> .....      | Kennedy Siba                  |
|                 |  | (Saskatoon)                   |
|                 | Runner-up Scholarship - \$150 .....  | Tori Mahnke (Weyburn)         |
| <b>Class 18</b> | <b>Battleford Furniture Intermediate Folk Song Scholarship - \$300</b> .....                           | Emma Gillingham (Sask Valley) |
|                 | Runner-up Scholarship - \$100 .....  | Emily Malmgren (Saskatoon)    |
| <b>Class 19</b> | <b>Marilyn Whitehead Junior Vocal Scholarship - \$200</b> .....  | Ella Semko (Saskatoon)        |
|                 | Runner-up Scholarship - \$50 .....   | Brooke Tluchak (Lloydminster) |
| <b>Class 20</b> | <b>Dianne Gryba Elementary Vocal Scholarship - \$100</b> .....   | Mia Gillingham (Sask Valley)  |
|                 | Runner-up Scholarship - \$50 .....   | Cooper Loshack (Saskatoon)    |





|                 |   |                                |
|-----------------|---|--------------------------------|
| <b>Class 21</b> | <b>Arlene Stuart Memorial Senior Bach Scholarship - \$400</b>   | Leah Macfarlane (Regina)       |
|                 | Runner-up Scholarship - \$150   | Connor Elias (Sask Valley)     |
| <b>Class 22</b> | <b>Toppings Family Intermediate Bach Scholarship - \$300</b>  | Joshua Seongu An (Regina)      |
|                 | Runner-up Scholarship - \$100   | Hannah Meginbir (Saskatoon)    |
| <b>Class 23</b> | <b>Gordon C. Wallis Memorial Senior Beethoven Scholarship - \$400</b>                                     | Jerry Hu (Saskatoon)           |
|                 | Runner-up Scholarship - \$150   | Grace Liu (Regina)             |
| <b>Class 24</b> | <b>Dr. Philip Brost Intermediate Beethoven Scholarship - \$300</b>  | Janessa Andres (Lloydminster)  |
|                 | Runner-up Scholarship - \$100   | Kevin Trinh (Regina)           |
| <b>Class 25</b> | <b>Shirley Andrist Senior Haydn and Mozart Scholarship - \$400</b>  | Alice Li (Saskatoon)           |
|                 | <b>Class 26 Frances England &amp; Ferguson Memorial Intermediate Haydn and Mozart Scholarship - \$300</b> | Esther Zhu (Saskatoon)         |
|                 | Runner-up Scholarship - \$100   | Joshua Seongu An (Regina)      |
| <b>Class 27</b> | <b>SRMTA Senior Romantic Scholarship - \$400</b>  | Leah Macfarlane (Regina)       |
|                 | Runner-up Scholarship - \$150   | Alice Li (Saskatoon)           |
| <b>Class 28</b> | <b>MYC - Sask. Teachers' Association Trust, Senior Chopin Scholarship - \$400</b>                         | Alice Li (Saskatoon)           |
|                 | Runner-up Scholarship - \$150   | Jerry Hu (Saskatoon)           |
| <b>Class 29</b> | <b>Gordon and Mossie Hancock Intermediate Chopin Scholarship - \$300</b>                                  | Esther Zhu (Saskatoon)         |
|                 | Runner-up Scholarship - \$100   | Kevin Trinh (Regina)           |
| <b>Class 30</b> | <b>MYCTA Inc. Senior French Music Scholarship - \$400</b>   | Jerry Hu (Saskatoon)           |
|                 | Runner-up Scholarship - \$150   | Leah Macfarlane (Regina)       |
| <b>Class 31</b> | <b>Jackson Memorial Intermediate Piano Scholarship - \$300</b>  | Kevin Trinh (Regina)           |
|                 | Runner-up Scholarship - \$100   | Esther Zhu (Saskatoon)         |
| <b>Class 32</b> | <b>Gale Glenn Memorial Senior 20th/21st Century/Canadian Music Scholarship - \$400</b>                    | Connor Elias (Sask Valley)     |
|                 | Runner-up Scholarship - \$150   | Jerry Hu (Saskatoon)           |
| <b>Class 33</b> | <b>Frostad Intermediate 20th/21st Century/Canadian Music Scholarship - \$300</b>                          | Hannah Meginbir (Saskatoon)    |
|                 | Runner-up Scholarship - \$100   | Esther Zhu (Saskatoon)         |
| <b>Class 34</b> | <b>Borderland Festival Senior Piano Concerto Scholarship - \$400</b>                                      | Jerry Hu (Saskatoon)           |
|                 | Runner-up Scholarship - \$150   | Alice Li (Saskatoon)           |
| <b>Class 35</b> | <b>SMFA Adjudicator Excellence Intermediate Piano Concerto Scholarship - \$300</b>                        | Esther Zhu (Saskatoon)         |
|                 | Runner-up Scholarship - \$100   | Hannah Meginbir (Saskatoon)    |
| <b>Class 36</b> | <b>Dr. Thomas Yu Junior Piano Scholarship - \$200</b>   | Judy Luo (Regina)              |
|                 | Runner-up Scholarship - \$50  | Joshua Zhou (Saskatoon)        |
| <b>Class 37</b> | <b>Dianne Gryba Elementary Piano Scholarship - \$100</b>  | Ryan Yunen Gu (Saskatoon)      |
|                 | Runner-up Scholarship - \$50  | Andrew Liu (Regina)            |
|                 | <b>Garth Beckett/Gustin House Senior Piano Scholarship - \$1500</b>                                       | Alice Li (Saskatoon)           |
| <b>Class 38</b> | <b>Fred S. Mendel Memorial Senior Strings Concert Scholarship - \$400</b>                                 | Talant Kosmosbekov (Saskatoon) |
|                 | Runner-up Scholarship - \$150   | Meika Sonntag (Regina)         |
| <b>Class 39</b> | <b>Mrs. Clare K. Mendel Memorial Senior Violin Scholarship - \$400</b>                                    | Talant Kosmosbekov (Saskatoon) |
|                 | Runner-up Scholarship - \$150   | Drusilla Waltz (Saskatoon)     |
| <b>Class 40</b> | <b>Blanche Squires Memorial Senior Viola/Cello/Double Bass Recital Scholarship - \$400</b>                | Catherine McLellan (Regina)    |
|                 | Runner-up Scholarship - \$150   | Meika Sonntag (Regina)         |
| <b>Class 41</b> | <b>Robert C. Mitchell Memorial Intermediate Violin Scholarship - \$300</b>                                | Virginia Hector (Regina)       |
|                 | Runner-up Scholarship - \$100   | Bridget Alexander (Weyburn)    |



- Class 42 Johanna Mitchell Memorial Intermediate Cello/Viola/Double Bass Scholarship - \$300.....**  
 Annelise Balzer (Saskatoon)  
 Runner-up Scholarship - \$100 ..... Ilana Van de Merwe (Regina)
- Class 43 Very Patient Music Teachers' Junior Strings Scholarship - \$200 .....** Kiersten Schack (Regina)  
 Runner-up Scholarship - \$50 ..... Julia Grant (Regina)
- Class 44 Kiwanis Club of Regina-Wascana, Inc. Elementary Strings Scholarship - \$100 .....** Zoe Cunningham  
 (Regina)  
 Runner-up Scholarship - \$50 ..... Jenna Baedke (Gravelbourg)
- Class 45 Saskatchewan Music Educators Senior Classical Guitar Scholarship - \$400 .....** Carson Froehlich  
 (Quill Plains)  
 Runner-up Scholarship - \$150 ..... Jacob-Lee Neufeld-Wicks (Nipawin)
- Class 48 Sask. Band Association Senior Woodwind Concert Scholarship - \$400.....** Jose Manlapaz (Saskatoon)
- Class 49 Brost Family Intermediate Woodwind Scholarship - \$300 .....** Nino Ding (Regina)  
 Runner-up Scholarship - \$100 ..... Rachel Krogstad (Kindersley)
- Class 52 Kiwanis Club of Regina-Wascana, Inc. Intermediate Brass Scholarship - \$300 .....** Ava O'Bright  
 (Moose Jaw)  
 Runner-up Scholarship - \$100 ..... Arika Block (Saskatoon)
- Class 54 Maple Creek Intermediate Percussion Scholarship - \$300 .....** Dmitri Masich (Battlefords)
- Class 55 Ursan Family Senior Musical Theatre Ballad Scholarship - \$400 .....** Declan Hewitt (Regina)  
 Runner-up Scholarship - \$150 ..... Jayden Burrows (Saskatoon)
- Class 56 Regan Grant Memorial Intermediate Musical Theatre Ballad Scholarship - \$300.....** Brooke Zarubin  
 (Moose Jaw)  
 Runner-up Scholarship - \$100..... Dallan Kuhn (Unity)
- Class 57 Katja Meszaros Memorial Senior Musical Theatre Up-Tempo Scholarship - \$400.....** Declan Hewitt  
 (Regina)  
 Runner-up Scholarship - \$150..... Corie Groome (Lloydminster)
- Class 58 Sandra Ryba Memorial Intermediate Musical Theatre Up-Tempo Scholarship - \$300.....** Daniel Tepper  
 (Lloydminster)  
 Runner-up Scholarship - \$100..... Keana Emmons (Lafleche)
- Class 59 Battleford Furniture Junior Musical Theatre Scholarship - \$200.....** Presley McLeod (Moose Jaw)  
 Runner-up Scholarship - \$50..... Piper MacFarlane (Meadow Lake)
- Class 60 Krista Brost Elementary Musical Theatre Scholarship - \$100.....** Mia Gillingham (Sask Valley)  
 Runner-up Scholarship - \$50..... Cooper Loshack (Saskatoon)
- Class 62 Heather Macnab Intermediate Concert Group Speech Arts Scholarship - \$300.....** Willem Hoogstad  
 (Prairie Sunset)  
 Runner-up Scholarship - \$100..... Kaylin Poirier (Lafleche)
- Class 63 Alfred S. Uy Memorial Intermediate Speech Arts Scholarship - \$300.....** Keana Emmons (Lafleche)  
 Runner-up Scholarship - \$100..... Steyn Hoogstad (Prairie Sunset)
- Class 64 SMFA Conference Delegate Junior Speech Arts Scholarship - \$200.....** Signy Thorsteinson (Quill Plains)  
 Runner-up Scholarship - \$50..... Jonathan Rollheiser (Lloydminster)
- Class 65 SMFA Conference Delegate Elementary Speech Arts Scholarship - \$100 .....** Jenevieve Melin (Lanigan)  
 Runner-up Scholarship - \$50 ..... Angela Bosch (Kindersley)



On Sunday, June 6, performers in the Excellence Classes competed for recognition as the winner in their respective disciplines. The winners of future Excellence Competitions will have the opportunity to represent Saskatchewan at the Canada West Performing Arts Festival which will have its inaugural competition in 2022.

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Class E1  | SMFA Excellence Vocal - 24 & under - 1 <sup>st</sup> Place - \$500.....Jayden Burrows (Saskatoon)                                |
|           | SMFA Excellence Vocal - 24 & under - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place - \$150.....Grace Liu (Regina)  |
| Class E2  | Lafleche Festival Excellence Vocal - 17 & under - 1 <sup>st</sup> Place - \$300 .....Brooke Zarubin (Moose Jaw)                  |
|           | Jordie Hughton & Family Excellence Vocal - 17 & under - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place - \$100.....Emma Gillingham<br>(Sask Valley)       |
| Class E3  | May Family Excellence Vocal - 12 & under - 1 <sup>st</sup> Place - \$200 .....Mia Gillingham (Sask Valley)                       |
|           | May Family Excellence Vocal - 12 & under - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place - \$50 .....Julia Herman (Saskatoon)                            |
| Class E4  | Anna Klassen Excellence Piano - 24 & under - 1 <sup>st</sup> Place - \$500 .....Jerry Hu (Saskatoon)                             |
|           | Anna Klassen Excellence Piano - 24 & under - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place - \$150 .....Leah Macfarlane (Regina)                         |
| Class E5  | MacKinnon Family Excellence Piano - 17 & under - 1 <sup>st</sup> Place - \$300....Ross Van De Weyer (Weyburn)                    |
|           | Anna Klassen Excellence Piano - 17 & under - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place - \$100 .....Esther Zhu (Saskatoon)                           |
| Class E6  | Anna Klassen Excellence Piano - 12 & under - 1 <sup>st</sup> Place - \$200 .....Hana Lopez (Regina)                              |
|           | Anna Klassen Excellence Piano - 12 & under - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place - \$50 .....Ryan Yunen Gu (Saskatoon)                         |
| Class E7  | Sask Orchestral Assoc Excellence Strings - 24 & under - 1 <sup>st</sup> Place - \$500.....Meika Sonntag (Regina)                 |
| Class E8  | SMFA Excellence Strings - 17 & under - 1 <sup>st</sup> Place - \$300.....Virginia Hector (Regina)                                |
|           | SMFA Excellence Strings - 17 & under - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place - \$100.....Bridget Alexander (Weyburn)                             |
| Class E9  | Battlefords Festival Excellence Strings - 12 & under - 1 <sup>st</sup> Place - \$200 ....Jennifer Summach (Nipawin)              |
| Class E11 | Weber Excellence Woodwind - 17 & under - 1 <sup>st</sup> Place - \$300 .....Nino Ding (Regina)                                   |
|           | Diane & Gene Aulinger Excellence Woodwind - 17 & under - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place - \$100.....Vlad Kosheliev<br>(Regina)            |
| Class E14 | SMFA Excellence Guitar - 24 & under - 1 <sup>st</sup> Place - \$500 .....Carson Froehlich (Quill Plains)                         |
| Class E17 | SDA Excellence Speech Arts - 17 & under - 1 <sup>st</sup> Place - \$300 .....Steyn Hoogstad (Prairie Sunset)                     |
|           | SMFA Excellence Speech Arts - 17 & under - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place - \$100.....Kaylin Poirier (Lafleche)                           |
| Class E18 | SMFA Excellence Speech Arts - 12 & under - 1 <sup>st</sup> Place - \$200 .....Willem Hoogstad (Prairie Sunset)                   |
|           | SMFA Excellence Speech Arts - 12 & under - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place - \$50.....Ella Gross (Lafleche)                                |
| Class E19 | SMFA Excellence Musical Theatre - 24 & under - 1 <sup>st</sup> Place - \$500 .....Corie Groome (Lloydminster)                    |
|           | Myrna Bentley Excellence Musical Theatre - 24 & under - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place - \$150.....Mayson Sonntag<br>(Regina)             |
| Class E20 | Estevan Festival Excellence Musical Theatre - 17 & under - 1 <sup>st</sup> Place - \$300.....Brooke Zarubin<br>(Moose Jaw)       |
|           | Jordie Hughton & Family Excellence MT- 17 & under - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place - \$100.....Emily Malmgren<br>(Saskatoon)              |
| Class E21 | Battlefords Festival Excellence Musical Theatre - 12 & under - 1 <sup>st</sup> Place - \$200 .....Ruby Hickman<br>(Lloydminster) |
| Class E22 | Battlefords Festival Excellence Musical Theatre - 12 & under - 2nd Place - \$50.....Natalie Warren<br>(Moose Jaw)                |



# Thank you

## PROVINCIAL FINAL DONORS AND SPONSORS

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## SDA/SMFA Spoken Word e-Festival

*In 2021, Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA) and Saskatchewan Drama Association (SDA) partnered to present the second Spoken Word e-Festival for students ages 5 to 17.*

### Objectives of the Spoken Word e-Festival are:

1. to develop awareness of other forms of stage and poetic arts;
2. to enhance acting and speaking skills;
3. to develop confidence through stage performance;
4. to encourage creativity and help students become more critical thinkers; and
5. to meet curricula goals of the Saskatchewan K-12 English Arts, Arts, Education, and Theatre Arts

Entries were adjudicated by Heather Macnab. Performances were judged by video recordings submitted by the competitors.

### Congratulations to the winners:

- 17 years & under: **Megan Kiffiak**, Prince Albert (\$250)
- 14 years & under: **Eleanor Grant**, Eastend (\$200)
- 12 years & under: **Ella Gross**, Hazenmore (\$150)







# SMFA Strategic Goals

*In October of 2020, Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA) Board of Directors participated in a Strategic Planning session facilitated by Pat Rediger and Lynn Gidluck.*

## **SMFA STRATEGIC GOALS**

A thorough review of SMFA's priorities based on its vision and mission, along with the SWOT analysis, review of previous strategic plans, and internal program and service review led to the following goals:

### **GOAL 1: ENHANCE THE EXISTING SMFA BRAND**

SMFA is well-known and respected among music festivals but it should strive to promote its existing brand to a wider audience to increase interest in music festivals, enhance partnerships, encourage volunteer development, and to provide a better understanding of the important role that music festivals play in our province.

**Action 1: Emphasize greater engagement as part of communications efforts**

**Action 2: Revisit current tag line: *Classical Competitive Festivals***

**Action 3: Incorporate speech arts as part of brand**

**Action 4: Diversity should be incorporated into the SMFA brand**

### **GOAL 2: TO ENHANCE EXISTING PARTNERSHIPS**

New partnerships were a priority that was identified during the 2012-17 strategic plan. Part of the rationale at that time was that SMFA's main funding source was encouraging the development of new partnerships in order to increase efficiencies and reduce duplication. SMFA has a better working relationship with other provincial music organizations as a result of that goal, but board members identified that there remains a need to build upon these partnerships and to develop new partnerships if opportunities arise.

**Action 1: SMFA should engage partners to address the need for music teachers**

**Action 2: SMFA should engage with partners on music advocacy**

**Action 3: SMFA should engage with the music community on strategic alignment**





## Financial Report

*The Finance Committee is responsible for financial oversight. This includes: establishing and ensuring the organization is compliant with proper financial systems and controls; regularly evaluating the organization's financial health; and ensuring that the organization is on a financially sustainable path.*



The Finance Committee consists of myself, First Vice-President Jeri Ryba (Chair), President Tammy Villeneuve, Second Vice-President Dianne Gryba, Past President Sherry Sproule, and Executive Director Carol Donhauser.

Due to recognition of the CRA wage subsidy grant, lack of board travel, and virtual events saving event expenses, SMFA finds our Financial Statements with a significant surplus. This is after zeroing out affiliation fees for the 2021 festival year, increasing provincial scholarships and lowering provincial entry fees.

The SMFA investment portfolio is managed by Leander Dueck of Beyond Wealth Management in Regina. Our asset mix is balanced in a way that will help to decrease our risk during times of volatility. The rate of return for this past fiscal year was 18.99%.

SMFA also holds 576 BCE shares, which continue to see steady returns with quarterly interest payments accounted for in restricted income.

Member funding was suspended in the previous format and distributed to festivals through credits to accounts of active festivals. These credits will be put towards affiliation dues during the next festival year.

SMFA is dependent on funding from the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation, and we are grateful for this support. SaskCulture allocates lottery funds in the form of annual global grants to Eligible Cultural Organizations (ECO). Funding has been approved at the current amount of \$185,000 through to July 31, 2022. These grants support the annual operations of organizations identified on the Minister's Eligibility List, as well as over 400 associated groups.

We also acknowledge the support of SaskEnergy, SaskTel, artsvest Saskatchewan, the University of Saskatchewan Music Department, Regina Symphony Orchestra, Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra and the late Mr. William Shurniak. We sincerely thank our many scholarship donors and patrons, and contributors. Music festivals continue to be relevant through this generous and ongoing support.

Thank you to the Finance Committee, and all Board members, for their work over this past year. The financial health of this organization is of utmost importance to all of our stakeholders so that we may continue delivery of the SMFA mission.

*Respectfully, Jeri Ryba Finance Chair*



# **Audited Financial Statement**

**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**JULY 31, 2021**

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the Members of  
Saskatchewan Music Festival Association

**Qualified Opinion**

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (the Entity), which comprise the statement of financial position as at July 31, 2021 and the statements of operations, statement of changes in net assets and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In my opinion, except for the effects, if any, of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Saskatchewan Music Festival Association as at July 31, 2021 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

**Basis for Qualified Opinion**

In common with many non-profit organizations, Saskatchewan Music Festival Association derives part of its revenue from membership fees, donations and other fundraising activities, the completeness and classification of which are not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly my verification of these transactions was limited to accounting for the amounts recorded in the records of the Association and I was not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to the revenues, statement of operations, assets and net assets.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of my report. I am independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Canada, and I have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

**Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

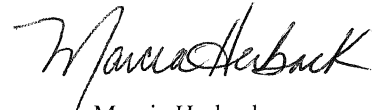
**Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Regina, Saskatchewan  
November 5, 2021



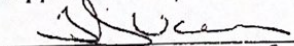
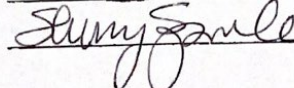
Marcia Herback  
CPA, CA

**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**AS AT JULY 31, 2021**  
(with comparative figures for 2020)

|  | 2021              | 2020              |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>  |                   |                   |
| <b>Current assets</b>  |                   |                   |
| Cash (Note 3)  | \$ 153,715        | \$ 103,509        |
| Cash segregated for future expenditures                        | 19,675            | 19,652            |
| Investment segregated for future expenditures                  | 33,395            | 32,374            |
| Accounts receivable  | 14,274            | 9,501             |
| Inventory  | 10,512            | 13,028            |
| Prepaid expenses   | <u>1,200</u>      | <u>5,222</u>      |
|  | 232,771           | 183,286           |
| <b>Tangible capital assets (Note 4)</b>                        | 11,630            | 10,535            |
| <b>Assets held in trust (Note 5)</b>                           | 481,316           | 413,368           |
| <b>Investments segregated for future expenditures (Note 6)</b> | <u>66,278</u>     | <u>65,120</u>     |
|  | <u>\$ 791,995</u> | <u>\$ 672,309</u> |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>   |                   |                   |
| <b>Current liabilities</b>                                     |                   |                   |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities                       | \$ 54,597         | \$ 50,936         |
| Deferred revenue (Note 7)                                      | <u>116,702</u>    | <u>107,504</u>    |
|  | 171,299           | 158,440           |
| <b>Long-term liabilities</b>                                   |                   |                   |
| Funds held in trust (Note 8)                                   | <u>4,924</u>      | <u>7,093</u>      |
|  | <u>176,223</u>    | <u>165,533</u>    |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>  |                   |                   |
| Net assets invested in capital assets                          | 11,630            | 10,535            |
| Net assets designated for future expenditures                  | 89,939            | 85,770            |
| Restricted net assets  | 481,435           | 413,368           |
| Unrestricted net assets  | <u>32,768</u>     | <u>(2,897)</u>    |
|  | 615,772           | 506,776           |
|  | <u>\$ 791,995</u> | <u>\$ 672,309</u> |

See accompanying notes

Approved on Behalf of the Board

 Director  
 Director

**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION**  
**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JULY 31, 2021**  
**(with comparative figures for 2020)**

|   | <b>2021</b>              | <b>2020</b>            |
|---|--------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Revenue</b>  |                          |                        |
| Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund                       | \$ 185,000               | \$ 185,000             |
| Self-generated revenue (Schedule 1)                     | <u>171,260</u>           | <u>122,844</u>         |
|   | <u>356,260</u>           | <u>307,844</u>         |
| <b>Expenditures</b>                                     |                          |                        |
| Administration (Schedule 2)                             | 156,705                  | 146,966                |
| Amortization  | 1,143                    | 1,171                  |
| Corporate (Schedule 3)                                  | 9,373                    | 9,456                  |
| Fundraising   | 1,687                    | 20,917                 |
| Program (Schedule 4)                                    | 72,690                   | 76,811                 |
| Public relations (Schedule 5)                           | 2,180                    | 6,707                  |
| Travel and meeting (Schedule 6)                         | <u>3,486</u>             | <u>44,695</u>          |
|   | <u>247,264</u>           | <u>306,723</u>         |
| <b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures</b> | <u><u>\$ 108,996</u></u> | <u><u>\$ 1,121</u></u> |
| <b>See accompanying notes</b>                           |                          |                        |



**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION**  
**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JULY 31, 2021**  
**(with comparative figures for 2020)**

|   | Invested<br>in Tangible<br>Capital<br>Assets | Designated<br>for Future<br>Expenditures | Restricted<br>Net Assets | Unrestricted<br>Net Assets | <u>2021</u>       | <u>2020</u>       |
|---|--|--|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Net Assets</b>                                   |  |  |                          |                            |                   |                   |
| Balance, beginning of year                          | \$ 10,535                                    | 85,770                                   | 413,368                  | (2,897)                    | \$ 506,776        | \$ 505,655        |
| Excess (deficiency) of<br>revenue over expenditures | -  | 4,169                                    | 68,067                   | 36,760                     | 108,996           | 1,121             |
| Additions to tangible capital<br>assets             | 2,238  | -  | -                        | (2,238)                    | -                 | -                 |
| Amortization of capital assets                      | (1,143)                                      | -  | -                        | 1,143                      | -                 | -                 |
| Balance, end of year                                | <u>\$ 11,630</u>                             | <u>89,939</u>                            | <u>481,435</u>           | <u>32,768</u>              | <u>\$ 615,772</u> | <u>\$ 506,776</u> |

**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JULY 31, 2021**  
**(with comparative figures for 2020)**

|  | 2021              | 2020              |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Operating activities</b>                                  |                   |                   |
| Excess of revenues over expenditures unrestricted net assets | \$ 108,996        | \$ 1,121          |
| Items not involving an outlay (receipt) of cash              |                   |                   |
| Amortization   | <u>1,143</u>      | <u>1,171</u>      |
|  | 110,139           | 2,292             |
| Net change in non-cash operating working capital balances    |                   |                   |
| Investment segregated for future expenditures                | (1,021)           | (21,747)          |
| Accounts receivable  | (4,773)           | 5,702             |
| Inventory  | 2,516             | 2,001             |
| Prepaid expenses   | 4,022             | 19,547            |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities                     | 3,661             | 9,568             |
| Deferred revenue   | 9,198             | 14,909            |
| Funds held in trust  | <u>(2,169)</u>    | <u>-</u>          |
| Cash provided by operating activities                        | <u>121,573</u>    | <u>32,272</u>     |
| <b>Investing activities</b>                                  |                   |                   |
| Addition to investments segregated for future expenditures   | (1,158)           | 19,612            |
| Additions to assets held in trust                            | (67,948)          | 29,951            |
| Additions to tangible capital assets                         | <u>(2,238)</u>    | <u>-</u>          |
| Cash provided by (used in) investing activities              | <u>(71,344)</u>   | <u>49,563</u>     |
| <b>Increase in cash</b>                                      | 50,229            | 81,832            |
| <b>Cash position, beginning of year</b>                      | <u>123,161</u>    | <u>41,329</u>     |
| <b>Cash position, end of year</b>                            | <u>\$ 173,390</u> | <u>\$ 123,161</u> |
| <b>Cash consists of:</b>                                     |                   |                   |
| Cash   | \$ 153,715        | \$ 103,509        |
| Cash segregated for future expenditures                      | <u>19,675</u>     | <u>19,652</u>     |
|  | <u>\$ 173,390</u> | <u>\$ 123,161</u> |

**See accompanying notes**

**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**JULY 31, 2021**

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**1. Status and nature of activities**

Saskatchewan Music Festival Association is incorporated under the Non-Profit Corporations Act of Saskatchewan. Under present legislation, no income taxes are payable on the reported income of such operations. The purpose of Saskatchewan Music Festival Association is to provide a classical, competitive music festival system of the highest standard at the local, provincial and national levels.

**2. Summary of significant accounting policies**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and include the following significant accounting policies:

Inventory

Inventory is valued at the lower of cost and net realizable value.

Tangible capital assets

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost. Amortization is provided on a diminishing balance method over the assets' estimated useful lives as follows:

|                        |         |
|------------------------|---------|
| Equipment              | 10 %    |
| Furniture and fixtures | 10 %    |
| Leaseholds             | 5 years |

Full amortization is recorded in the year of purchase.

Revenue recognition

The Association follows the deferral method of accounting.

Grants from Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation are received out of the net proceeds of lottery ticket sales in Saskatchewan. These grants have been recorded as revenue by Saskatchewan Music Festival Association as approved by Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation. Accordingly, amounts received that relate to the next fiscal period are shown as deferred revenue.

Other revenue is recognized in the period in which the income is earned.

Management estimates

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amount of revenues and expenditures during the reporting period. By their nature, these estimates are subject to measurement uncertainty and the effect on the financial statements of changes in such estimates in future periods could be significant.

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**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**JULY 31, 2021**

**3. Cash**

|  | <u>2021</u>       | <u>2020</u>       |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Anna Klassen scholarship                 | \$ 27,905         | \$ 25,358         |
| Betty Tydeman scholarship                | 1,114             | 1,114             |
| Frances England scholarship              | 2,100             | 2,100             |
| Ken Lee scholarship                      | 2,000             | 2,000             |
| Mossie Hancock scholarship               | 2,600             | 2,600             |
| MYC scholarship                          | 548               | 548               |
| Ross Ulmer scholarship                   | 4,500             | 4,500             |
| Scholarship savings unallocated interest | <u>1,007</u>      | <u>939</u>        |
| Total scholarship savings account        | 41,774            | 39,159            |
| Bank account - general                   | 100,009           | 63,891            |
| Bank account - travel lottery            | 85                | 85                |
| PayPal                                   | <u>11,847</u>     | <u>374</u>        |
| Total cash                               | <u>\$ 153,715</u> | <u>\$ 103,509</u> |

**4. Tangible capital assets**

|                           | <u>Cost</u>      | <u>Accumulated<br/>Amortization</u> | <u>2021<br/>Net Book<br/>Value</u> | <u>2020<br/>Net Book<br/>Value</u> |
|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Equipment                 | \$ 10,516        | 4,701                               | \$ 5,815                           | \$ 6,461                           |
| Furniture and fixtures    | 8,654            | 4,987                               | 3,667                              | 4,074                              |
| Leasehold<br>improvements | <u>2,237</u>     | <u>89</u>                           | <u>2,148</u>                       | <u>-</u>                           |
|                           | <u>\$ 21,407</u> | <u>9,777</u>                        | <u>\$ 11,630</u>                   | <u>\$ 10,535</u>                   |

**5. Assets held in trust**

|                           | <u>2021</u>       | <u>2020</u>       |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Great West Life portfolio | \$ 445,448        | \$ 381,020        |
| BCE Inc. (576 shares)     | <u>35,868</u>     | <u>32,348</u>     |
| Total investment          | <u>\$ 481,316</u> | <u>\$ 413,368</u> |

Investments are recorded at fair value.

The Association administers these funds held in trust in accordance with the conditions established by the donors for the purpose of funding various programs and scholarships.

**6. Investments**

Investments consist of the following term deposits:

- \$22,547 - 5 year, annual interest rate of 2.5%, matures July 24, 2023
- \$10,866 - 5 year, annual interest rate of 0.95%, matures July 24, 2025
- \$32,865 - 3 year, annual interest rate of 0.75%, matures April 24, 2024

**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
JULY 31, 2021**

**7. Deferred revenue**

Funding received relating to specific projects has been deferred and will be recognized as revenue in the year the related project or event occurs.

|                                   | <u>2021</u>       | <u>2020</u>       |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Affiliation fees                  | \$ 8,624          | \$ 7,516          |
| Scholarships                      | 3,450             | -                 |
| Over-paid accounts receivable     | 12,128            | 2,488             |
| Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund | 92,500            | 92,500            |
| Concerto donation for 2021 event  | -                 | 5,000             |
|                                   | <u>\$ 116,702</u> | <u>\$ 107,504</u> |

**8. Funds held in trust**

Per the Association's by-laws in the event that a District Festival Association ceases operation or becomes inactive for a period of two consecutive years or more, all funds of that District Festival Association are to be transferred to the Provincial Association and be held in trust for a period of five years. If the District Festival Association is not reinstated within the five year period then the funds become the funds of the Provincial Association.

**9. Lease commitment**

A lease agreement exists with Greg Thomas for the premises known as 1600 MacPherson Avenue in Regina, Saskatchewan. A 25 month term commenced November 1, 2020 requiring monthly rent of \$1,200. There is a clause in the agreement where \$600 of the monthly amount the landlord is to receive will be transferred back to the Association as a charitable gift.

**10. Economic dependence**

The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association receives significant revenue in grants from Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation. As a result, the Association is dependent upon the continuance of these grants to maintain operations at their current level.

**11. Financial instruments**

Saskatchewan Music Festival Association is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments. The following analysis provides a measure of the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association's exposure and concentrations at July 31, 2021:

Credit risk

Credit risk arises from the potential that a party may default on their financial obligations, or if there is a concentration of financial obligations which have similar economic characteristics that could be similarly affected by changes in economic conditions, such that the organization could incur a financial loss. The Association is exposed to credit risk with respect to cash, investments and accounts receivable. The Association manages its credit risk by placing cash and investments with major financial institutions. Credit risk for accounts receivable is managed by the credit quality and diverse debtor base and creating an allowance for bad debts where applicable. There has been no change from credit risk exposure from 2020.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Association may not be able to meet a demand for cash or fund its obligations as they come due or not being able to liquidate assets in a timely manner at a reasonable price. The Association is exposed to liquidity risk with respect to its investments and accounts payable but manages its liquidity risk by holding assets that can be readily converted into cash. There has been no change from liquidity risk exposure from 2020.

**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**JULY 31, 2021**

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**11. Financial instruments (continued)**

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is a type of market risk that refers to the risk that the fair value of financial instruments or future cash flows associated with the instruments will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. The Association is exposed to interest rate risk with respect to its cash and investments and its effect on interest income. Fluctuations in interest rates do not have a significant effect on cash and investments due to the fact that interest income is not a major percentage of total revenue. There has been no change from interest risk exposure from 2020.

**12. Comparative figures**

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the current year's financial statement presentation.

**13. Significant event**

Financial markets have been negatively impacted by the novel Coronavirus or COVID-19, which was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020. This has resulted in significant economic uncertainty and the Association is monitoring its operations and assessing the impact COVID-19 will have on its activities. Accordingly it is difficult to reliably measure the potential impact of this uncertainty on the Association.

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**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION**  
**SCHEDULES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JULY 31, 2021**  
**(with comparative figures for 2020)**

|                                       | 2021                          | 2020              |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
|                                       | <b>Self-generated revenue</b> | <b>Schedule 1</b> |
| Affiliation fees                      | \$ -                          | \$ 62,145         |
| Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy         | 38,058                        | -                 |
| Concerto revenue                      | 5,675                         | -                 |
| Conference                            | 500                           | 1,595             |
| Corporate sponsorships                | 8,500                         | -                 |
| Festival unit stationary              | -                             | 544               |
| Fundraising and donations             | 8,778                         | 47,852            |
| Grants                                | 3,233                         | 1,272             |
| Investment income - restricted        | 6,238                         | 17,942            |
| Investment income (loss) - unrealized | 65,415                        | (20,357)          |
| Interest - future expenditures        | 4,169                         | 4,008             |
| Miscellaneous                         | 2,169                         | -                 |
| Musical theatre                       | -                             | 525               |
| Nationals                             | -                             | 5,485             |
| Opera competition                     | -                             | 950               |
| Program enhancement revenue           | 125                           | 385               |
| Provincial finals                     | 7,695                         | -                 |
| Provincial scholarships               | 20,680                        | -                 |
| Sale of promotional items             | -                             | 113               |
| Syllabus and directory                | 25                            | 385               |
|                                       | <u>\$ 171,260</u>             | <u>\$ 122,844</u> |



**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION**  
**SCHEDULES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JULY 31, 2021**  
**(with comparative figures for 2020)**

|   | 2021              | 2020              |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Administration expenditures</b>      |                   |                   |
|   |                   | <b>Schedule 2</b> |
| Bookkeeping                             | \$ 1,146          | \$ 1,119          |
| Equipment rental and supplies           | 106               | 93                |
| Miscellaneous                           | 271               | 683               |
| Postage                                 | 752               | 1,444             |
| Rent                                    | 15,932            | 15,121            |
| Salaries and benefits                   | 133,988           | 123,232           |
| Telephone                               | 2,703             | 2,834             |
| Utilities and maintenance               | 1,807             | 2,440             |
|   | <u>\$ 156,705</u> | <u>\$ 146,966</u> |
| <b>Corporate expenditures</b>           |                   |                   |
|   |                   | <b>Schedule 3</b> |
| Audit                                   | \$ 3,906          | \$ 4,206          |
| Bank charges                            | 392               | 214               |
| Insurance                               | 1,134             | 1,511             |
| Investment management fees - restricted | 3,616             | 3,500             |
| Membership                              | 325               | 25                |
|   | <u>\$ 9,373</u>   | <u>\$ 9,456</u>   |
| <b>Program expenditures</b>             |                   |                   |
|   |                   | <b>Schedule 4</b> |
| Adjudicators training                   | \$ -              | \$ 2,528          |
| Concerto competition                    | 3,950             | -                 |
| Festival unit financial assistance      | 5,575             | 7,886             |
| Festival unit supplies                  | 673               | 10,491            |
| Hosting Nationals                       | -                 | 20,129            |
| Musical theatre                         | 675               | 4,386             |
| Opera competition                       | -                 | 16,648            |
| Program enhancement                     | 5,735             | 3,091             |
| Provincial finals expense               | 9,330             | (1,695)           |
| Provincial finals scholarship           | 30,350            | -                 |
| Provincial office supplies              | 15,212            | 10,710            |
| Speech arts                             | 236               | 434               |
| Syllabus/directory                      | 954               | 2,203             |
|   | <u>\$ 72,690</u>  | <u>\$ 76,811</u>  |
| <b>Public relations expenditures</b>    |                   |                   |
|   |                   | <b>Schedule 5</b> |
| Advertising                             | \$ 2,180          | \$ 5,907          |
| Annual report                           | -                 | 800               |
|   | <u>\$ 2,180</u>   | <u>\$ 6,707</u>   |

**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION**  
**SCHEDULES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JULY 31, 2021**  
**(with comparative figures for 2020)**

|  | 2021            | 2020              |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|
| <b>Travel and meeting expenditures</b> |                 | <b>Schedule 6</b> |
| SMFA conference charges                | \$ 594          | \$ 10,477         |
| SMFA directors travel                  | 930             | 12,730            |
| Festival visiting                      | -               | 495               |
| Executive directors travel             | 1,962           | 5,584             |
| Delegates to Federation conference     | -               | 4,674             |
| Motivational speaker                   | -               | 2,713             |
| National competitors and accompanists  | -               | 8,022             |
|  | <u>\$ 3,486</u> | <u>\$ 44,695</u>  |