

District Festival Volunteer Awards

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."

— Elizabeth Andrew, American author

Colleen Schindel – Estevan & District Music Festival



In Colleen's own words:

"Throughout my life, music has been a great source of enjoyment. When I had children, it was important that they take part in music education. Our family learned about *Music for Young Children* and we enrolled. It was the perfect program for our wiggly boys. Midway through the first year, our MYC teacher talked about students entering music festival, and so we registered. From our first involvement, I could see how many volunteers were needed to make the festival a success. When I was called on, I started with a few

volunteer shifts. At the time, I had no idea how many years I would continue to be involved, working alongside other members of our community. Even though my children have long since left home, I still take shifts at each year's festival. As a retired teacher, I know many of the children who play piano, a band instrument or who recite poetry. It is wonderful to watch their development as the years pass by.

Recently, I visited my elderly parents. There was plenty of lively conversation but in quiet moments, one of them was bound to start humming or singing an old remembered song. When one forgot the words to the verse, the other joined in. There were also lines of poetry or small anecdotes memorized in their youth. This is what I hope for the children that memorize a song or poem for music festival. Throughout their lives, and even in to old age, they will remember a joyful song or recite a poem that will brighten their day. Music Festival helps to build the love, enjoyment and appreciation of music and verse. The time it takes to volunteer to make the music festival a success is well worth it.

Thank you to the organizing committee for their many hours of work to make the music festival a possibility and for nominating me as a volunteer. Our community is enriched as we serve together."

Helen Barclay – Kindersley Music Festival



Helen Barclay has been involved with the Kindersley & District Music Festival in all aspects! She began as a participant in her youth, playing percussion and piano. After travelling and performing throughout the province, she began teaching music in her late twenties. Her music studio is thriving, and she continues to make a positive impact on the youth of our community. She has been a member of the KDMF Committee for many years as a teacher, and recently as the secretary, keeping everyone organized. Helen has been volunteering her time and talent supporting the music festival for many years (no one knows exactly how many).

“Festival planning meetings are made easier with Helen’s knowledge of music and her amazing memory. She is a valuable member to our committee.” – Shannon S., KDMF Committee member

“I hope this community realizes what a gift they have in Helen and her talents as a teacher and a percussionist.” – KDMF past adjudicator

“Helen is a competent and super-fun collaborative pianist, for instruments and choirs throughout festival activities and community events all year. We are blessed to have her in our midst.” – Clayton B., musician, teacher, KDMF Committee member

“Helen was a great teacher and remarkably patient!” – Bret K., former student

“Helen not only pours her energy and talent into her students, but into her community as well. She volunteers with local choirs, school band programs, community theatre and many other organizations that make music happen!” – Cheryl G., President, KDMF

“Percussion days at festival with Helen were always calm and fun with a relaxed atmosphere – no surprise when you know Helen – that is her vibe! Helen was a very supportive part of the festival and always showed her gratitude and appreciation of the volunteers. Over the years, Helen has contributed so much and has planted seeds in her students and in all of us, to appreciate the gift of music.” – Sharon H. Past President, KDMF

Kindersley & District Music Festival is proud to nominate and recognize Helen Barclay for the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association Volunteer Award.

Darren Green (posthumous) – Moosomin & District Music Festival



Darren was a guitarist, singer and songwriter. He loved to sing with his friends, family and church choir. He shared his love of music with his six children and they were all enrolled in music lessons. With his enthusiastic personality, he jumped in and became President of the Moosomin & District Music Festival. He worked as part of our committee from 2002-2010. Darren brought many gifts to our committee. He spent many years at our local festival cheering on and encouraging his children. Darren always took care to ensure that all students were recognized for their efforts and enjoyed emceeding our showcase of award winners. You always knew when Darren was in the room by his infectious laugh. After his term as President, Darren continued to support the arts in our community in many capacities but one way he especially loved was entertaining at seniors' housing and local events.

Darren passed away suddenly November 3, 2020, before he could see his grandchildren begin to perform in the Moosomin & District Music Festival.

Miriam Everett – Moosomin & District Music Festival



Miriam began taking piano at an early age in Rocanville. She began teaching at a young age while still going to school. Miriam then pursued further music education at the University of Regina where she taught at the Conservatory and earned her ARCT of Music. When Miriam and her husband moved to Meadow Lake, she taught private piano lessons and accompanied musical productions. While in Meadow Lake, Miriam's students were active participants in the music festival.

Miriam and her husband moved to Rocanville in the early 1990s where she continued her piano teaching career. She became involved in the Moosomin & District Music Festival and joined our executive in 1996. She was co-chair of the piano discipline of the festival. Miriam's knowledge of the music played was a definite asset when discussing awards. She would be seen seated beside her students, encouraging them right before performing at festival and congratulating them on their performance afterward. She accompanied many students during the vocal and band disciplines as well. When any of her students moved on to provincial competition, Miriam was always there encouraging and cheering on her pianists and vocalists. She has influenced many of her students to continue playing, teaching, and supporting the arts. She was an excellent piano teacher with her quiet demeanor and quick smile.

As well as supporting the Moosomin & District Music Festival Association, Miriam and Tom have supported the arts in the area. You will often see them at the local concerts, Miriam accompanying the local vocal group *'After Eights'*, playing at the local Anglican Church, and attending local school band concerts. Miriam and her husband continue to sponsor the Baroque and Sonatina/Sonata piano awards. We appreciate the years Miriam has given to our festival and the knowledge she shared with students over the years.

Dianne Swanson – Regina Music Festival



Dianne Swanson is a person who has been the hub of the Regina Music Festival Association (RMFA) for many, many years. As owner of the Cobb Swanson Music store, she personally helped parents and teachers find the music, answered countless questions, received the paper registrations and worked tirelessly with teams of volunteers to put together the paperwork that ran the festival for decades. That was the work that she did in the background, without official title but always with diligence and good will.

In her official roles with the RMFA, she was Treasurer for over 10 years and then stepped into the role of President, a role she held for more than 5 years. During her official tenure with the RMFA, she led our festival from a financial loss one year to a position where our finances became stable (and in the black!) from year to year. This involved closing our office, hiring a production manager and transitioning our festival from paper based to digital registrations.

Her support of the Regina Music Festival is never ending, even if her formal roles are past. To this day, she is a financial supporter of, and a volunteer for, our festival. It is the great pleasure of the RMFA to nominate Dianne Swanson for the Saskatchewan Music Festival Volunteer Award.

Felice Mourre – Rosetown & District Music Festival



Felice Mourre knows firsthand the positive impact music can have on one's life. Her interest in music started around the age of nine when she started piano lessons at Lela's Music Studio in Kindersley. She worked hard over the years, taking lessons first from Robin Bowden, then later from Margaret McManus, who was almost completely blind but could hear instantly anytime she had wrong fingerings in her scales. Felice was also a flute player in the KCS band under the direction of Steve Mealey. She remembers Mr. Mealey as a dedicated, fun band teacher who volunteered his extra time, along

with accompanist Laura Ewson, after school and on weekends to help his students prepare for the Kindersley Music Festival. Felice performed in the Kindersley Music Festival for many years in her youth. It was a challenging time to prepare, memorize and perform.

Felice received an education degree after high school and was hired for her first job as a result of having a music background. She was involved in directing and accompanying various school choirs and currently plays and sings at the Rosetown St. Theresa's Catholic Church.

Felice and her husband Dan continue to play and promote music in their family. Their children take part in the annual Rosetown Music Festival, and Felice has been part of the annual Rosetown Carol Festival for many years.

Felice's payback for her childhood musical experiences is to volunteer her time and talent to the Rosetown and District Music Festival. Felice has been a member of the Rosetown Music Festival for 10 years, holding positions on program ads, awards, carol festival, President, and currently Treasurer. She steps forth to help when problems arise and events need planning. She appreciates the work of all those involved with Saskatchewan Music Festivals and knows that the work we do helps develop our children into adults who carry the skills of performing, hard work and creativity.

Carmen Ledding – Rosetown & District Music Festival



Carmen Ledding has been an invaluable member of the Rosetown Music Festival Association since joining in 2010. She has held various roles throughout the years, including President and Treasurer. Carmen has provided the RMFA with financial and legal advice on many occasions. She is willing to assist with extra work that comes up with professionalism and efficiency.

The Ledding family is known for its musical talents and involvement of music in the community. Carmen has taught private voice lessons and directed children's choirs. She plays and sings regularly in the Catholic Church and often provides music for funerals. Carmen's family has sponsored the Rosetown Festival for many years, paying for the hall rental and tuning of the grand piano. All five of Carmen's children have participated in the Rosetown Festival.

We thank Carmen for her many years of volunteering.

Alyssa Thompson – Saskatoon Music Festival



The Saskatoon Music Festival Committee is very pleased to nominate Alyssa Thompson for a Provincial Volunteer Award 2023. She has been serving as Secretary/Record Taker on the Saskatoon Music Festival Committee since 2015. Her work is meticulous, and she gives the written records of our meetings a true sense of clarity and class. During the General Festival, Alyssa donates her time as adjudicator secretary in the woodwind room. Alyssa was also very generous in donating her time and energy to the Saskatoon Festival Committee when Darren Schwartz passed away very suddenly a few years ago. She continues to be an invaluable member of our Saskatoon Festival team.

Alyssa has degrees in linguistics and music performance (clarinet) from the University of Saskatchewan, where she studied with Margaret Wilson, and an ARCT in piano performance for which she studied with Karen Sterner. Alyssa manages social media and website for the Saskatoon Branch of the Registered Music Teachers' Association.

Alyssa is an imaginative and engaging private teacher, inspiring her students with composition assignments and competitions like "Guess the Composer" that aid in their comprehensive learning. She teaches clarinet and piano lessons from her home. She regularly attends Education Conferences to further her own learning.

Kathleen Gatzke – Spiritwood & District Music Festival



Kathleen Gatzke has gone above and beyond her Treasurer duties. 2023 was our first festival back after a three-year break, due to COVID. We were, and still are, without a President. All of the executive were struggling to get back in to the festival groove and to remember all the details needed before, during and after the festival. Unfortunately, the Secretary was unable to get a substitute for work and wasn't available on the second and final day of the festival. Kathleen filled the roles of the President, Secretary and Treasurer for the entire day. But this isn't her

first festival with us. She has been a volunteer with Spiritwood since the very beginning, putting in over 30 years. We, at Spiritwood, are very thankful to have her as a volunteer.

Valerie Redekop – Twin Rivers Music Festival



In Valerie’s own words: “Festival has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. My teacher saw the value of entering her students in the local festival, so I started performing in the Swift Current Music Festival at a young age. When I started teaching, I encouraged my students to enter as well, as I had discovered the many advantages and benefits of festival.

When the opportunity came to join the local executive, I didn’t hesitate to help in any way I could, so young people in our area could have the same great experience I had as a child. Besides serving on the Twin Rivers Committee, I was also a competitor, entering duets with my daughter. When she moved away, I offered my students the choice of a student/teacher duet and have had the joy of entering almost every festival.

The majority of my time was spent as Entry Secretary, and I saw many changes and improvements over the years. Entries started as paper form that were dropped off at my house, often at 10 pm day of entry deadline, to now having entries completely online.

I worked with many wonderful volunteers, who all had one goal in mind: to give entrants a positive performing experience in a friendly supportive and encouraging environment.”

Valerie served the Twin Rivers Music Festival Committee from 2002 to 2023, as President, Past President, Entry Secretary and member at large (fundraising). Val is extremely devoted to any task she takes on. Totally committed! She gave hundreds of hours of time before and during each festival week and now has volunteered to mentor those who will succeed her. We are grateful for her devotion to such a worthy cause.



Marg Andres – Twin Rivers Music Festival



Marg Andres has served, in many capacities, for the Sask Valley Music Festival and Twin Rivers Music Festival for 23 years. Marg's knowledge and expertise was invaluable throughout all these years. Through her vision and participation, Twin Rivers Festival has grown to be what it is today. Twin Rivers is grateful for the many years Marg devoted to make their festival a success!

In Marg's own words: "My 23 years as a festival volunteer actually began with my time on the Sask Valley executive. In 2000, I was the 2nd Vice President and in 2001, the year that Sask Valley was hosted in Dalmeny, I served as the SVMF President. The success of that festival in Dalmeny was the impetus for the creation of the Twin Rivers Music Festival Association that same year. 2001/02 was an exciting time to serve as Twin Rivers' first President and work with an amazing group of festival enthusiasts to launch this new performing arts event in our community. The following years included repeated terms as President, Vice President, Entry Secretary, and General Secretary.

This experience has given me the wonderful opportunity to serve my community and support young people in their musical pursuits. I have learned so much through this process. And what a privilege to have had a front row seat to so many wonderful performances throughout the years!"

We ♥ our
Volunteers