

A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of piano keys, showing the black and white keys in a row, receding into the distance. The lighting is soft, creating a warm, golden-brown glow.

# 2023

## Annual Report

Saskatchewan Music Festival Association

August 1, 2022 to July 31, 2023



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SMFA programs and services 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.

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His Honour the Honourable Russell Mirasty,  
Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan  
The Honourable Scott Moe, Premier of Saskatchewan

**HONORARY PRESIDENTS**

Dr. Jeff Keshen, University of Regina  
Dr. Peter Stoicheff, University of Saskatchewan

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[Saskatchewan Choral Federation](#)  
[Saskatchewan Music Educators Association](#)  
[Saskatchewan Orchestral Association](#)  
[Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers' Association](#)

**SMFA PROVINCIAL OFFICE**

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**Executive Director**

Carol Donhauser

**Administrative Assistant**

Nancy Toppings

**Assistant to the Executive Director**

Mariel Unger





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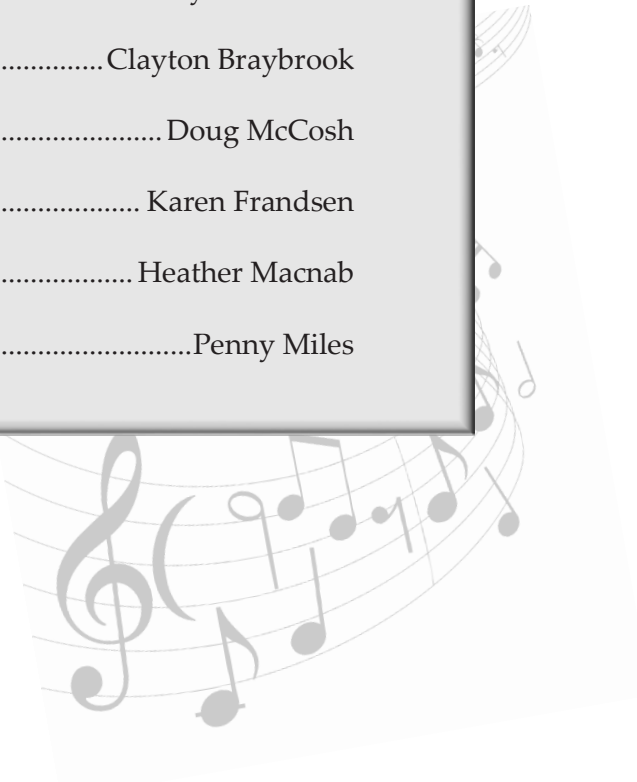
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# Board of Directors

President.....	Jeri Ryba
First Vice President .....	Dianne Gryba
Second Vice President.....	Alisha Mann
Past President.....	Tammy Villeneuve
Director .....	Clayton Braybrook
Director .....	Doug McCosh
Director .....	Karen Frandsen
Director .....	Heather Macnab
Director .....	Penny Miles





## 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 3 ½ years have been very challenging. We can proudly report that the organization worked together to deliver many safe and successful District Festivals in 2021 and 2022, with a return to live Provincial Finals in 2022. We have survived, adapted and are stronger as a result of this challenge.

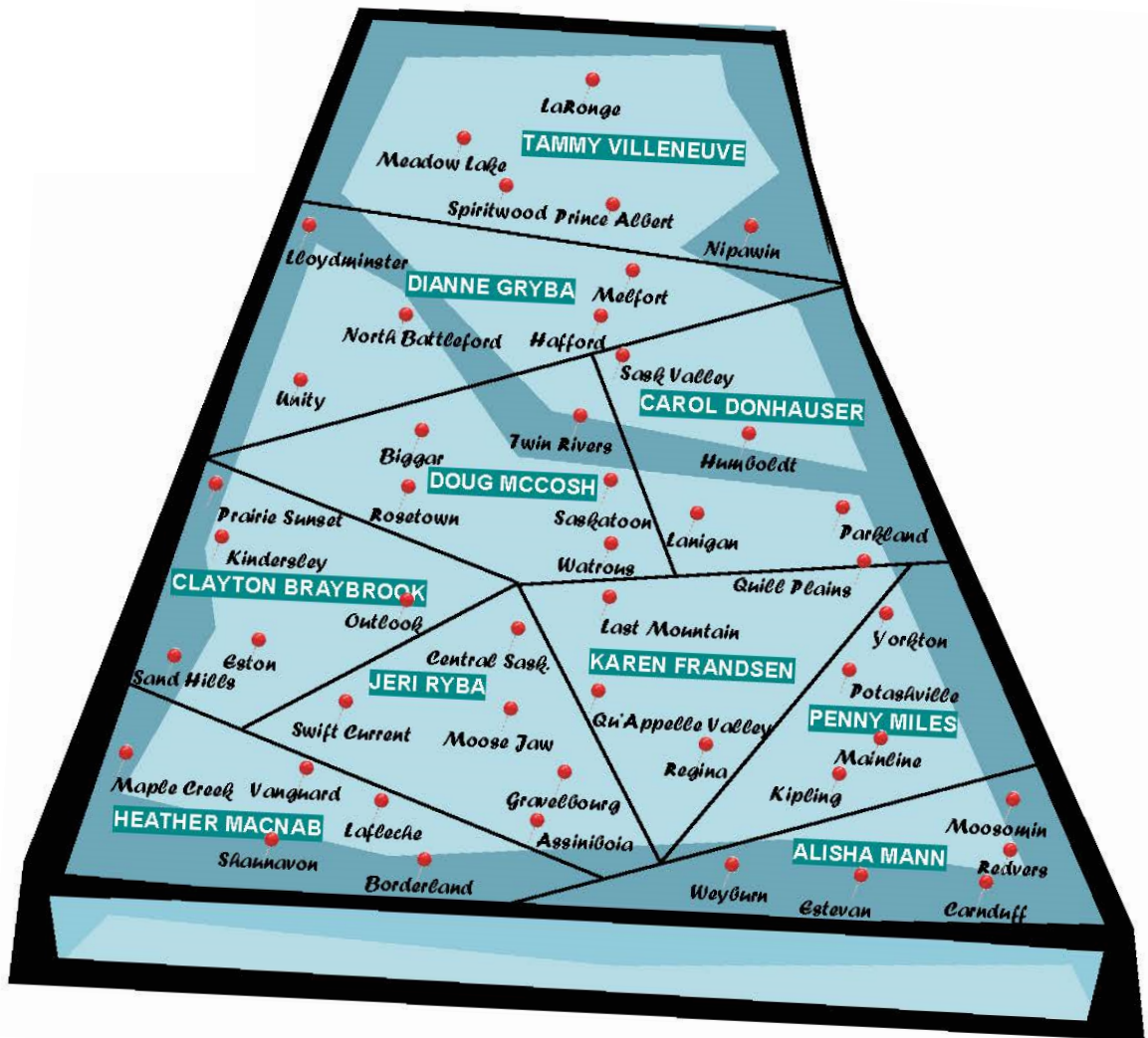


To summarize, we will again look to the wise words of Ms. Hancock: *We give thanks for the vision and the effort of all of those who brought us this far in the service of music. We believe that the firm foundation on which the Association has been built will support the vision and effort of our present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

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



## Board of Directors Liaison Map





## 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.*



We started the 2022-2023 year with the Fall Conference and AGM, which saw forty-two delegates from twenty-four of the forty-seven affiliated District Music Festivals gather at the Zion United Church in Moose Jaw. Three new directors, Heather Macnab (Maple Creek Music Festival), Penny Miles (Mainline Music Festival) and Karen Frandsen (Regina Music Festival), joined the SMFA Board of Directors.

The 35<sup>th</sup> SMFA Concerto Competition was held at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon on February 26, 2023 and was won by Saskatoon pianist Alice Li. We look forward to seeing Alice perform with the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras in an upcoming season.

Throughout March to May, forty-three of the forty-seven District Festivals were held across the province with over \$186,000 awarded in prizes. Volunteers spent over 20,000 hours delivering these festivals and 109 adjudicators were hired by the Provincial Office to provide their expertise.

On June 1 to 4, 450 performances by winners from District Music Festivals across Saskatchewan were heard at the Conservatory of Performing Arts in Regina. What a great achievement for so many of our young music students!

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Canada West Performing Arts Festival, in partnership with Alberta Music Festival and Performing Arts BC, was hosted by Alberta Music Festival on July 21-22, 2023 in Allard Hall at the downtown Edmonton MacEwan University campus. Over 140 entries competed for \$34,000 in prizes.

In addition to all of the programming, SMFA Board of Directors continued to meet via Zoom in order to achieve our strategic goals. Keeping SMFA relevant and increasing participation is our main goal for which we continue to strive.

I have enjoyed serving as President of the SMFA and would like to thank the SMFA Board of Directors for their work as well as our staff Nancy Toppings, Mariel Unger, Kari Mitchell and Carol Donhauser.

The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association gratefully acknowledges funding received through the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation.

The SMFA Board would also like to thank the many stakeholders that support festivals in our province. We are grateful to see the past few years of pandemic life leave us, as we embrace the unprecedented changes and new challenges in the year to come.

*Respectfully submitted, Jeri Ryba*



## Executive Director's Report

*Festivals are a celebration of culture and community and hold a significant place in human society serving as a platform for individuals to come together and celebrate various aspects of culture.*

Beyond their cultural significance, festivals also play a pivotal role in connecting individuals and fostering a sense of community. They create spaces for people to interact, exchange ideas, and build new relationships. In a world that often seems disconnected and fragmented, festivals provide a platform for individuals to come together and celebrate joy, creativity, and togetherness. SMFA festivals have been entertaining, connecting communities and building relationships for over a century.

We continue to recover from the past two years with several of our festivals teetering on dissolution. The good news is that 43 of our 47 affiliated District Festivals hosted festivals in 2023. This is an increase of 9 from our 34 festivals in 2022. We are still rooting for those festivals who have not returned to normal operations.

Saskatchewan has been recognized as the province with the highest per capita rate of volunteerism for several years in a row – higher than the national average. Our volunteers are the backbone of the cultural sector and help many non-profits accomplish some of the most innovative, not to mention cost-effective, community programming in the country.

Bravo, to our SMFA volunteers! Your commitment and dedication is simply amazing.

I would like to thank the SMFA staff; Nancy, Mariel, and Kari who worked hard under some pretty tight deadlines. Provincial Finals is one program that we have little time to prepare for, and I appreciate the efforts that are extended during those few short weeks.



We are very fortunate to have stable operational funding, through the Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation, dedicated stakeholders, generous supporters and our corporate sponsors like SaskTel and SaskMusic. These sources of funding enable SMFA to deliver programs and services to the people of Saskatchewan.

This year marked 20 years since I joined SMFA as Assistant to Doris Lazecki. Thank you to the SMFA Board of Directors for putting your trust in me as we work together on the SMFA mission of providing performance and educational opportunities through our network of festivals. Let's continue "Celebrating the Joy of Youth Performance".

*Respectfully submitted, Carol Donhauser*



## SMFA Fall Conference

November 19, 2022 saw SMFA return to an in-person conference after a two-year break due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The mood was celebratory, with delegates eager to gather and share ideas once again.



CITY OF  
**MOOSE JAW**  
SASKATCHEWAN

Forty-two delegates from 24 of the 47 affiliated District Music Festivals, gathered at the Zion United Church in Moose Jaw to network, learn and share experiences. Session presentations, Annual General Meeting, entertainment and roundtable discussions took place.

Three new directors, **Heather Macnab** (Maple Creek Music Festival), **Penny Miles** (Mainline Music Festival) and **Karen Frandsen** (Regina Music Festival), joined the SMFA board members: **Jeri Ryba** (President), **Tammy Villeneuve** (Past President), **Dianne Gryba** (1<sup>st</sup> Vice President), **Alisha Mann** (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President), **Doug McCosh** (Director), **Clayton Braybrook** (Director) and **Carol Donhauser** (Executive Director). Retiring Directors, Sherry Sproule (Lafleche Music Festival), Claire Seibold (Rosetown Music Festival) and Krista Brost (Meadow Lake Music Festival) were thanked for their service on the Provincial Board.

The Volunteer Award Luncheon is a Conference highlight, and this year Tammy Villeneuve, SMFA 2022 President, presented volunteer awards to: **Angela Gent** (Borderland Music Festival), **Sandra Bazin** (Estevan Music Festival), **Cindy Hayward** (Rosetown Music Festival), **Terry Ross** (Saskatoon Music Festival) and **Linda Sogbetun** (Yorkton Music Festival).

**Chelsea Mahan** and **Olivia Adams** were recipients of the Adjudicating Excellence Awards based the evaluations submitted by the District Festivals. A provincial scholarship of \$300 will be presented at the 2023 Provincial Final Competitions (June 1 - 4, 2023 in Regina) in honour of their outstanding work.



SMFA Board: Carol Donhauser, Executive Director; Dianne Gryba, 1<sup>st</sup> VP; Alisha Mann, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP; Doug McCosh, Penny Miles, Heather Macnab, Clayton Braybrook, Karen Frandsen, Directors; Tammy Villeneuve, Past President; Jeri Ryba, President



## 2022 AGM Minutes

Saskatchewan Music Festival Association,  
Annual General Meeting, Zion United Church  
423 Main Street North, Moose Jaw, SK  
November 19, 2022 @ 10:00am

Tammy Villeneuve, President, welcomed everyone to the 2022 Saskatchewan Music Festival Association Annual General Meeting and appointed Carol Donhauser as recording secretary.

The roll call was conducted by Sherry Sproule. Representatives from 24 District Festivals were present: Battlefords, Borderland, Estevan, Gravelbourg, Humboldt, Kindersley, Kipling, Lafleche, Lanigan, Mainline, Maple Creek, Meadow Lake, Melfort, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Quill Plains, Regina, Rosetown, Sask Valley, Saskatoon, Twin Rivers, Watrous, Weyburn and Yorkton. Not attending were Assiniboia, Biggar, Carnduff, Central Sask, Eston, Hafford, La Ronge, Last Mountain, Lloydminster, Moosomin, Nipawin, Outlook, Parkland, Potashville, Prairie Sunset, Qu'Appelle Valley, Redvers, Sand Hills, Shaunavon, Spiritwood, Swift Current, Unity, and Vanguard.

Tammy 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.

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am.

Delegates enjoyed the singing of *O Canada* followed by a moment of silence in memory of volunteers and committee members departed.

*Motion: To approve the agenda.*

*Krista Brost/Jean Fetsch*  
**CARRIED**

Sherry Sproule announced three board positions (1 one-year, 2 three-year) to be filled: Heather Macnab (Maple Creek), and Penny Miles (Mainline) have been nominated for the three-year positions and Karen Frandsen (Regina) for the one-year position. Sherry called for further nominations from the floor. None were forthcoming.

The minutes of the 2021 AGM as recorded in the Annual Report were presented.

*Motion: That the minutes be approved.*

*Yvonne Sutherland/Penny Miles*  
**CARRIED**

### Business Arising

Finance Chair, Jeri Ryba, presented a summary of the Investment Report.

The total market value of the funds managed by Beyond Wealth is \$431,651.75 as of July 31, 2022. For the period of August 1, 2021 ending July 31, 2022, the rate of return was -3.10%. During the same period, the Canadian Balanced Portfolio Benchmark was -7.52%. The priority for the portfolio has been to reduce volatility by investing in multiple asset classes. SMFA portfolio contains approximately 27% Canadian Equity, 25% US equity, 11% International Equity, 24% fixed income, and 10% Real Estate. We diversify the portfolio in these asset classes to limit the volatility over complete business cycles, not just over 1-year periods.

The SMFA also owns 375 BCE shares valued at \$37,267.



## **Financial Statement Presentation**

### **Statement of Financial Position (Page 70)**

The statement of financial position reports on the total assets, liabilities and net assets of the Association. Cash has decreased mainly due to first payment for the 2022/23 year from Saskatchewan Lotteries was not received early like the prior year and the deficiency of revenue over expenditures. Prepaids include a deposit placed on the new office. Assets held in trust have decreased due to a decrease in the markets. Deferred revenue has decreased over prior year due to not having received the 2022/23 funding early and having no deferred affiliation fees. Funds held in trust are the funds for the Mainline Music Festival that closed during the 2016/17 year. These funds will need to be held in trust for 5 years. Total assets for the July 31, 2022 year are \$704,204; total liabilities are \$113,854; and the net assets are \$590,350.

### **Statement of Operations (or statement of loss) (Page 71)**

The statement of operations reflects the revenue and expenditures from the day to day activities of the Association. Revenue has decreased from the prior year due to several factors. The biggest factor is the market decrease in the investments. The Association received approximately \$38,000 in a wage subsidy from the Canada Revenue Agency in 2021 that was not received in 2022. This was offset with the receipt of affiliation fees in the amount of \$36,082. The new Canada West Performing Arts Festival brought in income of \$45,935. Total expenses have increased. The majority of the increases over last year come in the program expenditure category. The costs of the Canada West Performing Arts Festival were \$53,133. Program enhancement was the project headed by Lenora Bells in the amount of \$21,154. In 2022 we were able to have a larger provincial finals competition which led to increased costs over the prior year.

### **Statement of Changes in Net Assets (Page 72)**

The statement of changes in net assets shows the changes during the year for the various categories of net assets.

### **Cash Flow Statement (Page 73)**

The cash flow statement shows how changes in the statement of financial position accounts and statement of operations affect cash and breaks the analysis down to operating, investing, and financing activities. It outlines the flow of cash in and out of the Association.

### **Notes and schedules to the financial statements (Pages 74 to 80)**

The notes are additional information added to the end of the financial statements. The notes help explain specific items in the statements as well as provide a more comprehensive assessment of the Association's financial condition.

The schedules are also additional information which provide a more detailed breakdown of the revenue and expenditure items presented in the statement of operations.

Total Assets for 2021/2022 - \$704,204; Total Liabilities - \$113,854; Net Assets - \$590,350

*Motion: to accept the auditor's report.*

*Maril Unger/Kristine Goepen-Bourgeois  
CARRIED*

*Motion: to appoint Marcia Herback as Auditor for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.*

*Kelly Stein/Clayton Braybrook  
CARRIED*

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

Tammy Villeneuve presented an overview of the 2022 Annual Report (August 1, 2021 to July 31, 2022).





*Motion: to adopt the 2022 Annual Report as presented.*

*Clayton Braybrook/Linda Baker  
CARRIED*

### New Business

2023 Concerto Competition on February 25 & 26, 2023 at the U of R, Conservatory (Regina). The Concerto Competition is a partnership project with the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras. The first place receives \$2,000 and the opportunity to appear as a guest artist with the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras. Second and third place receive \$750 and \$500.

2023 Provincial Finals Competition will take place June 1 to 4, 2023 @ the U of R, Conservatory (Regina, SK).

Canada West Performing Arts Festival will take place July 21-22, 2023 in Edmonton, Alberta and is hosted and administered by the Alberta Music Festival Association.

### Greetings from Representative Organizations

Laureen Kells, President of the Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers' Association brought heartfelt greetings.

Tammy read a letter from Sheryl Neher, Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Choral Federation.

Sherry Sproule made the third and last call for nominations from the floor. There were none.

*Motion: to close nominations.*

*Clayton Braybrook/Yvonne Sutherland  
CARRIED*

*Motion: To elect, by acclamation, Heather Macnab, Penny Miles, and Karen Frandsen to the SMFA Board of Directors.*

*Mariel Unger/Alisha Mann  
CARRIED*

Each new Board member had an opportunity to say a few words about themselves. Tammy welcomed Karen, Penny and Heather and thanked outgoing Board members Krista Brost, Claire Seibold, and Sherry Sproule for their service.

Tammy acknowledged the support received from the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation.

The SMFA Board & staff was thanked and introduced: The Executive includes: President: Jeri Ryba (Moose Jaw), 1<sup>st</sup> VP: Dianne Gryba (North Battleford), 2<sup>nd</sup> VP: Alisha Mann (Estevan), Past President: Tammy Villeneuve (Meadow Lake). Directors: Doug McCosh (Saskatoon), Clayton Braybrook (Kindersley), Heather Macnab (Maple Creek), Penny Miles (Mainline @ Wolseley), and Karen Frandsen (Regina). Staff: Carol Donhauser (Executive Director), Nancy Toppings (Administrative Assistant), Mariel Unger (Adjudicator Liaison).

The 2023 Conference and AGM is to be determined.

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am.**





## SMFA Concerto Competition

*The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association's Concerto Competition is held in conjunction with the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras. Originally an annual event, the competition is now held every two years, alternating between Saskatoon and Regina.*



*Photo credit Stephen Nicholson*

The 35<sup>th</sup> SMFA Concerto Competition was held at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon on February 26, 2023 and was won by Saskatoon pianist Alice Li, with her performance of Chopin's Piano Concerto in e minor, Op. 11. She was accompanied by Sofia Mycyk. Alice received the first prize of \$2,000 and the opportunity to be a featured soloist in an upcoming season with the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras.

Alice Li, 22, is a Saskatoon-based pianist and a recent Bachelor of Science (Honours) in

Psychology graduate from the University of Saskatchewan, where she studied under the George and Marsha Ivany President's Scholarship. Alice is the recipient of numerous accolades at provincial and national levels. She holds an ARCT diploma (Piano Performance) from the Royal Conservatory of Music and has worked as the collaborative pianist for the Saskatoon Strings since 2016. Alice has performed in masterclasses for artists such as Jan Lisiecki, John Perry, Janina Fialkowska and Ian Parker. She currently studies with Sofia Mycyk and is incredibly grateful to her past teachers Bonnie Nicholson, Sarah Konescni, Cassandra Stinn, and Donna Bramwell for their guidance. Outside of music, she enjoys oil painting, fitness, and spending time with her friends and family.

Five young musicians competed in the competition. Connor Elias, pianist, placed second and Brandon Johnson, violinist, placed third. The competition was judged by Darryl Friesen of Winnipeg, MB and Maria Medlow, Calgary, AB.

The next SMFA Concerto Competition will take place in 2025.





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## Testimonial – Vanessa Klassen, DMA

*It all begins with a supportive community that recognizes the value of music. It takes a village to raise a child, and for me, my village included my supportive family, teachers, collaborative pianists, and the countless volunteers who keep Saskatchewan's music festivals running.*



At eleven years old, I participated in my very first music festival in my hometown of Kindersley. I had been playing the clarinet for a year and a half at that point, and I already loved it. I still remember working hard to learn my pieces for the festival. I loved the feeling of making my teacher proud as my hard work paid off and I took home my first win!

I was eager to participate each year after that, and I did for eleven years in total. I was never very athletic or into sports, so music was my outlet. Among many things, music taught me the importance of a good work ethic, and it also showed me the beauty of collaborating with others. I would often perform in church and at Kindersley's annual Christmas Carol Festival. I loved connecting with my band friends from across the province when I competed at Provincials or participated in honour bands. The keen interest in music I had from a young age combined with the fantastic, encouraging teachers of a supportive community created the perfect storm for me to pursue music in the long run.

While attending Brandon University for my bachelor's degree, I participated in the Brandon Festival of the Arts. I was surprised to discover that the wind instrument portion of the festival mostly consisted of a few university student participants, with maybe one high school-age participant and no middle school-age participants. A larger city in Manitoba didn't have the same musical culture that I grew up with in Kindersley where many students took private lessons, and all band students were encouraged to participate in the music festival. I then realized it was quite remarkable to have grown up in a small community so supportive of the local music festival, not to mention the top-notch, supportive teachers that we had in Kindersley, such as Steve Mealey, Colleen Oscar-Swan, Helen Barclay, Clayton Braybrook, and Laura Ewson, to name a few.

I was recommended to Nationals on two occasions: the first as a member of a clarinet quartet representing the province of Manitoba, and the second as the woodwind representative of Saskatchewan. Team Saskatchewan always had the best support! James Campbell—one of Canada's top clarinetists—had adjudicated the year I competed at nationals in Edmonton. He recently remarked to me again that you could always tell when someone from Saskatchewan was competing; the room was full of enthusiastic families and fellow teammates cheering on the performer! There's just something about the team spirit of Saskatchewan that you can't get anywhere else!



Music took me places I never thought I would go. After completing my bachelor's degree at Brandon University where I studied with Dr. Cathy Wood, I received a fellowship to study at The Ohio State University with Dr. Caroline Hartig. I earned both my master's degree and my doctorate at Ohio State. After five years of graduate studies in the States, I moved back home to Saskatchewan to continue the legacy my teachers passed on to me. Last year I found myself in the teacher's seat as I encouraged and supported my own students competing in the Kindersley and District Music Festival. It brings me so much joy to see my students flourish and experience music for the first time just as I did many years ago.

As I write this, I am preparing for my first concert with the Regina Symphony Orchestra as Assistant Principal Clarinet. I am looking forward to also building a music studio in Regina, to continue cultivating a love and legacy of music in my home province. It all begins with a supportive community that recognizes the value of music. It takes a village to raise a child, and for me, my village included my supportive family, teachers, collaborative pianists, and the countless volunteers who keep Saskatchewan's music festivals running.

I couldn't be more proud to be back in the province that helped cultivate my own love for music. Music is about bringing people together from all walks of life, and I am happy to continue being a part of that!





## A Testimonial for Our Time

*These words are taken from a welcome address to freshman parents at Boston Conservatory, given by Karl Paulnack, pianist and retired director of the Boston Conservatory's Music Division and Dean of the School of Music at Ithaca College. Paulnack is a nationally recognized speaker, writer, workshop facilitator and thought leader on the Power of Music.*



“One of my parents’ deepest fears, I suspect, is that society would not properly value me as a musician, that I wouldn’t be appreciated. I had very good grades in high school, I was good in science and math, and they imagined that as a doctor or a research chemist or an engineer, I might be more appreciated than I would be as a musician. I still remember my mother’s remark when I announced my decision to apply to music school – she said “you’re WASTING your SAT scores”.

On some level, I think, my parents were not sure themselves what the value of music was, what its purpose was. And they LOVED music, they listened to classical music all the time. They just weren’t really clear about its function. So let me talk about that a little bit, because we live in a society that puts music in the “arts and entertainment” section of the newspaper, and serious music, the kind your kids are about to engage in, has absolutely nothing whatsoever to do with entertainment, in fact it’s the opposite of entertainment. Let me talk a little bit about music, and how it works.

The first people to understand how music really works were the ancient Greeks. And this is going to fascinate you; the Greeks said that music and astronomy were two sides of the same coin. Astronomy was seen as the study of relationships between observable, permanent, external objects, and music was seen as the study of relationships between invisible,

internal, hidden objects. Music has a way of finding the big, invisible moving pieces inside our hearts and souls and helping us figure out the position of things inside us. Let me give you some examples of how this works.

One of the most profound musical compositions of all time is the *Quartet for the End of Time* written by French composer Olivier Messiaen in 1940. Messiaen was 31 years old when France entered the war against Nazi Germany. He was captured by the Germans in June of 1940, sent across Germany in a cattle car and imprisoned in a concentration camp. He was fortunate to find a sympathetic prison guard who gave him paper and a place to compose. There were three other musicians in the camp, a cellist, a violinist, and a clarinetist, and Messiaen wrote his quartet with these specific players in mind. It was performed in January 1941 for four thousand prisoners and guards in the prison camp. Today it is one of the most famous masterworks in the repertoire.

Given what we have since learned about life in the concentration camps, why would anyone in his right mind waste time and energy writing or playing music? There was barely enough energy on a good day to find food and water, to avoid a beating, to stay warm, to escape torture - why would anyone bother with music? And yet - from the camps, we have poetry, we have music, we have visual art; it wasn’t just this one



fanatic Messiaen; many, many people created art.

Why? Well, in a place where people are only focused on survival, on the bare necessities, the obvious conclusion is that art must be, somehow, essential for life. The camps were without money, without hope, without commerce, without recreation, without basic respect, but they were not without art. Art is part of survival; art is part of the human spirit, an unquenchable expression of who we are. Art is one of the ways in which we say, "I am alive, and my life has meaning."

On September 12, 2001 I was a resident of Manhattan. That morning I reached a new understanding of my art and its relationship to the world. I sat down at the piano that morning at 10 AM to practice as was my daily routine; I did it by force of habit, without thinking about it. I lifted the cover on the keyboard, and opened my music, and put my hands on the keys and took my hands off the keys. And I sat there and thought, does this even matter? Isn't this completely irrelevant? Playing the piano right now, given what happened in this city yesterday, seems silly, absurd, irreverent, pointless. Why am I here? What place has a musician in this moment in time? Who needs a piano player right now? I was completely lost.

And then I, along with the rest of New York, went through the journey of getting through that week. I did not play the piano that day, and in fact I contemplated briefly whether I would ever want to play the piano again. And then I observed how we got through the day. At least in my neighborhood, we didn't shoot hoops or play Scrabble. We didn't play cards to pass the time, we didn't watch TV, we didn't shop, we most certainly did not go to the mall. The first

organized activity that I saw in New York, that same day, was singing. People sang. People sang around fire houses, people sang "*We Shall Overcome*". Lots of people sang *America the Beautiful*. The first organized public event that I remember was the Brahms *Requiem*, later that week, at Lincoln Center, with the New York Philharmonic.

The first organized public expression of grief, our first communal response to that historic event, was a concert. That was the beginning of a sense that life might go on. The US Military secured the airspace, but recovery was led by the arts, and by music in particular, that very night.

From these two experiences, I have come to understand that music is not part of "arts and entertainment" as the newspaper section would have us believe. It's not a luxury, a lavish thing that we fund from leftovers of our budgets, not a plaything or an amusement or a pastime. Music is a basic need of human survival. Music is one of the ways we make sense of our lives, one of the ways in which we express feelings when we have no words, a way for us to understand things with our hearts when we can't with our minds.

Some of you may know Samuel Barber's heart wrenchingly beautiful piece *Adagio for Strings*. If you don't know it by that name, then some of you may know it as the background music which accompanied the Oliver Stone movie, *Platoon*, a film about the Vietnam War. If you know that piece of music either way, you know it has the ability to crack your heart open like a walnut; it can make you cry over sadness you didn't know you had. Music can slip beneath our conscious reality to get at what's really



going on inside us the way a good therapist does.

I bet that you have never been to a wedding where there was absolutely no music. There might have been only a little music, there might have been some really bad music, but I bet you there was some music. And something very predictable happens at weddings - people get all pent up with all kinds of emotions, and then there's some musical moment where the action of the wedding stops and someone sings or plays the flute or something. And even if the music is lame, even if the quality isn't good, predictably 30 or 40 percent of the people who are going to cry at a wedding, cry a couple of moments after the music starts.

Why? The Greeks.

Music allows us to move around those big invisible pieces of ourselves and rearrange our insides so that we can express what we feel even when we can't talk about it. Can you imagine watching *Indiana Jones* or *Superman* or *Star Wars* with the dialogue but no music? What is it about the music swelling up at just the right moment in *ET* so that all the softies in the audience start crying at exactly the same moment? I guarantee you if you showed the movie with the music stripped out, it wouldn't happen that way.

The Greeks: Music is the understanding of the relationship between invisible internal objects.

I'll give you one more example, the story of the most important concert of my life. I must tell you I have played a little less than a thousand concerts in my life so far. I have played in places that I thought were important. I like playing in Carnegie Hall; I enjoyed playing in Paris; it made me very happy to please the critics in St. Petersburg. I have played for people I thought

were important; music critics of major newspapers, foreign heads of state. The most important concert of my entire life took place in a nursing home in Fargo, ND, about 4 years ago.

I was playing with a very dear friend of mine who is a violinist. We began, as we often do, with Aaron Copland's *Sonata*, which was written during World War II and dedicated to a young friend of Copland's, a young pilot who was shot down during the war. Now we often talk to our audiences about the pieces we are going to play rather than providing them with written program notes. But in this case, because we began the concert with this piece, we decided to talk about the piece later in the program and to just come out and play the music without explanation. Midway through the piece, an elderly man seated in a wheelchair near the front of the concert hall began to weep. This man, whom I later met, was clearly a soldier - even in his 70s, it was clear from his buzz-cut hair, square jaw and general demeanor that he had spent a good deal of his life in the military. I thought it a little bit odd that someone would be moved to tears by that particular movement of that particular piece, but it wasn't the first time I've heard crying in a concert and we went on with the concert and finished the piece.

When we came out to play the next piece on the program, we decided to talk about both the first and second pieces, and we described the circumstances in which the Copland was written and mentioned its dedication to a downed pilot. The man in the front of the audience became so disturbed that he had to leave the auditorium. I honestly figured that we would not see him again, but he did come backstage afterwards, tears and all, to explain himself.





What he told us was this: "During World War II, I was a pilot, and I was in an aerial combat situation where one of my team's planes was hit. I watched my friend bail out, and watched his parachute open, but the Japanese planes which had engaged us returned and machine gunned across the parachute chords so as to separate the parachute from the pilot, and I watched my friend drop away into the ocean, realizing that he was lost. I have not thought about this for many years, but during that first piece of music you played, this memory returned to me so vividly that it was as though I was reliving it. I didn't understand why this was happening, why now, but then when you came out to explain that this piece of music was written to commemorate a lost pilot, it was a little more than I could handle. How does the music do that? How did it find those feelings and those memories in me?"

Remember the Greeks: music is the study of invisible relationships between internal objects. This concert in Fargo was the most important work I have ever done. For me to play for this old soldier and help him connect, somehow, with Aaron Copland, and to connect their memories of their lost friends, to help him remember and mourn his friend, this is my work. This is why music matters.

What follows is part of the talk I will give to this year's freshman class when I welcome them a few days from now. The responsibility I will charge your sons and daughters with is this:

"If we were a medical school, and you were here as a med student practicing appendectomies, you'd take your work very seriously because you would imagine that some night at two AM

someone is going to waltz into your emergency room and you're going to have to save their life.

Well, my friends, someday at 8 PM someone is going to walk into your concert hall and bring you a mind that is confused, a heart that is overwhelmed, a soul that is weary. Whether they go out whole again will depend partly on how well you do your craft.

You're not here to become an entertainer, and you don't have to sell yourself. The truth is you don't have anything to sell; being a musician isn't about dispensing a product, like selling used Chevies. I'm not an entertainer; I'm a lot closer to a paramedic, a firefighter, a rescue worker. You're here to become a sort of therapist for the human soul, a spiritual version of a chiropractor, physical therapist, someone who works with our insides to see if they get things to line up, to see if we can come into harmony with ourselves and be healthy and happy and well.

Frankly, ladies and gentlemen, I expect you not only to master music; I expect you to save the planet. If there is a future wave of wellness on this planet, of harmony, of peace, of an end to war, of mutual understanding, of equality, of fairness, I don't expect it will come from a government, a military force or a corporation. I no longer even expect it to come from the religions of the world, which together seem to have brought us as much war as they have peace. If there is a future of peace for humankind, if there is to be an understanding of how these invisible, internal things should fit together, I expect it will come from the artists, because that's what we do. As in the concentration camp and the evening of 9/11, the artists are the ones who might be able to help us with our internal, invisible lives."



## 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; opportunity to advance to the Canada West Performing Arts Festival with competitors from Alberta and British Columbia; 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 2022, SMFA hosted the inaugural Canada West Performing Arts Festival on the beautiful University of Saskatchewan Campus.*

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

### Assiniboia & District Music Festival March 22 to 25, 2023

Assiniboia & District Music Festival held its 89<sup>th</sup> festival from March 22-25, 2023. The sessions were held at the Assiniboia Alliance Church as they have been for many years. There were 138 entries in a variety of vocal, string, musical theatre, speech arts and piano classes. We had 57 participants in the festival from our own community and neighboring communities. Fourteen of them were playing in Assiniboia & District Music Festival for the first time. It was wonderful to see so many new faces, and to reconnect with those who have been to festival in the past.

Our adjudicator this year was Sarah Clark Gregory from Watrous. She was wonderful to work with and great with the students. Sarah had lots of positive comments for the competitors and also gave everyone ways to improve. She really highlighted what each participant was doing well in their music.

The Assiniboia & District Music Festival held an awards concert on the evening of March 30, 2023 also at the Assiniboia Alliance Church. A total of \$1975 in community scholarships were awarded to worthy participants from the festival, many of whom also performed in the program. We had a great concert followed by the presentation of awards and topped with an ice cream social.

Thank you to all the committee members and volunteers who put on this festival! Although we had to deal with other regional festival politics, we kept our heads down and concentrated on having a great local festival for all our participants.

*Respectfully submitted, Heather Delorme, President*

### Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival March 13 to 25, 2023

The 91<sup>st</sup> consecutive Battlefords Music Festival was held March 13-25, with the Gala concert of award winners on Tuesday, March 28. Our festival is fortunate to be well supported by businesses and service clubs in our community. As well, we have funds which were granted to us from the Jim Pattison Broadcast Group in past years, which we intend to continue spending on programs for the students in our area.

We were able to pay bussing costs for school groups entering the 2023 festival and entry fees for performers recommended to the provincial level of competition. In 2022-23, we offered a BMFA Booster workshop program to all teachers. We paid for all the costs of mounting a workshop for students if the teacher organized the event. The stipulation was that the workshop participants would enter the 2023 music festival. As a result, our community saw workshops in composition (Peggy L'Hoir, clinician); Orff instrumental ensemble (Janet Weaver, clinician); spoken word (Heather Macnab, clinician); strings and fiddling (Karrnel Sawitsky, clinician). The workshops were successful and inspiring for all involved, and the new entrants performing in the festival added much to our event. We hope to expand this program in 2023-24.

The piano, vocal, musical theatre, choral and spoken word classes moved back to Third Avenue United Church for 2023. Strings and instrumental solos and small ensembles were heard at the Kinsmen Band Hall. We had used the Dekker Centre theatre in 2021 and 2022. We lost some entries because of this. The condition of the piano at Third Avenue United Church in



Logie Hall caused us some frantic concern just before the festival started but Roger Jolly bailed us out with a full day of work on the instrument.

This year's festival began with strings, bands and instrumental solos and small ensembles. Daryl McKinnon was the adjudicator. The classes ran from March 13 - 17. 18 bands entered the festival, some performing at the North Battleford Comprehensive High School, and others at the Kinsmen Band Hall. This number includes Orff ensemble and recorder groups. There were 16 string solos and 57 solos and small ensembles, mostly featuring beginners. It was exciting to hear all the enthusiasm and effort displayed by these young musicians. There was one entrant in the Canada West Brass category.

Vocal, musical theatre and spoken word classes were adjudicated by Marcia McLean. Choral groups and some solo entries were heard in the sanctuary of Third Avenue United Church and the rest of the classes were held in Logie Hall. There were 19 entries in solo musical theatre, as well as one duet. 31 vocal entries, 2 choral entries, and 31 spoken word performances were heard. We had Canada West entrants in classical vocal, musical theatre and spoken word categories. These performances took place on March 20-22.

158 piano entries were heard on March 22-25. This included 13 duets. Maria Medlow was the adjudicator.

Total number of entries was 358, which reflects a steady rise in numbers since the onset of COVID restrictions in 2021, but we are still struggling to attract more teachers and their students. We are also having difficulty filling the executive positions on our committee.

The winner of the cover art contest was Sam Thompson, a Grade 5 student from Battleford Central School. Admission to the sessions was by donation. Programs were sold for \$10.

The gala concert on March 28 at the Dekker Centre was an excellent evening showcasing fine performances. \$8,900 in scholarship money was awarded to students. A rehearsal was held at the Dekker Centre for the performers in the afternoon between 2:00 and 5:30, which was helpful to everyone. Tickets for the gala were \$10.

We hope that in 2023-24 we can continue to build our entry numbers and encourage more teachers and students to take advantage of the many opportunities provided both by our local Festival and by the SMFA .

*Respectfully submitted, Dianne Gryba, President*



### **Biggar & District Music Festival March 6 to 11, 2023**

The Biggar and District Music Festival was held March 6-11, with a very enjoyable Performers' Evening and presentation of awards on Saturday. This year was our 95<sup>th</sup> annual music festival and was very well attended. Our festival included two days of piano, one day of instrumental, and two days of vocal. Three rose bowls were presented to Larissa Raddysh (vocal), Adriana Sanchez (instrumental) and Dasha Ilyasov (piano). Three participants were eligible for Provincials: Kyra Sittler (piano), Larissa Raddysh (vocal), and Katelyn Fecht (vocal). Thank you to all of our scholarship supporters, award donors and patrons.

Our first fundraisers for the spring festival happened in October. A block party fundraiser was held in our community. Our music festival committee raised approximately \$1400 selling tickets on a gift basket raffle. We also had a Halloween concert in the park. A few of our music festival participants performed spooky



songs, and a silver collection raised over \$115. This year our committee hosted a Carol Festival at the Biggar Majestic Theatre in early December. It was very well attended with school groups performing a noon concert and local community choirs performing in an evening concert. Again we had a Christmas gift basket to raffle. We received a great deal of community support this year and raised over \$900 at the Carol Festival.

At our district music festival there were over 200 entries including 5 band entries. We welcomed three adjudicators; Laurel Teichroeb (piano), James McCarthy (instrumental), and Laurien Gibson (vocal). We would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the adjudicators for the encouragement and advice they provided to our participants.

On behalf of the Biggar Music Festival Association, I would like to thank all of our many volunteers that ensured that everything ran smoothly during the music festival. The 95<sup>th</sup> Biggar & District Music Festival was once again a success!

*Submitted by Jackie Zagoruy, President*



### **Borderland Music Festival (Coronach) April 2 to 3, 2023**

The 2023 Borderland Music Festival was held at the Coronach Alliance Church on April 2-3, 2023. We were excited to be back to a fully live festival. We had a total of 71 performances. Our wonderful adjudicator, Anna Marie Bekolay, stayed with us for the full festival, adjudicating all musical theatre, spoken word, choral, vocal and piano entries. We had an amazing and full Monday morning with excellent choral and spoken word performances by school groups from Pre-Kindergarten through Grades 5 & 6.

The spirit of the festival was one of celebration and community.

Our final awards ceremony and concert was held in a different format than previous years. Each entrant was celebrated individually as they accepted their awards and performed a piece from their entries. We found this format to be a great way to improve the flow of the final concert evening as well as to showcase each performer who entered the festival. The concert was performed to a full house with standing room only and we were proud to offer our entrants a total of \$1,650 in scholarships and many various awards.

The Borderland Music Festival Committee worked hard to ensure the festival was organized and enjoyed by all. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our many local sponsors as well as the volunteers who made the festival a success. We would also like to thank our adjudicator, Anna Marie Bekolay, for her clinical expertise and warm engagement with all our entrants. The 2023 BMFA committee members were: Dorothea Trithardt, Kalissa Regier, Kaylan Fisher, Marilyn Remoue, Shelly Rousseau and Angelika Budd. We look forward to another successful festival in 2024.

*Respectfully submitted, Kalissa Regier, President*



### **Carnduff & District Music and Arts Festival NO FESTIVAL IN 2023**





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### **Central Saskatchewan Music and Speech Arts Festival (Davidson) March 27 to 28, 2023**


This year was our 61<sup>st</sup> anniversary of a music festival in Davidson. We had a successful 2-day festival on March 27 & 28.

Cherith Alexander was our adjudicator for both days. It was an awesome experience for students, parents, family, friends, teachers and the committee members. Thank you, Cherith.

Our Grand Finale Concert was held March 29 with a large audience in attendance. Scholarships and trophies were awarded.

Our festival is made possible through generous donations from our patrons and scholarship supporters. We are a small festival with lots of enthusiasm from everyone involved.

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### **Estevan & District Music Festival March 20 to 30, 2023**

Hooray for live music! The Estevan and District Music Festival moved back to a completely in-person festival for the first time since 2019. We have a long way to go rebuilding entries in some disciplines that were particularly impacted by COVID, but, overall, impressed to see numbers steadily increasing.

From March 20-24, adjudicator Alan Crane visited all the way from Vancouver, British Columbia, to work with our 279 piano entries. Lots of good feedback came from his interactive adjudicating and positive demeanor.

March 27-28 brought Melissa Wood to our corner of the province to adjudicate spoken word, vocal and musical theater entries. We were small in numbers – only 65 entries

between the three disciplines – but her enthusiasm working with this small group was as large as it would have been with hundreds!

Scott Adelman was in Estevan March 29-30 to work with bands, instrumental and strings entrants. We had a resurgence in the strings discipline and hope to see that grow, as well as the beginning of the rebound of the school band program (heavily impacted by COVID restrictions, of course). There were 65 entries in these combined disciplines and Scott's energy and zest for school music/band was contagious!

All together, we had 409 entries (an increase of 144 from 2022) and very few cancellations. Entrants as young as 3 years old took the stage for the first time and their joyful little smiles lit up the room! We also had quite a few graduating players performing for, possibly, their last time at festival. Thank you for sharing your music with us through the years. We wish them all well in their future endeavors!

Tons of volunteers came out to support the festival and give the gift of their time to our organization. Without their commitment, we have no festival. Thank you could never be enough!

We held two awards and highlights concerts on Sunday, April 2. Participants in spoken word, vocal, musical theater, band, strings and instrumental were featured and awarded at a 2:00 pm concert. Piano performers were honored in a separate concert at 6:30 pm on the same day. Our top award is the Murray GM Multi-Discipline award, which was won by Jesse Gibson after performing in the piano and instrumental classes. For the first time, we had a tie for the runner-up award and were able to award two worthy up-and-coming musicians. The Dwight Thompson Memorial Multi-Discipline Runner-Up Award (donated by Hall Funeral Services) was awarded to Sarah Morris and a second runner-up award, sponsored by Scotsburn Dental, was given to Jacob Pyra.



We are pleased to be able to award over \$10,000 in scholarships and awards, thanks to the many generous donors and businesses in our community. This monetary support provides encouragement and motivation to our many recipients and is greatly appreciated by winners and our committee, alike.

We were also happy to have one of our district entrants advance to the Provincial Competition, held in Regina the first weekend of June. Jennika Linthicum represented our festival in 12 & under piano and had this to say about her experience performing at Darke Hall on the beautiful Fazioli piano: "When I first got there I felt a little nervous as I walked into the auditorium. As I took my seat next to my dad I looked around and saw up on the stage, the piano. Spotlights pointing directly on the black shiny grand piano, I was no longer nervous but more so excited! ... I then played my heart out with expression and emotion. After the applause I bowed and walked off the stage feeling relief yet proud of myself." Thank you to the SMFA for the beautiful opportunity presented to these young musicians!

The Estevan & District Music Festival is entering its 60<sup>th</sup> year of festivals in 2024 and we look forward to celebrating this milestone year with our community, volunteers, benefactors, teachers, families and past and present entrants!

*Submitted by Alisha Mann, President*

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### **Eston Music Festival**

**April 24 to 25, 2023**

We were thrilled to get back to a live festival after two cancellations and one virtual festival. Entries were down to 102: piano (40), strings (7), speech arts (50), vocal (4), school choir (1).

We no longer have a vocal teacher in Eston and our entries showed that. A community member has offered to help out with vocal next year, to

prepare anyone who wishes to enter the festival. Hopefully this will help our entry numbers.

All our sessions were held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church and the final concert at the Eston Full Gospel Church. Thank you to both these churches for opening their doors to our festival. We had very good community attendance throughout the festival. Thank you to all who came out to support our performers. Our festival volunteers and scholarship support is second to none!

Our adjudicator was Chris Kelly from Saskatoon. It was such a pleasure to have him. He did an excellent job and was so knowledgeable and encouraging to all the performers.

After a three-year absence, we hosted a smaller than usual Carol Festival this past December. Our Annual General Meeting will be held September 12, 2023 at 7pm at St. Andrew's United Church.

*Respectfully submitted by Brenda Ormsby*

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### **Gravelbourg & District Bilingual Music Festival**

**April 19 to 22, 2023**

We had two adjudicators this year, one for piano and instruments, and one for speech arts and vocal classes. Thank you to Corinne Groff and Mireille Rijavec. They both shared their enthusiasm and love of the arts with our participants, making our first-time performers feel right at ease. We hope they return another year to our community.

A huge shout out and thank you goes out to our students and teachers who continued to get together and practice, both in person and virtually. Many of our students take some lessons from teachers in other communities, as rural areas have fewer teachers. In total, we had 30 competitors enter 127 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, even though our numbers are down from previous years. Also, 7 of our participants entered 17 provincial classes and all received recommendations from the adjudicators to move on to provincials. We are so proud of their accomplishments. Many of our students participated in other festivals in the area as well.

Our final concert and scholarship award ceremony, The Gravelbourg Grammys, was held at the end of week and also broadcast live via Facebook. 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. Local donors were very generous with their scholarships and awards.

Our committee is always open to new members and volunteers. We have been actively looking for a new treasurer to take over the financial duties on our committee for two years. Fortunately, our previous treasurer has not left us without this season, but we need new parents and community members who are interested in supporting the arts in Gravelbourg and area to join our planning committee. The talent and spirit in Gravelbourg never cease to amaze me, but finding individuals to fill board roles is proving difficult.

#### GDBMF Committee Members

Chair/President – Yvonne Sutherland

Treasurer – Vacant (Jocelyne Lorrain)

Entry Secretary – Michelle Blohm

Corresponding Secretary –

Kristine Goepen-Bourgeois

Scholarships & Awards – Allan Sutherland

School Liaison/Volunteers – Melanie Gosselin

Member at Large – Rachel Olhmann

*Submitted by Yvonne Sutherland, President*



## **Hafford & District Music Festival NO FESTIVAL IN 2023**



## **Humboldt Music Festival March 13 to 21, 2023**

Humboldt Music Festival held their 86<sup>th</sup> festival from March 13-21, 2023. We were so excited to offer a full in-person festival and have many spectators come to watch our participants. With the help of volunteers, we were able to host a very successful festival. We had in total 268 entries in our festival with 138 participants between the disciplines of piano, strings, band, vocal and musical theatre. Unfortunately, this year we were unable to offer live-streaming as we did not have enough volunteers in order to be able offer it. Our final concert was held on the evening of March 31 at Westminster United Church and was very well received and attended by the community. We are always so grateful for the support from our community, and for all the volunteers that dedicate their time in helping us offer this opportunity to the youth in our community.

*Submitted by April Pray, Festival Coordinator*







## **Kindersley & District Music Festival** **March 20 to 28, 2023**

Our 2023 Music Festival ran from March 20-28. We hosted 16 sessions over 6 days in 3 venues. Over 320 students were registered, including 2 high school bands and 3 elementary school choirs. In total, 278 registrations were made, with 283 pieces being played. Our numbers may have been a little higher if another nearby festival had not had exactly the same dates, so students who were able to participate in both had to choose one or the other.

Our first adjudicator was Melissa Wood, who came to adjudicate our speech arts, vocal and musical theatre sessions at the Norman Ritchie Community Centre. Though this is one area where our numbers were low this year, two of our participants received recommendations to Provincials: Anika German in vocal and musical theatre, and Macy Boisjoli in musical theatre.

Audrey Watson came to adjudicate our piano sessions. This was a very young group, with our small seniors group at St. Paul's United Church being mostly in the 14-15 age categories. The junior piano, held at the NRCC, was 7 very full sessions. It was exciting to have so many first time participants!

Our second week saw Mark Ward come to adjudicate our instrumental sessions at St. Paul's United Church and the high school bands at the Kindersley Composite School. As band instruction has been able to return to the middle and high schools in the past year, we had many first time participants in all these categories as well. One of those first timers, Beth Summach, was also recommended to Provincials, for her woodwind performance.

We were very pleased to be able to host an "Adjudicator's Invitational Stars of the Festival"

concert. Our adjudicators not only had the responsibility of choosing scholarship winners, but also the participants, and their pieces that would be performed in the concert. As we gave out 49 scholarships, it was not reasonable to have everyone perform, so our adjudicators followed the KDMF suggested number restrictions and put together a program of 26 pieces across all the disciplines. All scholarship winners were also encouraged to attend and we handed out \$3200 in awards, of which \$2,240 was donated by local sponsors.

We are very appreciative to have a number of regular sponsors who have stuck with us even through the slower years, and were happy to be able to add new sponsors, as well as to have some return. The only extra fundraising we have done so far was to host our annual Christmas Carol Festival in December, with a silver collection at the door. This was the first one we have had for a few years, and we look forward to growing it again in upcoming seasons. We are also applying for a community initiative grant (KCIP) from our town.

Another highlight was the ability to have volunteers come to coordinate and serve as secretary for Festival this year, after 2 years of having only the committee fill those roles. A total of 12 people from outside the committee volunteered, and others have already expressed interest in helping out next year.

It is very pleasing to see the interest in Festival renewed and growing. That is not to say that there weren't a few growing pains, as volunteers sometimes fell ill, scheduling had a few tangles, a few entrants were in the wrong class and communication was sometimes inefficient, with emails going to spam folders, etc. We were able to try some new things and to learn from them. Some of those things we will keep and develop, others we will learn from and discard. Our committee, made up of parents, teachers and people who have a desire to see music celebrated in our community, uses their individual strengths to support each other and together make a strong contribution to Make Music Matter in Kindersley.



**Kipling & District Music Festival  
March 13 to 14, 2023**

Kipling & District Music Festival was held in person on March 13 & 14 in Kipling United Church, with all disciplines adjudicated by Gillian Rice. Our entries were significantly down (to 65 from 200+) but we are all climbing out of a post-COVID era. Many music students, since COVID, have graduated and moved on, and we are starting over with encouraging new students. Our largest hurdle is convincing the new onslaught of school teachers to enter choral speech and solo speech arts. There were none interested this year and so we lost a very valuable, strong, robust speech department that retired or recently departed teachers had worked so hard to keep going. Our home-schooled students represent a high percentage of entries overall in our local festival.

Our festival encouraged entries this year by offering free entries. This was well received by parents. However, the band teacher withdrew her bands from the festival the last minute, so our costs were even higher as the adjudicator was already booked. This affected revenues typically received on band night and also final concert.

The enthusiasm of the students who DID perform in the Music Festival was at an extreme HIGH this year! Entrants of all ages were so happy to be BACK performing to a LIVE audience! After festival, there were MANY kids who said, 'I Can't WAIT until next year!'. Many positive thank you cards for scholarships were received promptly and even lengthy letters describing how glad they were to be back!

We obviously operated with a loss this year with how the events unfolded. Our sponsors had donated money back pre-COVID, so their donations were held for this festival year. Opening balance July 2022 \$5123.43 and ending

balance March 21 2023 after KDMF 2023 was \$2272.86.

We look forward to Festival next year!

*Submitted by Caroline Puffalt, President*



**La Ronge & District Music Festival  
March 27 to 29, 2023**

The afternoon of March 27, 2023 saw the opening of the 35<sup>th</sup> annual La Ronge and Area Music Festival. While our festival is still smaller than pre-pandemic, we had 132 entries which ranged from classical piano to singing, musical theatre to arranged popular piano. We were fortunate to have Lynette Sawatsky to adjudicate our entire festival and to provide wonderful workshops on skills and composing.

We still have strong financial support in our community which allowed us to give out 8 classical scholarships, 7 vocal scholarships, 6 arranged popular piano scholarships, and 3 adjudicator's choice. In addition, we gave out 5 multi-discipline scholarships. Eligibility requirements for these awards is that a participant enter two different disciplines (classical piano, arranged piano, voice). In addition, we had four individuals qualify to compete at the Provincial level. While we continue to struggle to fill our treasurer role, our remaining board members work hard to create a smooth running, successful festival.

*Submitted by Tamara Putz*





### **Lafleche & District Music Festival March 26 to 30, 2023**

The LDMF held their 56<sup>th</sup> annual music festival from March 26-30, 2023. The adjudicators were Sharon Rodney (piano) and Justine Wilks (voice). We had a total of 220 entries, which was an increase from the 2022 music festival entries.

On Thursday, March 30, we hosted our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Adrian Frank Competition. The adjudicators chose eight outstanding performers from the festival week. The judges for the evening were Sharon Rodney and Dorothea Trihardt. The winners of our competition this year were Kaitlyn Silbernagel (musical theatre) and Daniel Sutherland (vocal).

Our Final Concert was held on Friday, March 31. We had a variety of piano, vocal, musical theatre and speech arts performances, all chosen by the adjudicator. Many awards and scholarships were received by the students. A special presentation was given to our three graduating performers Dex Fiset, Kaitlyn Silbernagel and Rachel Bourgeois.

Our festival this year saw changes to the eligibility of scholarships. The LDMF board felt these changes were necessary to help ensure the longevity of our festival. We thank everyone for their patience as we navigate through these changes.

The Lafleche & District Music Festival is not possible without our dedicated volunteers. We simply would not exist without the work from these people. This is my fourth year as president and I am so fortunate to work with a wonderful group at the LDMF. Also, a special thanks to our program sponsors and scholarship donors. Thank you for your patronage!

Lastly, a huge thank you to our music teachers. We are very fortunate and grateful to have music lessons offered in our communities!

Music is for Life!

*Submitted by Sharla Davidson-Girardin, President*



### **Lanigan & District Music Festival April 19 to 27, 2023**

The 46<sup>th</sup> Lanigan and District Music Festival took place at Christian Fellowship Church in Lanigan, April 19-21 and 24-27, with a final concert on the evening of Thursday, April 27. The first week consisted of vocal, musical theatre, ensemble and spoken word classes, adjudicated by Louella Friesen. Piano, guitar and violin classes, adjudicated by Sharon Rodney, took place the following week. There were 251 entries this year, up a bit from last year, including 145 piano solos, 2 piano duets, 31 vocal solos, 4 vocal duets, 24 musical theatre, 19 spoken word, 5 groups (including 2 from schools), 14 guitar solos and 1 guitar duet, and 7 violin solos. The largest increase in entries was seen in spoken word. Our committee was very pleased to see this growth and appreciates SMFA's assistance in promoting classroom spoken word through the entry fee rebate. In total, 88 students and 37 school students participated in the festival. They were taught by 10 different teachers, and represented 12 communities. They ranged in age from 5 years & under to 18 years & under. While many of the participants had been performing at the festival for years, there were also several beginners for whom it was their very first festival experience!

Huge highlights this year were the masterclasses held by each of our wonderful adjudicators, in which students received specific technical and musical instruction in group classes held on the final afternoon that each adjudicator was with us. These were well



received, we hope to offer masterclasses again in the future, as the schedule permits.

As was done for the past two years, sessions were live streamed to our Facebook page for the viewing enjoyment of friends and relatives. This requires more volunteers, and has now culminated in the creation of a new position (volunteer coordinator) and a new festival committee member. Another highlight was the daily soup and sandwich lunch in the basement of the festival venue, offered at a very reasonable cost. Students, families, teachers and volunteers also enjoyed the refreshments served at the coffee breaks held mid-morning and mid-afternoon in between sessions.

Four students advanced to provincial finals: Nirel Ryan Doromal (piano), Molly Evans (musical theatre), Geri Lon Valdesimo (vocal, msical theatre and piano) and Jenevieve Melin (vocal, spoken word and piano). Jenevieve received a provincial scholarship in spoken word. Congratulations to all of these students!

The final concert was held on April 27, at which a large audience enjoyed performances by students in all disciplines. Following the concert, a draw was held for a door prize of donated items for students, and then awards were presented, with scholarships totalling over \$2,600.

Revenues for the year, as of the annual meeting, were \$9,551,67 and expenses were \$7,225.59, for a balance of \$2,326.08. The Lanigan & District Music Festival relies on the generosity of sponsors to operate, and we gratefully acknowledge the SMFA corporate sponsors, Sask Lotteries, SARCAN and SaskTel, as well as our local supporters: Village of Drake, Drake Meats, Bruce Elke, Jansen Players, Renee Nunan-Rappard, Pound-Maker Agventures, St. Mary's Catholic Women's League, Lanigan Advisor, Long Lake Insurance, Humboldt Co-op, Eva Elke & Al Shumaker, and Nutrien – Lanigan Potash, We are also thankful for the

many sponsors of awards, which encourage so many students.

The Lanigan & District Music Festival Executive is composed of four volunteer officers: Nata Kline (president), Angel Liebrecht (entry secretary), Heidi Craig (treasurer) and Laura Melin (corresponding secretary), all of whom are continuing in their roles. Volunteer committee members were: Amy Ewert (awards), Michelle Foster (patrons & donors), Amber Yaskiw (member at large) and Nata Kline & Angel Liebrecht (program). Rodney and Linda Liebrecht were in charge of refreshments (the daily lunch offered at the festival venue). Amy Ewert has resigned her position on the committee; we are thankful for her many years of great work. The position of scholarships & awards will be combined with that of donors, filled by Michelle Foster. The new position of volunteer coordinator will be filled by Kaylyn Bartel. Nata Kline represented Lanigan & District Music Festival at the 2022 SMFA Conference & AGM.



**Last Mountain District Music  
Festival (Strasbourg)  
April 17 & 18, 2023**

After a three-year span without a music festival in our district, we were so excited to once again be up and running and in "almost pre-COVID" fashion! It was a small festival, with only 85 entries over two days. Our wonderful and very capable adjudicator, Cherith Alexander, adjudicated all disciplines. There were 36 participants (not including band and choir) with 23 of those being first time participants. This is very exciting for us, as we see the potential for growth and revitalization in these new young musicians. As encouragement and special recognition for these young musicians, they



were each awarded a cheque for \$10. The majority of our participants were 12 years & under, with only 4 being over the age of 13. So we have great potential in these younger participants, climbing the ranks in the future. Six entrants were Indigenous or a newcomer to Canada in the past five years. Our voice discipline was very low this year but we are looking forward to seeing an increase next year. We had no choral speech entrants but we endeavour to be more proactive in promoting that discipline for next year as well. There were four bands entered and one choir. We are grateful for the band program that our school supports.

One exciting feature for this year's festival was that we held it in St. John's Lutheran Church with a grand piano. This was a new experience for students, and it was a little intimidating for them. Cherith quickly and gently put those fears to rest as she recognized the situation and made them all feel more comfortable for their next performances.

We are now looking forward to our Music Festival next year. Once again it will be held in Strasbourg the week of April 15, 2024. We are hopeful we can increase our numbers so we will need more than two days!

*Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Danielson*



### **Lloydminster Kiwanis Music Festival April 24 to May 5, 2023**

2023 was the first in-person festival for the Kiwanis Lloydminster & District Music Festival since 2019. It was such a pleasure to get back to normal and see everyone perform again. We had a total of 531 entries which is up from the virtual festival numbers but still only about 70%

of where we were at pre-COVID. We have some work to do to get the numbers climbing again.

We had four adjudicators this year. April 24 - 28, Elaine Dobek-Shandro saw 129 Piano 1 entries over 9 sessions. Lynette Sawatsky saw 168 Piano 2 entries over 10 sessions. May 1-4, Tracie Skeet-Brook saw 144 entries in Vocal, Choir and Spoken Word over 8 sessions. Glen Gillis saw 90 entries in band strings, instrumental and ensembles over 9 sessions. We were very pleased to see our band numbers back to 24 entries.

Our Final Concert was held on Monday, May 8; 2023 at the Vic Juba Community Theatre. We had 20 performances including those qualifying for Provincials. They were presented with their awards/scholarships after their performance. Following an intermission with refreshments, the remaining recipients were presented their awards/scholarships. We had a well entertained audience of about 250 people.

We had a large contingency qualify for Provincials:

**Shauna-lee Sacrey** in 1 (17 & under) vocal class  
**Alizay Hickman** in 1 (17 & under) vocal class and 2 (17 & under) musical theatre classes  
**Kadence Trachuk** in 2 (12 & under) vocal classes, 2 (12 & under) musical theatre classes, and Canada West musical theatre (13 & under)  
**Ruby Hickman** in 1 (12 & under) vocal class, 4 (12 & under) musical theatre classes and Canada West musical theatre (13 & under)  
**Janessa Andres** in 3 (17 & under) piano classes and 1 (17 & under) woodwind class  
**Chloe Kvill** in 3 (17 & under) piano classes  
**Kayla Andres** in 1 (14 & under) piano class  
**Tess Andres** in 1 (14 & under) piano class  
**Julia Krenz** in 1 (12 & under) piano class  
**Dana Pham** in 1 (12 & under) piano class  
**Reese Walde** in 1 (Grade 8) piano class  
**Julia Gordon** in 1 (17 & under) MT class  
**Harmony Pollard** in 1 (17 & under) MT class  
**Lucia Neron** in 2 (12 & under) MT classes



**Valerie Rollheiser** in 2 (14 & under) spoken word classes  
**Hanna Hougham** in 1 (14 & under) spoken word class

Congratulations to all of you for achieving such a high performance standing.

We are also thrilled to have some Provincial Scholarship winners:

**Julia Gordon** – Musical Theatre Ballad Cont.

**Kayla Andres** – Piano Recital

**Kaydence** - Vocal

**Valerie Rollheiser** – Spoken Word Prose

**Ruby Hickman** – Musical Theatre Ballad Classic/Modern, Musical Theatre Up-tempo Contemporary, and Canada West Musical Theatre. Ruby continued on to the Canada West Performing Arts Festival in Edmonton where she placed first.

Congratulations to all of you for your excellent performances.

Our festival could not happen without the strong support of teachers, parents, students, donors and volunteers. Our committee extends our sincere thanks and appreciation.

*Submitted by Kerry Taylor*

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### **Mainline Music Festival (Wolseley) April 3 to 5, 2023**

Mainline Music Festival successfully held a three-day event, April 3-5, 2023, in Wolseley's historic Town Hall/Opera House. Heather Macnab of Maple Creek served as adjudicator for all disciplines. This was the first fully in-person festival since 2018, with 2018 marking the return of Mainline Music Festival to Wolseley, after a 35-year hiatus. Total entries in 2023 were 147, which was a decrease in comparison to the 2018 entries, which numbered 209. Twenty-three performances made a return to the stage for the Festival Finale

on April 16, where \$1,760 in prizes were awarded. Mainline sent two representatives to the Provincial competition: Abbeygail May (vocal and musical theatre) and Julia Miles (piano and musical theatre).

Mainline ends the 2023 festival season with a financial surplus, thanks in part to five generous patrons who stepped up to be Elite Sponsors, each donating over \$300. In return for their donations, each business/organization received a full-page ad in the festival program. Patrons that donated \$150-\$299 were recognized with banner advertising within the festival program. We have found that offering advertising in the program has incentivized patrons to be just a bit more generous.

Our volunteer committee received a significant boost in membership, thanks to an aggressive recruitment campaign that we ran in November & December 2022. Through Facebook ads, newspaper ads, postal ad mail, and word of mouth, we were able to recruit 21 new volunteers, many of whom took on committee roles. The expenditure was a risk, but it paid off! We are excited to see our sister committee in Indian Head experience a similar rejuvenation, as they will host the 2024 Mainline Music Festival. Plans are already underway for the 2025 event in Wolseley. Both festivals were represented by Penny Miles at the Fall Conference in Moose Jaw, which marked the beginning of a three-year term on the Provincial Board of Directors.





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

**April 23 to 25, 2023**

Maple Creek was pleased to have a larger festival this year with entries from three private teachers, three elementary school teachers and the high school band teacher!

We began Sunday afternoon (April 23) which was new for us – we found that families did appreciate having festival sessions on Sunday. We continued through Tuesday afternoon with piano, spoken word, voice and musical theatre as well as choral and choral speech. Our band session was held at the high school. Last year we had 59 entries and this year we had 87! On Friday evening, we had our Festival Finale, giving scholarships totalling \$1925 to 24 competitors.

Our adjudicator for piano, voice and speech was Sherry Sproule, and our adjudicator for band was Mark Ward.

Our festival enjoys great support from the community, which allows us to keep our entry fees at \$11.

We were pleased to have one student qualify for provincial finals – Kinley Pratt in spoken word. Kinley continued on to compete in the Canada West finals in spoken word.

Our committee members include: Heather Macnab (President), Ashley Pratt (Vice President), Andrew Hecker (Past President), Diane Moss (Treasurer), Kerry Currie (Corresponding Secretary), Chelsea Cox (Entry Secretary), Heidi and Cornelius Beveridge (Publicity), Eleanor Bowie (Scholarships and Awards), and Marianne Gordon (Volunteer Coordinator).

This year we had a full afternoon of workshop classes in piano, and if you have not had your students enter the non-competitive workshop classes, we suggest that you do. It was a most valuable and enjoyable time! Sherry really made it worthwhile.

It was delightful to feel that the pandemic is behind us! Once again, we had coffee breaks between sessions and a reception following our final concert to create a more festive atmosphere.



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

**April 23 to 26, 2023**

Meadow Lake & District happily celebrated its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year with sessions held April 23-26. Entries increased, albeit slightly, and with all sessions being in-person for the first time since the cancellation in 2020, it was wonderful to feel that things were back to normal. Two terrific adjudicators, Sarah Clark Gregory and Nick Fanner, made our sessions a pleasurable experience for all participants. Two students qualified for provincial competition.

In the month leading up to the Festival, Northern Pride, the local newspaper, ran weekly articles consisting of contributions from past students, teachers, parents and volunteers. A local news website, [MeadowLakeNow](#), posted an interview with one of the committee members. This media coverage led to increased attention to the Festival's own Facebook page and, in turn, a larger interest in the Festival sessions and events. The committee arranged for some students to perform at a local grocery store on the Saturday prior to the first day of sessions. This was well received, being enjoyed by the students and shoppers.



In honour of the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the committee hosted a come-and-go event April 27, the evening after the sessions ended. Attendees enjoyed reminiscing over the history albums and listening to performances offered by current and former festival participants. Several businesses and individuals donated items for a silent auction, so the evening garnered some income as well.

The finale for this Festival was the Awards Presentations Evening May 1. Each of the 1<sup>st</sup> place award winners performed one selection, plus Lucas Welsh, the local strings instructor, was invited as a special guest to perform a fiddle piece. The final presentation of the evening was made to Sandra Senga, who has served as a dedicated committee member for each of the 45 years of this festival. Thanks for her commitment to the music students of the community was recognized by the committee and echoed in the standing ovation she received from the audience. The evening wound up with socializing over ice cream, with the history albums once more on display for all to enjoy.

Many thanks go to the sponsors, as without them there would be no festival. This year's donations included 5 Patrons (\$300 +), 11 Partners (\$150 - \$300), and 15 Friends (up to \$150). Particular thanks go to the local Royal Canadian Legion branch, who named the festival as a recipient of one of their weekly fundraisers. The festival committee is excited to welcome some new music teachers into the community and is looking forward to many more years of successful Festivals.



## **Melfort Music Festival**

**March 13 to 20, 2023**

This year, Melfort held its **95<sup>th</sup> annual Melfort Music Festival!** We had 6 days of festival with 254 entries in 6 disciplines. This is all thanks to the 9 area teachers who encourage and support their students to take part.

Melfort's adjudicators this year were Scott McKnight, strings; Lynn Ewing, piano; James McCarthy, band; Chris Kelly, vocal, musical theatre and spoken word. We also welcomed Carol McFadden, adjudicator shadow for voice.

Two performers advanced to the provincial level of competition:

**Georgia Strasser** in the Grade 8 Piano Scholarship Class for her performance of *Song*, by Smetana.

**Madison McAvoy** with three recommends in the 17 years & under age group: Vocal Solo Recital Scholarship Class with her performance of *June Magic*, by Spencer; Vocal Folk Song Scholarship Class with her performance of *Wellerman*, a Sea Shanty; Musical Theatre, Up-tempo Classic Scholarship Class with her performance of *One Hundred Easy Ways to Lose a Man*, by Bernstein, Comden & Green.

We combined our Sefton Memorial Competition with our Festival Highlights and Awards Program on the evening of Thursday, March 23. This allowed a larger audience, plus gave all ages of performers and award winners a chance to listen to and discover what the Sefton Memorial Competition is about.

The Sefton Memorial Competition had three talented competitors this year; two who performed on piano, one on violin. The winner of this prestigious competition was determined





by a panel of local judges who are known in our community for their high level of musicianship: Mavis Peters, Tracey Hedin, and Rose Arbogast. The Sefton Memorial Competition award of \$300 was won by first time piano competitor, **Elyse Johnson**, who performed the RCM Grade 8 jazz nocturne of *Incognito* by Jason Sifford!

Our Highlights Program consisted of 18 gifted musicians who performed selections chosen by our four adjudicators.

The Overall Winners for 2023 were:

Best Band performance – **North East**

**Community Band** with a mark of 91

Best Piano Performance – **Elyse Johnson**

Best String Performance – **Rhesa Petersen**

Best Vocal Performance – **Madison McAvoy**

Following the Highlight's Program, we handed out 50 Awards and Scholarships which totalled \$3,115!

Thank you to the many businesses, sponsors, and the SOA who have generously supported our Melfort Music Festival at some point over the past 95 years!

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



## **Moose Jaw Music Festival**

**March 15 and April 26 to 30, 2023**

Adjudicators were Heather Bedford-Clooney (choral), Judith Oatway (vocal, musical theatre & spoken word), Alan Crane (piano & strings), Stewart Smith (band & guitar).

There were 324 entries in total: choral – 5, vocal – 84, musical theatre – 103, piano – 97, strings – 8, guitar – 2, woodwinds – 7, brass – 4, percussion – 1, bands/ensembles – 12.

12 district winners advanced to Provincial Finals in Regina: Isabelle Adams, Jaymeson Bateman, Morgan Capili, Emily Closs, Elizabeth Deans, Alora De Jager, Sierra Downey, Grace Handy, Grace King, Kady Kuntz, Alex Sauer, Natalie Warren and Brooke Zarubin.

This year's awards concert was held on April 2, and we were pleased to award \$7,820 in scholarships to students at our festival.

Jeri Ryba attended the SMFA Conference held in Moose Jaw at Zion United Church.

Our fundraising efforts this year included our regular scholarship and patron requests to long-time donors and sponsorship requests to businesses and service clubs, as these efforts all take place well in advance of the festival. We also had a collection basket at the door for each session for donations. Additionally, we applied for a grant from the City of Moose Jaw to assist with our Festival.

We were very thankful to host a fully live festival this year, with a live audience, for all disciplines.

Thank you to our major donors and sponsors: Sask Lotteries, SaskTel and the City of Moose Jaw.



## **Moosomin & District Music Festival**

**March 20 to 23, 2023**

It was exciting to be back to our regular unrestricted format for festival this year. The audience attendance was up from the previous few years as people adjusted to life without masks and restrictions.

The dates for our festival were March 20-21 for piano and March 22-23 for vocal, speech arts and musical theatre. It was necessary to make adjustments to our scheduled dates because of



Regional High School Drama conflicts for several students entering the festival.

Audrey Falk Janzen of Rosthern was our adjudicator for piano. She was very pleasant, had a positive attitude and offered helpful suggestions for students to make their pieces even better. Sessions were very full, which didn't allow Audrey to demonstrate or bring many students back to the piano.

Terri-Lynn Mitchell of Saskatoon was our adjudicator for vocal, speech arts and musical theatre. We are thankful she could adjust her schedule, allowing us to move this section up a week. Terri-Lynn had a bubbly attitude, lots of energy and expression. Both written and verbal comments were good.

Entries for the festival were up in piano this year, but down in other disciplines (piano – 108, vocal – 12, speech arts – 23, musical theatre – 18, for a total of 194). 17 teachers entered students in the festival. 41 scholarships were awarded for a dollar amount of \$2,185 (\$1,785 for awards and \$400 for camp awards). Camp awards can be used for attending music camp or for private lessons with a teacher other than their regular teacher. Kassie's Jewelry sponsors medals for students age 6 years & under entering the festival. This year, 4 medals were presented in piano and 3 in speech arts. Shaughny Fingas advanced to Provincials in Musical Theatre Solo Ballad Contemporary and Musical Theatre Solo Up-tempo Contemporary. Rosanne Kelly and Sandra Poole arranged the Adjudicators Showcase. Kendra Matheson was MC for the evening. Awards presentations and performances were enjoyed by all. those in attendance.

Festival only happens because of the volunteers that organize it, sponsors that donate, and the teachers that work with their students. Executive members for 2022-2023 were Rosanne Kelly (President), Alice Abrahamson (Corresponding Secretary), Melissa Lynnes

(Treasurer, Sherrie Meredith and Tegan Matichuk (Entry Secretary), Desirae Neville (Scholarships/Patrons), Rosanne Kelly, Desirae Neville and Jaime Finlay (Festival Chairpersons), Melissa Lynnes (Adjudication Forms). We have had several committee members retire and thus are in need of volunteers if our festival is to continue.

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. Names of all sponsors were printed in the program and a notice of sponsorship was given to local sponsor for display. Thanks to teacher, parents and 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 27 to 31, 2023**

2023 festival was held March 27 - 31. We moved piano to the beginning of the week and found this to be a positive decision. Our adjudicators were Audrey Watson, Anna Marie Bekolay and Naomi Suchan. All adjudicators did a great job and would be welcomed back. All registrations were done online through the NFMA website. The programs were also online and 10 printed copies were made. Posters were made and hung up around town as well as advertised on the NMFA Facebook page. The marks and winners were also posted on the Facebook page. Pianos were tuned by Shaun Everett from Ace Tuning in Saskatoon.

The final concert was held on Wednesday, April 5 at LP Miller in the MPR, with 15 performances as well as awards. This was a good location. Celia S provided snacks but charged NMFA.



We made the decision to change the patrons and sponsors to “Friends of the Festival”. Anyone who donates money is considered a “friend of the festival”. Award sponsors will be separate from this and will still be considered award sponsors.



### **Outlook & District Music Festival March 27 to 29, 2023**

Following a three-year absence due to the pandemic, the 2023 Outlook & District Festival of Music held March 27-29 was a great success. One of the keys to that success was adjudicator Katrina MacKinnon who was a delight to listen to. She taught and inspired, giving helpful notes with warmth and humor, as she encouraged students in each discipline. We were very pleased to have her with us on her birthday so festival president Sandy Stephenson surprised her with a birthday cake at the start of the session.



We held seven very full sessions with performances in piano, vocal, choirs, children's chorus, strings, handbells, woodwinds, solo poetry, spoken word, and musical theatre. We

were thrilled to welcome the participation of 400 students representing 145 entries.

Our festival was dedicated to the memory of long-time teacher and committee member Sylvia Sundby who passed away February 14, 2023. Sylvia had a passion for teaching and for the music festival. She said so many of her friendships came out of connections through music. Her contributions to the festival each year were numerous and she is greatly missed.

Festival week culminated in a finale concert on April 2 featuring great performances and the presentation of 54 awards, totaling \$2800, thanks to donations from more than 40 local businesses, individuals and organizations who were excited to see the festival return.

We congratulate those moving on to provincial competition from our festival including the LCBI Chamber Choir, and Trason Ridgewell who qualified in five musical theatre classes.

The Outlook & District festival committee includes Sandy Stephenson, Cathy McPhail, Heather Rosa, Leslie Hicks, Kendra Fuglerud and Shelley Luedtke. We express our thanks to all the volunteers (door workers and secretaries) who help ensure the festival runs smoothly.

The Outlook and District Festival of Music has been a fixture in the arts scene for four decades and it certainly looks like there are many more good decades ahead.



**Parkland Music Festival (Canora)**  
**April 12 to 13, 2023**

Disciplines: Piano, Voice, Speech Arts  
Adjudicator: Lori Potter  
Total number of entries: 64  
Participants: 22  
Total profit: \$1025.85

**Committee Members:**

Lindsey Propp (President),  
Gillian Rice (Corresponding Secretary),  
Chantel Kitchen (Entry Secretary),  
Naomi Kapitoler (Treasurer);  
Scholarships & Patrons: Naomi Kapitoler,  
Lindsey Propp, Gillian Rice, Jocelyn St. Jacques  
Programs: Jocelyn St. Jacques  
Adjudicator Assistant Coordinator: Brittainy

Vanin

Housing: Jocelyn St. Jacques, Patty Kolodziejski  
Scholarship Committee: Pastor Brett Watson,  
Joan Foreman, Linda Osachoff

Fundraising Efforts: most of this was done through local donors listed in our program.

Awards concert was held on April 16 with many people in attendance. We had performers that were highlights of the festival and scholarship award winners.

We had a successful festival and fun was had by all. We had fewer entries than previous festivals but the students enjoyed themselves. Everyone thoroughly liked our adjudicator, Lori Potter. She was very pleasant with the children. There was an influx of sponsors and donations so we were very happy. Our community is always generous with their support. This was our first festival since the pandemic so hopefully next festival we will have more entries again. We posted a thank you to all our sponsors in the local paper and asked the scholarship participants to send a thank you note as well. There was a committee with some old and new

people but everything went very well. We worked well together and there was ease in holding the festival; many hands made light work.



**Potashville Music Festival**  
**(Churchbridge)**  
**April 3 to 4, 2023**

The 53<sup>rd</sup> Potashville Music Festival was held in Churchbridge on April 3 and 4. This was our first in-person festival since 2019 and we are happy to be back! Thank you to our adjudicators Lori Potter (voice, spoken word and piano) and Daryl McKinnon (band and guitar) for sharing their expertise, insight and encouraging advice with students from Churchbridge, Langenburg, Esterhazy and surrounding areas.

While we only had 41 entries, these did include 10 bands, 3 choirs and 2 classroom choral speech groups, which exposed a large number of students to the festival experience. Solo entries were down, but we are hopeful that this year can serve as a reminder of music festival and its benefits and will urge more students and teachers to enter again. Regardless, we know that a small festival can still provide solid performance and educational opportunities for all participants.

Our Awards concert, held on the evening of April 5, featured performances from all disciplines of the festival, but a highlight was a choral speech performance from our local grades 1 and 2 classes. The performance was enjoyable of course, but seeing a supportive audience which included their parents and younger siblings (many in pjs and onesies) was a delightful sight! Maybe that evening will inspire and serve to benefit future festivals. We'd like to extend a special thank you to our dedicated SMFA Board Liaison Penny Miles who took time to bring greetings from SMFA, even as she was in the thick of her own festival.



The scholarships we awarded were collected for our canceled 2020 festival and we thank our many generous donors and sponsors for allowing our committee to hold those funds (close to \$4000) to use both this year, and for last years' virtual festival organized by the Langenburg committee.

As always, we thank our community, students, teachers and parents for their participation and support of our festival. A heartfelt thank you to our Churchbridge committee; a great group of people committed to keeping the Potashville Music Festival running. Good luck to our Esterhazy committee as they begin planning for 2024.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Shannon McIntyre, President*



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

**April 17 to 19, 2023**

Adjudicators: Katrina MacKinnon (piano), Chinley Hinacay (instrumental), Heather Macnab (speech & vocal)

Entries: 139

Our entries were up significantly from 2022. It was wonderful to see the school groups participating after a break during COVID years.

Revenue was \$8,282.80, expenses \$9242.24 for a loss of \$959.44. We paid out \$1,500 for Canada West Entry fees with \$250 reimbursed by Unity Festival for half of the Hoogstad entry fees.

Congratulation to District Winners: Steyn Hoogstad, Willem Hoogstad, Liné Linde, Suzannah Bakanec, Eliana Bakanec, Brooke Bruce.

The Festival of Stars was held on April 20.

Our fundraising comes strictly from the many generous donations from local businesses. Their generosity allows us to run the festival and give out a great number of scholarships.

*Respectfully submitted by Jackie Golden, President*



### **Prince Albert Music Festival March 1 to 19, 2023**

In 2023 we were pleased to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Prince Albert Music Festival with many activities. Most importantly, we organized a full music festival - in person, with all disciplines involved - the first since the onset of the pandemic. From March 1-19, 2023 we listened to, and celebrated, music by local musicians. There were 66 piano entries, 53 vocal entries, 6 choral entries, 30 instrumental entries and 18 band entries. District winners were Anthony Stergios (piano), Big Noise Youth Choir (vocal), École Vickers School Choir (choral), Zoe Mortimer (vocal), Willow Vogelgesang (vocal), and Tori Korczak (vocal).

We were fortunate to benefit from in-depth feedback from our adjudicators: Laurel Teichroeb (piano), Marcia McLean (vocal), Anna Marie Bekolay (instrumental) and Aaron Wilson (band). We are grateful for their comments and workshopping that were useful not only for music students, but for the audience who came to enjoy festival performances.

As in previous years, numerous scholarships were offered thanks to the generosity of local donors. We awarded 103 scholarships totalling \$9,030. Donations from Canadian Tire, the Jim Pattison Broadcast Group, the Prince Albert Kiwanis Club, and the Butler Family Foundation allowed for numerous scholarships across disciplines. We appreciate everyone,



from individuals to large corporations, who provide donations to support the hard work and musical growth of youth in our community.

A significant bursary that we administer is the Gladys Strom Memorial Bursary, sponsored by local choral group, the Watsonairs. They support this fund in memory of Mrs. Strom, who was a member and director of the choral group for over 50 years. After her passing in 2006, the Watsonairs created this bursary in her name specifically for the Prince Albert Music Festival. The bursary is used to assist local youth to pursue music education and can help cover costs of music lessons, instrument repair, music camp tuition, and related activities. In 2023 we received 16 applications for the bursary. The bursary was split between 4 deserving recipients: Blake Anderson, Adelaide Bellehumeur, Theodore Enchanh, and Kienna Young.

In 2023 we re-launched our patronage program with a new title, "Friends of the Festival". We were pleased to connect with new and former patrons, who all have become "Friends," in another effort to support our festival activities and provide a stronger music community. We thank all of those who support us. Similarly, the music festival does not run without the dedicated volunteerism of those who sit on the committee and individuals who assist on festival days. We appreciate the many volunteers who ensured, through their unique skills and knowledge, that festival remains an important annual event to perform and learn in the arts.

Finally, to mark our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and attempt to create a sense of community with teachers, students, and parents involved in music festival, we embarked on a variety of activities. On October 30, we provided two complimentary tickets to social media contest winners to attend a concert by Randy Bachman at the local E.A. Rawlinson Centre for the Arts; on February 10, we provided complimentary

tickets to festival entrants to attend a concert by the Edmonton Pops Orchestra at the E.A. Rawlinson Centre, and on April 28, we held a special gala concert where a selection of entrants were invited to perform under the bright lights and on the big stage of, again, the E.A. Rawlinson Centre. All of these activities were possible thanks to a financial surplus. But most importantly, they provided inspiration and community connection for all who participated, underpinned by excellence in music. We strive to be an organization that provides opportunities for learning and growth in whatever way we can, and we were so pleased that this was received with enthusiasm in 2023. We hope to continue the tradition of bringing our community together!

We look forward to Music Festival in 2024 and continuing to nourish the local artistic community.

*Submitted by Jesse Campbell, Festival Coordinator*



## **Qu'Appelle Valley Festival (Fort Qu'Appelle) April 21 & 22, 2023**

We hosted our festival over two days. On Friday, April 21, we had two classroom entries – one chorus and one spoken word class. We had 7 band entries, 1 oboe entry and 3 string entries. We were particularly excited about the string entries, as they were the first string performers in the history of our festival. The adjudicator was Scott Adelman, and because of the small number of entries, Scott was able to work with each band, and this was well received.

Piano, vocal and musical theatre classes were held on Saturday, April 22. We had 31 piano entries, 4 vocal entries and 1 musical theatre entry. Olivia Adams was the adjudicator, and she capitalized on the small number of entries



(and a schedule that allowed lots of time) by providing thorough comments about each entry and often invited performers up to the piano to try her suggestions. This was appreciated by performers, their families and their teachers.

\$725 in scholarships were awarded across band, instrumental, piano and vocal disciplines. We held our awards concert on Sunday, April 23 and we had a full house (although the room only had a capacity of 30). Everyone in attendance agreed it was an enjoyable concert, and they enjoyed the variety of performances (piano, voice, violin and fiddle).

Thanks are given to the following sponsors: The Midsummer Arts Festival, Prairie Coop, SaskEnergy, Balcarres Parks and Recreation, Beta Sigma Phi, and the Calling Lakes Choir.

Our expenses were close to \$2,900 and our revenue totaled \$3,300 for a profit of around \$400.

*Submitted by Jill Andrychuk, Chairperson*



## **Quill Plains Music Festival**

**(Foam Lake)**

**April 24 to 27, 2023**

It is with pleasure that I present the report from Quill Plains Music Festival – Foam Lake Branch. 2023 was year two of a six-year rotation. Our festival spends two years in Foam Lake, two years in Wynyard and two years in Kelvington. We were pleased to see an increase in our entries from 213 in 2022 to 230 in 2023. This allowed our festival to run from Monday, April 24 to the evening of Thursday April 27, with our final concert being held on Friday April 28.

This year we successfully implemented an incentive to our first-time participants: when

entered in at least two classes, the festival sponsored one of the classes. This was met with much interest as we had 21 first time participants entered. Each first-time participant also received a gift card for an ice cream cone which was warmly received!

We also had one classroom take advantage of the generous offer of SMFA to sponsor classroom entries. We welcomed our Grade 3 class, under the direction of Mrs. Edessa Markusson, from Foam Lake Elementary.

Our fundraising was boosted by a highly successful raffle. We raffled off three donated items which netted us \$850 in sales. We will also receive 25% of that amount in the form of a grant from SLGA. We also enjoy a great deal of support from our business community who generously donate yearly to our scholarship program.

Our adjudicators this year included Amy Boyes for piano, Carol McFadden for voice, and Mark Zawerucha for strings and guitar. We had four students recommended to the provincial level – in the disciplines of piano, strings, voice and spoken word. Congratulations to Carson Froelich – guitar; Noah Christensen – piano and spoken word; Emily Ruetz - vocal, musical theatre and vocal, and Elizabeth Ruetz – vocal, and musical theatre.

We are fortunate to have a wedding rental business in our community and she, once again, went above and beyond to decorate our piano venue. We call and rely on our community and community groups to provide the much enjoyed coffee/cookie breaks during the week. Thank you to all of them.

Like many of our counterparts we struggle to find volunteers. Our committee was small, but



we quickly found that, with a small committee, decisions come quickly. I want to congratulate our committee members for stepping up.

Best wishes to the community of Wynyard as they take up the reigns of our 2024 festival.

*Respectfully submitted, Laureen Kells, President*



### **Redvers & District Music Festival NO FESTIVAL IN 2023**



### **Regina Music Festival April 23 to May 6, 2023**

Festival 2023 was 100% live and in-person. With Easter being early in 2023, we were able to run the festival in two straight weeks without a break, beginning April 23 and ending May 6. We held all classes at the Conservatory of Performing Arts on College Avenue with the exception of the choral competition held at Christ Lutheran Church and the pipe organ competition that we held as virtual classes. The final day of competitions (MLT-Aikins and Lions competitions) was held in Darke Hall, continuing a tradition we started in Festival 2022.

Festival 2023 also saw us experiment with one day of classes in Darke Hall. We chose senior piano and musical theatre to try having competitive classes on stage and with the Fazioli piano. The auditorium/performance space presented some significant challenges for the adjudicators, but these can be overcome and the RMFA hopes to hold more classes in Darke Hall in the future.

Our Festival 2023 attracted essentially the same number of entrants and registrations as Festival 2022. This was disappointing, but a new approach to marketing and public relations will help us grow these numbers in the future. The demographics of Festival 2023 changed somewhat, however, with fewer participants over the age of 55. We were blessed, however, with a very strong response from our volunteer door monitors and secretaries. This was due, in large part, by the return of our Festival 2022 volunteers and a new approach to attracting volunteers from other groups such as the Rotary Club. We invited the club(s) to provide volunteers for one day of the festival.

Our adjudicators were as follows: Younggun Kim (Piano 1); Janet Nichol (Musical Theatre); Allison Arends (Vocal 1); Jennifer Lang (Choral); Christine Bootland (Strings); Jeri Ryba (Vocal 2); Peggy L'Hoir (Piano 2); Mark Thompson (Brass/WW/Percussion); Shawn Potter (Pipe Organ). We must extend a special thank you to Gordon Kerfoot, our adjudicator liaison. He has, for more than the past decade, been our "go-to" person for our adjudicators. He ensures that accommodations are up to our standards and provides transportation to and from the hotel to the venues. His wife, Brenda Ziolkowski, provides welcome baskets for each adjudicator. This is an assortment of snacks and beverages for their hotel room and, based upon feedback over the years, is a very welcome touch for the adjudicators who work such long hours supporting our festival.

Thanks to the efforts of our President, Joanne Hillis, we were able to attract Discipline Sponsors again for Festival 2023. Our Festival Sponsor was G. Murray & Edna Forbes Foundation Fund at the South Saskatchewan Community Foundation. These helped us cover our operational costs; registration fees covered the adjudicators' costs (fees as well as travel and living expenses); all scholarships are "pass through dollars" from our annual scholarship donors – a group of extremely loyal supporters





who return year after year. In 2023 we awarded just over \$25,000 in scholarships.

We close our report to thank our Production Manager, Robin Tinani. She has served us so well through all the challenges of COVID and out into the new light of Festival 2023. This was her last festival with us as Production Manager – and all of us thank her for working so hard to make our Festival 2021 (100% virtual), Festival 2022 (hybrid – in person and virtual), and Festival 2023 great successes even though the foundational technologies for each of her three years were significantly different! We wish her “All the Best of Good Luck” with her future endeavours.

Onwards and Upwards!

*Submitted by Susan J. Gorges*



## **Rosetown & District Music Festival March 20 to 29, 2023**

Rosetown hosted piano dates March 20-March 23 with adjudicator Han Ding. Choral, speech arts and vocal were held March 27-28 with adjudicator Chelsea Mahan. Our instrumental adjudicator was James McCarthy on March 29. The Final Awards Concert was on March 30 at 7:00pm at the Rosetown United Church.

119 entrants performed in the following disciplines: choir/choral speech (school group) – 1 (0 last year); speech arts – 14 (4 last year); vocal – 27 (11 last year); musical theatre – 10 (8 last year); band – 0 (0 last year); instrumental solos/duets, etc. – 13 (6 last year); piano – 167 (159 last year); workshops – 4 (4 last year). Total entries: 236 (192 last year).

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

**Kensie Cowan** – Piano Solo Recital Piece, Piano Solo SK Repertoire, Strings Solo Repertoire, Strings Solo Concert (12 & under)

**Temidire Igbekoyi** – Piano Solo Canadian Repertoire, Piano Solo Recital Piece (17 & under), Piano Solo RCM/CC Grade 8

**Ysabella Jadraque** – Piano Solo Canadian Repertoire (14 & under)

**Alexander Schmidt** – Piano Solo Canadian Repertoire (12 years & under)

Anniversary Trophy Winners (most promising performers) were:

**Kensie Cowan** – Piano

**Kensie Cowan** – Instrumental

**Isabelle Sparks** – Vocal

**Madison Rawson** – Speech Arts

Recipients of the Glen and Kay Thrasher Memorial Scholarship were:

**Cecilia Ledding** - \$100

**Kensie Cowan** - \$200

**Kaylee Cowan** - \$200

Our festival raised a little bit of money with a virtual bottle drive at our local SARCAN.

This year our festival committee started a new campaign mirroring funding for sporting events – requesting sponsorship with recognition on Facebook, in our program (digital and printed), and at our festival. I ordered a poster to recognize gold and silver sponsors, which was displayed at the church hall (cost was \$41.05). Gold sponsors (\$100+) had an individual advertisement on Facebook and a full-page ad in our printed and digital program. Silver sponsors (\$50+) were in a group advertisement on Facebook and had a half page ad in our program. Friends of the festival (\$25+) were recognized in our printed and digital program and on Facebook. I believe the sponsorship request is an efficient way to raise funds.

Our main sponsor is the Country Rose Inn, which donates \$500 each year for hall rental and piano tuning. We also thank the Rosetown United Church for housing our grand piano and always accommodating our festival dates.

*Submitted by Felice Mourre, President*



### **Sand Hills Music Festival (Leader) April 17 & 18, 2023**

It was an absolute delight to host the 2023 Sand Hills Music Festival. April 17 & 18, 2023 marked the first completely “return to normal” festival since the last in-person adjudication in 2019. The focus and confidence of a festival without interruption and uncertainty fostered the organizing volunteers’ commitment to increased engagement and participation.

Leading up to the festival, a speech arts workshop was offered to school students. Teachers were encouraged to return with their classroom entries and a partnership was forged with the Leader and District Arts Council to support the development of a community youth choir. In total, 113 children, ranging in age from 4 to 16, participated in the festival this year. The Grade 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 classrooms recited two poems each.

It is the hope of the festival committee to build on this experience and continue to see the growth, development and appreciation of performing arts within the community.

Through the financial support of the local business community and individual donors, we presented 21 scholarships and award totalling \$1,870. A number of generous donors supported the operational expenses of the festival. We were able to achieve a modest surplus to support the long-term viability of the event.

The festival is a chance for participants to share their talents with an audience and be adjudicated by a skilled professional. Adjudicator Sofia Mycyk’s knowledge and feedback benefitted each participant across a broad range of disciplines including choral, vocal, spoken word, piano, guitar and percussion. Ms. Mycyk’s practical suggestions

and easy manner made it an enjoyable, positive and constructive learning experience for the entrants.

Although the board continues to seek volunteers to support the organization and executive leadership of the festival, they are looking forward to the 2024 festival with optimistic anticipation.

*Submitted by Elizabeth Heatcoat*



### **Sask Valley Music Festival (Rosthern) March 23 to 29, 2023**

The 83<sup>rd</sup> annual Sask Valley Music Festival, held March 23-29 in Rosthern, saw 168 entries, an increase from 2022, giving us hope for the future as we recover from the ravages of the pandemic.

The students seemed unusually well prepared and approached their performances with confidence and exuberance, whether the piece was rousing or quiet and contemplative.

Our wonderful and encouraging adjudicators, Ron de Jager for voice and Peggy L’Hoir for piano/instrumental, were very impressed with the level they heard this year. We were also pleased to host adjudicator shadow, Daniel McElroy, for voice, an important experience as we renew our adjudicators who, like all of us, age and get exhausted. They were not only helpful but made participating fun for the students.

At our Award Concert on Friday, March 31, we were treated to 20 excellent repeat performances from the week and witnessed trophies and awards of \$2,985 given to outstanding students. Thanks to our scholarship donors and trophy supporters for making this all possible. Thanks to our generous supporters, we continue to do



well financially and have not had to do fundraising other than canvas for ads in our program and donors for acknowledgement there.

Eli Ens won our Sask Valley Rose Bowl for piano excellence at a Grade 9 level or higher. Monica Steinke won the Vocal Rose Bowl for voice at grade 8 level or above. We had a total of 17 entries recommended to Provincial Finals in Regina, June 1 to 4. Congratulations to RJC Singers, Emma Gillingham, Mia Gillingham, Zoe Ostapak and Eli Ens. We wish them well as they represent Sask Valley. Emma Gillingham won for Senior Oratorio and Senior Spoken Word in Regina, and Mia Gillingham won a Musical Theatre Scholarship for 14 & under.

We have a dedicated, experienced committee planning and overseeing all this. Once again, Patricia Keefe, our treasurer, and myself were able to attend the SMFA AGM in Moose Jaw. This is always an inspirational and educational venture well worth the time and expense to our committee. At our awards concert, we were pleased to honour Sherry Derksen, our decades-long Entry Secretary, following her retirement.

We hope to have even more participation next year, March 13-20, 2024! Venue is to be determined. Entry deadline is January 27, 2024 so start planning your entries now. Did you know that spoken word, both choral and individual, is part of SMFA competitions?

*Submitted by Linda Swab, President*



## **Saskatoon Music Festival**

**March 21 to April 6 & April 30 to May 6, 2023**

The Saskatoon Music Festival returned in force for the 2023 festival year. Our numbers were not only up from 2022 and 2021, but also from 2019 – our last “normal” festival before the pandemic. We attribute the rise in numbers to new teachers in the area and a general excitement to be involved in activities once again.

This year, the Saskatoon Festival was made up of 4 distinct sections: schools (March 21 to 23), bands (March 27 to 31), Kiwanis Musical Theatre (April 1 to 6) and general (April 30 to May 6). In total, we had 3,786 participants across all 4 sections.

Kiwanis Musical Theatre is entirely sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Saskatoon. While the Saskatoon Music Festival committee takes care of creating the schedule and getting the paperwork put together, the Kiwanis Club (in an effort led by Terry Ross) takes care of everything else – from venue procurement to volunteer wrangling to adjudicator fees. Our partnership with the Kiwanis Club is invaluable and we are always grateful to them for their incredible support of the festival.

One of the highlights of our festival year is the Kinsmen Awards, which are always hosted on the final day of the general festival. This year, we were pleased to offer nearly \$7,000 in awards to twelve outstanding performers. The top performer in each discipline (musical theatre, instruments, piano, classical voice and strings) went home with a \$1,250 scholarship, courtesy of the Kinsmen Club for the latter 4 disciplines, and courtesy of the Kiwanis Club for musical theatre. Support like this is a big factor in the



decision of senior students to compete in the festival, and our thanks goes out to the Kinsmen Club for sponsoring these awards for over 50 years. Save-On-Foods was also part of the awards this year as they sponsored a small reception during the intermission. The support we get from our community is priceless!

We had 48 volunteers who put in countless hours of work to make the festival run this year, from planning to execution. In addition to these volunteers, we're endlessly grateful to our scholarship donors and community patrons. Festivals are truly a communal effort and we've got the greatest community. We're look forward to a fabulous 2024!

*Respectfully submitted, Mariel Unger, Coordinator*

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**Shaunavon & District Music Festival**  
NO FESTIVAL IN 2023



**Spiritwood & District Music Festival**  
April 3 to 4, 2023

After 3 years without a festival due to COVID, we celebrated our 30<sup>th</sup> music festival on Monday, April 3 and Tuesday, April 4. Our wonderful adjudicator was Naomi Piggott-Suchan. Entries, totalling 87, included piano, musical theatre, choral speech, singing and poetry. Our Gala Performance was held on Tuesday evening, featuring a variety of the best performances of the festival. Outstanding performer of the Festival was Amara Menke.

Congratulations to all our festival winners and to everyone showcasing all their hard work. Thanks to all our teachers and volunteers who helped make this year a success.

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**Swift Current Music Festival**  
March 12 to 19, 2023

Adjudicators: Dianne Gryba, Mark Ward, Spencer McKnight

District Winners: Levin Wiebe (piano), Jasmine Keck (voice and musical theatre)

Committee: Charmaine Keck, Laura Thibault, Rachael Eliason, Limin Luan, Patricia Orthner, Alanna Howell, Lois Noble, Theresa Soper

We did a 50/50 draw and baskets for fundraising.

Thank you to all donors is listed on the website and in the final program.

*Submitted by Charmaine Keck, President*

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**Twin Rivers Music Festival**  
(Dalmeny & Martensville)  
March 16 to 24, 2023

The 2023 Twin Rivers Music Festival was held in both Martensville and Dalmeny. The festival opened on March 16 with two days of vocal and spoken word performances in Martensville. Then, junior piano and senior piano ran from March 19-24 in Dalmeny, with the awards concert being held on March 26.

We had 334 entries in all disciplines for this year which was a nice increase from 2022! We hope to see these numbers increase for 2024.



49 scholarships/trophies were presented to 43 deserving students at the Awards Concert, in the amount of \$2600. The concert was a lovely mix of genres and was enjoyed by many.

Several students from our festival were recommended to Provincial Finals and Canada West Competitions:

Connor Elias (Provincial and Canada West)  
Connor Elias, Drusilla Waltz & Samuel

Dmyterko (Canada West)

Rylie Coller (Provincial & Canada West)

Elise Kroeker (Provincial)

Rachel Graham (Provincial)

Ethan Mitchell (Provincial)

Congratulations to Rylie who won the Musical Theatre Up-tempo Contemporary Class (14 & under) and to Connor won both the Arlene Stuart Memorial Piano Bach and the Canadian/SK Music Piano classes (28 years & under) at Provincial Finals. We wish good luck to Connor, Drusilla and Samuel at the Canada West Performing Arts Festival!

As always, our committee would like to acknowledge the time and effort put in by volunteers to make our festival happen – both on the committee and those who helped us during festival week! Without these dedicated volunteers, this festival would not be able to run. Special thanks go out to Val Redekop, Kim Bitner, Shirley Hiebert, Amanda Roberts and Jai Roberts who have retired from our festival committee – we appreciate your many hours and your expertise. TRMF is seeking out new volunteers to help us keep our festival running for the 2024 season.

Thank you to all of our patrons and sponsors for your monetary donations – this keeps our festival running and gives local music students a chance to be in the spotlight and learn from the wonderful adjudicators!

*Submitted by Cecile Klein, Treasurer*

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## Unity Music Festival

**March 27 to 30, 2023**

Our festival year always begins with our Carol Festival which helps our community to really get in the Christmas spirit. It was so good for the 17 performers to be able to do just that, and the best part was that they could do it live.

This year for our live festival, we had 153 entries, with Doreen Renschler who adjudicated piano, violin and saxophone, and Laurien Gibson who adjudicated vocal, musical theatre, schools and speech arts. We would welcome both adjudicators back at any time. \$2,275 was awarded in cash scholarships along with 3 trophies. Our Most Outstanding Award winners were Molly Orobko (piano) and Avyne McLean (vocal and musical theatre). Four students advanced to Provincial Finals:

**Mayla Williams** (musical theatre)

**Molly Orobko** (piano)

**Steyn Hoogstad** (spoken word)

**Willem Hoogstad** (spoken word)

Steyn and Willem advanced to the Canada West Performing Arts Festival in Edmonton!

Our Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Melody Kuhn who not only serves on our committee but has had children in the festival and has done a lot of accompanying. All facets are so important!

We are hoping to get more of the “younger generation” and parents of students to serve on our committee. Also, we have seen a real decline in the number of school entries and will continue to do all we can to help that to change.



### **Vanguard & District Music Festival April 4, 2023**

The Vanguard & District Festival was held April 4, 2023 with an awards evening following on April 5. We celebrated the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival with cupcakes and coffee at the awards ceremony, held at the dining hall of Millar College of the Bible.

Melissa Wood of Caronport, SK was a wonderful adjudicator, shadowed by Nancy Loper. We had 68 entrants in the disciplines of piano, voice, speech, winds and strings, including band members and speech classes from the local schools.

We awarded 26 scholarships and bursaries, with Jenna Reddekopp receiving the Puckett Scholarship. A huge thank-you to our long-time donors and supporters, volunteers, parents and teachers who make the festival a success. We were able to use some of the funding from our previous year's scholarships, as the festival was cancelled due to COVID-19, as well as use festival funding.

As a festival, we are happy to pour into arts opportunity in our community. We sponsored a vocal workshop masterclass in March of 2023, prior to our festival, and hope to sponsor future workshops in the fall. Thank you to donors in our community who make this possible.

Thank-you to our committee members who have poured in hours of volunteer service to keep this festival going: Karen Reddekopp (President) Missy McComish (Awards) and Jessica Evans (Secretary). These positions will become vacant as of our AGM on May 29, 2023.



### **Watrous & District Music Festival April 25 to 26, 2023**

The 51<sup>st</sup> WMF, a return to festival after five years, was held April 25 & 26. It felt amazing being back in the saddle. So gratifying seeing the performers live! Tuesday alternated between piano and spoken word entries. Then Wednesday "tooted" bands from Watrous, Humboldt and Imperial, as well as Central Band. There were 35 entries in total with 6 piano soloists and 218 entrants combined in the spoken word and band groups.

We awarded \$900 in scholarships. Due to the challenge of having full groups return for a Final Concert, various committee members presented the scholarships and trophies to the scholarship winners at their school/home after the festival.

Our adjudicator was Olivia Adams from Ontario, with roots in Saskatchewan. She workshopped with the two older piano students and served wonderfully as our general adjudicator.

In January, the committee asked Carol Baade, a former teacher, to workshop with teachers in Watrous for spoken word. She had entered classes from Imperial School for many years and then mentored teachers there before she retired. The WMF received 5 new entries from Watrous Elementary School Grade 1-6. One teacher who has taught many years in Watrous remarked after the festival that she had resisted for years to entering a class into spoken word, then finished saying she was definitely entering a class again in the next festival. Each class performed so well! They were so entertaining in their presentations.

Kelly Stein attended the SMFA Conference in Moose Jaw.



Each summer, the WMF committee hosts a pancake breakfast during the FunRun Car Show in July in Watrous. We are grateful for the community support and volunteers in our annual fundraiser.

2023 Revenue: \$4,704.20

Expenses: \$3,801.52

Profit: \$902.68

H&R is hired to do the bookkeeping.

Thanks again to the committee members, volunteers, teachers, students, sponsors, donors and community supporters for their part in hosting another successful festival.

*Respectfully submitted by Kelly Stein*



### **Weyburn Rotary Music Festival**

**March 13 to 21, 2023**

This was Weyburn's 65<sup>th</sup> year for Music Festival. The piano portion was March 13-15 and our adjudicator was Sarah Konecni. Vocal was held March 19-21 with Chris MacRae as the adjudicator, and band was March 22-23 with Gilles Turcotte as adjudicator.

Piano entries this year totalled 133. The entries for vocal came to 70, band had 34 entries, making a grand total of 237 entries.

Weyburn is very lucky to have the Rotary Club as a sponsor of our festival along with Whitecap Resources.

Lindsay Van De Weyer was recommended to Provincial Finals and provincial level of Canada West Excellence competition in piano. In vocal, Keira Mahnke, Lindsay Van De Weyer, Donald Alexander, Isabelle Cugnet and Avryelle Molnar advanced to Provincials. Lindsay also advanced to the provincial level of Canada West Excellence competition in vocal.

*Submitted by Brenda Milatz*



### **Yorkton Music Festival**

**March 7 to 17, 2023**

The 2023 Yorkton Music Festival was held from March 7 to 17 with a Hi-Lights Concert March 19. We had a total of 270 entries perform in choral, vocal, musical theatre, speech arts, band, strings and piano sessions. (51 band, 163 piano, 56 vocal/choral/ spoken word).

Thanks to all our adjudicators: Jennifer Tenford (band and strings), Corinne Groff (piano), and Karen Frandsen (vocal, musical theatre, spoken word, and choral).

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 awards program. We were grateful for many new Patrons and Scholarship donors this year. Their donations ensure that the festival tradition will enrich the lives of performers and audiences today and in the future.

Congratulations to our District Winners who advanced to Provincial Finals: Susanna Reed (strings), Angela Fetsch (piano) and Sacred Heart High School Concert Choir (choral).

We held our Yorkton Music Festival Hi-Lights concert and Awards ceremony at St. Andrew's United Church on March 19, 2023. It was a wonderful afternoon and we received many positive comments about the quality of the performances as well as how welcoming and how organized the concert was. Our adjudicators did a great job selecting a variety of performances for our final concert.

We have appreciated the time and talents of the Yorkton Music Festival committee, a committed group of volunteers dedicated to putting on a successful festival. We had six new executive members join us this year and we very much appreciated the contributions of our new members as well as those who have returned to our committee.

*Submitted by Jean Fetsch, President*



Member Festival	2023 Entries	2022 Entries	2021 Entries	2020 Entries	2019 Entries	Solo Fees	Num. Adj	Total Awards	Vol. #'s	Vol. Hours	Audience
Assiniboia	138	99	0	0	119	\$15	1	\$1,975	17	200	560
Battlefords	358	233	209	0	383	\$15	3	\$8,900	25	360	696
Biggar	211	193	170	228	196	\$15	3	\$3,075	12	350	767
Borderland	68	87	67	0	118	\$15	1	\$1,600	12	225	317
Carnduff	0	72	98	273	315	\$0	0	\$0	0	0	0
Central Sask	104	96	0	0	138	\$5	1	\$1,850	9	315	648
Estevan	409	277	251	0	588	\$20	3	\$9,625	40	850	1,598
Eston	103	0	44	0	114	\$15	1	\$1,340	30	250	425
Gravelbourg	127	146	162	0	186	\$12	2	\$3,025	27	800	783
Hafford	0	0	0	0	124	\$0	0	\$0	4	5	0
Humboldt	268	212	168	114	289	\$18	2	\$2,850	25	150	550
Kindersley	278	195	172	175	292	\$15	3	\$3,200	19	300	825
Kipling	69	0	0	0	237	\$0	1	\$865	60	200	196
La Ronge	132	124	109	0	233	\$15	1	\$1,640	13	100	422
Lafleche	220	133	210	0	283	\$10	2	\$5,275	48	1390	500
Lanigan	252	229	169	0	279	\$12	2	\$2,610	30	531	7169
Last Mountain	85	0	0	0	140	\$10	1	\$1,690	12	215	571
Lloydminster	531	387	372	0	809	\$18	4	\$7,865	10	750	1500
Mainline	147	123	92	0	165	\$20	1	\$1,760	25	925	740
Maple Creek	89	61	44	0	77	\$11	2	\$1,925	25	442	421
Meadow Lake	166	110	108	0	164	\$15	2	\$1,950	25	460	840
Melfort	254	87	212	296	397	\$15	4	\$3,115	25	388	690
Moose Jaw	324	306	299	0	429	\$20	4	\$7,820	31	750	400
Moosomin	161	151	137	0	421	\$10	2	\$2,185	31	400	650
Nipawin	211	0	254	0	311	\$16	3	\$4,150	18	300	400
Outlook	145	0	0	0	214	\$10	1	\$2,800	17	250	1100
Parkland	64	0	0	0	181	\$15	1	\$2,060	11	100	151
Potashville	41	25	0	0	154	\$12	2	\$2,925	13	275	622
Prairie Sunset	160	109	101	0	175	\$15	3	\$2,900	23	320	620
Prince Albert	174	85	92	375	366	\$20	4	\$9,030	24	350	1,280
Qu'Appelle Valley	49	24	0	0	124	\$15	2	\$725	6	70	79
Quill Plains	230	213	202	0	360	\$12	3	\$2,985	70	350	470
Redvers	0	0	0	0	124	\$0	0	\$0	15	0	0
Regina	745	741	724	0	1,048	\$28	9	\$24,950	95	1,715	1,000
Rosetown	236	192	154	0	247	\$15	3	\$4,500	33	250	1,032
Sand Hills	59	37	38	0	73	\$10	1	\$1,870	16	220	400
Sask Valley	168	137	159	0	225	\$15	2	\$2,985	22	1,000	962
Saskatoon	1,699	1,271	1,024	0	1,627	\$36	12	\$24,610	48	900	1,600
Shaunavon	0	0	0	0	131	\$0	0	\$0	0	0	0
Spiritwood	83	0	0	0	89	\$15	1	\$1,425	19	400	439
Swift Current	141	90	0	0	278	\$15	3	\$2,500	24	?	?
Twin Rivers	334	215	180	0	413	\$15	3	\$2,600	27	500	1,329
Unity	153	121	168	0	364	\$15	2	\$2,225	34	835	1,695
Vanguard	67	0	0	0	65	\$8	1	\$1,105	5	175	200
Watrous	35	0	42	0	0	\$20	1	\$900	21	185	345
Weyburn	237	153	209	189	299	\$15	3	\$7,550	55	300	500
Yorkton	270	258	188	229	446	\$16	3	\$5,375	46	650	1,250
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,795</b>	<b>6,992</b>	<b>6,440</b>	<b>1,879</b>	<b>13,810</b>		<b>109</b>	<b>\$186,310</b>	<b>1197</b>	<b>19501</b>	<b>36742</b>

*District Festival Statistics - Carnduff, Twin Rivers and Watrous Festivals held Virtual Showcases in lieu of a festival in 2021. Carnduff also held a Virtual Showcase in lieu of a festival in 2022.*





# Provincial Finals Report

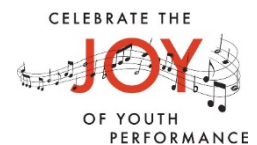
*From Thursday to Sunday, 450 performances by winners from District Music Festivals across Saskatchewan were heard. On Thursday evening, June 1, one competitor chosen from each discipline in the 28 years & under division competed in the Grand Awards Competition. On Friday evening, June 2, one competitor chosen from each discipline in the 17 years & under division competed in the Grand Awards Competition.*

The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA), now in its 115<sup>th</sup> year, presented the annual Provincial Finals Competitions and the Provincial Level of Canada West Excellence Competition at the Conservatory of Performing Arts/Darke Hall, Regina from June 1 to 4, 2023. Adjudicators for the competitions were: Piano: Jacques Després, AB; Voice: Dr. Christianne Rushton, NS; Canada West Voice: Dr. Chris MacRae, SK; Strings/Guitar/Chamber: Dr. Sasha Weinstangel, ON; Brass/Woodwind/Chamber: Jennifer Tenford, SK; Musical Theatre: Gail Hakala, ON; Spoken Word: Lorna Batycki, SK; Choral: Joan Heels, 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 of \$1,500 for the most promising senior piano competitor, and the Sister Geraldine Boyle Memorial Gold Award of \$1,500 for the most outstanding performance of the Grand Awards Competition. Choral entries were adjudicated by recording and were announced during the Grand Awards Competition.

The following were declared Provincial Winners and Runners-Up:

- Class 1** Mary Anderson Memorial Choral Sacred - \$500 ..... Swift Current Oratorio Choir (Swift Current)
- Class 2** Sask. Choral Federation Choral Open - \$300.....Cantate Senior Choir (Regina)  
Betty Tydeman Memorial Choral Open, Runner-up - \$200 ..... Luther College High School Senior Choir (Regina)
- Class 3** Kiwanis Club of Regina-Wascana Inc. Gallagher Mem.Choral - \$500..... Big Noise Youth Choir (Prince Albert)
- Class 4** Sask. Choral Federation School Choral Music - \$500..... Sacred Heart High School Choir (Yorkton)
- Class 5** Goodfellow Memorial Vocal Grade A (28 & under) - \$400 ..... Elise Parsonage (Saskatoon)
- Class 6** Heather Laxdal Memorial Vocal SMSCT Gr. B (28 & under) - \$400 ..... Danielle Daunheimer (Regina)
- Class 7** Thomas & Don Hatton Memorial Vocal TBB Gr. B (28 & under) - \$400 ..... William Matthews (Regina)
- Class 8** Goodfellow Memorial Vocal Opera/Operatic (28 & under) - \$400 ..... Elise Parsonage (Saskatoon)
- Class 9** Goodfellow Memorial Vocal French Art Song (28 & under) - \$400 ..... Brooke Zarubin (Moose Jaw)
- Class 10** Goodfellow Memorial Vocal Oratorio (28 & under) - \$400 ..... Emma Gillingham (Sask Valley)
- Class 11** Heather Laxdal Memorial Vocal Lieder (28 & under) - \$200..... not awarded
- Class 11** Whelan Piano Lieder (28 & under) - \$200..... not awarded
- Class 12** Karen Frandsen Vocal Canadian Music (28 & under) - \$400..... Danielle Daunheimer (Regina)
- Class 13** Henri Loiselle Memorial Vocal Concert Group Grade A (28 & under) - \$400 ..... not awarded
- Class 14** Nancy & Alastair Todd Memorial Vocal Concert Grp Gr B (28 & u) - \$400 .....Julianne Booker (Regina)
- Class 15** Covey Vocal Recital SMSCT (17 & under) - \$300 ..... Nora Rittinger (Saskatoon)
- Class 16** A. L.'s Music Vocal Recital TBB (17 & under) - \$300 ..... Adam Brookman (Saskatoon)
- Class 17** Battleford Furniture Vocal Folk Song/Ballad (17 & under) - \$300 ..... Adam Brookman (Saskatoon)
- Class 18** Regina Music Festival Vocal Concert Group (17 & under) - \$300..... Nora Rittinger (Saskatoon)
- Class 19** Marilyn Whitehead Vocal Recital (14 & under) - \$200 .....Sadie Gryba (Saskatoon)
- Class 20** Music for Young Children Vocal Folk Song/Ballad (14 & under) - \$200 ..... Orianna Fetter (Saskatoon)
- Class 21** Dianne Gryba Vocal Recital (12 & under) - \$100 .....Kadence Trachuk (Lloydminster)
- Class 22** Music for Young Children Vocal Folk Song/Ballad (12 & under) - \$100 ..... Stephanie Siba (Saskatoon)





- Class 23 Arlene Stuart Memorial Piano Bach (28 & under) - \$400.....Connor Elias (Twin Rivers)
- Class 24 Piano Beethoven/Haydn/Mozart (28 & under) - \$400.....Jerry Hu (Saskatoon)
- Class 25 SRMTA Piano Romantic/Chopin (28 & under) - \$400 .....Jerry Hu (Saskatoon)
- Class 26 MYCSTA Piano French Music (28 & under) - \$400 ..... Connor Elias (Saskatoon)
- Class 27 Piano Concerto (28 & under) - \$400.....Jerry Hu (Saskatoon)
- Class 28 Piano 20th, 21st Century Music (28 & under) - \$400 .....Jerry Hu (Saskatoon)
- Class 29 Piano Canadian/Saskatchewan Music (28 & under) - \$400..... Connor Elias (Saskatoon)
- Class 30 Toppings Family Piano Bach (17 & under) - \$300 .....Hannah Meginbir (Saskatoon)
- Class 31 Dr. Philip Brost Piano Beethoven/Haydn/Mozart (17 & under) - \$300 ..... Judy Luo (Regina)
- Class 32 England/Ferguson Memorial Piano Chopin (17 & under) - \$300..... Dustin Nguyen (Regina)
- Class 33 Verna Veikle Memorial Piano Concerto (17 & under) - \$300 ..... Dustin Nguyen (Regina)
- Class 34 Piano 20th/21st Century (17 & under) - \$300 .....Joongi Lee (Regina)
- Class 35 Gordon & Mossie Hancock Piano Canadian/SK (17 & under) - \$300.....Shirin Soleimani (Saskatoon)
- Class 36 Jackson Memorial Piano Recital (17 & under) - \$300 ..... Judy Luo (Regina)
- Class 37 Dr. Thomas Yu Piano Recital (14 & under) - \$200..... Kayla Andres (Lloydminster)
- Class 38 Borderland Music Festival Piano Canadian/SK (17 & under) - \$200..... Alora De Jager (Moose Jaw)
- Class 39 Dianne Gryba Piano Recital (12 & under) - \$100 .....Gaoyuan Thomas Cheng (Regina)
- Class 40 Doris Covey Lazecki Piano Canadian/SK (12 & under) - \$100.....Gaoyuan Thomas Cheng (Regina)
- Class 41 Anna Klassen Endowment Fund Piano RCM/CC (Grade 10) - \$400 .....Tinglan Wei (Regina)
- Class 42 DMS Services Inc. Piano RCM/CC (Grade 8) - \$300 .....Gaoyuan Thomas Cheng (Regina)
- Garth Beckett/Gustin House Senior Piano - \$1,500.....Jerry Hu (Saskatoon)
- Class 43 Mrs. Clare K. Mendel Memorial Strings Recital (28 & under) - \$400 ..... Bridget Alexander (Regina)
- Class 44 Fred S. Mendel Memorial Strings Concert (28 & under) - \$400..... Bridget Alexander (Regina)
- Class 45 Robert C. Mitchell Memorial Strings Recital (17 & under) - \$300 .....Ekaterina Pletneva (Saskatoon)
- Class 46 Johanna Mitchell Memorial Strings Concert (17 & under) - \$300 ..... Zelda Faulkes (Regina)
- Class 47 Regina Music Festival Strings Recital (14 & under) - \$200 ..... Aaron Liu (Regina)
- Class 48 Blanche Squires Strings Concert (14 & under) - \$200..... Nialan Young (Saskatoon)
- Class 49 Blanche Squires Strings Recital (12 & under) - \$100..... Cameron Gajadhar (Regina)
- Class 50 Blanche Squires Strings Concert (12 & under) - \$100..... Kensie Cowan (Rosetown)
- Class 51 Sask. Music Educators Classical Guitar (28 & under) - \$400.....Carson Froehlich (Quill Plains)
- Class 52 Stein Farms Ltd. Classical Guitar (17 & under) - \$300 .....not awarded
- Class 53 Sask. Band Association Woodwind (28 & under) - \$400 .....not awarded
- Class 54 Brost Family Woodwind (17 & under) - \$300 .....Siyuan (Marco) Ding (Regina)
- Class 55 Sask. Band Association Brass (28 & under) - \$400 ..... Hannah Hashi (Saskatoon)
- Class 56 Brass (17 & under) - \$300 ..... Mathis Chu (Regina)
- Class 57 Sask. Band Association Percussion (28 & under) - \$400.....not awarded
- Class 58 Maple Creek Festival Percussion (17 & under) - \$300.....not awarded
- Class 59 Ursan Family Musical Theatre Ballad (28 & under) - \$400 .....Paulina Salisbury (Saskatoon)
- Class 60 Katja Meszaros Memorial Musical Theatre Up-tempo (28 & u) - \$500 .... Forrest Hiebert (Saskatoon)
- Class 61 Regan Grant Memorial MT Ballad Classic/Mod. (17 & under) - \$300..... Kai Batycki (Saskatoon)
- Class 62 Margaret Caldwell Memorial MT Ballad Contemp. (17 & u) - \$300 .....Julia Gordon (Lloydminster)
- Class 63 Sandra Ryba Memorial MT Up-Tempo Classic/Mod. (17 & u) - \$300 .....Olivia Robinson (Saskatoon)
- Class 64 Musical Theatre Up-tempo Contemporary (17 & under) - \$300 ..... Mary Kirkpatrick (Saskatoon)
- Class 65 Battleford Furniture MT Ballad Classic/Modern (14 & under) - \$200..... Mia Gillingham (Sask Valley)
- Class 66 Musical Theatre Ballad Contemporary (14 & under) - \$200..... Camdyn Leverick (Saskatoon)
- Class 67 Dorothy Seibold Memorial MT Up-tempo Classic/Mod. (14 & u) - \$200... Orianna Fetter (Saskatoon)
- Class 68 Musical Theatre Up-tempo Contemporary (14 & under) - \$200 ..... Rylie Coller (Twin Rivers)



- Class 69 Krista Brost MT Ballad Classic/Modern (12 & under) - \$100 .....Ruby Hickman (Lloydminster)  
Class 70 Doris Covey Lazecki MT Ballad Contemporary (12 & under) - \$100..... Stephanie Siba (Saskatoon)  
Class 71 Rosetown Festival MT Up-tempo Classic/Mod. (12 & under) - \$100 ..... Elizabeth Deans (Moose Jaw)  
Class 72 Musical Theatre Up-tempo Contemporary (12 & under) - \$100 .....Ruby Hickman (Lloydminster)  
Class 73 L. I. Bryson Memorial Spoken Word Concert Grp (28&u) - \$400 ..... Emma Gillingham (Sask Valley)  
Class 74 Alfredo S. Uy Mem. Spoken Word Poetry/Prose (17&u) - \$300 ..... Steyn Hoogstad (Prairie Sunset)  
Class 75 Doris Bircham Mem. Spoken Word Concert Group (17&u) - \$300..... Steyn Hoogstad (Unity)  
Class 76 Spoken Word Poetry (14 & under) - \$200..... Jenevieve Melin (Lanigan)  
Class 77 Spoken Word Prose (14 & under) - \$200 ..... Valerie Rollheiser (Lloydminster)  
Class 78 Spoken Word Poetry (12 & under) - \$100 ..... Liné Linde (Prairie Sunset)  
Class 79 Spoken Word Prose (12 & under) - \$100 ..... Liné Linde (Prairie Sunset)

Grand Award Winners, 28 years & under:

- Blanche Squires Bronze Award & Trophy - \$500.....Hanna Hashi (Saskatoon)  
Wallis Memorial Silver Award & Trophy - \$750 ..... Carson Froehlich (Quill Plains)  
Sister Boyle Gold Award & Trophy - \$1,500 to the most outstanding competitor ..... Jerry Hu (Saskatoon)

Grand Award Winners, 17 years & under:

- Sandra Senga Bronze Award & Trophy - \$300 ..... Siyuan (Marco) Ding (Regina)  
Wallis Memorial Silver Award & Trophy - \$500 .....Dustin Nguyen (Regina)  
SaskTel Gold Award & Trophy - \$750 to the most outstanding competitor..... Adam Brookman (Saskatoon)

Canada West Scholarships were awarded to the following competitors:

- Strutt CW/Excellence Classical Voice (13 & under) 1<sup>st</sup> - \$200 .....Sadie Gryba (Saskatoon)  
CW/Excellence Classical Voice (13 & under) 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$50 .....Kathleen Booker (Regina)  
Lafleche Music Festival CW/Excellence Classical Voice (17 & under) 1<sup>st</sup> - \$300 .....Danielle Daunheimer (Regina)  
Hughton Family CW/Excellence Classical Voice (17 & under) 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$100.....Julianne Booker (Regina)  
First Financial CW/Excellence Classical Voice (22 & under) 1<sup>st</sup> - \$500..... Brooke Zarubin (Moose Jaw)  
Margaret Caldwell Memorial CW/Excellence Classical Voice (22 & u) 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$150..... Paulina Salisbury (Saskatoon)  
Anna Klassen Endowment Fund CW/Excellence Piano (13 & under) 1<sup>st</sup> - \$200..... April Shi (Saskatoon)  
Anna Klassen Endowment Fund CW/Excellence Piano (13 & under) 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$50..... Tingzhang Wu (Saskatoon)  
MacKinnon Family CW/Excellence Piano (17 & under) 1<sup>st</sup> - \$300 ..... Hannah Meginbir (Saskatoon)  
Steven P. Fielder CW/Excellence Piano (17 & under) 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$100 ..... Esther Zhu (Saskatoon)  
Anna Klassen Endowment Fund CW/Excellence Piano (22 & under) 1<sup>st</sup> - \$500..... Connor Elias (Saskatoon)  
Battlefords Festival CW/Excellence Strings (13 years & under) 1<sup>st</sup> - \$200.....Sophia Tirkajla (Saskatoon)  
Battlefords Festival CW/Excellence Strings (13 years & under) 1<sup>st</sup> - \$200.....Eliana Bakanec (Prairie Sunset)  
Sask. Orchestral Assoc. CW/Excellence Strings (17 & under) 1<sup>st</sup> - \$300 ..... Ekaterina Pletneva (Saskatoon)  
Kelley Bahrey CW/Excellence Strings (17 & under) 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$100 .....Zelda Faulkes (Regina)  
Sask. Orchestral Assoc. CW/Excellence Chamber (17 & under) 1<sup>st</sup> - \$300..... Mira String Quartet (Regina)  
CW/Excellence Chamber (22 & under) 1<sup>st</sup> - \$500 ..... USASK Trio (Saskatoon)  
Diane & Gene Aulinger CW/Excellence Woodwind (17 & under) 1<sup>st</sup> - \$300.....Elise Jackson-Reynolds (Regina)  
Lakeland Veterinary Services CW/Excellence Brass (17 & under) 1st - \$300 ..... Olivia Florizone (Saskatoon)  
Ross Ulmer & Karen Ast CW/Excellence Brass (22 & under) 1st - \$500 .....Hannah Hashi (Saskatoon)  
CW/Excellence Guitar (22 & under) 1<sup>st</sup> - \$500..... Carson Froehlich (Quill Plains)  
CW/Excellence Speech Arts & Drama (13 & under) 1<sup>st</sup> - \$200 .....Abiyah Bowen (Battlefords)  
CW/Excellence Speech Arts & Drama (13 & under) 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$50 .....Natalie Voigt (Battlefords)  
Sask. Drama Assoc. CW/Excellence Speech Arts & Drama (17 & u) 1<sup>st</sup> - \$300..... Steyn Hoogstad (Prairie Sunset)  
CW/Excellence Speech Arts & Drama (17 & under) 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$100 ..... Willem Hoogstad (Prairie Sunset)  
Battlefords Festival CW/Excellence Musical Theatre (13 & under) 1<sup>st</sup> - \$200 .....Ruby Hickman (Lloydminster)



**Battlefords Festival CW/Excellence Musical Theatre (13 & under) 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$50** ..... Elizabeth Deans (Moose Jaw)  
**Estevan Festival CW/Excellence Musical Theatre (17 & under) 1<sup>st</sup> - \$300** ..... Trason Ridgewell (Outlook)  
**Hughton Family CW/Excellence Musical Theatre (17 & under) 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$100** ..... Nora Rittinger (Saskatoon)  
**CW/Excellence Musical Theatre (22 & under) 1<sup>st</sup> - \$500** ..... Rosette Caina (Saskatoon)  
**Myrna Bentley Excellence Musical Theatre (22 & under) 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$150** ..... Brooke Zarubin (Moose Jaw)



*Grand Award winners (28 years & under)*  
**Jerry Hu, Piano** (Sister Boyle Memorial Gold Award);  
**Carson Froehlich, Guitar** (Gordon Wallis Memorial Silver Award);  
**Hanna Hashi, Brass** (Blanche Squires Memorial Bronze Award)



**Jerry Hu, winner of the Garth Beckett/Gustin House Piano Scholarship of \$1,500**



*17 & under Grand Awards participants and their esteemed judges*



## SMFA Scholarship Donors & Supporters

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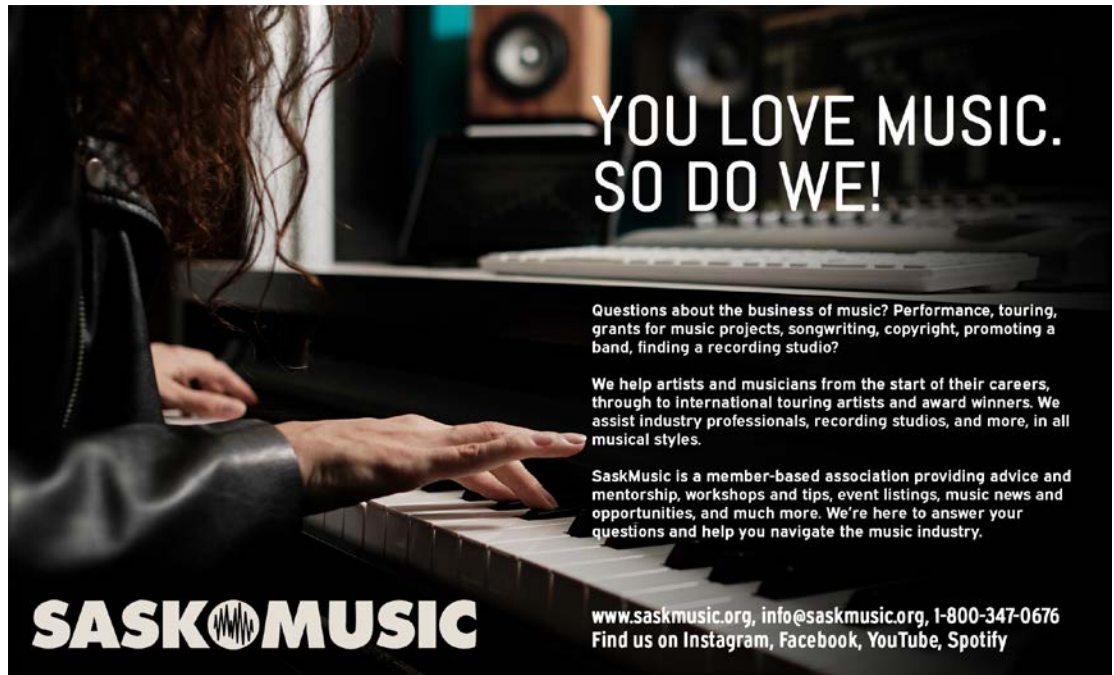


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Because it makes my heart sing.





# Canada West Performing Arts Festival

The second annual Canada West Performing Arts Festival was held July 21-22, 2023 in Edmonton, AB in Allard Hall at the downtown Edmonton MacEwan University campus.

Approximately 125 solo/chamber performances and 23 choral performances were heard in all disciplines from provincial festivals including Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan. \$34,000 in prize money was awarded.

Adjudicators for the weekend competitions were: Ian Parker (Piano); Darryl Edwards (Classical Voice); Kerry DuWors (Strings); Daniel Ramjattan (Guitar); Jim Tranquilla (Brass); Peter Stoll (Woodwind); Donna Fletcher (Musical Theatre); Julia Pal (Speech Arts); Brian Mix (Chamber); Elroy Friesen (Virtual Choral).

The following participants placed at the 2023 competition:

## Class Name:

Classical Voice (13 & under)  
 Classical Voice (17 & under)  
 Classical Voice (22 & under)  
 Piano (13 & under)  
 Piano (17 & under)  
  
 Piano (22 & under)  
 Strings (13 & under)  
 Strings (17 & under)  
 Strings (22 & under)  
 Woodwind (17 & under)  
 Woodwind (22 & under)  
 Brass (17 & under)  
 Brass (22 & under)  
 Classical Guitar (17 & under)  
 Classical Guitar (22 & under)  
 Speech (13 & under)  
 Speech (17 & under)  
 Speech (22 & under)  
 Musical Theatre (13 & under)  
 Musical Theatre (17 & under)  
 Musical Theatre (22 & under)

## 1<sup>st</sup> Place

Sadie Gryba (SK)  
 Kyra Aubin (AB)  
 Zoe McCormick (AB)  
 Ethan Wang (AB)  
 Kiana Zhu (AB)  
  
 Sam Zefreh (AB)  
 Anthony Yue (AB)  
 Chanan Ngo (AB)  
 Tegwen Sak (BC)  
 Camilo Aybar (BC)  
 Gabrielo Arojo (AB)  
 Mathis Chu (SK)  
 Hanna Hashi (SK)  
 Lincoln Ohuchi (AB)  
 Carson Froelich (SK)  
 Tanisha Mcloughlin (AB)  
 Rhiannon Kooy (AB)  
 Steven Peng (BC)  
 Ruby Hickman (SK)  
 Joel Appleton (AB)  
 Rosette Caina (SK)

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Kai Yee Li (BC)  
 Adam Brookman (SK)  
 Alexandra Baird (BC)  
 April Shi (SK)  
 Matthew Li (BC), Esther Zhu (SK),  
 Zijia (Jaydon) Zhuang (AB)  
 Fergus Kwan (BC), Evan Yin (AB)  
 Zephan Wu (BC)  
 Merett Khamis (BC)  
 Benjamin Linton (AB)  
 Ian Liu (AB)  
 Joshua Gray (AB)  
 Arnav Modi (BC)  
 Nicolaj Bucher (BC)  
 Alison Hengen (BC)  
 Klee Zubot (BC)  
 Veronica Jiang (BC)  
 Rita Zhu (BC)  
 Kaline Tan (AB)  
 Spencer Peck (AB)  
 Trason Ridgewell (SK)  
 Brooke Zarubin (SK)





<b>Class Name:</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</b>
Chamber (17 & under)	UPDog Trio (BC)	Mira String Quartet (SK)
Chamber (22 & under)	Con Brio Trio (AB)	Moonlight Quartet (BC)
Community Choral (24 & u)	Nottingham Youth Choir (AB)	Oriana Girls Choir Intermediate/Senior (AB)
Community Choral (17 & u)	Grande Prairie Boys' Choir (AB)	University of Lethbridge Alegre Singers (AB)
Community Choral (12 & u)	Okanagan Children's Choir (BC)	Nottingham Children's Choir (AB)
School Choral (Gr. 12 & under)	LCI Concert Choir (AB)	AHSFA Vocal Ensemble (AB)
School Choral (Gr. 9 & under)	LCI Grade 9 Choir (AB), Ecole Okotoks Junior High Chamber Choir (AB)	
School Choral (Gr. 6 & under)	Rundell College El. Choir (AB)	St. Anne Gr. 4-6 Choir (AB)

As the 2023 host province, the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association acknowledges support of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, MacEwan University, NRS Foundation through the Victoria Foundation, and the many other donors and volunteers that make this event possible.

The 2024 Canada West Performing Arts Festival will be held July 25-27, 2024 in Victoria, BC at the University of Victoria. For more information, please contact the administrator in your participating province.



*Sadie Gryba, 1<sup>st</sup> place  
Classical Voice, 13 years & under*



*Ruby Hickman, 1<sup>st</sup> place  
MT, 13 years & under*



*Rosette Caina, 1<sup>st</sup> place  
MT, 22 years & under*



*Mathis Chu, 1<sup>st</sup> place  
Brass, 17 years & under*



*Carson Froehlich, 1<sup>st</sup> place  
Classical Guitar,*



*Hanna Hashi, 1<sup>st</sup> place  
Brass, 22 years & under*





[www.canadawestfestival.ca](http://www.canadawestfestival.ca)

# Canada West Performing Arts Festival

**July 25-27, 2024**  
**University of Victoria**  
**(Victoria, BC)**

Performing Arts BC (PABC), Alberta Music Festival Association (AMFA), and the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA), are pleased to announce the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Canada West Performing Arts Festival (CWPAF). The CWPAF provides a unique performance and educational opportunity to music and speech students. To learn more about the CWPAF, please contact the administrator in your participating province:

- **British Columbia:** [festival@bcprovincials.com](mailto:festival@bcprovincials.com)
- **Alberta:** [info@albertamusicfestival.org](mailto:info@albertamusicfestival.org)
- **Saskatchewan:** [sask.music.festival@sasktel.net](mailto:sask.music.festival@sasktel.net)



PERFORMING Arts BC





## 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, President Jeri Ryba, Past President Tammy Villeneuve, Second Vice-President Alisha Mann, and Executive Director Carol Donhauser.

After recognizing an operational deficit of \$-15,850 last year which drew down on our surplus from the previous year of \$32,886, we show a small operational surplus of \$4,905 for the current reporting year. When this is added to our adjustments made to capital assets, and the move of funds from restricted assets of \$18,300, the year-end balance is a surplus \$40,866.

The SMFA Trust investment portfolio is managed by Leander Dueck of Beyond Wealth Management in Regina. The asset mix is balanced in a way that will help to decrease our risk during times of volatility. The rate of return during this fiscal year was 3.89%. During the same period, the Canadian Balanced Portfolio Benchmark was 5.25%. As has always been the case, a priority for the portfolio has been to reduce volatility by investing in multiple asset classes – specifically, the SMFA portfolio contains approximately 27% Canadian Equity, 26% US equity, 11% International Equity, 29% fixed income, and 9% Real Estate (less than 100% due to cash allocations). As discussed previously, we diversify the portfolio in these asset classes to limit the volatility over complete business cycles, not just over 1-year periods.

Though the SMFA portfolio did not outperform the benchmark over the last 1 year, when comparing the last 3 years, the SMFA Portfolio has performed as desired – returning 5.59% per year compared to the Canadian Balanced benchmark of 3.16% per year. This outperformance can be largely credited to limiting the downside volatility in the portfolio.

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

SMFA is dependent on the operational 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. Last year, SMFA received \$185,000 for our Annual Global Funding Grant.

The SMFA Finance Committee continues to seek efficiencies and funding opportunities in order to deliver the programs and services that serve our mission and mandate. Thank you for the SMFA Finance Committee for your work throughout the year.

*Respectfully, Dianne Gryba, Finance Chair*



# Audited Financial Statement



SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
JULY 31, 2023



**MARCIA HERBACK & ASSOCIATES**  
*Chartered Professional Accountants*  
*Professional Corporation*

2320 Lorne Street Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 2M9  
Telephone: (306) 522-3311 Facsimile: (306) 522-3312  
Email: marcia@mherback.ca

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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, 2023 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, 2023 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 22, 2023

  
Marcia Herback  
CPA, CA

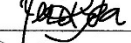
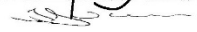


**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AS AT JULY 31, 2023  
(with comparative figures for 2022)**

	2023	2022
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash (Note 3)	\$ 137,763	\$ 71,990
Cash segregated for future expenditures	10,129	19,739
Investment	14,642	23,453
Investment segregated for future expenditures	18,739	-
Accounts receivable	23,584	20,203
Inventory	10,250	9,819
Prepaid expenses	<u>5,069</u>	<u>1,200</u>
	220,176	146,404
<b>Tangible capital assets (Note 4)</b>	7,869	10,923
<b>Assets held in trust (Note 5)</b>	447,680	468,919
<b>Investments</b>	-	3,919
<b>Investments segregated for future expenditures (Note 6)</b>	<u>70,703</u>	<u>74,039</u>
	<u>\$ 746,428</u>	<u>\$ 704,204</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 54,305	\$ 101,369
Deferred revenue (Note 7)	<u>96,137</u>	<u>7,557</u>
	150,442	108,926
<b>Long-term liabilities</b>		
Funds held in trust (Note 8)	<u>-</u>	<u>4,924</u>
	<u>150,442</u>	<u>113,850</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Net assets invested in capital assets</b>	7,869	10,923
<b>Net assets designated for future expenditures</b>	99,571	93,778
<b>Restricted net assets</b>	447,680	468,919
<b>Unrestricted net assets</b>	<u>40,866</u>	<u>16,734</u>
	595,986	590,354
	<u>\$ 746,428</u>	<u>\$ 704,204</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, 2023**  
 (with comparative figures for 2022)

	2023	2022
<b>Revenue</b>		
Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund	\$ 185,000	\$ 185,000
Self-generated revenue (Schedule 1)	<u>136,981</u>	<u>143,072</u>
	<u>321,981</u>	<u>328,072</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Administration (Schedule 2)	161,104	161,411
Amortization	1,948	2,168
Corporate (Schedule 3)	11,367	12,618
Program (Schedule 4)	101,609	163,550
Public relations (Schedule 5)	11,526	961
Travel and meeting (Schedule 6)	26,668	11,772
Loss on disposal of obsolete equipment	<u>2,127</u>	<u>1,013</u>
	<u>316,349</u>	<u>353,493</u>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures</b>	<u>\$ 5,632</u>	<u>\$ (25,421)</u>

See accompanying notes





**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION  
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JULY 31, 2023  
(with comparative figures for 2022)**

		Invested in Tangible Capital Assets	Designated for Future Expenditures	Restricted Net Assets	Unrestricted Net Assets	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>							
Balance, beginning of year	\$	10,923	93,778	468,919	16,734	\$ 590,354	\$ 615,775
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures		(2,127)	5,793	(2,939)	4,905	5,632	(25,421)
Additions to tangible capital assets		1,021	-	-	(1,021)	-	-
Amortization of capital assets		(1,948)	-	-	1,948	-	-
Transfers (Note 9)		-	-	(18,300)	18,300	-	-
Balance, end of year	<u>\$</u>	<u>7,869</u>	<u>99,571</u>	<u>447,680</u>	<u>40,866</u>	<u>\$ 595,986</u>	<u>\$ 590,354</u>



**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION  
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JULY 31, 2023  
(with comparative figures for 2022)**

	2023	2022
<b>Operating activities</b>		
Excess of revenues over expenditures unrestricted net assets	\$ 5,632	\$ (25,421)
Items not involving an outlay (receipt) of cash		
Amortization	1,948	2,168
Loss on disposal of equipment	<u>2,127</u>	<u>1,013</u>
	9,707	(22,240)
Net change in non-cash operating working capital balances:		
Investment	8,811	5,956
Investment segregated for future expenditures	(18,739)	3,986
Accounts receivable	(3,381)	(5,929)
Inventory	(431)	693
Prepaid expenses	(3,869)	-
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(47,064)	46,770
Deferred revenue	88,580	(109,145)
Funds held in trust	<u>(4,924)</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>28,690</u>	<u>(79,909)</u>
<b>Investing activities</b>		
Change in investments	3,919	(3,919)
Change in investments segregated for future expenditures	3,336	(7,761)
Additions to assets held in trust	21,239	12,397
Additions to tangible capital assets	<u>(1,021)</u>	<u>(2,474)</u>
Cash provided by (used in) investing activities	<u>27,473</u>	<u>(1,757)</u>
<b>Increase (decrease) in cash</b>	<b>56,163</b>	<b>(81,666)</b>
<b>Cash position, beginning of year</b>	<b><u>91,729</u></b>	<b><u>173,395</u></b>
<b>Cash position, end of year</b>	<b><u>\$ 147,892</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 91,729</u></b>
<b>Cash consists of:</b>		
Cash	\$ 137,763	\$ 71,990
Cash segregated for future expenditures	<u>10,129</u>	<u>19,739</u>
	<u>\$ 147,892</u>	<u>\$ 91,729</u>

See accompanying notes



**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
JULY 31, 2023**

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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 %
Leascholds	25 months

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 Recreations. Accordingly, amounts received that relate to the next fiscal period are shown as deferred revenue.

Grant revenue from other sources is recorded as revenue with amounts received that relate to the next fiscal period are shown as deferred revenue.

Unrestricted donations are recognized as revenue in the period received.

Externally restricted donations that have not been expended are shown as deferred revenue.

All other revenue is recognized in the period in which the income is earned.

Financial instruments

The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association initially measures its financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value. It subsequently measures all its financial assets and financial liabilities at amortized cost, except for investments quoted on an active market, which are measured at fair value at the balance sheet date.

Financial assets subsequently measured at amortized cost include cash, investments and accounts receivable. Financial assets measured at fair value are investments quoted on an active market. Financial liabilities subsequently measured at amortized cost include accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

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**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
JULY 31, 2023**

**2. Summary of significant accounting policies cont'd**

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.

**3. Cash**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Anna Klassen scholarship	\$ 30,967	\$ 29,202
Betty Tydeman scholarship	514	814
Frances England scholarship	1,500	1,800
Ken Lee scholarship	2,000	2,000
Mossie Hancock scholarship	2,000	2,300
MYC scholarship	-	248
Ross Ulmer scholarship	3,500	4,000
Verna Veikle scholarship	2,571	2,871
Scholarship savings unallocated interest	1,922	1,141
Total scholarship savings account	44,974	44,376
Bank account - general	91,684	16,903
Bank account - travel lottery	85	85
Undeposited cash	557	-
PayPal	463	10,626
Total cash	\$ 137,763	\$ 71,990

**4. Tangible capital assets**

	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Accumulated Amortization</b>	<b>2023 Net Book Value</b>	<b>2022 Net Book Value</b>
Equipment	\$ 11,678	5,216	\$ 6,462	\$ 6,158
Furniture and fixtures	2,988	1,581	1,407	3,691
Leasehold improvements	2,237	2,237	-	1,074
	\$ 16,903	9,034	\$ 7,869	\$ 10,923

**5. Assets held in trust**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Canada Life investment portfolio	\$ 414,871	\$ 431,652
BCE Inc. (576 shares)	32,809	37,267
Total investment	\$ 447,680	\$ 468,919

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:

- \$11,147 - 5 year, annual interest rate of 1.7%, matures July 2025
- \$34,934 - 5 year, annual interest rate of 3.5%, matures July 2027
- \$24,622 - 5 year, annual interest rate of 4.25%, matures July 2028



**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
JULY 31, 2023**

**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.

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Scholarships	\$ 2,350	\$ 3,050
Over-paid accounts receivable	1,287	4,507
Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund	92,500	-
	\$ 96,137	\$ 7,557

**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. Interfund transfers**

During the year \$18,300 was transferred from the Restricted Net Assets Fund to the Unrestricted Net Assets Fund for the funding of the operations of the Association.

**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, 2023:

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 2022.

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 2022.



**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
JULY 31, 2023**

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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 2022.

**12. Comparative figures**

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

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**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION**  
**SCHEDULES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JULY 31, 2023**  
 (with comparative figures for 2022)

	2023	2022
	<b>Self-generated revenue</b>	<b>Schedule 1</b>
Affiliation fees	\$ 40,347	\$ 36,082
Concerto revenue	750	-
Conference	2,900	-
Corporate sponsorships	14,034	8,000
Festival unit stationary	820	192
Fundraising and donations	11,255	18,577
Investment income - restricted	17,981	19,471
Investment income (loss) - unrealized	(17,034)	(27,807)
Interest - future expenditures	5,793	3,839
Miscellaneous	4,924	-
Musical theatre	-	250
Canada West Performing Arts Festival	-	45,935
Opera competition	-	1,050
Provincial finals	26,537	13,428
Provincial scholarships	18,100	20,375
Sale of promotional items	24	40
SaskCulture - Special Initiatives fund	10,000	-
Syllabus and directory	550	3,640
	<u>\$ 136,981</u>	<u>\$ 143,072</u>



**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION  
SCHEDULES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JULY 31, 2023  
(with comparative figures for 2022)**

	2023	2022
<b>Administration expenditures</b>		
		<b>Schedule 2</b>
Bookkeeping	\$ 1,466	\$ 1,602
Delivery	48	-
Equipment rental and supplies	138	179
Postage	680	2,675
Rent	14,400	14,400
Salaries and benefits	136,255	136,991
Telephone	3,006	2,705
Utilities and maintenance	5,111	2,859
	<u>\$ 161,104</u>	<u>\$ 161,411</u>
<b>Corporate expenditures</b>		
		<b>Schedule 3</b>
Audit	\$ 4,866	\$ 4,752
Bank charges	1,090	998
Insurance	1,418	2,904
Investment management fees - restricted	3,793	3,964
Membership	200	-
	<u>\$ 11,367</u>	<u>\$ 12,618</u>
<b>Program expenditures</b>		
		<b>Schedule 4</b>
Adjudicators training	\$ 503	\$ 55
Concerto competition	8,459	-
Festival unit financial assistance	-	473
Festival unit supplies	2,884	4,776
Hosting Canada West Performing Arts Festival	-	53,133
Musical theatre	-	1,750
Nationals	10,000	-
Opera competition	720	5,900
Program enhancement	1,397	21,154
Provincial finals expense	35,326	30,424
Provincial finals scholarship	31,300	32,250
Provincial office supplies	9,590	8,576
Speech arts	369	30
Syllabus/directory	1,061	5,029
	<u>\$ 101,609</u>	<u>\$ 163,550</u>
<b>Public relations expenditures</b>		
		<b>Schedule 5</b>
Advertising	\$ 10,811	\$ 961
Annual report	715	-
	<u>\$ 11,526</u>	<u>\$ 961</u>





**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION**  
**SCHEDULES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JULY 31, 2023**  
 (with comparative figures for 2022)

	2023	2022
		<b>Schedule 6</b>
<b>Travel and meeting expenditures</b>		
SMFA conference charges	\$ 8,295	\$ -
SMFA directors travel	12,086	6,283
Festival visiting	253	-
Executive directors travel	6,034	3,312
Delegates to Federation conference	-	2,177
	<u>\$ 26,668</u>	<u>\$ 11,772</u>



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