



Marion Jane Abbott

Brampton, ON

Musical Theatre, Speech Arts

Marion Abbott is a proud graduate of the Musical Theatre Performance Program at Sheridan College. Upon graduating, she was immediately hired to teach for the program and was later named one of the top twenty graduates of the program. She has her Grade 10 Voice and A.R.C.T. in Piano Performance from The Royal Conservatory of Music. Marion is in demand as a consultant, adjudicator and private coach. She has written 700 Song Suggestions For Singers and 100 Suggestions For Teaching Private Lessons - both available on Amazon. She remains as passionate as ever about helping artists find their true voice and shining bright. She is known for her boundless energy and enthusiasm for young artists. (www.marionabbott.com)

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2021
Provincial Festival



Kevin Ackerman

Humboldt, SK

Guitar, Woodwinds, Brass, Small Ensemble

Kevin completed his Bachelor of Arts – Music, from the University of Saskatchewan; Kevin studied music history/literature and his principle instrument was guitar. His chosen degree path offered the opportunity to attend the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon as a visiting student. He has presented papers at City University of New York – Graduate Center, Simon Fraser University music composition class in Vancouver, at the National Registered Music Teacher convention in Halifax and in Regina at the Saskatchewan Music conference. Kevin now balances instructing Power Engineering at Carlton Trail College in Humboldt, and a music career. Kevin is a part-time guitar instructor helping students prepare for music festivals, Royal Conservatory of Music practical and theory exams and university auditions. Kevin is a Registered Music Teacher in the province of Saskatchewan and is past-president of the Watrous Music Festival. Their guitar flute duo which includes Dr. Michele Ackerman, perform province wide in diverse opportunities which include a Convocation performance to being members of St. Pete's Chorus house band in Humboldt. The previous summers of 2016/17/18/19, Michele and Kevin were 'Artists on Board' Via Rail for a portion of the cross-Canada journey.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024
Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival
2023
Kipling & District Music Festival
2022
Prairie Sunset & District Music Festival
2021
Nipawin Music Festival
2019
Estevan & District Music Festival
2018
Watrous & District Music Festival
2017
Quill Plains Music Festival
2016
Nipawin Music Festival
Parkland & District Music Festival
2015
Nipawin Music Festival



Olivia Adams

Ottawa, ON

Piano

Olivia Adams is a pianist, teacher, researcher, author, and music festival adjudicator with an MA in Music and Feminist Studies from the University of Ottawa and an Honours B.Mus. in Piano Performance from Western University. She is known for her workshops on inclusivity and diversity in the piano studio, focusing on gender and BIPOC composers. As an in-demand adjudicator, she judges piano competitions across Canada. Her research on gender in Canadian music conservatories complements her role as author of *Loud and Clear: A Guide to Levelled Piano Music by Women Composers in the 20th and 21st Centuries*. Olivia has received numerous national awards and grants for her work in promoting inclusivity in piano music. She performs with her husband, Nick Busch, in a piano duo, bringing their music to chamber music festivals and concerts around southern Ontario.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024

Maple Creek & District Music Festival

2023

Qu'Appelle Valley Music Festival

Saskatoon Music Festival

Watrous & District Music Festival

2022

Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival

Yorkton Music Festival

2021

Melfort Music Festival

Nipawin Music Festival



Scott Adelman

Regina, SK

Band, Brass, Instruments

Scott Adelman is originally from Moose Jaw. He obtained his Bachelor of Music in Music Education degree from the University of Saskatchewan as a trumpet major in 1995. His 21 years of teaching experience in Saskatchewan began in the towns of Grenfell, Wolseley, Balcarres, Lemberg, and Neudorf. From 1999 to 2005, he taught band at Weyburn Junior High School and in 2006, Scott moved to Regina to teach grades 6-12 band for the Regina Catholic School Division. In the Winter Semester of 2010, Scott was an interim-conductor of bands at the University of Regina. He was also an assistant conductor for the University of Victoria Wind Symphony, and completed his Masters in Education from the University of Victoria in 2006. His Masters project focused on exemplary teaching in beginner band. Scott moved to Saudi Arabia in 2011 to teach music for Saudi Aramco, the world's largest oil company. In 2012, he moved back to Regina and has taught grades 6-8 band for the Regina Public School Division. Scott continues to adjudicate throughout Saskatchewan and has been the guest conductor for the North Saskatchewan Intermediate Honour Band.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2023

Estevan & District Music Festival

Qu'Appelle Valley Music Festival

2019

Redvers & District Music Festival

2018

Weyburn Music Festival

2017

Qu'Appelle Valley Music Festival



Cherith Alexander

Weyburn, SK

Piano

Cherith Alexander, a dynamic pianist based in Weyburn, Saskatchewan, has been a respected piano and theory teacher for over twenty-five years, mentoring students of all ages and levels, many of whom have won RCM gold medals and provincial music festival honors. Notably, her student Meagan Milatz won the grand prize at the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers' Association piano competition in 2011. Cherith is an active member of the RCM College of Examiners and has performed extensively as a collaborative pianist and chamber musician, including a guest appearance with the Regina Symphony Orchestra Chamber Players. She has also accompanied Saskatchewan competitors at the National Music Festival multiple times. Passionate about music festivals, Cherith has adjudicated at numerous festivals across Western Canada and founded the "Adjudicator Boot Camp" in Saskatchewan in 2017. Educated at the University of British Columbia and influenced by teachers like William Moore and Marcelle Guidos, Cherith won the SMFA Concerto Competition in 1991 and performed as a guest soloist with the Regina Symphony Orchestra. She lives on a farm near Weyburn with her family and enjoys lifelong learning through reading, concerts, and podcasts.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024

Biggar & District Music Festival
Prince Albert Music Festival

2023

Central Sask Music Festival
Last Mountain & District Music Festival

2022

Rosetown & District Music Festival
Saskatoon Music Festival

2021

Humboldt Music Festival
Moosomin & District Music Festival

2019

Sask Valley Music Festival
Twin Rivers Music Festival

2018

Moose Jaw Music Festival

2017

Rosetown & District Music Festival

2016

Eston Music Festival
Gravelbourg & District Bilingual Music Festival
Mainline & District Music Festival
Saskatoon Music Festival

2015

Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival



Allison Cecilia Arends

Toronto, ON

Voice, Musical Theatre, Speech Arts

Soprano Allison Arends is a graduate of Calgary Opera's Emerging Artist Program, and received her M.Mus. at the U of T Opera School and her B.Mus. in Voice Performance at the University of Victoria. Allison has taught private voice and theory for over fifteen years and takes a great deal of joy in imparting her musical knowledge to students from various musical backgrounds of all age groups. Her students have been accepted into many prestigious programs. She has conducted public masterclasses, educational workshops, and vocal/choral clinics around the country and is a member of the Ontario Registered Music Teachers' Association, National Association of Teachers of Singing, and the Canadian Music Festival Adjudicators' Association. A Royal Conservatory of Music Certified Teacher, Allison is also a member of the College of Examiners.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2023

Regina Music Festival

2022

Saskatoon Music Festival

2021

Unity Music Festival

2019

Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival

- 2018
 - Outlook & District Music Festival
 - Saskatoon Music Festival
- 2017
 - Parkland & District Music Festival
 - Redvers & District Music Festival
 - Shaunavon & District Music Festival
 - Watrous & District Music Festival
- 2016
 - Regina Music Festival
- 2015
 - Borderland Music Festival
 - Moosomin & District Music Festival



Gene Aulinger

North Battleford, SK

Band, Instruments

Gene Aulinger currently works with the North Battleford City Kinsmen Band, Battlefords Concert Band, and Light of Christ Roman Catholic School Division Bands. Previous to that, Gene was with the Living Sky Public School Division. He directed the high school Band and Choir, and was the Music Consultant for the division for sixteen years. After retiring from classroom work, he accepted a position as the Arts Consultant with the Living Sky School Division. Previous to his time in the Battlefords', he was a full time Band director with the Kindersley School Division for fourteen years. Gene has adjudicated festivals and led workshops in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Louisiana. During these events, his goal has been to create an appreciation of music and performing. He has performed several recitals on clarinet of nineteenth and twentieth century literature, and has recently been a guest performer with the Gallery Singers.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - Humboldt Music Festival
 - Saskatoon Music Festival
- 2021
 - Kindersley & District Music Festival
- 2019
 - Prince Albert Music Festival
- 2018
 - Humboldt Music Festival
 - Rosetown & District Music Festival
- 2017
 - Kindersley & District Music Festival
 - Prairie Sunset & District Music Festival
 - Twin Rivers Music Festival
- 2016
 - Melfort Music Festival
 - Weyburn Music Festival
- 2015
 - Estevan & District Music Festival
 - Moose Jaw Music Festival



Melissa Ballard

Brandon, MB

Percussion, Piano, Band, Instrumental, General

Melissa Ballard, percussionist and pianist, completed a degree in Music Education from Brandon University in 2014. She now teaches in Brandon School Division as well as through the Eckhardt-Gramatté Conservatory of Music. Along with her teaching positions she continues to perform as a percussionist with a variety of ensembles and work with percussionists of all ages as a clinician. Melissa also recently taught percussion and band at the Vernon Army Cadet Training Summer Training Centre in British Columbia. She continues to pursue professional development opportunities including TEMPO and Orff Certification. She is also proud to have been able to present *Developing the Total Percussionist* at TEMPO and then have a version of the presentation published in *Canadian Winds*. In July 2017 Melissa was able to perform two pieces by Canadian composers as world premieres at the Casalmaggiore International Music Festival in Italy. Past performances include the National Youth Band of Canada, the Dark Music Days Festival in Iceland, Okanogan Military Tattoo, solo recitals and collaborations with Winnipeg Harpist Samantha Ballard.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2019
 - Estevan & District Music Festival



Lorna Batycki
Speech Arts

St. Denis, SK

Lorna (she/her) has dedicated her 30-year career to using theatre arts to build life skills and confidence in others. Originally from Hamilton, she was deeply involved in music, playing various instruments and studying voice. Her passion for theatre began in high school with New Star Children's Theatre. After graduating from Mohawk College with the SJ Bibby Scholarship, Lorna worked as a TV news anchor and reporter in Saskatchewan while continuing to write and produce plays and musicals. Her career expanded into radio, children's television, commercial casting, script development, adjudication, and workshop facilitation. She founded Lyrics and Laughs, creating customized entertainment for events, including improvised performances and educational adventures with Cuddles the Clown. In 2001, Lorna developed a drama program for SaskExpress Musical Theatre Studio, where she spent 15 years as Studio and Artistic Director. With over 200 theatre credits across various roles and companies, she received Theatre Saskatchewan's lifetime achievement award and is currently the Director of Education at Persephone Theatre in Saskatoon.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2023
Provincial Festival



Anna Marie Bekolay
Vocal, Strings, Speech Arts, Musical Theatre, Choral, School Music

Saskatoon, SK

Anna Marie Bekolay – a multidisciplinary artist & collaborative musician – combines her passion for all the Arts (visual, dance, drama, design, and most especially music) to create a new character and evocative music for every project she participates in. Her education includes a Bachelor's of Music Education degree (including piano proficiency), grade 10 Violin RCM, grade 6 piano, a year of lessons with piano master, Rod Salloum in Rock 'n Roll, Blues, & Boogie Woogie piano, and an Associate diploma in Voice Performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto for which she won a gold medal for the highest mark in Canada (2006). Ms. Bekolay's currently active performance projects include: Back of the Bus (Celtic), The Whiskey Jerks (Klezmer/Roma (Gypsy) Folk/Prog Rock/Jazz), Mac Talla Quartet (String Quartet with vocals), The Stephanies (Pop Trio), and In Nominata (choral collective). Anna also continues to enjoy teaching Violin & Fiddle at the Saskatoon Academy of Music and she also enjoys teaching Voice, Violin, Fiddle, Creative Piano, and Recorder in her home Studio (Anna Bekolay's Studio). Anna developed her Creative Piano course in 2020 to help students explore their piano studies with an applied theory approach involving learning I IV V I in all keys and applying that knowledge to both the learning of repertoire and to the process of composition. One of her greatest joys is in being fully present while developing connection and communication through the sharing of music with students, band mates, and audiences alike.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024
Biggar & District Music Festival
Estevan & District Music Festival
Parkland & District Music Festival
Vanguard & District Music Festival
2023
Borderland Music Festival
Kipling & District Music Festival
Nipawin Music Festival
Prince Albert Music Festival
2022
Melfort Music Festival
Moosomin & District Music Festival
2021
Estevan & District Music Festival
Mainline & District Music Festival
Melfort Music Festival
2019
La Ronge & District Music Festival
Nipawin Music Festival
2017
Eston Music Festival
Hafford & District Music Festival
Unity Music Festival

2016
Central Sask Music Festival
Melfort Music Festival
Prince Albert Music Festival
2015
Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival



Heather Blakley

Saskatoon, SK

Piano

Heather received her Bachelor of Music from Brandon University, her Associate of Music from the Western Board of Music and is a Registered Music Teacher with many years of experience teaching and playing music of all kinds in Saskatoon. Heather teaches a large private studio of piano and theory students and is the Music Director at Emmanuel Anglican Church. She taught for many years as an Early Childhood music educator and has conducted children's and adult choirs. Heather examines for a national conservatory and adjudicates music festivals in Canada. Heather was for many years a national board member with the Canadian Registered Music Teachers' Association and chair of the CFMTA National Piano Competition, as well as chair for the Contemporary Showcase Saskatoon.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024
Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival
2019
Regina Music Festival
2018
Rosetown & District Music Festival
2017
Weyburn Music Festival
Yorkton Music Festival
2016
Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival
Prince Albert Music Festival
2015
Estevan & District Music Festival



Christine Bootland

Medicine Hat, AB

Strings

Calgary native Christine Bootland began her studies with Fay Johnson and later at the Mount Royal College Academy of Music with John Kadz. She completed a Bachelor of Music Performance degree at the University of British Columbia under the direction of Eric Wilson and later participated in the Masters Program at the University of Toronto under the tutelage of Shauna Rolston. Christine is an active extra performer with the Lethbridge and Red Deer Symphonies as well as the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra. She has toured Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia as a member of the Armadillo String Quartet of Canada and enjoys doing educational outreach performance programs within the community. Christine has adjudicated all over Alberta and BC and her students have won numerous awards at all levels. Her philosophy is to help create future generations of music lovers of all styles whether they be professionals, amateurs or concert goers. Christine has been on the faculty at Medicine Hat College as cello instructor, ensemble coach, Academy Instructor and conductor and program coordinator for both the Community and Junior Orchestras since 2001. In 2010 she was pleased to be invited to become a cello instructor at the University of Lethbridge Conservatory of Music. Her recent passion is co-ordinating and teaching the Bring Back the Music program at two public schools in Medicine Hat, a strings and guitar program for grades 4-6.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2023
Regina Music Festival
2022
Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival
2021
Saskatoon Music Festival
2019
Regina Music Festival
2017
Provincial Festival



Amy Boyes

Warman, SK

Piano

Amy Boyes is a piano and theory teacher from Warman, Saskatchewan. A national council member for the Canadian Music Festival Adjudicators' Association, Amy has adjudicated music festivals from Prince Edward Island to Alberta. Amy is also a Royal Conservatory examiner (piano and music history) and has examined in Canada, the US and online. As a speaker, Amy has presented on topics as such studio management, strong interpersonal relationships with students and diversifying students' repertoire. Amy's writing has been featured by CBC, The Globe and Mail, Piano Professional, Music Teacher Magazine, Frances Clark Center's Piano Magazine, and others. Currently, Amy is the Public Relations and Marketing Chair for the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers' Associations (CFMTA) and Vice President of the Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers' Association (SRMTA). Amy holds Associate Diplomas in Performance (ARCT) and Teaching (ARCT) from the Royal Conservatory, a Licentiate in Performance from Trinity College (UK), a Bachelor of Music (Applied Piano) from Brandon University and a Master of Music (Performance and Pedagogy) from the University of Alberta.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - Humboldt Music Festival
- 2023
 - Quill Plains Music Festival



Renée Brad

Edmonton, AB

Voice, Musical Theatre

Renée Brad teaches voice in the Department of Theatre at MacEwan University and has been a guest instructor in the Voice Department at the University of Alberta as well as at Opera Nuova's Summer Intensive Program. An acclaimed mezzo-soprano, Renée has performed in opera, oratorio, musical theatre, chamber music, and solo recitals throughout Canada and in New York. She appeared with Edmonton Opera, delighting audiences as Cousin Hebe in their Sterling Award winning production of HMS Pinafore. Also for Edmonton Opera, she sang Kate in Pirates of Penzance, Annina in La Traviata, Berta in Il Barbiere di Siviglia and the Dama/Hexe in Macbeth. She appeared as The Mother in Menotti's Amahl and the Night Visitors and The Witch in Hansel and Gretel with Opera Nuova. Roles for Opera Saskatchewan include Tisbe in La Cenerentola, Kate Pinkerton in Madama Butterfly, and Berta in Il Barbiere di Siviglia. She sang Mercedes in Carmen with Saskatoon Opera, Popova in Walton's The Bear, and Kate in Elizabeth Raum's The Dream of Nicholas Flood Davin with the Regina Centenary Project. Favorite theatre roles include Rose in The Secret Garden, Meg Page in The Merry Wives of Windsor, Katisha in The Mikado, Amy in Company, and Ella in Bells are Ringing. A frequent soloist with orchestras, Renée has performed Karl Jenkin's Stabat Mater, Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass and Paukenmesse, Schubert's Mass in E-flat, Bruckner's Te Deum, Mozart's Coronation Mass and Requiem, Bach's Weihnachts Oratorium and Johannes Passion, Vivaldi's Magnificat and Gloria, Handel's Messiah, and Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. Renée's recording of Elizabeth Raum's How Bodies Leave Ecstatic Marks with the Contrasts Trio for the CMC Centrediscs label won a 2008 Western Canadian Music Award. Renée created and premiered the cabaret Motherhood: The Second Oldest Profession for the Golden Apple Theatre Company and collaborated in the creation of the Songs in the Key of Life for Opera Nuova and Mezzo Madness at the University of Alberta. In addition to teaching at MacEwan University, Renée maintains an active private studio and is in demand as an adjudicator and clinician throughout Canada.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2023
 - Saskatoon Music Festival
- 2019
 - Provincial Festival
- 2017
 - Regina Music Festival



Mel Braun

Winnipeg, MB

Vocal

Baritone Mel Braun is a versatile performer renowned for his work in oratorio, recital, and opera, and is known for his frequent performances and broadcasts of Bach and Handel's Masterworks with groups like Tafelmusik, Calgary Bach Festival, and Symphony Nova Scotia. His interest in New Music has led him to premiere works with Banff Centre, Manitoba Opera, and Toronto's New Music Gallery. As a recitalist, he is acclaimed for his innovative interpretations of Song, including performances with Winnipeg's Q Dance and a staged presentation of Schubert's Die Winterreise. His ongoing duo with pianist Laura Loewen is central to many of these projects. Mel directs the Vocal Program at the Desautels Faculty of Music, fostering a holistic approach to singer training and overseeing initiatives such as the Opera Theatre School Tour and the Contemporary Opera Lab. As a music director, he leads operatic ensembles and collaborates with Dead of Winter on Indigenous choral music. He is also a sought-after adjudicator and choral clinician, and enjoys mentoring young rock singers in Winnipeg's Indie Music scene.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2022
 - Musical Theatre Competition



Erin Brophey Woodwind

Saskatoon, SK

Erin Brophey, Principal Oboe of the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra, has a diverse musical career across Canada. Previously, she was section oboe and English horn with the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra for eight seasons and has performed with numerous Canadian orchestras, including the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Orchestra, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, and Toronto Symphony Orchestra. Erin earned her Honours Bachelor of Music from Wilfrid Laurier University and her Master of Music from Carnegie Mellon University. She has participated in several prestigious summer festivals and recently performed at the Ritornello Festival with the Gryphon Trio. An enthusiastic educator, Erin is a sessional lecturer at the University of Saskatchewan, Woodwind Coach for the Saskatoon Youth Orchestra, and co-director of the community double-reed band Squawk. She also teaches private oboe lessons and is on faculty at the Inter-Provincial Music Camp in Parry Sound, Ontario.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024
Provincial Festival



Deborah Buck Piano, Speech Arts, Voice, Choirs

Saskatoon, SK

Deborah Buck combines her love of music and theatre in a unique freelance career. A collaborative pianist, she has accompanied ensembles and solo artists in concerts, broadcasts and competitions, and served as Saskatchewan's official accompanist at the National Music Festival. She's been featured as a mezzo-soprano soloist with groups like Saskatoon Choral Society and the Saskatoon Men's Chorus (which she currently conducts), and the Juno-nominated Canadian Chamber Choir, a national touring ensemble with which she has sung since 2005. Deborah is also a theatre artist and music director who has worked for professional theatre companies in Alberta, Manitoba, B.C., and Saskatchewan, winning the Saskatoon Area Theatre Award for "Outstanding Contribution to Theatre" in her home city. She enjoys teaching voice and piano in her home.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024
Lanigan & District Music Festival
2019
Meadow Lake & District Music Festival
2018
Humboldt Music Festival
2016
Spiritwood & District Music Festival



Claudette Caron Piano

Winnipeg, MB

Claudette Caron is devoted to teaching a varied class of piano students with a special emphasis on ensemble playing. Her students have consistently won awards at the local and provincial levels and have distinguished themselves as scholarship recipients in music programs in Canada and the USA. As a solo pianist Claudette Caron has presented recitals at Brandon University, the University of Manitoba, and the University of Winnipeg, as well as for the St. Matthews Cathedral Te Deum Series. She pursued her interest in chamber music in the Ford/Caron flute and piano duo with flautist Robert Ford from 1989 to 2010. She has premiered several works by Western Canadian composer David Dahlgren. Claudette Caron is a member of the Canadian Adjudicators' Association, and the Royal Conservatory of Music College of Examiners. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Performance from the University of Manitoba, and a Licentiate Performer's Diploma (LTCL) from the Trinity College of Music, London. She now makes her home in Winnipeg.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2019
Regina Music Festival
2017
Saskatoon Music Festival
2016
Yorkton Music Festival



George Charpentier

Saskatoon, SK

Band, Winds, Strings, Percussion, Classroom

George Charpentier conducts the Saskatoon Concert Band and the Saskatoon Philharmonic Orchestra and is on the instructional team for the Saskatchewan Orchestral Association International Saito Conducting Workshop. He holds a Bachelor of Music and a Certificate of Business Administration from the University of Saskatchewan, a Diploma from the Kodály Institute, and a Masters Certificate in Orff Schulwerk Methodology. Charpentier is a charter member of the Saskatchewan Band Association, a former Past President of the Saskatchewan Music Educators Association, and has served on various committees, including the Saskatchewan Arts Board. He has taught music from Kindergarten through Grade 12 and lectured at the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Alberta. Retired from the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, he was also the Associate Conductor of the Saskatoon Youth Orchestra and has been involved in major Saskatoon events like the Jeux Canada Games and World Junior Hockey.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - Prince Albert Music Festival
- 2022
 - Yorkton Music Festival
- 2019
 - Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival
- 2016
 - Prince Albert Music Festival
 - Swift Current & District Music Festival



Minna Rose Chung

Winnipeg, MB

Strings, Chamber Music (with or without piano)

Korean-American cellist Minna Rose Chung joined the University of Manitoba Desautels Faculty of Music as Professor of Cello in 2008 and is the Director of Project Rio, a multi-collaborative program that supports the Rio International Cello Encounter through master classes and faculty performances in Brazil. As the 2014 award recipient for the University of Manitoba's Rh Award for Outstanding Contributions to Scholarship and Research in Creative Works, Minna Rose is a co-author of a **critically acclaimed cello method publication, "CelloMind" with Distinguished Cello Professor Hans Jorgen Jensen** of Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music. Aside from teaching and publications, Minna Rose tours internationally as a soloist and chamber musician, sharing the stage with some of the world's most prominent, versatile, and exciting performers. Upon her arrival to Canada, Minna Rose was quickly reviewed as "a bright light on the Winnipeg music scene, her intelligent musicality and rich resonance a wonderful addition to any ensemble" (Winnipeg Free Press). As an avid chamber musician, Minna Rose made her Carnegie Hall debut in 2007 as a founding member with her New York ensemble, the Pangea String Quartet. In 2015, Minna Rose will present a lecture recital and performance tour with the Nacka Duo and Desautels Trio for the World Piano Conference in Serbia as well as performances in the UK and Sweden. Minna Rose maintains a summer schedule as returning guest artist/chamber musician to several international music festivals, including the historic Meadowmount School of Music in upstate New York. During her concert performances in Brazil, she also dedicates her time to teach master classes for the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro and the Fukuda Conservatory of Music in São Paulo, Brazil. Minna Rose earned her Bachelor of Music in Cello performance at Oberlin Conservatory with Norman Fischer and Peter Rejto; a Masters degree at Northwestern University with Hans J. Jensen; and her Doctor of Musical Arts at SUNY Stony Brook University with world- renowned soloist, Colin Carr.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2017
 - Regina Music Festival



Lara Ciekiewicz
Voice, Musical Theatre

Hailed for her “tour-de-force performance” (Winnipeg Free Press) in the title role of Manitoba Opera’s Susannah, Lara has established herself as a dynamic and intelligent singing-actress, known for her ability to transform into any character. This season, she returns to Manitoba Opera as Elle in *La voix humaine*, rejoins the Victoria Symphony for their New Year’s celebration, and performs as Musetta in *La Bohème* with Edmonton Opera. Recent performances include *Open Air: A Summer Festival of Music* with Pacific Opera Victoria and the Victoria Symphony, *The Sopranos of Winnipeg* with Manitoba Opera and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, and *All Those Arias* with the Little Opera Company. Additional credits include roles such as Countess in *Le nozze di Figaro* (Edmonton Opera), Jenůfa, Amelia in *Simon Boccanegra*, Lauretta in *Gianni Schicchi*, Nellie Forbush in *South Pacific* (Pacific Opera Victoria), Tatyana in *Eugene Onegin* (Calgary Opera), and Rosalinde in *Die Fledermaus* (Toronto Operetta Theatre). Lara is also a Voice Instructor at the University of Manitoba’s Desautels Faculty of Music, with degrees from McGill University and the University of Winnipeg. She is an alumna of various prestigious programs and schools, and enjoys gardening, walking, fabulous footwear, and proudly identifies as a prairie-girl.

- Recent Festivals Adjudicated:**
 2024
 Provincial Festival
 2022
 Musical Theatre Competition



Sarah Clark Gregory
Piano, Voice, Speech Arts

Watrous, SK

Sarah Clark Gregory’s life is immersed in music. She began teaching while still in high school, and now runs a multilocation private music studio, teaching piano, voice, theory, composition and classical guitar. Her students have won awards and scholarships at both local and provincial levels in performance and composition. Sarah holds ARCTs in both piano and in voice, and has a Bachelor of Education in Special Education, which brings a unique feature of adaptive and individualized programming to her studio. She has directed, sung with and accompanied various concert, community, church and symphony choirs in Saskatchewan, Alberta, Ontario and BC. She has been the musical director for eight Broadway-style musicals, and has had the privilege of performing in 4 provinces, 38 states, and 7 European countries. Sarah is a member of the Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers’ Association, and co-designed/launched and for many years administered the Community Music Award program for the organization, a program which recognizes students of SRMTA teachers who volunteer their musical talents in their communities. She currently resides in Watrous, SK, with her husband Doug, and enjoys tinkering with her newest instruments (flute, cello and djembe), and performing with a recorder quartet.

- Recent Festivals Adjudicated:**
 2024
 Estevan & District Music Festival
 2023
 Assiniboia Music Festival
 Meadow Lake & District Music Festival
 2018
 Hafford & District Music Festival
 Parkland & District Music Festival
 2015
 Outlook & District Music Festival
 Parkland & District Music Festival



Trevor Cooper
Guitar

Edmonton, AB

The guitar has become a passport to Trevor Cooper and it travels with him wherever he goes. It has taken him from his upbringing in the cold western Canadian Prairies to the heat of southern Spain. Large urban centers like Toronto (U of T, BMusPerf ‘13) gave way to mountain towns like Salzburg (Mozarteum, MA ‘19). In *Spanish Vistas*, he realized a life-long dream and made his orchestral debut performing the *Concierto de Aranjuez* with the Concordia Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Danielle Lisboa. In 2018 he toured western Canada and Norway with Henry Reitan. He has performed recitals with the Guitar Societies of Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver and has recently given masterclasses at Mount Royal University, the University of British Columbia, and Concordia University of Edmonton. Trevor Cooper was one of 14 internationally selected guitarists to study in the III Master de la Interpretación de la Guitarra Clásica at the Universidad de Alicante in Alicante, Spain. This followed studies in Seville, Spain, where he was invited to study with Spanish guitarist Francisco Bernier. Born and raised in Edmonton, he started playing guitar at a young age.

- Recent Festivals Adjudicated:**
 2024
 Quill Plains Music Festival



Alan Crane
Piano

Vancouver, BC

Alan Crane holds a Bachelor of Music (University of Western Ontario) and a Master of Music in Piano Performance (University of British Columbia). For nearly 40 years he has been teaching a full class of students ranging from young beginners to pre-professional young musicians to adults. Many of Mr. Crane's students have gone on to pursue careers in music. In addition to being on the faculty of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra School of Music, where he served a term as Chair of the Piano Department, Mr. Crane teaches part-time at the Langley Community Music School, where he was for many years Coordinator of the Piano Program. As well as teaching, Alan Crane is an active performer. He is a founding director and pianist with the popular Vancouver concert series West Coast Chamber Music, is a sought after accompanist and has presented solo recitals in Canada and the UK. He is also active as a festival adjudicator across western Canada and is a member of the College of Examiners of the Royal Conservatory of Music.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2023
 - Estevan & District Music Festival
 - Moose Jaw Music Festival
- 2022
 - Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival
- 2021
 - Regina Music Festival
- 2019
 - Saskatoon Music Festival



Ron de Jager
Voice

Caronport, SK

A native of Nova Scotia, Ron de Jager arrived in Saskatchewan after a two-year study leave during which he completed a DMA at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia. Recent research and recitals have focused on Canadian vocal music particularly works by Torontonian composer John Beckwith. As a professor at Briercrest College, he enjoys giving leadership to the music/worship arts department, teaching private voice, vocal pedagogy, vocal master class, musical theatre workshop, acting and directing opera scenes while maintaining a performance schedule.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival
- 2023
 - Sask Valley Music Festival
- 2021
 - Lafleche & District Music Festival
 - Melfort Music Festival
- 2019
 - Borderland Music Festival
 - Estevan & District Music Festival
 - Swift Current & District Music Festival
- 2018
 - Shaunavon & District Music Festival
 - Weyburn Music Festival
- 2017
 - Kipling & District Music Festival



Kim de Laforest
Strings, Fiddle

Saskatoon, SK

Kim de Laforest is a fiddle, violin, viola and vocal performer and teacher based in Saskatoon. She enjoys combining many different styles of folk and classical music to create her own unique sound. In her classical world, Kim has played with the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras. She is currently the first violin player in the Mac Talla string quartet. Kim plays and sings with Prairie Sea (folk trio based in Nova Scotia and Sask). Both of Prairie Sea's CD's have been nominated for Traditional/Roots Recording of the Year by Music Nova Scotia. Kim plays with local Irish band 'Jim n Kim' as well as doing a lot of solo fiddle work. Kim teaches at home in Saskatoon as well as travelling to Baffin Island, NU twice a year to work with Inuit youth (musicforthe future.ca). Kim has been the musical director of the Saskatoon Fiddle Orchestra for the past 12 years.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2015

Sask Valley Music Festival



Samuel Deason
Piano

Evanston, Illinois, USA

Samuel Deason has distinguished himself as a fearless musician having made his concerto debut performing Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No.2 under Peter Oundjian as the first concerto performance in Koerner Hall in Toronto.

Recent orchestral engagements include Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No.2 with the Fort Worth Symphony orchestra under Lio Kuokman, and concerti by Liszt-Busoni, Gershwin, Khachaturian, and Shostakovich with orchestras across North America and Europe. Samuel is 2nd prize winner of the Hastings International Piano Concerto Competition, performing with the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra, and 3rd prize winner of the Kerikeri International Piano Competition in New Zealand. Recital performances include Beethoven's Diabelli Variations for the Master Piano Recital Series in Ottawa, and for the Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils. He has performed for the Dame Myra Hess Series in Chicago, broadcast live on WFMT 98.7fm.

Born in Saskatoon, Samuel has studied with Bonnie Nicholson, with Marc Durand at the Glenn Gould School, Menahem Pressler at Indiana University, and Boris Slutsky at the Peabody Conservatory. He is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Musical Arts degree at Northwestern University under James Giles. Samuel has twice been an adjudicator for SMFA, taught at Indiana University and Northwestern University, and has presented masterclasses at Mohawk College and BYUI.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2016

Regina Music Festival



Jacques Després
Piano

Edmonton, AB

Pianist Jacques C. Després has been a distinguished performer for four decades across three continents, praised for his "crystal-clear pianism" and "enormous expressive range." His performances, marked by "flawless pianistic control" and "magnificent sonority," began with his 1978 debut with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra and include collaborations with conductors like Otto-Werner Muller and Franz-Paul Decker. Després' tours have featured CBC radio broadcasts and summer festivals in North America and Asia. His acclaimed recordings include the world premieres of Joseph Martin Kraus' complete piano and chamber works on the Naxos label. A renowned lecture-performance artist, Després has taught at prestigious institutions including Juilliard, Northwestern, Vanderbilt, and the Central Conservatory of China. He earned a doctorate from the University of Stony Brook, a Masters from Juilliard, and an Artist Diploma from Indiana University, studying under György Sebök, Adele Marcus, William Masselos, Gilbert Kalish, and Christiane Sénart. Since 2005, he has been a Professor of Music at the University of Alberta.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2023

Provincial Festival



David Dick

Regina, SK

Brass, Band

Dr. David Dick is the Principal Trombone of the Regina Symphony Orchestra and Assistant Professor in the Department of Music at the University of Regina, where he directs the jazz ensemble, teaches music theory and brass classes, as well as applied trombone lessons for the university and the conservatory. His previous teaching appointments have included University of Memphis, Jackson State University, Belhaven University, and Briercrest College. Before returning to Regina, he was the Principal Trombone player of the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Dick is in demand as a clinician and adjudicator, working with bands, jazz bands and soloists at regional and provincial music festivals, in addition to performing recitals and giving masterclasses. He continues to perform in a wide variety of settings including orchestras, chamber groups, early music ensembles, jazz ensembles, and blues bands. He earned degrees from the University of Memphis (DMA), McGill University (MMus), and the University of Regina (BMus).

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2023
 - Saskatoon Music Festival
- 2019
 - Swift Current & District Music Festival
 - Yorkton Music Festival
- 2018
 - Prince Albert Music Festival
- 2017
 - Mainline & District Music Festival
- 2016
 - Quill Plains Music Festival
- 2015
 - Carnduff & District Music Festival
 - Potashville Music Festival
 - Redvers & District Music Festival
 - Yorkton Music Festival



Han Ding

Calgary, AB

Piano

Han is a classical pianist and composer in Calgary. His work in music has included solo and chamber performance, as well as numerous original compositions. He is a piano instructor of over fifteen years, and is currently a piano instructor at Mount Royal University Conservatory. Han received a Bachelor of Music in piano performance and a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Calgary, and Licentiate and Associate piano diplomas from the Royal Conservatory of Music. His teachers included pianists Peter Turner and Vladimir Levtoev and composer Allan Gordon Bell. Calgary has been his home since 1993.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2023
 - Rosetown & District Music Festival



Katherine Dowling

Toronto, ON

Piano

Praised by the New York Times for her “crystalline performances, gestural expressiveness, and careful attention to color”, and by the Boston Globe for her “effortless incisiveness”, award-winning Canadian pianist Dr. Katherine Dowling performs across North America and Europe. She is familiar to audiences as a multi-year fellow of the Tanglewood Music Center, a New Fromm Fellow, a Britten-Pears Young Artist, an International Musicians’ Seminar at Prussia Cove artist, through extensive involvement and numerous positions at The Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, the Orlando Festival, and the Avaloch Farm Music Institute, and through multiple winners’ tours under the auspices of the Eckhardt-Gramatté National Music Competition. As a member of the chamber ensemble Gruppo Montebello, Dr. Dowling appears on many critically-acclaimed recordings on the Etcetera label. Her performances have been broadcast on the CBC, Radio-Canada, BBC, and National Radio (Holland). Dr. Dowling is Assistant Professor of Classical Piano Performance at York University. www.katherinedowling.com

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - Provincial Festival
- 2023
 - Saskatoon Music Festival

- 2021
 - Lafleche & District Music Festival
 - Rosetown & District Music Festival
- 2019
 - Kindersley & District Music Festival
 - Qu'Appelle Valley Music Festival
 - Weyburn Music Festival
- 2018
 - Assiniboia Music Festival
 - Swift Current & District Music Festival
 - Vanguard & District Music Festival
- 2017
 - Outlook & District Music Festival



Robyn Driedger Klassen

Burnaby, BC

Voice

Described in the London Times as "outstanding in her impassioned embodiment of the drama", Robyn Driedger-Klassen has been seen on many recital, concert and opera stages. Known particularly for her zeal for contemporary music, she performs and premieres many fascinating works by contemporary composers. Performances from the last year include a recital with Vancouver's Music on Main; Schubert's *Der Hirt auf dem Felsen* with the VSO Chamber Music Series; the premiere of a song cycle entitled *Midnight Watch* by Leslie Uyeda with pianist, Terence Dawson for the VSO New Music Festival; the VSO Pops Valentine's concerts; VSO New Music Series performances of works by Kati Agocs, Emily Doolittle and Jocelyn Morlock; and soprano soloist for Mahler's 8th Symphony. Robyn is Head of Voice at the Vancouver Academy of Music. She lives with her husband and two vocal critics under the age of seven and is an expert at avoiding Lego underfoot.*ng*.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2021
 - Saskatoon Music Festival
- 2019
 - Regina Music Festival
- 2016
 - Opera Competition



Elaine Dunbar

Edmonton, AB

Voice, Musical Theatre, Piano

Elaine Dunbar is a teacher and performer of music and theatre with over 30 years of experience. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance from the University of Alberta; an ARCT in singing performance from the Royal Conservatory (RCM); a BFA in theatre acting from Ryerson University in Toronto; and has studied music theatre at the Banff Centre. She is a member of the RCM College of Examiners and of the Canadian Actors' Equity Association. Elaine lives in Edmonton, where she teaches privately; is music director at Grace United church; conducts Edmonton's Young Columbian Choir, and the teen choir "Vocal Motion"; is vocal coach/pianist/show-band leader for 2 high-school musical theatre programs in Sherwood Park; and is co-founder of "Dramatic Learning", a company that brings musical theatre into schools through artist-in-residence programs. Elaine has performed on stages throughout Canada. Her varied theatre credits range from playing Queen Hermione in Shakespeare's *"The Winter's Tale"* to country pianist Mr. Floyd Cramer in *"Patsy Cline: Sweet Dreams Fantasy Tour"*. She performed 2 seasons with Pro Coro choir, and was a member of the "Good Spirit" trio who performed at Edmonton's Winspear in honour of the mayor's birthday in 2010. Elaine is privileged and grateful for the fine teachers she has had throughout her life including Edward Lincoln and Ernesto Lejano (piano); Sandra Gavinchuk, Jean Letourneau, David Astor, Peggy Redmond (voice); Walter Kaasa, Kelly Handerek, Robert Seale, and Peter Hinton (acting).

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2016
 - Saskatoon Music Festival



Calvin Dyck

Abbotsford, BC

Strings

Calvin Dyck has been concertmaster for the Vancouver Island Symphony for 22 years, and is the director for the Abbotsford Youth Orchestra. Calvin has performed in over 15 countries, and is in demand as a producer, teacher, conductor and adjudicator. Although a college aptitude test recommended a career as a tug boat captain, Calvin finished a DMA in Violin Performance as USC with minors in music education, choral conducting, and music history. He currently has about 25 students. Calvin has been awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for service to the community. He has also been awarded an honorary Doctor of Humanities by Trinity Western University.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2022
Saskatoon Music Festival



Peter England

Saskatoon, SK

Brass, Woodwind, Percussion, Guitar, Strings

Peter England is a former teacher with the Saskatoon Catholic Board of Education. The majority of his teaching career was spent teaching at Holy Cross High School. During his tenure there he was responsible for the growth of the instrumental music program to include four curricular concert bands, two full jazz ensemble and several jazz combos. Most recently Peter has been program director and conductor of the Saskatoon Community Band Wind Ensemble. He continues to perform as bassoonist with the Prairie Winds Woodwind Quintet. He is a Past President of SaskCulture Inc., the provincial body responsible for the distribution of Lottery proceeds to all Cultural groups in the Province of Saskatchewan. Other interests include weight training, competitive bodybuilding and he holds a certificate in Personal Training from Can Fit Pro.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2019
Quill Plains Music Festival
Twin Rivers Music Festival
2018
Outlook & District Music Festival
2017
Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival
Swift Current & District Music Festival
2016
Biggar & District Music Festival
Kindersley & District Music Festival
2015
Estevan & District Music Festival
Meadow Lake & District Music Festival
Parkland & District Music Festival



Shirley England

Saskatoon, SK

Piano

A native of Saskatoon, Shirley England began her studies in music under the instruction of Douglas Voice, Marjorie Wiens-Beckett and Dr. Lyell Gustin. She earned a B.Ed. from the U of S. She then taught English, choir, general music and band for the Saskatoon Catholic Board of Education at both the secondary and elementary levels, however, she now has devoted her energies to private teaching in piano and theory where she has established a reputation for excellence due to the achievements of her students. Shirley has been involved in the musical life of the city of Saskatoon and the province of Saskatchewan. She has been a member of the SRMTA at the provincial and local levels and has served on committees and held executive positions in support of that organization. Shirley has adjudicated music festivals since 1989 and believes that the friendly competition that they encourage is an integral part of the musical learning process.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2018
Prairie Sunset & District Music Festival
2017
Nipawin Music Festival
2016
Central Sask Music Festival
Rosetown & District Music Festival



Eleanor Epp

Minnedosa, MB

Piano, Organ, Keyboard

Eleanor Epp is a pianist, theory and music history teacher, accompanist and adjudicator. She holds diplomas in Piano Performance and Piano Teacher from the Royal Conservatory of Toronto which she completed after graduating as a Registered Nurse and having a family of four young children. She currently teaches all levels of piano and theory in the Minnedosa area as well as the E-Gre Conservatory at Brandon University. She has adjudicated festivals in many Saskatchewan communities for the past 25 years and recently moved to Manitoba where she is a member of the Manitoba Registered Music Teachers Assoc and Associated Manitoba Arts Festivals.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2019
 - Estevan & District Music Festival
 - 2018
 - Humboldt Music Festival
 - 2017
 - Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival
 - Redvers & District Music Festival
 - 2016
 - Qu'Appelle Valley Music Festival
 - 2015
 - Parkland & District Music Festival
 - Potashville Music Festival
-



Lauren Eselson

Calgary, AB

Woodwinds, Instruments, Band

Lauren Eselson is an Instructor of Flute at Mount Royal University Conservatory. She is a regular extra musician in the flute section of the Calgary Philharmonic. During the seasons of 2003-2006 she was Acting Assistant Principal Flute with the orchestra. Ms. Eselson has also performed with the National Ballet Orchestra, Royal Winnipeg Ballet Orchestra, Calgary Bach Society, Kensington Sinfonia, Chicago Civic Orchestra, the American Wind Symphony, and in pit orchestras for Theater Calgary and Broadway touring productions. She has appeared as a concerto soloist with the Calgary Philharmonic, Calgary Bach Society, Kensington Sinfonia and the Calgary Chamber Ensemble, and has been recorded in recital by CBC Radio. At Mount Royal University Conservatory, Ms. Eselson is also the Woodwind coordinator for the well-known Academy program for gifted young musicians. She is a Woodwind-Brass examiner for the Royal Conservatory of Music and is in demand as an adjudicator across Canada. Ms. Eselson holds a Bachelor of Music from the Cleveland Institute, and a Master of Music from Northwestern University. Her principal teachers were Walfrid Kujala, Maurice Sharp, Jim Walker, Claude Monteux and Geoffrey Gilbert.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2021
 - Regina Music Festival
- 2019
 - Provincial Festival
- 2015
 - Saskatoon Music Festival

Piano, Voice, Speech Arts

Lynn Ewing has taught piano, music theory, and, more recently singing for many years in Saskatoon. Of particular note has been her work with special needs students, including visually handicapped students and students with autism spectrum disorder. Her students have distinguished themselves locally, provincially and nationally as recipients of diplomas, scholarships and competition prizes. In addition to teaching, Lynn also enjoys performing both as singer and as pianist in a wide variety of settings either as a collaborative artist or as a soloist. She works as a music adjudicator in western Canada and has examined for Conservatory Canada. Lynn holds diplomas in piano (ATCL, LTCL, ARCT) and singing (ARCT, LTCL, FTCL) from the Royal Conservatory of Music Toronto and Trinity College of London, UK. She also has a B.A. and M.A. from the University of Saskatchewan and a B.Ed. (Secondary) from the University of British Columbia. A Past-President of both the Saskatoon Registered Music Teachers' Association, the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors and Saskatoon Opera Association, Lynn is a passionate advocate for the arts in Saskatoon. She was pleased to serve for many years as a senator representing the Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers' Association in the University of Saskatchewan Senate. She is currently chair of the Lyell Gustin Memorial Piano Scholarship Competition, as well as the Gordon C. Wallis and Florence Bowes Piano Scholarship competitions. She is Saskatchewan's Trinity College of London (UK) representative. In addition to serving on her local RMT executive, Lynn is now President of the Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers' Association.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2023

Melfort Music Festival
Twin Rivers Music Festival

2022

Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival
Sand Hills Music Festival

2019

Melfort Music Festival

2018

Spiritwood & District Music Festival

2017

Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival

2016

Nipawin Music Festival

2015

Hafford & District Music Festival

**Audrey Falk Janzen**

Rosthern, SK

Piano

Audrey is a registered music teacher and has more than 30 years of experience teaching piano and theory. Her solo and collaborative piano performance studies have allowed her to develop numerous strategies that have resulted in a holistic approach to teaching students of all levels.

Audrey adjudicates music festivals and competitions, has presented workshops, and is a member of the College of Examiners of the Royal Conservatory of Toronto. She has been assistant musical director with productions at RJC High School (SK) for many years and is a past performer at the Station Arts Centre (Rosthern) professional summer musical production. Audrey has worked as a Sessional Lecturer at the University of Saskatchewan teaching musicianship, and also facilitated the music department's delivery of some online courses.

Audrey has been a facilitator for the online Piano Teacher Courses offered by Royal Conservatory of Music for several years, and she is able to offer lessons online in addition to in-person if requested. In addition to in-person exams, she has also conducted many remote piano exams for RCM.

Audrey maintains a private studio teaching piano and theory, as well as some voice when requested. She continues to collaborate with vocalists and has much experience accompanying choirs. Audrey has also enjoyed many opportunities to sing with semi-professional choirs and smaller ensembles, and she synthesizes these experiences into her approach to teaching. She was recently awarded the Saskatchewan Choral Federation's Community Service Award for her contributions to choral music as a collaborative pianist in this province.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024

Meadow Lake & District Music Festival
Sand Hills Music Festival

2023

Moosomin & District Music Festival

2022

Twin Rivers Music Festival

2021

Yorkton Music Festival

- 2019
 - Lanigan & District Music Festival
 - Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival
- 2018
 - Watrous & District Music Festival
 - Weyburn Music Festival
- 2017
 - Lafleche & District Music Festival
- 2016
 - Prairie Sunset & District Music Festival
 - Prince Albert Music Festival
 - Unity Music Festival



Nick Fanner

Saskatoon, SK

Band, Brass

Having retired after 31 years of teaching elementary and secondary band with the Saskatoon Public School Division, Nick continues to be very active in music education. He currently directs the Saskatoon Youth Jazz Orchestra (which he formed in 2017), as well as the Saskatoon Community Bands beginner jazz band and intermediate concert band. As a sessional lecturer at the University of Saskatchewan, Mr. Fanner has team taught courses in Jazz Pedagogy (Fall 2022), Instrumental Music Teaching in Secondary School (co-taught: Winter 2021), Brass Techniques (Trumpet) (Fall 2021) as well as Jazz History prior to that. He has also served numerous times as an instructor at the annual University of Saskatchewan High School Select Jazz program. Nick received his M. Ed. (Curriculum) from the University of Saskatchewan (2000), which saw him write a locally developed instrumental jazz curriculum for high school students. He also received his B.Mus. (Mus. Ed.) degree from the U of S (1987). Mr. Fanner was a presenter at the 2019 Sask. Music Conference, where he presented a session focused on the importance of fundamentals when teaching band at any level. Mr. Fanner continues to enjoy ongoing opportunities to engage in workshops in the areas of both jazz and concert bands around the province, as well as music festival adjudication in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Nick continues to be a member of the trumpet section of the Saskatoon Jazz Orchestra (Dean McNeill –artistic director) on the majority of each season’s performances. He is honoured to be the recipient of the 2022 SaskTel Saskatchewan Jazz Festival Special Recognition Award and the 2019 Saskatchewan Band Association’s Distinguished Band Director Award.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - Moose Jaw Music Festival
 - Prairie Sunset & District Music Festival
 - Swift Current & District Music Festival
- 2023
 - Humboldt Music Festival
 - Meadow Lake & District Music Festival



Cheryl Ferguson

Winnipeg, MB

Band, Instruments

Cheryl Ferguson received a Bachelor of Arts in Music Performance (French horn) and a Bachelor of Science in Music Education from the University of Mary (Bismarck, ND). She has also done graduate work at Southern Oregon University, and has earned a Master in Curriculum Studies (Music Education) at Acadia University (Nova Scotia). Cheryl has taught music at every level, including K-6 general music classes, nine years running junior high band programs, and has been in her current position as Director of Bands at Fort Richmond Collegiate since 2006. She has also been the Director of Concert Band at Canadian Mennonite University since 2017. In 2013, Cheryl received the Manitoba Band Association Award of Distinction recognizing an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to music education in Manitoba. In 2014, she received the I. Keith Mann Outstanding Band Director Award, national recognition given to one band director in Canada per year. Additionally, she was awarded the Fort Richmond MLA Community Hero Award in 2018 for her service to youth in the community. In 2016, Cheryl was invited to record a TED Talk on Motivating People toward Excellence. She is active as a clinician and guest conductor at festivals, Honour Bands and band camps across Canada.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2023
 - Saskatoon Music Festival
- 2015
 - Saskatoon Music Festival



Guy Few

Kitchener, ON

Brass, Piano

Guy Few's instrumental versatility and fearless interpretations have been noted by the international press, "outrageous...simply phenomenal" (*Le Devoir*, Montreal) and "sheer brilliance" (L.A. Times). He has performed with many Canadian and US symphonies as both trumpet and piano soloist, remains a committed chamber artist in ensembles Bellows and Brass, Few and Fewer and Project Aria, and has been a guest at many summer festivals including The Festival of the Sound, Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival, Oregon Bach Festival Tanglewood, Takefu International Music Festival and The Elora Festival. A prolific recording artist, Guy has released CDs on numerous labels including S.N.E., Arsiv Classics, CBC Musica Viva, CBC SM5000, Naxos, MSR Classics and the Hänssler Classics labels. Recording awards include a JUNO nomination, (CCP/Paetkau/MSR), a Grammy for Penderecki Credo (OBF principal trumpet/Rilling/Hänssler), and Best Classical Orchestral Album from Just Plain Folks Music Awards (guy and nadina/TCO/Kevin Mallon/MSR). Guy has appeared on CBC-TV, CTV, BRAVO, TV5 and European television broadcasts and is heard regularly on Classical 96.3, CBC Radio, and NPR. He is a sessional lecturer at Wilfrid Laurier University where he coaches chamber music, facilitates the Wilfrid Laurier Brass Ensemble and teaches trumpet. Guy Few is a Yamaha artist.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2022
 - Regina Music Festival
- 2018
 - Saskatoon Music Festival
- 2016
 - Saskatoon Music Festival



Donna Fletcher

Winnipeg, MB

Musical Theatre, Voice, Speech Arts

Donna Fletcher is a distinguished actor, singer, and concert performer with extensive national experience. Proud of her prairie roots, she trained in Winnipeg and holds a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of Manitoba, a diploma in Music Theatre from The Banff Centre for the Arts, and a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from The University of Toronto. Donna's acclaimed acting career spans principal roles from the Charlottetown Festival to Persephone Theatre, while her directing credits include notable productions such as South Pacific and The Sound of Music. She serves as First Vice President & Manitoba/Nunavut Councillor for Canadian Actor's Equity and was inducted into the Rainbow Stage Wall of Fame in 2012. Co-creator of Dry Cold Productions, she celebrates its 22nd season and is a respected clinician and instructor at the University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg. Most importantly, she is a devoted mother to Amalia.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - Provincial Festival
- 2022
 - Saskatoon Music Festival
- 2018
 - Provincial Festival



Sandy Foster

Craven, SK

Piano, arranged popular piano

Sandy Foster was born in Regina, Saskatchewan and moved to Craven, Saskatchewan when she married and where she still resides. Her piano education, after a couple of years, took her to Sharon Stewart Dyksman where the love of music and playing piano (and later organ) was instilled and still is strong today. She began teaching 46 years ago under the tutelage of Mrs. (Stuart) Dyksman, the founder of the Academy of Music. Then after 4 years began her journey teaching out at Craven and area, while still being associated with The Academy, (which is currently a division of Long & McQuade in Regina). She eventually moved her music school to her home to be closer to her family and is still currently teaching approximately 25 of her students there. Sandy has advanced training in jazz and contemporary music as well as advanced concepts of arranging contemporary and popular music. She teaches classical and popular arranged music plus attended many seminars in pedagogy, improvisation and arranging. Over the years, she has taught The Royal Conservatory of Music, (formally) Western Board of Music, theory, organ and piano.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - La Ronge & District Music Festival



Karen Frandsen

Regina, SK

Voice, Musical Theatre, Speech Arts

Karen Frandsen (M.Mus., B.Mus. Vocal Performance) is a singer, music educator, adjudicator and life-long learner. In Regina, she has maintained a busy and active singing studio for over 22 years. Karen was also the Director of the SaskExpress Musical Theatre Studio for over 8 years. Her love of singing and music education have inspired many students to reach their goals. Karen's students regularly participate in Saskatchewan's district, provincial and Western music festivals, as well as the Saskatchewan Youth Choir and the National Youth Choir of Canada. Karen's students can be seen performing across Canada and beyond, as vocal teachers, music therapists and engaged citizens. She is an active member of the local branch of the Sask. Registered Music Teachers' Association (SRMTA) and has served as Director on the provincial SRMTA board as convener of the Jean McCulloch Memorial Junior Piano Competition. Ms. Frandsen has enjoyed adjudicating voice, music theatre, choirs and speech arts for the Sask. Music Festival Association (SMFA) for over 20 years. In 2015, she spearheaded a student and teacher art song recording project for the Regina SRMTA branch. The online project, entitled Art Songs of Canada, can be found on the worldwide web and features the vocal music of Saskatchewan composers, David McIntyre and Robert Ursan, as well as other Canadian composers.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - Rosetown & District Music Festival
- 2023
 - Yorkton Music Festival
- 2018
 - Kindersley & District Music Festival
- 2017
 - Prince Albert Music Festival
- 2016
 - Lafleche & District Music Festival



Janie Fries

Moose Jaw, SK

Band, Classroom Music, School Choir

Throughout the course of her teaching career, Janie Fries has taught the gamut from Pre-K to university music education classes including band, strings, choral and classroom music. The majority of her experiences have come from the students in the Moose Jaw Catholic schools. Her Master in Music Education degree was obtained from Brandon University. She is a member of both the Moose Jaw Music Festival and has been involved with the Moose Jaw Band and Choral Festival committee since 1995. She has been actively involved in Saskatchewan Arts Education curriculum writing, advising and actualizing and has written lessons for the National Arts Centre "Music Alive Program", providing lessons for the non-specialist music teacher in Saskatchewan schools. She is a sessional lecturer at the University of Regina teaching Orff Levels I and II during the summer and has been a recipient of the Sylvia Yam award for teaching excellence, presented by the Saskatchewan Orff Chapter. She adjudicates throughout the province at local music festivals and SpringFest. Her present musical endeavours include conducting the Moose Jaw Community String Orchestra, and playing horn in the Moose Jaw Community Band.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2019
 - Mainline & District Music Festival
- 2018
 - Estevan & District Music Festival
- 2017
 - Humboldt Music Festival
 - Weyburn Music Festival
- 2016
 - Carnduff & District Music Festival
 - Prince Albert Music Festival
- 2015
 - Saskatoon Music Festival
 - Swift Current & District Music Festival
 - Yorkton Music Festival



Darryl Friesen

Winnipeg, MB

Piano

Darryl Friesen completed his DMA at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, studying with Fulbright scholar Dr. William Heiles and Dennis Helmrich as a Fellow of the University of Illinois. After studying with renowned pedagogue Lee Kum-Sing at the Vancouver Academy of Music, he received BM and MM degrees in piano performance from the University of Manitoba as a student of well-known Canadian pianist, David Moroz. He has given acclaimed performances across Canada, the United States, Europe, China, and Brazil, and has been featured numerous times on CBC Radio. His studies were made possible through generous grants by the Manitoba Arts Council and the Canada Council of the Arts, including the Sylva Gelber Foundation Award, given annually to the most talented Canadian classical artist under the age of 30. He was the grand prizewinner of the 2003 CBC Arts Encounters Young Performers Competition, and was a finalist in the International Stepping Stone Competition and the Canadian Music Competition. Dr. Friesen is in great demand as a soloist, collaborative artist and teacher. He is currently a Sessional Instructor at the University of Manitoba's Desautels Faculty of Music.

www.darrylfriesen.com

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2023
 - Shurniak Concerto Competition
- 2021
 - Provincial Festival



Louella Friesen

Waldheim, SK

Voice, Musical Theatre, Speech Arts, Choir

Louella K Friesen - singer, vocal teacher and adjudicator - provides vocal instruction to a studio of students at RJC High School, Rosthern, SK, and in her home community of Waldheim, SK. Louella is a member of the Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers' Association/ National Music Teachers' Association and the Sask.Valley Music Festival Association. With Bachelor of Music degrees in Vocal Performance from CMU Winnipeg, MB. and the U.of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Louella has enjoyed many choral, and solo singing opportunities. Most recently Louella was honoured with the 2022 Golden Note Award in the singers category, presented by Saskatchewan Choral Federation. Louella believes that her role as a voice teacher is to help her students cultivate their desire to communicate through the wonderful language of song and foster a life long appreciation for music of all genres. In addition to providing her students with performing opportunities at studio recitals, Louella also prepares many of them for regional and provincial festivals, as well as RCM Vocal exams. While music is an ever present part of her life, other favourite activities include reading, quilting, yoga, traveling, cooking, painting, and gardening!

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - Quill Plains Music Festival
- 2023
 - Lanigan & District Music Festival
- 2022
 - Estevan & District Music Festival
- 2021
 - Weyburn Music Festival
- 2019
 - Twin Rivers Music Festival
 - Yorkton Music Festival
- 2018
 - Maple Creek & District Music Festival
- 2017
 - Lanigan & District Music Festival
- 2016
 - Last Mountain & District Music Festival
 - Outlook & District Music Festival
- 2015
 - Meadow Lake & District Music Festival



Gail Fry Choral

Regina, SK

Gail Fry received a Bachelor of Music Education with great distinction from the University of Regina. Since 1976, she has taught at high schools in Saskatoon, Regina and La Ronge. From 1987-2014, Gail was a faculty member at Luther College High School in Regina, teaching music and mathematics as well as being the academic guidance counselor. Gail was the producer of Luther College's renowned music theatre productions for twenty years. She also directed various choirs and handbell choirs there. Under her direction they received many awards at local, provincial and national competitions. Gail is an active choral clinician and adjudicator, and a former board member of the Saskatchewan Choral Federation. She has been a member of many choirs including the Luther Bach Choir, University of Regina Chamber Singers, Saskatoon Chamber Singers and Regina Philharmonic Chorus. Gail is an active member at Bread of Life Lutheran Church Choir directing their two church musical groups and continues to be one of their church pianists.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - Moose Jaw Music Festival
- 2021
 - Quill Plains Music Festival
- 2019
 - Unity Music Festival
- 2018
 - Saskatoon Music Festival



Garry Gable Voice, Musical Theatre

Saskatoon, SK

Garry Gable has enjoyed a performing career that has taken him across Canada and into the USA and China in all types of classical music, musical theater, drama, television, radio, in-concert, and stage presentations. Garry has also been heard widely in recital with his spouse/pianist Kathleen Lohrenz Gable.

A resident of Saskatoon since 1994, he has taught vocal studies and directed the Music Theatre Ensemble as Associate Professor at the University of Saskatchewan. In that role he has been recipient of the Provost's Award for Outstanding Teaching at the University of Saskatchewan. He has taught and performed several times in China, where he is adjunct faculty in Music Universities and Conservatories in Wuhan, Tianjin, and Lanzhou.

Having just retired from his role as a university professor, Garry is looking forward to focusing on next stages in his music career as a performer and teacher.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - Moose Jaw Music Festival
- 2022
 - Lanigan & District Music Festival
- 2021
 - Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival
- 2018
 - Swift Current & District Music Festival
 - Twin Rivers Music Festival
- 2017
 - Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival
- 2016
 - Moose Jaw Music Festival
- 2015
 - Hafford & District Music Festival
 - Lanigan & District Music Festival



Brent Ghiglione

Regina, SK

Bands, Brass, Woodwinds

Raised in Moose Jaw, Brent Ghiglione started his musical career with the Moose Jaw Lions Jr. Band. He then continued his musical education at the U of R where he graduated with a B.Mus.Ed. degree. He has also completed a Diploma of Fine Arts from the U of C in Wind Band Conducting and Repertoire and finished his M.Ed. from the University of Victoria. After teaching at Campbell Collegiate for 17 years Brent moved to the U of R where he is director of bands responsible for the Wind Ensemble and Concert Band. As a trumpet player, he is a member of the Regina Symphony Orchestra and currently leads The Bob Moyer Big Band. Brent has initiated the Regina Jazz Orchestra (RJO), a professional big band, and the Regina Winds, a semi-professional wind band. Brent is also an active clinician and adjudicator and is a Yamaha Performing Artist.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2018

Moose Jaw Music Festival



Laurien Gibson

Saskatoon, SK

Voice, Musical Theatre

Laurien holds a Bachelor of Music from the University of Saskatchewan and an Artist Diploma from the Glenn Gould School. Ms. Gibson has been the recipient of numerous awards including first place in the Canadian Music Competition, Gordon Wallis Opera Competition and Young Artist Competition. She has also sung in the finals of the Hans Gabor Belvedere international competition, held in Vienna. As a soloist, Laurien has appeared with Little Opera on the Prairie, Strata New Music Festival, The Canadian Sinfonietta, Jeunes Ambassadeurs Lyriques, North York Concert Orchestra, The Regina Symphony Orchestra, the Saskatoon Opera Association, and Edmonton's Opera Nuova. Ms. Gibson is a huge fan of recital work and has worked extensively in this vein. She has given performances for intimate house concerts, pop-up street concerts (she and co-creator Andre Milne dubbed "drive-by opera"), as well as in many "proper" recital halls. As a teacher, Laurien aims to share her love and enthusiasm for music and to create positive learning experiences for her students. Ms. Gibson has taught both voice and piano for over 20 years, taking just a small departure to learn the craft of tile setting. She has taught for Persephone Theatre School summer camps and as a sessional instructor at the UofS. Outside of her musical life she keeps busy being mom to a super 11-year-old, hiking both urban and forested trails, and enjoying the antics of the family's three cats.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024

Melfort Music Festival

Twin Rivers Music Festival

Weyburn Music Festival

2023

Biggar & District Music Festival

Unity Music Festival

2022

Prince Albert Music Festival



Janet Gieck

Pambrun, SK

Piano, Composition

Janet Gieck grew up surrounded by rural Saskatchewan culture and landscape, a fact which has profoundly affected her musical output. After completing music degrees from Prairie Bible College (Three Hills, AB) and the Royal Conservatory of Music, she has had her compositions performed at many concerts, New Music Festivals and on CBC radio. Her pedagogical compositions are now listed on many different syllabi across the country. Passionate about sharing music with those in her community and beyond, Janet is a member of the Alliance for Canadian New Music Projects, the Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers' Association (currently serving as president of the Swift Current branch), and the composer's collective Red Leaf Pianoworks. Currently, Janet works as a member of the fine arts department at Millar College of the Bible in Pambrun, SK where she lives with her husband and three children. She is also in demand as a piano teacher, adjudicator and clinician.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024

Borderland Music Festival

Nipawin Music Festival

2022

Mainline & District Music Festival

2021

Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival

2019
 Humboldt Music Festival
 Maple Creek & District Music Festival
 2018
 Melfort Music Festival
 2017
 Carnduff & District Music Festival
 2016
 Assiniboia Music Festival
 Shaunavon & District Music Festival
 Weyburn Music Festival
 2015
 Kindersley & District Music Festival
 Maple Creek & District Music Festival



Glen Gillis

Saskatoon, SK

Band, Woodwinds, Brass, Percussion, Strings

Glen Gillis, Professor of Music, conducts the Concert Band and several other ensembles at the University of Saskatchewan. He teaches conducting, saxophone, and music education courses, and works with graduate students in the music education and performance streams. He remains active as a clinician/adjudicator for solo/ensemble festivals/workshops as well as conducting honour ensembles. Dr. Gillis is a Conn-Selmer Artist/Clinician and has performed across North America and Europe. In the last four decades Dr. Gillis has commissioned numerous works for classical saxophone and has collaborated with many artist musicians, conductors, and composers. He has matriculated many saxophone students at the high school and college level who have received provincial and national awards. Dr. Gillis has given numerous clinics at high schools and colleges over his career and has also served as an artist-in-residence at the Banff Centre in Alberta on five occasions.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024
 Melfort Music Festival
 2023
 Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival
 2022
 Humboldt Music Festival
 2019
 Meadow Lake & District Music Festival
 2018
 Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival
 Saskatoon Music Festival
 2017
 Melfort Music Festival
 Yorkton Music Festival
 2016
 Estevan & District Music Festival
 Meadow Lake & District Music Festival
 2015
 Humboldt Music Festival



Richard Gillis

Winnipeg, MB

Brass, Band, Instruments, Jazz Band

Richard Gillis studied trumpet at The University of Saskatchewan (B.Mus.), The Banff Centre (Canadian Brass), and The University of Michigan (M.Mus.; DMA), as well as privately with Armando Ghitalla, Vincent Cichowicz and James Stamp. After graduating from the University of Saskatchewan, Richard performed, toured and recorded with the Saskatoon-based NewWest Brass Quintet. While working on his DMA Richard had the opportunity to be a part of the University of Michigan faculty brass quintet, with Armando Ghitalla. Dr. Gillis is currently brass chair at the University of Manitoba, and is artistic director of the Winnipeg Jazz Orchestra, which he co-founded in 1997. Richard performs and records (8 CDs) with Icelandic guitarist Björn Thoroddsen, and together have received three recognitions from the Icelandic Music Awards. Richard has recorded 19 albums as a leader and sideman; his most recent projects include Devotion, a collection of original solo and chamber pieces for trumpet, and Suite 150: A Big Band Portrait, an eleven movement WJO recording commissioned from composers across Canada.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2021
 Provincial Festival



Corinne Groff
Piano

Regina, SK

Corinne Groff is a Regina-based choir director, piano and theory teacher and adjudicator. Corinne began teaching piano in Brandon in 1979. She and her family moved to Regina in 1997 where she quickly established herself in the music community as an active music educator and adjudicator. She is a member of the Regina Branch of the Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers, a member of the Canadian Choral Federation and an adjudicator for the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association. She loves her busy piano teaching schedule and professional life. Currently acting chair of Regina Contemporary Showcase, Corinne is responsible for incorporating a choral component into that annual festival. She is music director of two choirs at Sunset United church and director of the Amici Singers community choir. She recently received the Saskatchewan Choral Federation 2020 Community Service Award. Corinne is a founding member and vice-president on the board of the Cecilian Chamber Series.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2023
 - Gravelbourg & District Bilingual Music Festival
 - Yorkton Music Festival
- 2022
 - Assiniboia Music Festival
 - Prince Albert Music Festival
- 2021
 - Saskatoon Music Festival
- 2019
 - Potashville Music Festival
- 2018
 - Kipling & District Music Festival
 - Shaunavon & District Music Festival
- 2017
 - Mainline & District Music Festival
 - Swift Current & District Music Festival
- 2016
 - Borderland Music Festival
 - Carnduff & District Music Festival



Dianne Gryba
Piano, Voice, Choir

North Battleford, SK

Dianne Gryba, based in North Battleford, Saskatchewan, has been a dedicated teacher and accompanist since 1989, with piano performance degrees from the University of Saskatchewan under Robin Harrison. She has a deep passion for choral music, having conducted and accompanied several groups, including the Gallery Singers, Battlefords Children's Choirs, and Kamala Youth Choir, with her co-director JoAnne Kasper. These choirs received local and provincial awards and participated in festivals such as Voices West. Dianne's musical partnership with Bonnie Nicholson on duo-piano performances has been a highlight for over forty years. As president-elect of the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association and past president of the Battlefords District Music Festival, she regularly adjudicates festivals and values their role in music education. Dianne has been honored with awards from community organizations, the Saskatchewan Choral Federation, and the Saskatchewan Music Educators Association. She takes pride in her students' diverse achievements and enjoys sharing her musical passion with her four grandchildren. Dianne and her husband Greg remain actively involved with their grown children and families.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - Prince Albert Music Festival
 - Weyburn Music Festival
- 2023
 - Swift Current & District Music Festival
- 2022
 - Moose Jaw Music Festival
 - Regina Music Festival
- 2021
 - Biggar & District Music Festival
 - Sask Valley Music Festival

2019
Regina Music Festival
Sand Hills Music Festival
2017
Saskatoon Music Festival
2016
Saskatoon Music Festival
Twin Rivers Music Festival
2015
Quill Plains Music Festival
Regina Music Festival



Sarah Hall

Brandon, MB

Voice, Speech Arts, Choir

As both a soloist and chamber musician, Sarah Hall appears regularly with Polycoro, one of Canada's premier chamber choirs, as well as Canzona (Winnipeg), and the Brandon Chamber Players. She has also sung internationally, most notably at Il Festival dei Due Mondi (Spoleto, Italy), Boston Cecelia, The Cantata Singers and Ensemble (Boston), and The Bridge Ensemble (Philadelphia). Recent solo appearances include Messiah with Canzona and the Winnipeg Symphony, Oleska Lozowchuk's Waters of Rest with Polycoro (broadcast by CBC), and the world premiere of Ken Nichols' Letters from Home at the Clear Lake Chamber Music Festival. An Assistant Professor of Music at Brandon University, Sarah teaches voice, diction, and vocal chamber music. In addition to her work at the University, Sarah appears regularly as an adjudicator and clinician for voice, speech arts and choir. Sarah is delighted to work with students of all ages and abilities to help them grow as performers! Sarah is also a busy mom of Sophie (11) and Rose (6) and wife to drummer, Eric Platz, also a professor at Brandon University.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024
Saskatoon Music Festival
2022
Canada West Performing Arts Festival
2021
Regina Music Festival
2019
Saskatoon Music Festival
2017
Estevan & District Music Festival



Rebecca Hankins-Vopni

Tisdale, SK

Piano, Strings, Brass

Rebecca Hankins-Vopni, B.A., A.T.C.L., L.T.C.L., RMT has a very active music studio in Northeast Saskatchewan where she teaches piano, violin, viola, trumpet, French horn and music theory. She is the director of Tisdale and District Strings, coaches many trios and quartets and is an examiner for Conservatory Canada. She is an active piano accompanist in her community. She has been and continues to be instrumental in bringing professional musicians to Tisdale and area to perform and instruct workshops for music students in North East Saskatchewan. She has been the recipient of many awards including the Saskatchewan Orchestral Development Award, Conservatory Canada's Tom and Miggisie Lawson National Teachers' Travel and Study Scholarship, and The Dorothy Bee memorial Scholarship. Her students have received numerous scholarships and awards from Conservatory Canada, Royal Conservatory of Music, Saskatchewan Music Festival Association and Saskatchewan Fiddle Competitions and performed with Provincial and National Honour Bands and Orchestras. In addition to her love of music and teaching music, Rebecca enjoys the outdoors including hiking, sailing, kayaking, snowmobiling, spending time with her family and being a community youth leader. She also regularly does humanitarian work in Central and South America.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024
Lanigan & District Music Festival

**Strings**

Hailed by the European Academy of Arts and Sciences as an “electrifying and virtuosic” performer with “exquisite taste and rare talent”, Canadian violinist, Dr. Preston Hawes is a laureate of the Concours de Musique Du Canada, the Andrews International Music Competitions, the Prix de Musique de Chambre à Fontainebleau, and recipient of the JC Van Hulsteyn award and Peabody Career Grant. He has been heard as a soloist in over 35 countries and in venues such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, and Plovdiv Symphony Hall. Earning a Masters of Music degree and the coveted Artist Diploma at Yale University, Hawes completed his studies earning a Doctorate of Musical Arts from Peabody Institute of Music. Dr. Hawes is assistant professor of music and director of strings at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, MD and is artistic director of the New England Symphonic Ensemble.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2019

Shurniak Concerto Competition

**Tom Hearn****Melville, SK****Band, Instruments**

Mr. Hearn was a Yorkton Regional High School Grad and received his BME (Instrumental and Vocal) from Northern State University. He has taught in Saskatchewan communities for 22 years and British Columbia for 11 years. He is a percussion specialist and has a soft spot for Jazz. He has played in many groups ranging from the Saskatoon Symphony, to country bands, Polka bands, Jazz bands, pit orchestras for musicals, Marching bands, and Jazz groups. His wife is also a Band Director and his two children are both in University.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024

Estevan & District Music Festival

2022

Quill Plains Music Festival

2019

Carnduff & District Music Festival

**Terry Heckman****Saskatoon, SK****Band, Brass, Woodwinds, Percussion**

Terry Heckman has been the Principal Trumpet of the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra since the fall of 1991. As a soloist, Terry has been featured a number of times with the SSO - in Purcell's Sonata, the Trumpet Concertos of Haydn and Hetu, Copland's Quiet City, Barber's Capricorn Concerto, and Bach's Second Brandenburg Concerto. Terry has also established himself as a trumpet teacher, clinician and adjudicator of brass instruments and bands throughout the prairies. Terry is a Conn-Selmer Artist, and plays Vincent Bach trumpets. Terry holds a Bachelor of Music (Education) from the University of Victoria and a Licentiate in Music (Performance) from McGill University. Terry has been a member of the Regina Symphony Orchestra and the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra, and earlier played in the Youth Orchestras of Calgary and Victoria. He has been on the Executive Board of the Saskatoon Musicians' Association, CFM Local 553, and has served on the Saskatoon Symphony Players' Committee and Negotiating Committee, and as the Production Manager for the Saskatoon Symphony, where he is currently the Director of Personnel. Terry is married to Kim de Laforest, one of the busiest violin and fiddle players and teachers. Their son Hunter has taken to music as well, playing both fiddle and trumpet himself!

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2019

Biggar & District Music Festival

2018

Melfort Music Festival

2016

Watrous & District Music Festival

2015

Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival

Rosetown & District Music Festival

Twin Rivers Music Festival



Chinley Hinacay Woodwind

North Battleford, SK

An accomplished young conductor and saxophonist, Chinley Hinacay is steadily making himself known throughout Western Canada. Earning degrees from the University of Calgary (M.Mus) and the University of British Columbia (B.Mus), Chinley dedicates himself to cultivating the musical potential of Canada and raising awareness for the fine arts. Chinley is currently the director of the North Battleford City Kinsmen Band and the Calgary Youth Wind Ensemble. He has led multiple ensembles throughout Calgary and the Greater Vancouver Area as director, assistant conductor, and guest conductor. These ensembles include the Calgary Wind Symphony, the Vancouver Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Vancouver Pops Orchestra. He has also acted as the former director of Red Deer College's Symphonic Winds and ensemble director of the Shangyin School of Music. In addition to his conducting duties, Chinley has also achieved much success as a soloist and chamber musician, earning first place medals in the 2018 Canadian Music Competition and the 2017 National Music Festival, awarded second place in the Friends of Chamber Music Competition, and was a semi-finalist at the 2019 Stepping Stones Competition. Employed as a clinician, performer, and teacher throughout Western Canada, Chinley strives to maintain a high standard throughout his performances and teachings. Other notable accomplishments include performing regional and world premieres at the North American Saxophone Alliance conferences and being nominated for the 2020 Distinguished Master's Thesis Award from the Western Association of Graduate Studies. As a founding member of one of Canada's newest classical saxophone duo, The Prairie Saxophone Initiative, Chinley has completed a cross-provincial tour of the Prairies and is dedicated to the commission and performance of works by under-represented Canadian composers.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
Rosetown & District Music Festival
- 2023
Prairie Sunset & District Music Festival



Frank Ho Strings

Edmonton, AB

Violinist FRANK HO enjoys a multi-faceted career as a chamber musician, soloist, and pedagogue. His early training was at the Alberta College (now MacEwan University) Conservatory of Music. Further studies with Sidney Harth and Erick Friedman (Yale School of Music) and Yfrah Neaman (Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, England) led to performance opportunities on three continents. Highlights include concerts at venues such the Royal Festival Hall and the Purcell Room in London; Weill Recital Hall, Alice Tully Hall, and Merkin Hall in New York City; and numerous campuses and concert series in western Canada. Many of his concerts have been featured on the CBC. He is currently a faculty member of the MacEwan University Conservatory of Music, and sessional violin instructor at King's University and Concordia University of Edmonton. Frank is an active adjudicator nationally and international--most recently as a member of the international jury panel for the 2019 Hong Kong Music Schools Festival--as well as a member of the College of Examiners for the Royal Conservatory of Music. He is currently the concertmaster of the Concordia Symphony Orchestra. A sought-after private teacher, many of his students are previous prizewinners of local, provincial, and national competitions; in 2017, two of his students were chosen to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City through the American Protégé International Competition. Since November 2019, he has been the president of the Alberta String Association.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2022
Provincial Festival
- 2016
Provincial Festival

Tannis Hofer Piano

Deloraine, MB

Tannis was born and raised near Deloraine, MB. She grew up on a farm and was part of a musical family. She began piano lessons at the age of five, studied the tenor sax in band and took violin lessons in her high school years. After studying psychology for a year at Brandon University, Tannis switched gears and entered the School of Music there and studied piano with Sister Joan Miller and Robert Richardson. She graduated with a Bachelor of Music (Honours) in 1999. After marrying her high school sweetheart in 2000, Tannis returned to Deloraine. After training to become a Music For Young Children teacher, Tannis offered this internationally acclaimed piano program to the southwest corner of the province and has been teaching it for eighteen years. Tannis enjoys teaching students of all levels and loves visiting festivals as an adjudicator to encourage budding musicians. She is also the pianist for her church as well as a Sunday school teacher and a Registered Music Teacher. Tannis resides on her home farmstead near Deloraine with her farmer hubby and her four children: Jonathan, Jackson, Melody and Joy.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2022
Kindersley & District Music Festival
Kindersley & District Music Festival
Lafleche & District Music Festival



Lisa Hornung

North Battleford, SK

Voice, Speech Arts

Honoured as one of the U of S's Arts and Science Alumni of Influence, Saskatchewan born contralto, Lisa Hornung has been acclaimed for performances in repertoire ranging from Baroque to contemporary composers. In accordance with her belief that everyone deserves the opportunity to sing, Lisa runs a non-auditioned community youth choir and often collaborates with elementary and high school musical endeavours. She also conducts a non-auditioned community men's choir, is the founder and director of Summer School for the Solo Voice, and is well known as a teacher, adjudicator, clinician and choral coach.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2018
 - Moose Jaw Music Festival
 - 2017
 - Kindersley & District Music Festival
 - 2016
 - Sask Valley Music Festival
 - Weyburn Music Festival
 - 2015
 - Eston Music Festival
 - Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival
 - Prince Albert Music Festival
-



Joanne Hounsell

Victoria, BC

Voice, Musical Theatre

Joanne Hounsell has enjoyed a successful career in music and theatre for the past 30 years. During that time, she has shared her passion for the arts as a principle artist, educator and producer. Joanne holds a Master of Music UBC and an Artist Diploma from the University of Toronto. She has performed in opera, concert and musical theatre in lead roles with major symphony and opera companies across Canada. Favourite roles include Josephine in HMS Pinafore with the Stratford Festival where she received the Maureen Forrester award for outstanding performances; Susanna in Le Nozze di Figaro (COC) Governess in The Turn of the Screw (L'Opera de Montreal) and Helena in Britten's A Midsummer Night's Dream (POV). She is the recipient of the Sylva Gelber Award from the Canada Council for outstanding young artist in 1996. Ms Hounsell has taught voice at the University of Lethbridge and she has been the Head of Voice at the Victoria Conservatory of Music. She is a senior examiner with the Royal Conservatory of Music travelling across Canada and the U.S.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2021
 - Regina Music Festival
-



Monica Huisman

Winnipeg, MB

Voice

Soprano Monica Huisman has delighted audiences internationally both on the operatic as well as concert stages. She is on Faculty at the Faculty of Music at the U of M. She is in demand both as a voice teacher and clinician. Skilled in the Czech language, Ms. Huisman enjoys both singing in the language and introducing young singers to this vast and wonderful repertoire. Many of her students have gone onto careers both as singers and teachers. Ms. Huisman has a B.Ed. from the U of M and an Opera Diploma from the U of T. Her mentors are Mary Morrison and Nelly Miriciou, both inspiring teachers, performers and musicians.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2021
 - Provincial Festival
- 2018
 - Saskatoon Music Festival
- 2016
 - Regina Music Festival



Gareth Jones

Calgary, AB

Brass, Band

Gareth Jones is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Calgary where he is the director of the University's Wind Ensemble and the Symphonic Band as well as being the Instructor of Trumpet. He is also the Director of the Alberta Winds, Calgary's professional wind ensemble. In 2014 he was named the conductor of the National Youth Band of Canada. He was Assistant Principal Trumpet with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra from 1992 to 2007 and continues to play with the CPO whenever his conducting schedule allows. . Mr. Jones's musical activities are greatly varied. He has appeared as guest conductor and clinician with over three hundred orchestras and wind ensembles, been featured on Juno nominated blues CDs, appeared on CBC radio as a soloist and chamber musician, been a guest lecturer with the National Youth Orchestra of Canada, been an adjudicator at music festivals across Canada, as well as conducting honour bands across Canada and was a reviewer for the recently updated Royal Conservatory of Music trumpet syllabus. Gareth Jones is a Yamaha artist.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2022
 - Provincial Festival
- 2018
 - Saskatoon Music Festival



Chris Kayler

Caronport, SK

Piano, Vocal

Recently appointed Principal Keyboard of the Regina Symphony Orchestra, Dr. Christopher Kayler is also an Assistant Professor of Music at Briercrest College. He earned his DMA in Accompanying and Chamber Music from the Eastman School of Music, studying under Dr. Jean Barr. An accomplished performer, he won 1st prize in the 2017 Jessie Kneisel Lieder competition, judged by Graham Johnson, and has performed as a soloist with the University of Manitoba Orchestra and Wind Ensemble. At Eastman, he received an Excellence in Accompanying award and held graduate assistantships in opera coaching, studio accompanying, and as a teacher's assistant. Kayler is an invited faculty member at the Si parla, si canta summer music program in Urbania, Italy, and has participated in prestigious programs like the Vancouver International Song Institute and SongFest. His academic accolades include Eastman's Jerald C. Graue Fellowship and the University of Manitoba's Gold Medal. He has played in masterclasses with numerous distinguished artists and, at Briercrest, teaches piano and diction, directs the Briercrest Orchestra, and performs regularly. Chris enjoys reading and cooking with his wife Heather and son Benjamin in Moose Jaw.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2022
 - Weyburn Music Festival
- 2021
 - Eston Music Festival
 - Maple Creek & District Music Festival



Lauren Kells

Tuffnell, SK

Piano

Lauren Kells is a private and Music for Young Children teacher in the East Central area of Saskatchewan. 2017 marks her 20th year of teaching in the area. Lauren holds a Diploma in Primary / Elementary Piano Pedagogy and a Licentiate in Piano Pedagogy from the Canadian National Conservatory of Music and Level One Orff. Lauren is a member of the Board of Examiners of the Canadian National Conservatory of Music. She also adjudicates for the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association. Currently Lauren is the Past President of the Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers. Lauren's interests include music history and historical tuning of keyboard instruments. When she is not teaching she can be found playing the fiddle with the Tuffnell Circle Jammers, or reading a text from whatever class she is taking.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - Qu'Appelle Valley Music Festival
- 2018
 - Twin Rivers Music Festival
- 2017
 - Kipling & District Music Festival
 - Unity Music Festival
- 2016
 - Parkland & District Music Festival



Chris Kelly

Saskatoon, SK

Voice, Piano

Chris Kelly was born in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. He studied piano and was a member of the Prince Albert Boys Choir, serving as their accompanist and director of junior choirs. Chris entered the Department of Music at the University of Saskatchewan as a piano performance major and voice minor. He convocated with a double major – completing, performance and academic requirements in both voice and piano. He then received a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of Western Ontario. Chris has taught voice at the U of S. He maintains a private voice and piano studio and performs regularly in recital, opera, and oratorio. Chris has also instructed music theatre classes and accompanied at Saskatoon dance studios. Chris has performed as guest soloist with the Saskatoon and Regina Symphonies in Handel's Messiah and Verdi's Requiem as well as other oratorios. He has also had numerous lead, chorus and accompanying roles with Saskatoon Opera. In addition to teaching, Chris accompanies singers and instrumentalists, coaches, adjudicates, and is a church organist and choir director. He and his wife, Paula, have two sons - Graham and William.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2023
 - Eston Music Festival
 - Melfort Music Festival
- 2022
 - Lanigan & District Music Festival
 - Sask Valley Music Festival
- 2021
 - Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival
 - Kindersley & District Music Festival
 - Prince Albert Music Festival
- 2019
 - Humboldt Music Festival
- 2018
 - La Ronge & District Music Festival
- 2017
 - Sand Hills Music Festival
- 2016
 - Melfort Music Festival
- 2015
 - Moose Jaw Music Festival
 - Spiritwood & District Music Festival



Gaye-Lynn Kern

Saskatoon, SK

Voice, Music Theatre, Choral, Speech Arts

Gaye-Lynn Kern is a Performer, Teacher and Clinician (Voice, Music Theatre, Drama and Speech Arts). She has a Master of Music, a Post Graduate Diploma from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London, UK, and post graduate studies at the Mozart Opera Studies Institute. Ms. Kern has performed professionally in England, Europe, United States, and Canada in Opera (The Medium, Hansel and Gretel), Operetta (The Mikado, H.M.S. Pinafore), Music Theatre (The Sound of Music, My Fair Lady) and Dramas (Dancing at Lughnasa). Her thirty-four directorial credits include; Anne of Green Gables, Grease, Li'l Abner, Oliver!, The Real Inspector Hound, Blythe Spirit, and Nonsense. Ms. Kern has enjoyed adjudicating at over 155 Music Festivals in Western Canada since 1990. Twelve of her thirty-five years of Vocal Pedagogy have been at universities and colleges where she taught for both Music and Drama Departments. Her students are frequent festival scholarship winners at both local and provincial levels. Ms Kern coaches professionals in a wide variety of careers. She also performs as a soloist and as a member of The Gala Trio. Gaye-Lynn resides in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - Kindersley & District Music Festival
 - Moosomin & District Music Festival
- 2023
 - Twin Rivers Music Festival
- 2022
 - Canada West Performing Arts Festival
- 2021
 - Lanigan & District Music Festival

- 2018
 - Moosomin & District Music Festival
 - Nipawin Music Festival
- 2017
 - La Ronge & District Music Festival
 - Rosetown & District Music Festival
 - Sask Valley Music Festival
 - Swift Current & District Music Festival
- 2016
 - Lanigan & District Music Festival
 - Prairie Sunset & District Music Festival
 - Prince Albert Music Festival
 - Quill Plains Music Festival
- 2015
 - Shaunavon & District Music Festival

Alison Kilgannon

Sherwood Park, AB



Piano

Originally from Edson, Alberta, pianist Alison Kilgannon has performed in North America as well as in Spain, France, Switzerland, Holland, Germany, and Ecuador. She has appeared with the Orquesta Santa Cecilia Cullera, the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, and the Edmonton Senior Youth Orchestra. Her playing has been described as “suave and spirited... solid and self-assured” (Hinton Voice, William van Geest). She holds a doctorate degree in piano performance from the University of Montreal where she studied under Dr. Jean Saulnier. Currently based in Alberta where she holds a position as Assistant Professor at Burman University, Alison remains active as a soloist, collaborative artist, and adjudicator while still finding time to enjoy hiking in the Rocky Mountains.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2021
 - Provincial Festival
- 2017
 - Prairie Sunset & District Music Festival

Younggun Kim

Toronto, ON



Piano

Younggun Kim is a pianist known for his blazing technical capacity and a lush sound supported by a natural phrasing sense (Timothy Gilligan, New York Concert Review), who has performed across North America and Europe. He is active as soloist and chamber musician, and he teaches at the Queen’s University and the University of Toronto. His solo performances in the 2022-2023 season include a solo appearance with Toronto Korean-Canadian Choir/Orchestra playing Beethoven’s Choral Fantasy, solo recital as a part of Faculty Artist Series at Queen’s University, concert appearances in South Korea with pop singer Horan, and a solo recital playing excerpts from Bach’s Well-Tempered Clavier in Camrose, Alberta. Younggun is the winner of various prizes including San Antonio International Competition, Concours International de Piano Francis Poulenc, and Doctor of Musical Arts Recital Competition at the University of Toronto. Upon completion of the doctoral degree, Younggun was chosen as the recipient of the Tecumseh Sherman Rogers Graduating Award, which is the largest award offered by the Faculty of Music. He is a Toronto-based Canadian from South Korea. Younggun finished his undergraduate degree at the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music, Master’s Degree at Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University, and the Doctor of Musical Arts Degree at the University of Toronto. He studied with renowned artists such as Roger Admiral, Boris Slutsky, and the late Marietta Orlov.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2023
 - Regina Music Festival



Sarah Konecsni

Regina, SK

Piano

Sarah is active as a pianist, clinician, adjudicator, composer, accompanist, teacher, and examiner for the Royal Conservatory of Music. She is in demand as a piano and theory teacher, and her students have received over 50 silver/gold medals for the highest marks in piano examinations in every grade from Preparatory A through Grade 10 RCM. Sarah's students have also won many scholarships in provincial competitions, and also at the Saskatchewan provincial finals, where several students were judged the most outstanding performer of the competition. Sarah holds an ARCT from the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto and a Licentiate diploma from Trinity College in London, England. A recipient of nearly all awards for piano performance provincially, including soloist with the Regina Symphony Orchestra, she was the Young Artist for Western Canada and performed ten concerts from BC, Saskatchewan and Manitoba; she was also a winner of the Sister Geraldine Boyle award for the most outstanding competitor of the Provincial Finals in 1994. In 2003, she was awarded a grant from the Saskatchewan Arts Board to present a series of seven concerts throughout Saskatchewan to present her compositions to the public. Sarah was also the winner of the 'Call for Compositions' national competition for a piano piece for Canada Music Week 2009. Her compositions reflect both her Saskatchewan surroundings, as well as many world cultures, as experienced on her many travels. She derives her inspiration from her students, and strives to both excite and delight pianists with her descriptive and imaginative compositions.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2023
 - Weyburn Music Festival
- 2021
 - Prince Albert Music Festival
- 2018
 - Mainline & District Music Festival

Caroline Konecsni-Christie

Dysart, SK

Piano, Organ

Carol Konecsni-Christie was inspired by teachers Sr. Joan Miller and Sister Geraldine Boyle. Contact with the styles of numerous other influential keyboard, voice, and pedagogues helped to shape her musical education and prepare for the diplomas ARCT and LTCL. She opened her Regina studio in 1980. In addition, Carol currently commutes to her students' homes in the Fort Qu'Appelle and Balcarres area and teaches from her own home in Dysart.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2019
 - Lafleche & District Music Festival
 - Parkland & District Music Festival
- 2018
 - Carnduff & District Music Festival
 - Lanigan & District Music Festival
- 2017
 - Melfort Music Festival
 - Shaunavon & District Music Festival
 - Twin Rivers Music Festival
- 2016
 - Estevan & District Music Festival
 - Moosomin & District Music Festival
- 2015
 - Assiniboia Music Festival
 - Central Sask Music Festival
 - Prince Albert Music Festival
 - Rosetown & District Music Festival
 - Vanguard & District Music Festival



Tak Kwan

Ajax, ON

Strings

Tak Kwan, an award-winning musician born into a musical family with his father as a violin maker in Hong Kong, began playing the violin at age seven. He pursued his music studies across England, Canada, and the United States. Tak has served as Concertmaster for the Peterborough Symphony Orchestra (1996-2016) and the Northumberland Orchestra and Choir (2011-2022), and has performed as a soloist with various orchestras, including a notable performance for the Queen of England in Toronto in 2010. His solo performances, praised for their technical and emotional depth, have captivated large audiences, including 15,000 people in Toronto and Tampa, Florida. In 2023, he performed a solo during an intermission for 5,000 people, and his students performed national anthems at the AHL ceremony. Tak is recognized for his exceptional teaching, receiving the RCM Teacher Certificate of Recognition from 2020 to 2022 and has many students who achieved Gold Medals in RCM exams. He is an RCM Examination Officer, a member of the Examiner College, Music Director and Conductor of the Kawartha String Orchestra, and Founder and Music Director of the Lavender Chamber Ensemble. His contributions to music were acknowledged with the Best Music Instructor award in 2020, Platinum in Ajax Community Votes 2023, and the Canadian Choice Award 2024.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024

Regina Music Festival



Jennifer Lang

Saskatoon, SK

Choral

Dr. Jennifer Lang is an Associate Professor of Music Education, Director of Choral Activities, and the Acting ViceDean Academic in the College of Arts & Science at the University of Saskatchewan. She is a co-lead for the University of Saskatchewan's Signature Area in Health & Wellness and serves as the Pillar Lead for Music, Arts, and Wellbeing. She is the organizer of the Department of Music's Music Education in Action Series, the founder and organizer of the uSing uSask Choral Festival, the conductor of the Greystone Singers and the Founder and Artistic Director of Aurora Voce. Jennifer has been awarded the USSU Teaching Award (2020) and the Publicly Engaged Scholar Award for Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Work in the College of Arts & Science (2023). Jennifer's research examines engagement and agency in music education programs, including informal music learning in a variety of educational contexts, intergenerational singing programs, and language and music development for Newcomer Youth to Canada for which she holds several research grants. Jennifer is also active as a conductor, choral adjudicator, clinician and conference presenter. Her forthcoming edited book, Music and wellbeing in education and community contexts, presents a variety of contributed chapters exploring the intersections of music education and wellbeing. Dr. Lang has adjudicated most recently at the Saskatchewan Music Festival in Saskatoon and Regina in 2023; the Manitoba ChoralFest in 2022; Cantando Festival 2019 in Alberta; ChorFest 2019 in Saskatchewan; the Moose Jaw Band and Choral Festival 2019 in Moose Jaw Saskatchewan; ChoralFest North 2018 in Alberta; 2017 Cantando Sun Peaks Festival in British Columbia; and ChorFest 2016 in Saskatchewan. Before moving to the province of Saskatchewan, Jennifer taught high school music in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2023

Regina Music Festival

Saskatoon Music Festival

2019

Swift Current & District Music Festival



Sonia Lee

Vancouver, BC

Piano

Dr. Sonia Lee is an award-winning Canadian keyboardist, composer, scholar, educator, and arts advocate. As an artist and speaker she has appeared in more than eighteen countries on four continents. Her performances have been praised by critics as "masterly" (Aliénor News & Notes) and "full of elegance and expression" (Cleveland Classical). She is a laureate of the Mae & Irving Jurow International Harpsichord Competition, the Montréal Baroque Galaxie-CBC Rising Star Competition, the Canadian Music Competitions, and the American Musical Instrument Society William E. Gribbons Award. She holds advanced degrees in music from McGill University and the University of Illinois. Visit www.sonialeemusic.com.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2022

Canada West Performing Arts Festival

2016

Regina Music Festival



Rick Lett

Medicine Hat, AB

Band (and Band instruments), Guitar

Rick Lett is originally from North Battleford, Sask. He obtained a B. Mus/ Mus Ed. and a B.Ed. from the University of Saskatchewan. He spent 11 years with the Saskatoon Symphony, toured and recorded with the NewWest Brass Quintet, and attended Master classes with Dennis Miller, Abe Torchinsky, and others. He has taught at the U of S, in public schools from grades 4 to 12, and at Medicine Hat College, where he teaches brass and jazz improvisation. He performs regularly on Tuba and jazz guitar and bass, both as a soloist, and in a variety of ensembles.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2019
 - Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival
- 2018
 - Swift Current & District Music Festival
- 2016
 - Moose Jaw Music Festival
 - Rosetown & District Music Festival
 - Saskatoon Music Festival
- 2015
 - Kindersley & District Music Festival



Peggy L'Hoir

Biggar, SK

Piano

Peggy L'Hoir is an experienced and innovative teacher, mentor, clinician, collaborative artist and composer. Peggy holds an Associate Diploma in Piano Performance from Trinity College, London and has been sharing her enthusiasm for music with students, colleagues and friends for over four decades. Peggy embraces (and often instigates) many opportunities to create musical events in Biggar's Majestic Theatre, collaborating with musicians from near and far. Making music in new places, for diverse audiences, is an activity she enjoys with her students, colleagues and friends. She has worked with the local musical theatre group, New Creation Community Players as Musical Director since 2001. A catalyst for projects such as the SRMTA publication, From Prairie to Pine, Volumes 1 and 2, and CFMTA's Call for Compositions, Peggy is an avid supporter of Canadian music and composers.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - Moose Jaw Music Festival
 - Watrous & District Music Festival
- 2023
 - Regina Music Festival
 - Sask Valley Music Festival
- 2022
 - Twin Rivers Music Festival
- 2021
 - Prairie Sunset & District Music Festival
- 2019
 - Quill Plains Music Festival
 - Saskatoon Music Festival
 - Spiritwood & District Music Festival
- 2018
 - Central Sask Music Festival
 - Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival
- 2017
 - Kindersley & District Music Festival
 - Regina Music Festival
- 2016
 - Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival
 - La Ronge & District Music Festival
- 2015
 - Humboldt Music Festival
 - Twin Rivers Music Festival



Kathleen Lohrenz Gable

Saskatoon, SK

Piano

Kathleen Lohrenz Gable, originally from Prince Albert, began her music studies with Lyell Gustin in Saskatoon. She earned a Bachelor of Music from Wilfrid Laurier University, a Diploma in Lieder from the Franz Schubert Institute in Austria, a Fellowship from Trinity College in London, and a Master of Music in Accompanying and Chamber Music from the University of Michigan. Kathy has taught Piano and Piano Pedagogy at the University of Michigan, Interlochen National Music Camp, Wilfrid Laurier University, and the University of Windsor. Currently, she is a sessional instructor and Music Director for the Music Theatre Ensemble at the University of Saskatchewan. Since moving to Saskatchewan in 1994, she has worked with numerous opera companies and training programs, including Opera Nuova, Calgary Opera, and Saskatoon Symphony. Kathy has been on the faculty of Edmonton's Opera Nuova since 2004, collaborated with Western Young Artist winners, and performed and taught in China with her husband, Garry Gable. She was an official pianist for the World Saxophone Conference in Bangkok in 2009 and judged the National Piano Competition at the CFMTA convention in 2011, where she also performed and led workshops.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - Regina Music Festival
 - Sask Valley Music Festival
- 2022
 - Biggar & District Music Festival
- 2021
 - Quill Plains Music Festival
- 2019
 - Nipawin Music Festival
- 2018
 - Twin Rivers Music Festival
- 2017
 - Humboldt Music Festival
- 2015
 - Biggar & District Music Festival
 - Moose Jaw Music Festival



Nancy Loper

Caronport, SK

Voice, Musical Theatre, Choral

Nancy Loper dreamed of pursuing a singing career since childhood as she developed a love of music from her father. In 2020, Nancy graduated as the valedictorian from Briercrest College with a Bachelor of Arts in Music concentrating in Vocal Performance. Studying closely under Dr. Ron de Jager, she studied and performed a wide range of Mezzo-Soprano repertoire including musical theatre, opera, German lieder, French art song, Italian art song, and contemporary. Nancy has been working at Briercrest College since 2021 as an adjunct voice instructor and administrator for the Music Department. She enjoys teaching private lessons to both children and college students, and also loves being actively involved in organizing, assist directing, and performing in Briercrest Productions. Nancy lives in Caronport and enjoys keeping an active lifestyle alongside her husband.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - Eston Music Festival
 - Potashville Music Festival



Allison Luff

Regina, SK

Piano

Allison Luff returned to her hometown of Regina, SK, after pursuing piano performance studies which have taken her all over Canada, the United States, Germany, and Hungary. Allison completed a piano pedagogy specialization at the Kodály Institute of the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music in Keszckemét, Hungary in 2018. She is presently active in the music community as a soloist, collaborative pianist, and teacher.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2019
 - Mainline & District Music Festival
- 2017
 - Gravelbourg & District Bilingual Music Festival
 - Last Mountain & District Music Festival

2016
Redvers & District Music Festival
2015
Quill Plains Music Festival



Katrina MacKinnon

Saskatoon, SK

Piano

Katrina MacKinnon, a pianist, piano teacher, chorister, and choral director from North Battleford, Saskatchewan, earned her Master of Music Degree in Piano Performance from the University of Alberta in 2020 under Dr. Patricia Tao, where she also researched intermediate-level piano concerti with Eastern European folk idioms. She holds a Bachelor of Music from McGill University and an ARCT diploma in piano performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music. Katrina was the music director at McGill's Newman Centre and choir director at the People's Church of Montreal. She has performed at the Orford Summer Academy and Tuckamore Chamber Music Festival and is an active pianist in Saskatoon. As a chorister, she sings with the Saskatoon Chamber Choir and has performed with ensembles like the University of Alberta Madrigal Singers and Voces Boreales. Katrina runs a private piano studio in Saskatoon, is a member of the Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers' Association, and serves as the secretary of the Saskatoon branch. She has been involved with the Saskatoon Summer Academy for Voice and Piano (SAVP) since 2017, emphasizing high-quality music teaching and fostering a supportive, community-focused environment.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2023
Outlook & District Music Festival
Outlook & District Music Festival
Prairie Sunset & District Music Festival
2022
Maple Creek & District Music Festival



Chris MacRae

Calgary, AB

Voice

Christopher MacRae, praised for his musicality and "a beautiful and sonorous tenor voice," has performed widely across North America in both stage and concert settings. He earned a Doctor of Musical Arts in Vocal Performance from Boston University in 2015, following degrees from McGill University and the University of Calgary. MacRae's professional debut was in 2000 with Calgary Opera, and he has since appeared with companies such as Opera on the Avalon and the Toronto Summer Music Festival. His stage credits include roles in contemporary works like Owen Wingrave and Sweeney Todd, and he has performed major concert works including Orff's Carmina Burana and Beethoven's Symphony No. 9. A member of NATS, he currently serves as President of the Arkansas Chapter and has presented at various conferences. Recently, he was faculty at the University of Arkansas, receiving the 'Outstanding Mentor Award' three times, and has joined the University of Regina faculty as of Fall 2021.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024
Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival
2023
Weyburn Music Festival
2022
Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival



Chelsea Mahan

Dalmeny, SK

Vocal

Soprano Chelsea Mahan is celebrated for her charismatic stage presence and comedic talent, with praise for her memorable performances from La Presse and Star Phoenix. Known for her rich, ethereal tone and passionate interpretations, Ms. Mahan excels in both large concert settings and intimate performances in unconventional spaces like warehouses and abandoned churches. Her career includes appearances with La Compagnie Baroque Mont-Royal, Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra, Regina Symphony Orchestra, and others. She debuted with the SSO Main Stage Series as the soprano soloist for the North American premiere of Rebecca Dale's Materna Requiem. Additionally, she teaches vocal health at her private studio and as a Sessional Lecturer at the University of Saskatchewan. Ms. Mahan, who holds degrees from the University of Saskatchewan and McGill University, is also an active member of the improv comedy troupe SHEnanigans and engages in clowning and theatre in Saskatoon.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024
Sask Valley Music Festival
Unity Music Festival

- 2023
Rosetown & District Music Festival
- 2022
Quill Plains Music Festival
Sask Valley Music Festival
- 2021
Gravelbourg & District Bilingual Music Festival
- 2019
Sask Valley Music Festival



Dale Malden

Melfort, SK

Band, Instruments

Dale Malden started his musical training with the Moose Jaw Lions Band Program under the direction of Frank Connell. He started his teaching career with private music lessons in the Lions Band Program while in high school. Dale has been active as an adjudicator and clinician. He worked as Program Entry CoCoordinator for the Melfort Music Festival Association for the years 2002-2005. He has been the coordinator of the SBA Regional Band Camp in Prince Albert and served on the board of the SBA during his teaching career in many capacities. Dale was honored to receive the "Distinguished Band Director Award" from the SBA in 2011. In his retirement, Dale takes time for his hobbies of woodwork, photography, and travel. He also continues his love of band work, by playing in the Melfort Community Band, by being a substitute teacher, adjudicating, doing band clinics and teaching private lessons.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2021
Moose Jaw Music Festival
- 2018
Prince Albert Music Festival
- 2016
Humboldt Music Festival



Hannah Marple

Saskatoon, SK

Piano

Hannah is passionate about bringing music to life by nurturing a curiosity in students that connects with real life. She is a registered music teacher in Saskatoon and has been teaching piano and theory since 2008 to all ages of students, in schools and at her home studio. She received her ATCL performance diploma from the Trinity College of London in Vancouver in 2017, became an RCM Elementary Piano Specialist in 2019, and a certified Music For Young Children teacher in 2020. She continues to grow pursuing another diploma in piano pedagogy with Kathleen Lohrenz Gable, in addition to solo studies with Bonnie Nicholson. Besides teaching, Hannah has worked with youth at the Summer Academy for Voice and Piano, presented at the International Conference for Music For Young Children, serves on the Saskatoon Registered Music Teacher's board, and adjudicates for the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association. She thoroughly enjoys collaborating with other artists, choirs, and instruments, takes voice lessons and especially enjoys working together with her duet partner at the piano. She believes in creating and sharing an environment for students to discover how music is relevant in every day life. Away from the piano, Hannah is usually found outdoors – skiing, running or cycling along the South Saskatchewan River!

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
Outlook & District Music Festival
Prairie Sunset & District Music Festival
- 2023
Humboldt Music Festival
- 2021
Gravelbourg & District Bilingual Music Festival
Kindersley & District Music Festival
- 2019
Borderland Music Festival



Will Martin

Saskatoon, SK

Brass, Woodwind, Percussion

Will grew up in a musical family on the South Coast of England, learning trumpet from the age of 8 and later also taking up percussion. He spent his early musical career playing regularly in many different Wind Ensembles, Symphony Orchestras, Big Bands and Brass Bands before moving to Greater Manchester in 2001 to complete a B.A. Honours degree in music at the University of Salford, under the tutelage of Prof. David King, Peter Graham and Dr. Roy Newsome. Will moved to Canada in 2007 and now resides in Saskatoon where he works as a Band Director for the Prairie Spirit School Division, also teaching private Percussion and Brass Lessons and performing clinics across the province. Will has performed regularly with the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra, various other local ensembles and is the current Conductor in Residence with the Saskatoon Brass Band. Will set up Saskatoon's 'Bridge City Brass' directing from its inception in 2008, the Annual "Prairie Music Residency" for brass and percussion and the "Resonate" Student Music Conference with the Prairie Spirit Music Team.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2018
 - Kindersley & District Music Festival
- 2017
 - Rosetown & District Music Festival
- 2016
 - Prairie Sunset & District Music Festival
- 2015
 - Kipling & District Music Festival



Kim Mattice Wanat

Edmonton, AB

Voice, Musical Theatre

Kim Mattice Wanat is a performer, teacher and director. She founded Opera NUOVA in 1998 and has acted as the Artistic and Managing Director since its inception. She has produced and directed several of Opera NUOVA's productions including Smetana's The Bartered Bride, Offenbach's La Périchole, Britten's A Midsummer Night's Dream, the Canadian Première of Mark Adamo's Little Women and all of NUOVA's school touring productions, most notably, a Canada Council commissioned opera written by NUOVA alumnus Isaiah Bell entitled The Lives of Lesser Things. She has taught at the UAlberta in the Drama Department for 27 years and is presently pursuing a graduate degree in Directing. She regularly works as a clinician for voice and choral teachers and as a musical director for musical theatre productions. Her commitment to sharing her expertise with young singers, actors, teachers and choral directors has earned her extensive recognition including Global Edmonton Television's Woman of Vision Award, The City of Edmonton's Salute to Excellence in the Arts Award and The YWCA's Woman of Distinction in Arts and Culture Award. She has written and published a vocal pedagogy book entitled, Unleashing the Expressive Resonant Voice.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - Opera Competition
 - Saskatoon Music Festival
- 2021
 - Saskatoon Music Festival
- 2018
 - Regina Music Festival
- 2015
 - Saskatoon Music Festival



Wendy Zander McCallum

Brandon, MB

Band, Brass, Woodwind, Percussion

Dr. Wendy Zander McCallum is the Instrumental Music Education Specialist and director of the Symphonic Band at Brandon University where she teaches courses in music education and conducting. She has conducted junior high and high school regional, provincial and state honor bands, presented at provincial and international music conferences, and has worked as a solo and ensemble adjudicator and clinician for concert and jazz ensembles in Canada and the United States. She is an Educational Clinician for the Conn-Selmer Division of Education. McCallum, active as a conductor and clinician, investigates areas related to teaching and learning, conducting, and instrumental literature as curriculum in the music classroom.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2021
 - Saskatoon Music Festival



James McCarthy
Percussion, Band

Saskatoon, SK

Jim McCarthy is a freelance musician with over 25 years’ professional experience with performing, composing, arranging for bands, studio production, teaching and instrument building. He graduated from the University of Adelaide in 1996 with a Masters degree in Music Performance – Percussion. Jim recently completed his 21st annual tour in Australia, performing for *Musica Viva In Schools* and continues to give masterclasses and clinics each year. He has also performed with the “*Lights*” *New Music Ensemble*, the *Adelaide Wind Orchestra*, *R@taque Percussion Duo*, the *Adelaide Percussion Quartet*, and occasionally with the *State Theatre Company of SA* and the *Melbourne Philharmonic Orchestra*. Since 1988, Jim has held positions working with individuals and ensembles in thirteen schools and universities, written two books on drumming technique and is currently working on the development of marimba/vibraphone video tutorials for the *Percussion KEYS* website where he also delivers a series of critiques of YouTube video performances each month.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - Kindersley & District Music Festival
 - Yorkton Music Festival
- 2023
 - Biggar & District Music Festival
 - Melfort Music Festival
 - Rosetown & District Music Festival
- 2022
 - Meadow Lake & District Music Festival
 - Qu'Appelle Valley Music Festival
- 2021
 - Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival
 - Estevan & District Music Festival
 - Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival
 - Prince Albert Music Festival
- 2019
 - Humboldt Music Festival
 - Weyburn Music Festival
- 2018
 - Biggar & District Music Festival
 - Meadow Lake & District Music Festival
- 2017
 - Kindersley & District Music Festival
 - Saskatoon Music Festival



Adria McCulloch
Voice, Musical Theatre, Speech Arts

Regina, SK

Critically acclaimed soprano, Adria McCulloch holds a Master of Music degree from the University of Maryland Opera Studio and a Bachelor of Music Performance degree from the University of Regina. She has performed on concert and operatic stages across North America including Kennedy Center and Lincoln Center and has recorded for NAXOS. As the Musical Director and performer of *My Virtual Dream*, Adria regularly collaborates with artists and scientists to create exciting new works fusing art, entertainment and research. Ms. McCulloch teaches professional and amateur singers and actors, lecturers, teachers and CEOs across the country and presents vocal masterclasses in Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2022
 - Biggar & District Music Festival
 - Mainline & District Music Festival
- 2021
 - Moosomin & District Music Festival
 - Saskatoon Music Festival
- 2019
 - Mainline & District Music Festival
 - Rosetown & District Music Festival
- 2018
 - Kipling & District Music Festival
 - Potashville Music Festival



Daniel McElroy

Caronport, SK

Voice, Musical Theatre, Choir, Speech Arts, Piano

Born and raised in Saskatchewan, Daniel McElroy is completing his MMus: Vocal Performance degree at the University of Regina where he studies with Dr. Ron de Jager. He graduated from Briercrest College and Seminary in 2020 with a BA Music: Vocal Performance. A prolific performer, his recent roles include Perchik (Fiddler on the Roof), Figaro (Le Nozze di Figaro), and Adam (Seven Brides for Seven Brothers). Having grown up competing in SMFA festivals, Daniel has received awards such as the Hardwicke Memorial Grade A Vocal Scholarship (Regina Music Festival), Thomas and Donald Hatton Vocal Award (Regina Music Festival), and Goodfellow Memorial Senior Oratorio Scholarship (SMFA Provincial Music Festival). In 2022, he took first place in the Moose Jaw Arts in Motion Sylvia Wilson Vocal Competition. Daniel completed his Grade 9 RCM piano exam in 2017. He teaches voice, piano, music theory, musical theatre, and choir with the Briercrest Conservatory of the Performing Arts and has extensive experience with students from the elementary to college levels. He's delighted to help the next generation of young musicians realize their potential!

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024

Outlook & District Music Festival



Carol McFadden

Waldheim, SK

Piano, voice, choral

Carol McFadden's private teaching activities have included the subjects of piano, voice, rudiments, basic harmony, history, musicianship, and keyboard harmony to all ages of students. She has conducted workshops for various choirs and for the Royal Conservatory. Ms. McFadden has contributed to the RCM as a theory examiner and is currently enjoying returning to remote practical examining. She has also adjudicated events for ORMTA, Kiwanis and Rotary Music festivals and NATS. Ms. McFadden has given various collaborative performances, with singers from every musical genre. She has performed on keyboard in pit orchestras for regional and community theatre companies, and sung on recordings as a back-up singer. Carol McFadden has participated in professional and regional theatre in the role of Musical Director, and created numerous musical arrangements for theatrical compilations. She has extensive experience as a Director of Music and Arts for various church denominations. She was Founding Director of Centre Wellington Singers from 1996 to 2003, during which time they recorded a CD, has served on the board of Da Capo Chamber Singers in Waterloo, ON and founded a global song choir 'Inshallah – London' in 2017. Recently, she has moved to Saskatchewan and looks forward to enjoying and discovering the rich cultural opportunities in this province.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024

Assiniboia Music Festival

2023

Quill Plains Music Festival



Deborah McGladdery

Penticton, BC

Speech Arts

Deborah McGladdery, involved in Speech Arts since age seven, studied under Wilfrid Ord at the Victoria School of Expression. She holds an Education certificate from UVIC, an associate's diploma in Speech and Drama from Mount Royal College, and has been designated a Speech and Drama Specialist by the Royal Conservatory. After over ten years in public school teaching, Deborah spent 25 years running Rainbow Kids' Theatre in Prince George, BC, coaching up to 100 students annually and running a summer 'Production Camp'. Now based in Penticton, she actively engages with local and provincial festival organizations, adjudicates for festivals across Canada, and examines for both the Royal Conservatory and the International Schools Association. Deborah is also on the faculty at The Penticton Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024

Provincial Festival



David L. McIntyre

Piano, Choral, Organ

Regina, SK

For 40 years David L. McIntyre has been making music in Regina, as a pianist, organist, conductor and composer. His long association with the Regina Symphony Orchestra included a 3 year composer residency and witnessed the creation of his first Symphony, Piano Concerto, Violin Concerto and several orchestral overtures. His commissioned piano pieces for the Eckhardt-Gramatté (2004) and Montreal International (2011) competition continue to draw world-wide attention. His finely nuanced vocal, choral, organ, piano, instrumental and chamber works are published through Roy Street Music and included in the syllabi of several Conservatory and Festivals. David continues to perform and fulfill public and private commissions for artists and musical organizations from across Canada. He loves birding, architecture, literature, gardening and cooking.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2019
 - Outlook & District Music Festival
- 2017
 - Borderland Music Festival
- 2015
 - Watrous & District Music Festival



Daryl McKinnon

Band, Choir

Regina, SK

Mr. McKinnon has been teaching guitar, Vocal Jazz, Chamber Choir, Choral music, yearly musicals, Concert Band, Jazz Band and small ensemble band since 1982. He holds a B. Mus. Ed. from the University of Regina, a Diploma of Fine Arts (wind ensemble repertoire) from the University of Calgary, and he has also taken after-degree courses in conducting from the University of Alberta. Mr. McKinnon has participated in many professional development opportunities, including several years at the Canadian Rocky Mountain Music Festival at Banff in the teacher development program. Mr. McKinnon has served on several boards in the arts, including SMEA, SBA, SMFA, SCF, and the Moose Jaw Kinsmen International Band and Choral Festival.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - Biggar & District Music Festival
 - Meadow Lake & District Music Festival
- 2023
 - Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival
 - Potashville Music Festival
- 2022
 - Saskatoon Music Festival
 - Saskatoon Music Festival
- 2018
 - Qu'Appelle Valley Music Festival
- 2017
 - Nipawin Music Festival



Scott McKnight

Strings

Saskatoon, SK

Cellist Scott McKnight is an active performer in Saskatoon, playing as a member of the Saskatoon Symphony, Elixir Ensemble, and Prairie Virtuosi. In addition to performing he maintains a private studio, teaches with the Saskatoon Suzuki String Program and co-directs Sistema Saskatoon. Scott holds a master of music degree in cello performance (University of Ottawa), a bachelor of music in cello performance and a chamber diploma (Wilfrid Laurier University).

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2023
 - Melfort Music Festival
- 2021
 - Nipawin Music Festival
- 2019
 - Prince Albert Music Festival



Spencer McKnight

Outlook, SK

Voice

Tenor Spencer McKnight, praised as “one of the finest tenor voices” in Canada, began singing at 17 after encouragement from a music festival adjudicator. Known for his passion for the works of Handel, Rossini, and Britten, McKnight has gained significant recognition, including multiple national awards and the 2018 Gordon C. Wallis Opera Competition. Despite being early in his career, he has performed a diverse oratorio repertoire and has engaged with the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras. Recently, Spencer toured with his recital program "Songs of the Great War," featuring World War One era songs and Canadian premieres of works by William Dennis Browne. He initially studied with Lisa Hornung and now trains with Toronto-based vocal pedagogue Mark Daboll.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - Lafleche & District Music Festival
 - Nipawin Music Festival
- 2023
 - Swift Current & District Music Festival
- 2022
 - Yorkton Music Festival
- 2021
 - Moose Jaw Music Festival



Dawn McLean Belyk

Saskatoon, SK

Concert Band, Jazz Band, Brass

Dawn McLean Belyk is currently the Bass Trombonist with the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra, the Saskatoon Jazz Orchestra, the Saskatoon Symphony Low Brass Ensemble, and the Saskatchewan Brass Quintet. She also teaches Low Brass at the University of Saskatchewan, both undergrad and grad students and is a sessional lecturer in Music Education. Active as a Low Brass Specialist, she has a growing studio at home, and teaches clinics throughout the province. Dawn has adjudicated bands in Alberta and Saskatchewan, and has received the Dwaine Nelson Award for Teaching Excellence at the U of S in 2006, the Saskatoon Preschool Foundation Champion of Children Award in 2009, the Saskatchewan Band Association Distinguished Band Director Award in 2013, and in 2022 received the Saskatchewan Music Educators Association Outstanding Achievement Award.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - Prince Albert Music Festival
- 2023
 - Nipawin Music Festival
- 2022
 - Kindersley & District Music Festival
 - Saskatoon Music Festival
- 2019
 - Saskatoon Music Festival
- 2018
 - Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival
- 2017
 - Moose Jaw Music Festival

Dean McNeill

Saskatoon, SK

Brass, Woowinds, Band, Jazz Band

Canadian trumpet player/composer Dean McNeill has been a Professor of Brass & Jazz at the University of Saskatchewan for the past 20 years over which time he has performed and adjudicated throughout Canada and the United States, won numerous performance-based and teaching awards, and, been recorded and/or produced over 15 CDs. Dean was honored to be the guest soloist on a National Youth Band of Canada (Saskatchewan tour) and on the Western Canadian Music Awards award winning CD O Music. Dean is currently the Artistic Director of the Saskatoon Jazz Orchestra and is a Yamaha trumpet and Wedge mouthpiece performing artist. For more information visit: <http://artsandscience.usask.ca/profile/DMcNeill#/profile> or deanmcneill.com.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2022
 - Canada West Performing Arts Festival



Maria Medlow

Calgary, AB

Violin, Piano

Originally from Argentina, Maria grew up playing the violin and piano before moving to Canada, where she studied at the Senior Academy at Mount Royal Conservatory with Lise Elson, Cenek Vbra, and John Lowry, and completed her ARCT certification in both instruments. She continued her music performance studies at the University of Calgary under Edmond Agopian. An active member of the Calgary Musicians Association, Maria serves as the Registration Chair for the Cochrane Youth Talent Festival and is on the Board of Directors for the Alberta Music Education Foundation. Her performance credits include solo and chamber concerts with the Calgary Opera, Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Red Deer Symphony, Metropolitan Opera of New York, and Cirque Du Soleil, and she played with Michael Bubl  on his 2014 Canada Tour. She was featured in the CBC Television special for the Canadian Country Music Awards. Maria runs a successful private studio in Calgary, with students who have achieved high placements and awards, and she prepares them for admission to classical string programs across North America. She remains actively involved as a teacher, adjudicator, and performer, hosting concerts and fundraisers for various charities. Maria resides in Calgary with her husband and son Lucas.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - Saskatoon Music Festival
- 2023
 - Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival
 - Shurniak Concerto Competition
- 2022
 - Regina Music Festival
- 2018
 - Saskatoon Music Festival



Brett Mitchell

Caronport, SK

Voice, Musical Theatre, Choir

Brett Everett Mitchell holds a Masters Degree in Music in classical voice performance from the University of Montana. He currently works as a voice teacher and instructor at Briercrest College. He conducts the mass choir and teaches musicianship, musical theatre, acting, and private voice lessons. He also directs the Briercrest Conservatory for the Performing Arts Musical Theatre program, mentoring and teaching young performers. Brett is proud to be involved in the arts in Saskatchewan. He is heavily involved in Briercrest's Christmas celebration which boasts over four thousand in ticket sales every holiday season. He also plays a large role in Briercrest Summer Stage, which has been steadily growing in popularity since its inception in 2010. His directing credits include Menotti's Old Maid and the Thief for Briercrest College in 2016 and for the University of Montana's Opera Theatre in 2015. Brett strives to bring the musical arts to life in Saskatchewan and is passionate about the opportunities for excellent singing in the prairie provinces.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2021
 - Prairie Sunset & District Music Festival
- 2019
 - Lanigan & District Music Festival
 - Melfort Music Festival
 - Potashville Music Festival
- 2018
 - Watrous & District Music Festival



Terri-Lynn Mitchell

Saskatoon, SK

Voice, Musical Theatre, Speech Arts, Choir, Piano

Terri-Lynn Mitchell is a soprano, artist, collaborative pianist, choir director and private voice, piano and theory teacher based in Saskatoon, SK. She has a Masters of Music in Voice Performance from the University of Ottawa, as well as an Artist Diploma in Voice Performance and a Bachelor of Music (Honours) in Voice Performance from the University of Western Ontario. Terri-Lynn also has an ARCT in Piano Performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - Humboldt Music Festival
- 2023
 - Moosomin & District Music Festival

2022
Central Sask Music Festival
Twin Rivers Music Festival
2019
Prairie Sunset & District Music Festival
2018
Melfort Music Festival
Yorkton Music Festival
2017
Weyburn Music Festival

Melissa Morgan

Choir, Voice

Regina, SK



Dr. Melissa Morgan is the Assistant Professor of Choral Music at the University of Regina, where she conducts the Chamber Singers and Concert Choir and teaches vocal diction and choral conducting. An active conductor, she frequently serves as a clinician, adjudicator, and guest conductor across Canada. Previously, she was the Pfeifer Memorial Chair of Music at Luther College High School and founded the Prairie Chamber Choir. Dr. Morgan has published articles in *Teaching Music through Performance in Choir*, the *Canadian Music Educators Journal*, and *Choral Journal*. Her recording, *Wake the Grain: Choral Art Music from the Prairies*, celebrates Prairie composers and is available on Spotify and Apple Music. Named one of CBC Saskatchewan's Future 40 under 40 in 2017, her choirs have won numerous awards and performed with the Regina Symphony Orchestra, at Lincoln Center, and various music festivals. Dr. Morgan holds a Doctorate of Music Performance in Choral Conducting from the University of Toronto, a Master of Music Performance from the University of Western Ontario, and degrees from the University of Regina, along with ARCT certifications in piano, voice, and flute.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024
Borderland Music Festival
2021
Yorkton Music Festival
2019
Weyburn Music Festival
2018
Moose Jaw Music Festival
2017
Carnduff & District Music Festival

Sofia Mycyk

Piano

Saskatoon, SK



On the world stage, Dr. Sofia Mycyk has performed as soloist with orchestras in the United States and Canada, and has been featured at the Landowska Harpsichord Society in Chicago, Thursday Musical series in Minneapolis, at the Dekker Centre in North Battleford, the Lyell Gustin Recital Series, and the Ritornello Chamber Music Festival in Saskatoon. Recent performance highlights for Dr. Mycyk include the Lakes Area Music Festival, PianoFest in the Hamptons, LOFTrecital concerts in Minneapolis, and performing Colin McPhee's Piano Concerto in Ted Mann Concert Hall, as winner of the concerto competition. This January Sofia collaborated with soprano Katya Khartova in a recital entitled "Ukrainian Art Song on a Starlit Night" presented and live-streamed by the Saskatoon Opera. This spring she taught a series of online classes entitled 'On Bach's Time - His Life in Music' presented by the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra. With the generous support of the Shevchenko Foundation, Worobetz Foundation and Ukrainian Canadian Congress, she released her first album entitled Hutsulian Watercolours in 2018, featuring solo piano music by Ukrainian composers. In 2015 Sofia was the répétiteur for the Saskatoon Opera's production of Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*, following the previous year's engagement as Music Director for the Saskatoon Opera tour of Dean Burry's *The Brother's Grimm*. Last spring Sofia graduated with a Doctorate in the Musical Arts in Piano Performance from the University of Minnesota where she held a Teaching Assistantship in Collaborative Piano. Her teachers have included Dr. Timothy Lovelace, Dr. Michael Kim and Bonnie Nicholson. Besides playing the piano, Sofia loves the great outdoors, running, reading and staying in touch with family and friends. She resides in Saskatoon, teaching, performing and collaborating. Her studio encompasses a full range of students from beginner to advanced levels, and includes theory and chamber music instruction.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024
Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival
Twin Rivers Music Festival
2023
Sand Hills Music Festival

Marilyn Neumann

Arranged Popular Piano

Marilyn began her music career at the Academy of Music under the direction of Sharon Dykman. After 9 years of teaching she moved to La Ronge where she started a home music business and continued there for 33 years. Marilyn has taught piano, organ, guitar and theory to hundreds of students. She has enjoyed arranging music for students at all levels of expertise and creating sequenced music for many of those arrangements. She has also prepared many students for Conservatory theory and practical exams and, has mentored student teachers. Presently, Marilyn is retired. She spends her winters in warmer climates and is enjoying her time with her new grand child. She wishes all the performers good luck and hopes that everyone leaves the festival feeling positive and encouraged.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2022

La Ronge & District Music Festival



Janet Nichol

Edmonton, AB

Musical Theatre, Voice, Choir, Speech Arts

Janet Nichol is a seasoned vocal teacher, clinician, and performer with a diverse recital repertoire spanning classical, musical theatre, pop, and jazz. She holds a Music Degree in Vocal Performance from the University of Alberta and furthered her studies at Mannes College of Music, the Mozarteum in Salzburg, and Oberlin College. Her operatic roles include Gretel in Hansel and Gretel, Suzanna in The Marriage of Figaro, Frasquita in Carmen, Mimi in La Boheme, and Yum-Yum in The Mikado. In musical theatre, she has portrayed Rose in Song of Singapore, Queen Victoria in Poppy, and Emily in Wings. Janet taught at Grant MacEwan University for over 25 years, directing more than 50 musical productions and serving as Vocal Director. She has been a National Board member of The National Association of Teachers of Singing, a Past President of the North Central Alberta Chapter of NATS, and a Vocal Advisor with the Edmonton Kiwanis Music Festival Board. Currently, she directs vocals for the St. Albert Children's Theatre, maintains a private studio, and adjudicates at music festivals across British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2023

Regina Music Festival

2019

Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival

2018

Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival

2017

Saskatoon Music Festival

2015

Regina Music Festival

Nancy Nowosad

Winnipeg, MB

Piano, Organ, Woodwinds, Brass

Nancy Nowosad received her musical training in Saskatchewan, and holds an Associateship Diploma in Piano Performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music and a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from the University of Regina. Her teachers have included Dorothy Bee and Dr. Lyell Gustin. She also studied both saxophone and flute, and has been involved in a wide variety of bands and ensembles as a performer, clinician, and conductor. Nancy has had a diverse musical career while living in various Canadian centres as well as in Germany and England, including private teaching, performing as a soloist and collaborative pianist, playing in and/or conducting pit orchestras, and church organist and choir director positions. Since moving to Winnipeg in 1991, she has been an active teacher of piano, saxophone and theory, as well as a workshop/masterclass clinician, an adjudicator for music festivals and competitions in Canada, and an examiner for the Royal Conservatory of Music in Canada and the US, working both remotely and in person. Nancy has been the main facilitator of Associated Manitoba Arts Festivals' Adjudicator Training for many years, sharing her knowledge and experience with numerous participants who have become active and well respected adjudicators. She also serves as a Presiding Examiner for RCM's Adjudicator Certification Program, and provides mentorship to new teachers, adjudicators and examiners. She is a member of the Manitoba Registered Music Teachers' Association where she has held various Executive positions, as well as a member of the Canadian Music Festival Adjudicators' Association.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024

Saskatoon Music Festival

2021

Regina Music Festival

2015

Carnduff & District Music Festival

Saskatoon Music Festival



Eric Nyland

Calgary, AB

Piano, Speech Arts

Eric Nyland, a pianist with ARCT and LRCM certifications and an actor with a BFA and CAEA membership, has worked professionally in theatre, film, voiceover, music, and music pedagogy across Canada, and has performed student recitals in Cremona, Italy. He operates a private teaching studio in Calgary and is a member of the Canadian Music Festival Adjudicators' Association. His studies include work with Dr. Lillian Upright, Dr. Irena Kofman, and Linda Kundert, and masterclasses with Dr. Jennifer Snow, Dr. Jacques Despres, and Dr. Ludmilla Lazar. Eric has developed and taught courses at Mount Royal University, served as musical director for The Kinkonauts and One Lions (winner of Best Show at the Vancouver International Improv Festival, 2016), and performed as a soloist in Beethoven's First Piano Concerto with the Calgary Arts Orchestra in 2015. In 2016, he was composer, music director, and lead actor in The Moonlight Sonata of Beethoven Blatz for the Station Arts Centre. Eric won the 2013 Jack Friedenberg Memorial Scholarship and was nominated for Outstanding Actor in a Play by the Calgary Theatre Critics' Awards in 2015 for Butcher.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2022

Saskatoon Music Festival



Judith Oatway

Winnipeg, MB

Voice, Musical Theatre

Winnipeg Soprano, Judith Oatway, has a passion for singing displayed in her commitment to performance and vocal education. Her performances have been described as '...polished and dramatic...' (Opera Composer Blog).. Judith serves as a sessional instructor at the Canadian Mennonite University and University of Manitoba Desautels Faculty of Music teaching voice and vocal pedagogy. Judith co-founded the Summer Music Academy at the Community School of Music & the Arts at CMU, a summer program for young singers in Winnipeg. She has served on the boards of the Associated Manitoba Arts Festivals and the MB Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing. Judith holds a Master's in Literature and Music Performance from the University of Western Ontario. Recent performance highlights include a Manitoba tour of the music of John Greer and La Ciesca (Gianni Schicchi). Past performances include Zwei Dame (Die Zauberflöte), Magda Sorel (The Consul), Mother (Hansel & Gretel), Anne Maurrant (Street Scene) and Donna Elvira (Don Giovanni). She has performed with Manitoba Underground Opera, The Little Opera Company, Kitchener Opera, and the Halifax Summer Opera, among others. As a co-founder and Artistic Director of Flipside Opera & Art Song Collective, an independent vocal music organization, Judith believes the future of vocal arts is alive and well in Manitoba.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024

Saskatoon Music Festival

2023

Moose Jaw Music Festival



Darrin Oehlerking

Saskatoon, SK

Band

Dr. Darrin Oehlerking is Director of Bands and Associate Professor of Music at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, Canada, where he conducts the Wind Orchestra, and teaches courses in Conducting, Wind Literature and Music Education. Under his direction, the U of S Wind Orchestra has performed at the 2015 WASBE Conference in San Jose, and performed a European tour in 2013. He previously served as Director of Bands and Jazz at Bemidji State University in Bemidji, Minnesota, and as Music Coordinator for the Louis Riel School Division in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Dr. Oehlerking earned his DMA in Wind Conducting at The University of Iowa, where he studied with Dr. Myron Welch. He earned his Masters in Music Performance with an emphasis in Conducting, as well as separate Bachelors degrees in Music and Education from the University of Manitoba. Dr. Oehlerking is the President of the Canadian Band Association and a Past President of the Saskatchewan Band Association. He is also a member of several other professional organizations, including the College Band Directors National Association, WASBE and Pi Kappa Lambda. He has served as an adjudicator, guest conductor, clinician and conference presenter in Canada, the United States, England, and Germany. He is currently on sabbatical, conducting research on the history of the bands of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, as well as the wind band works of Canadian composer Charles O'Neill.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2019

Moose Jaw Music Festival

2018

Saskatoon Music Festival

2017

Meadow Lake & District Music Festival



Michael Oike

Winnipeg, MB

Piano

Pianist Michael Oike enjoys a busy and diverse musical life in his hometown Winnipeg, Manitoba. For over 30 years he has taught piano to students of all ages, given workshops and masterclasses, and adjudicated at music festivals all across Canada. Michael performs in chamber music ensembles and as vocal and instrumental pianist. Michael's training includes solo piano studies with Alice Nakauchi & Sydney McInnis, in Toronto with Boris Lysenko where he received the University of Toronto Forsythe Scholarship as the outstanding graduating pianist. In addition, Michael was fortunate to work with the renowned pedagogue Jeaneane Dowis at her New York studio and twice as a chamber music fellow at the Waterloo Festival (Princeton University), and seminars with Rudolf Jansen and Martin Isepp (Aldeburgh School in England and Academy of Singing at Banff), two of the leading pianists in the field of vocal accompanying. Away from music Michael enjoys golfing, curling, biking, cheering for the Jets, Raiders and Blue Jays, and tinkering in the kitchen perfecting his blueberry pies, butter tarts and sushi.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - Saskatoon Music Festival
- 2022
 - Canada West Performing Arts Festival
 - Provincial Festival
- 2018
 - Provincial Festival
- 2015
 - Yorkton Music Festival



Janna Olson

Edmonton, AB

Piano

Originally from Three Hills, Alberta, Janna Olson holds degrees in church music and piano performance and a Masters in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Alberta where she studied with Janet Scott-Hoyt. She is also certified in Piano and Early Childhood Music with the Gordon Institute for Music Learning. Performing, adjudicating, and giving workshops have provided diverse opportunities for her to share her love of music in Canada, the United States and Europe. Janna currently resides in Edmonton teaching privately and as a sessional instructor at The King's University. She is on the faculty of the Gordon Institute for Music Learning and is passionate about connecting piano pedagogy with recent research on how the musical mind works. She enjoys playing chamber music and frequently performs piano duet and duo repertoire as well as performances with string players. An outdoors enthusiast Janna spends time hiking, skiing, running and occasionally playing hockey.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2019
 - Saskatoon Music Festival



Oxana Ossiptchouk

Saskatoon, SK

Strings

Oxana Ossiptchouk was educated in North Ossetiya, Russia, where she received a Master's degree at the Sergey Rachmaninov State Conservatory in Rostov-on-Don in Violin Solo Performance, Orchestral Performance and Chamber Music. She was the winner of several competitions in Russia, performing the Mendelssohn Concerto with the North Ossetiya Republic Symphony Orchestra, and the Brahms violin concerto with the Rostov-on-Don Philharmonic Orchestra. In Canada, Oxana won the Saskatchewan Concerto Competition and performed the Szymanowsky Concerto with the Saskatoon and Regina Symphonies. She has also been an orchestral member of the Timmins and Regina Symphonies, and is presently Principal Second Violinist of the Saskatoon Symphony and performs with the Saskatoon Symphony Chamber Players and Elixir. She is the founder and Director of the Saskatoon Conservatory of Music.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - Melfort Music Festival
- 2018
 - Melfort Music Festival
 - Sask Valley Music Festival

Band, Woodwind, Brass, Percussion

Larry Pearen, a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan and University of Regina is the founding director of both the Yorkton Community Concert and ALL THAT JAZZ Big Bands. A clinician, adjudicator, and educator, Mr. Pearen was responsible for all bands at the Yorkton Regional High School until his retirement in 2003. His concert and jazz bands were award winners at local, provincial and Musicfest National Finals. His school bands have traveled extensively throughout Canada and the United States performing in the 1998 Tournament of Roses Parade, Pasadena, Disneyland, and Universal Studios California, MGM Theme Park in Las Vegas, Disney World, and Universal Studios Florida as well as in four Canadian Football League Grey Cup Pre Game and Half Time Shows. Mr. Pearen is a past president of the Canadian Band Association, the Saskatchewan Band Association, former CBA National Youth Band of Canada manager and coordinated a junior band camp for eleven years. He was awarded an Honorary Life membership in the Phi Beta Mu International Bandmasters Fraternity in Chicago and was awarded an Honorary Life Membership in the Canadian Band Association with the CBA National Music Award for his work and leadership with bands in Canada

Larry and his wife Sonia, a retired pharmacist, have two married daughters and enjoy their five grandchildren.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2023

Saskatoon Music Festival

2022

Weyburn Music Festival

2019

Saskatoon Music Festival

**Voice, Choral, Speech Arts**

Casey Peden holds a Master of Music in Vocal Performance and a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of Alberta. Her professional development continued through Tafelmusik's Baroque Summer Institute, the Early Music Vancouver Vocal Summer School and private lessons. Ms. Peden's teachers include Linda Perillo, Harold Wiens, Ellen Hargis, and Lisa Hornung. Ms. Peden has been heard as a soloist with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, Pro Coro Canada, Madrigal Singers, Alberta College Womens Choir, Da Camera Singers, Schola Cantorum, the Dutch Renaissance Ensemble Verboden Frucht and recently with the Saskatoon Symphony Chamber Orchestra. She has been the soprano soloist in Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Mozart's *Coronation Mass*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Bach's *Magnificat*, *Christmas Oratorio*, and *Coffee Cantata*, Vaughn William's *Serenade to Music*, Rutter's *Requiem*, Allegri's *Miserere*, and Haydn's *Missa Sancti Nicolai*. Her most recent engagement was as the soprano soloist in Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* with the Laurentian University Choir, under the direction of Robert Hall. In addition to her recital singing, Casey has been giving duet recitals with contralto Lisa Hornung, staying active with her studio, adjudicating, and volunteering with the Community Youth Choir in North Battleford. She is also part of the teaching team for the Summer School for the Solo Voice, a week-long summer intensive vocal camp for singers and choristers of all levels. Casey lives with her husband and two sons on the family ranch near Glaslyn, Saskatchewan.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2022

Moose Jaw Music Festival

2021

Sask Valley Music Festival

2019

Regina Music Festival

2018

Biggar & District Music Festival

Hafford & District Music Festival

2017

Melfort Music Festival

Saskatoon Music Festival

2016

Unity Music Festival



Cynthia Peyson Wahl

Regina, SK

Choir

Cynthia Peyson Wahl is a graduate of the University of Regina and Grant MacEwan University in Edmonton. She currently teaches choir, jazz choir and Musical Theatre at Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute (DMCI) in Winnipeg and directs jazz choir Wholly Jazz at Canadian Mennonite University. At DMCI, her jazz choir, DMCice, has been a featured performer at the Moose Jaw Band and Choral Festival and Choralfest Manitoba, has opened for Cadence, has sung onstage with M-Pact, and received a Gold Award for Superior Performance at MusicFest Canada. In 2010 DMCice was a featured performer at the biennial Podium conference in Saskatoon and in 2011 DMCice was featured in its own showcase concert at the Canadian Rocky Mountain Festival in Banff. In 2013 her Chamber Choir was featured in its own showcase concert, again at the Canadian Rocky Mountain Festival. Her concert choirs have won numerous awards, including the Earl Grey Trophy for outstanding choral performance of the Winnipeg Music Festival (2011, 2012), and the Lieutenant Governor's Trophy for most outstanding performance of the Winnipeg Music Festival (2011). In 2012, she was the recipient of the Michael J. Proudfoot award for "passion and excellence" in choral teaching. Mrs. Peyson Wahl performs regularly as a vocalist and a flautist, and adjudicates and guest conducts frequently around Canada and the US.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024

Regina Music Festival



Naomi Piggott-Suchan

Saskatoon, SK

Piano

Naomi Piggott-Suchan graduated in April 2009 with honours from McGill University's Master of Accompanying program where she studied collaborative performance under Professor Michael McMahon. She has been working for the past eight years as a professional pianist for McGill University's Voice Department, where she coached graduate and undergraduate vocalists in opera and Lieder repertoire, singing diction, musical style, languages (French, English, German and Italian), and ensemble. Ms. Suchan was also a frequent recitalist at McGill and throughout the Montreal area. In May 2017, Ms. Suchan relocated to Saskatoon, SK with her husband Paul and their daughter, Evelyn, where she continues her collaborative work at the University of Saskatchewan and teaches privately. Upcoming performances in Saskatoon include the 2017/2018 Baroque Series with the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra and numerous collaborative recitals.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2023

Nipawin Music Festival

Spiritwood & District Music Festival

2019

Eston Music Festival

2018

Gravelbourg & District Bilingual Music Festival



Brent Pittman

Saskatoon, SK

Bands, Brass, Woodwind

Brent is currently retired having spent 37 years of teaching in the music room. He has worked for two different school divisions: Arcola School Division from 1986-1989 and Saskatoon Public School Division from 1989 to June 2023. During his 34 years with the SPSP Brent has taught in thirteen elementary schools and two High schools (Walter Murray Collegiate and Aden Bowman Collegiate). During university Brent received the R.J. Staples award at the U of S (based on academic achievement and the student's contribution in performing areas and groups within the Department of Music.), and in 2014 received the Saskatchewan Band Association Distinguished Band Directors award (Recognition of outstanding contribution to band, strong musical leadership and constant promotion of musical excellence) He has performed with several community groups over the years and has been a guest conductor and clinician throughout Saskatchewan, SBA summer camps, Alberta International Band Festival in Calgary and SMC conferences. He directed the Junior Summer Band Camp for five years in Saskatoon during the late 90's. And is currently the Coordinator for the Junior North Provincial Honour Band.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024

Sask Valley Music Festival



Oleg Pokhanovski

Strings, Piano

Winnipeg, MB

Oleg Pokhanovski is active as a chamber musician and has appeared in the International Virtuosi Series in Germany, Domaine Forget in Quebec, Centara New Music, Agassiz Summer Chamber Music, Orford and Pender Harbour Music festivals in Canada. He is a Founder and Artistic Director of the "Oleg and Friends" concert series in Winnipeg. Pokhanovski is also a very accomplished pianist. He has been performing both violin and piano concertos with symphony orchestras in the same concert, as well as playing very challenging works on both instruments in his recitals in Canada, US and Europe. Dr. Pokhanovski is also in much demand as a pedagogue and presently holds the position of Professor of Violin at the U of M, having previously held the same position at the Lake State Superior University in Michigan.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2023
 - Saskatoon Music Festival
- 2022
 - Canada West Performing Arts Festival
- 2021
 - Regina Music Festival
- 2016
 - Saskatoon Music Festival



Lori Potter

Piano

Regina, SK

Lori Potter has her Bachelor of Education in Music and French, her RCM Grade 10 Piano and in 2018 she earned her Associateship in Piano Performance with Distinction from Trinity College of London, England. Lori has taught Royal Conservatory of Music Piano, Theory, Harmony, History and Voice classes for over 35 years and taught classroom choir in schools. She has recorded 2 CD's as songwriter, vocalist and pianist with her church. Lori currently teaches 45 private students with Conservatory of Performing Arts, is the director of Conservatory Adult Choir and instructor of Summer Choral, Piano and Jr. Glee camps as well as substitute Arts Ed, Band and French teacher with Regina Public Schools. Mrs. Potter loves teaching music to all ages and enjoys performing, sharing the gift of music!

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - Central Sask Music Festival
 - Gravelbourg & District Bilingual Music Festival
 - Kipling & District Music Festival
- 2023
 - Parkland & District Music Festival
 - Potashville Music Festival
- 2022
 - Qu'Appelle Valley Music Festival



Kevin Power

Musical Theatre

Saskatoon, SK

Kevin Power has received critical acclaim as a singer/actor from the Times of London to the Globe and Mail and Opera Canada, and performed extensively in Canada, the US and UK. For decades he has appeared as a character actor (mostly the villain!) on stage, television, and movies - most recently in the 2017 movie "Incident in a Ghost Land", which premiered on the big screen in Canada, the US, and Europe.

Stage credits include M. André, The Phantom of the Opera (Original Canadian Cast); Tiny Tom, Urinetown: the Musical (Original Canadian Cast), Thenardier, Les Miserables; Rooster, Annie; Cogsworth, Disney's Beauty & the Beast; and dozens more. He has appeared in concert with some of Canada's finest orchestras, and toured his self-produced show jazz show throughout Canada. He has originated several roles for the Canadian Operetta Company, The Banff Centre, and Welsh National Opera. He has appeared in lead and principal roles with film studios such as Lifetime Network, Lionsgate studios, the SyFy network, CBC, Bravo and the USA networks. He has worked with really fun actors like Dennis Quaid, Patti Labelle, Sarah Chalk, Sarah Brightman and more. Kevin can be seen in the first season of the smash television hit "Suits". And yes, that is Kevin as the vampire in the Kellogg's commercial for YoGo's candy. Kevin is creative producer and host of the podcast series "SaskScapes", available on iTunes (and all podcasting apps) and featured on CBC's national radio and Radio Saskatchewan. www.kevinpower.net

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - Regina Music Festival



Mark Preece
Band, Brass, Woodwind

Regina, SK

Mark Preece is Principal Tuba and Librarian of the Regina Symphony Orchestra. He has a BMus and a MMus in tuba performance, and has studied with renowned tubists Roger Bobo, Patrick Sheridan, Sam Pilafian, and John Griffiths. As an orchestral musician, Mark has also performed with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, the Alberta Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Metamorphosis Symphony. His career has lead him to performances in the United States, France, Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands, and Japan. Mark is an adjudicator for wind instruments and bands with the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association. He is a member of the International Tuba & Euphonium Association and the Major Orchestras Librarian Association. Mark is also an active music arranger. He has written many arrangements for brass band, orchestral brass, various brass ensembles in addition to pieces for solo tuba and tuba quartet. His music has been performed and recorded worldwide, including performances by Big Sky Brass, The Regina Symphony Orchestra, and The Fairey Band of Great Britain. His music is self published and is available from him directly, the Score Exchange and Cimarron Music Press. Mark began playing the Tuba at age 12 in the Salvation Army Church. He works as a clinician throughout Saskatchewan, and has taught brass to students of all ages. He teaches Tuba & Euphonium at Regina's Conservatory for the Performing Arts and the University of Regina.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2022
Mainline & District Music Festival
- 2021
Biggar & District Music Festival
- 2019
Potashville Music Festival
- 2018
Redvers & District Music Festival
- 2017
Parkland & District Music Festival
Watrous & District Music Festival
- 2016
Kipling & District Music Festival
Qu'Appelle Valley Music Festival
- 2015
Melfort Music Festival



Ryan Purchase
Brass, Band

Ottawa, ON

Ryan Purchase is a freelance trombonist currently residing in Ottawa, Ontario. Orchestrally-trained, he now focuses his musical energy primarily on klezmer and free improvisation. After completing a Master's degree in Performance at the University of Toronto and touring Canada and Japan with the National Youth Orchestra, Ryan went on to study on scholarship at the Klezkanada Summer Music Workshops for many years, eventually teaching an improvising ensemble there. He also studied improvised, klezmer, gypsy, and german folk musics in Weimar, Germany, through Yiddish Summer Weimar. He is the former Personnel Manager for the National Arts Centre and Vancouver Symphony Orchestras. Prior to this, Ryan received his musical education in Regina, Saskatchewan, through the Regina Lions Band, Campbell Collegiate High School bands, South Saskatchewan Youth Orchestra, and the University of Regina, where he studied with Richard Raum. He was Assistant Principal Trombone in the Regina Symphony Orchestra until 1999. Ryan is the recipient of many awards and scholarships, including grants from the Canada Council, Saskatchewan Arts Board, and Alberta Foundation for the Arts. He has appeared on over 20 recordings as both a performer and composer, including his 45-minute improvised chamber music suite, "Morphology of a Lover." He lives in Ottawa with his wife and their two children, their cats, and a lot of books. He performs regularly with brass-funk band The Bank Street Bonbons, and is writing a strange little young adult fantasy novel. He listens to too many podcasts and plays too much Dungeons & Dragons.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2019
Saskatoon Music Festival
- 2015
Saskatoon Music Festival



Shawna Ramsay

North Battleford, SK

Voice, Choral, Speech Arts

Shawna Ramsay received her Bachelor's Degree in Vocal Performance from the University of Regina, where she was the recipient of numerous awards including: Alice Mary Goodfellow Scholarship for voice, Liedfeld Music Scholarship, Luther Student Residence Scholarship, and the Music Department General Entrance Scholarship. She was a member of the University of Regina's Chamber Singers as well as a featured soloist in their performance of Mendelssohn's *Hear my Prayer/O For the Wings of a Dove*. Most recently Shawna sang Messiah in the first ever auditioned Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra Chorus. Mrs. Ramsay's solo performing credits include: Suzanna in *The Marriage of Figaro*, Gabriel in *The Creation* by Haydn, Miss Sweetson in Mozart's *Impresario*, and Gretel in Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*. She also collaborated with pianists from the University of Regina to contribute to the performance of Schubert's *Die Schone Mullerin*. Shawna continues her studies with Lisa Hornung as well as her professional development in intensive programs such as Summer School for the Solo Voice. Shawna maintains a private studio in North Battleford, Saskatchewan, where she lives with her husband Lincoln and two daughters, Aria and Nola.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2019
 - Hafford & District Music Festival
- 2017
 - Twin Rivers Music Festival
- 2015
 - Melfort Music Festival



Viktoria Reiswich-Dapp

Edmonton, AB

Piano

Viktoria Reiswich-Dapp was born in Uzbekistan and grew up in Germany. Viktoria has been lauded for her "high-profile skills" (Frankfurter Neue Presse) and her "enormous pianistic culture and exuberant expressive possession" (Badische Neueste Nachrichten). She honed her skills at the University of Music in Karlsruhe, the University of Music Frankfurt/Main, and the University of Alberta from where she holds a Doctor of Music degree in piano performance. Her artistry across a wide range of genres and styles earned her recognition for her performances around the world and makes her a regular guest at New Music festivals and international conferences. Besides winning numerous national and international prizes and scholarships, Viktoria is the first and only performer who has won the highest Canadian scholarship, the prestigious Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship. Viktoria has recorded several CDs in Germany, Canada, and Poland, and has extensive teaching and vocal coaching experience in three languages. She is currently teaching piano, vocal and instrumental chamber music, piano literature and piano pedagogy at the University of Alberta.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2021
 - Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival



Doreen Renschler

Castor, AB

Piano

Doreen obtained an Associateship Diploma in Piano Performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music. Her past teachers and mentors include Peggy L'Hoir, Marina Stoylar and Janna Olson. Doreen guides a large class of students through piano, theory, accompanying and composition. She teaches the Music for Young Children program and is in her sixth year teaching this unique and musical program. Her students are consistently recognized for their musical achievements at local music festivals, receiving scholarships and awards as well as being chosen to play at the Alberta Music Festival Provincials. While at home in Castor, Alberta, a culturally active community of 1000 people, Doreen has co-founded the Alliance for Canadian New Music Projects - Contemporary Showcase and a Canadian National Conservatory of Music exam centre. Her other musical adventures have seen her as the founder of various musical workshops with established composers and community musicians Lynette Sawatsky and Wes Froese. Doreen has two beautiful boys and husband who reside in Castor, Alberta who are committed to culture and agriculture. Doreen's passion for learning and teaching is done in such a way that educates and entertains.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - Spiritwood & District Music Festival
- 2023
 - Unity Music Festival
- 2022
 - Prairie Sunset & District Music Festival



Donna Rhodenizer

Kentville, NS

Choral

Donna Rhodenizer is a composer, music educator, performer, and recording artist who has created over 400 original compositions for singers of all ages, including choral works for adult choirs and songs for elementary students in both English and French. Her commissions include works for organizations such as the Nova Scotia Music Educators' Association and Aeolian Singers of Halifax, and she has also composed over thirty pieces for violin and piano. Her music is featured in the Royal Conservatory of Music's graded Voice Series and has been performed internationally. Donna, a retired elementary music educator with 37 years of experience, is also a Juno-nominated and ECMA-winning recording artist with the duo Donna & Andy. She has presented workshops across Canada and internationally, receiving several awards for her contributions to music education, including the Nova Scotia Music Educators' Association Musica Viva Award and the Canadian Music Educators' Association Jubilate Award of Merit. Her music is published by Red Castle Publishing, Full Voice Music, Frederick Harris, and Cypress Choral Music.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024
Provincial Festival



Gillian Rice

Canora, SK

Piano

Gillian Rice (Leson) was born and raised in small town Saskatchewan. She began piano and voice lessons at a young age with private music teachers. She has had various influences during her musical studies including Dawn Hrykiw, Jean Laube, Carla Plosz, Diana Woolrich, Janice Elliot Denike, Thelma Gillis and Michelle Rivers. She has entered many music competitions at local music festivals in the Parkland, Yorkton and Saskatoon regions and has won numerous awards. In the Spring of 2011 Gillian received her Bachelor of Music from the University of Saskatchewan. While at University under the instruction of Professor Kathleen Solose, Gillian performed with chamber ensembles, choirs, duos, and as a soloist. Today she is the owner/operator of Eighty-Eight Keys Music Studio where she teaches private piano and voice lessons. In 2014 she continued her education when she attended the Vancouver International Song Institute. While in Vancouver she had the pleasure of working with many fine musicians such as Rena Sharon, Laura Loewen, Terence Dawson, Cameron Stowe, Darryl Edwards, and Michael McMahon. Gillian's newest passion since the birth of her first child has become early childhood music. Gillian continues to spread her love of music where it all began for her, in her hometown of Canora, Saskatchewan.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024
La Ronge & District Music Festival
2023
Humboldt Music Festival
Kipling & District Music Festival
2022
Unity Music Festival
2018
Last Mountain & District Music Festival



Catherine Robbins

Winnipeg, MB

Choir, Voice

Catherine Robbins is a dynamic music educator known especially for her work in anatomical awareness for vocal techniques and choral pedagogy. Dr. Robbins is currently Assistant Professor of Choral Studies and Music Education at the University of Manitoba Desautels Faculty of Music. She teaches courses in conducting, choral methods, vocal pedagogy for choirs, and choral literature and programming, and directs the University of Manitoba Concert Choir. Dr. Robbins research focuses on applications of anatomical awareness and somatic approaches to conducting and singing, as well as the emerging field of fascia research. Other research interests include collaborative self-study and life history of choral music educators. She has presented at national and international symposiums in the areas of music education and choral techniques. Catherine specializes in pedagogy for developing voices, as well as vocal and conductor health, and enjoys bringing the choral music of living composers to new audiences.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2019
Saskatoon Music Festival
2016
Provincial Festival



Sharon Rodney

Martensville, SK

Piano, Voice

Sharon Rodney was born and raised in Yorkton, Sask. She completed her ARCT (Associate with Royal Conservatory of Music) in 1987, in piano performance, while studying with Jean Laube. She went on to the University of Saskatchewan and studied with Robin Harrison. Under his direction, she completed her practical exam for her LTCL (Licentiate with Trinity College, London, England), in piano performance, in 1988. She completed the necessary theory exams in 1992. She competed in music festivals throughout her life. Sharon began teaching piano in grade 11, and has taught ever since. Many of her students have competed at Provincials, and two have competed Nationally. In addition to teaching, she was very active as a collaborative pianist, working with both students and professionals. She has worked with Sharon Carter, from Middle Lake, in many community events, including gala concerts with members of the Saskatoon symphony, as well as summer schools for children, in addition to having a children's and youth choir. Sharon moved to Martensville in 2018 and has been establishing a new piano studio there. In addition to teaching, Sharon does a great deal of adjudicating at music festivals every spring. She also enjoys composing, singing, playing the flute and the cello.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024

Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival
Quill Plains Music Festival

2023

Lafleche & District Music Festival
Lanigan & District Music Festival

2019

Assiniboia Music Festival
Central Sask Music Festival
Moose Jaw Music Festival

2018

Potashville Music Festival
Qu'Appelle Valley Music Festival
Sask Valley Music Festival
Yorkton Music Festival

2017

Meadow Lake & District Music Festival
Moosomin & District Music Festival
Parkland & District Music Festival
Prince Albert Music Festival

2016

Biggar & District Music Festival
Last Mountain & District Music Festival
Swift Current & District Music Festival
Twin Rivers Music Festival

2015

Nipawin Music Festival



Christianne Rushton

Wolfville, NS

Voice

Mezzo-soprano Christianne Rushton has delighted audiences with her engaging presence and versatility on both the operatic and concert stages. She is a past first prize winner of the Canadian Music Festival, a second prize winner of the prestigious Eckhardt-Gramatté Competition, a two-time grant recipient from the Canada Council for the Performing Arts, and a winner of the Canada Council's *Bernard Diamant Prize* in Voice. In recital, she has performed as guest artist for the Royal Society of Canada, toured with Debut Atlantic, sung at the Indian River Festival, and performed at New York's Alice Tully Hall. Christianne is Assistant Professor at Acadia University where she is head of vocal studies.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2023

Provincial Festival

2016

Provincial Festival



Robyn Rutherford

Unity, SK

Piano

Robyn Rutherford began her musical training at an early age in Unity. She studied with various teachers and completed an Associateship in Piano Teaching from the Royal Conservatory of Music while studying with Doris Green (piano) and Blanche McDonald (theory). Robyn is a member of the Sask. Registered Music Teachers' Association and an active member of the Battlefords Branch. She is also very involved with the Unity Music Festival having served as President and Entry Secretary. Robyn also enjoyed serving on the SMFA Provincial Board for 3 years. Robyn has also accompanied many students for festival and exams and also plays for various churches in her community. She continues to live in Unity and teaches piano and theory.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2019
 - Biggar & District Music Festival
- 2016
 - Hafford & District Music Festival



Jeri Ryba

Moose Jaw, SK

Voice, Musical Theatre

Jeri is a voice teacher, adjudicator, accompanist, and performer from Moose Jaw Saskatchewan. She studied music at the University of Brandon, and received a Bachelor of Education in Music from the University of Lethbridge. Jeri teaches voice in Moose Jaw. She is active with the Moose Jaw Community Theatre Arts Organization. Her students have been Provincial Music Festival Winners and have also competed at the National Music Festival in Musical Theatre. She has many students who have continued their music studies and careers in various fields; opera, classical, musical theatre, teaching, acting, and music therapy. There are countless students who continue to share their love of music in their communities with involvement in choirs and in community theatre. It is important to Jeri to provide a safe and welcoming space for students to share their voices and to learn. It's her strongest desire to provide this same atmosphere when adjudicating.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - Estevan & District Music Festival
- 2023
 - Regina Music Festival
- 2022
 - Humboldt Music Festival
 - Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival
 - Swift Current & District Music Festival
- 2021
 - Borderland Music Festival
- 2019
 - Biggar & District Music Festival
 - Last Mountain & District Music Festival
- 2018
 - Carnduff & District Music Festival
 - Central Sask Music Festival
 - Lanigan & District Music Festival
- 2017
 - Moosomin & District Music Festival
- 2016
 - Mainline & District Music Festival
- 2015
 - Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival
 - Estevan & District Music Festival
 - Weyburn Music Festival



Joan Savage

Saskatoon, SK

Strings

Joan Savage returned home to Saskatoon after earning degrees in violin performance at Peabody Conservatory (B.Mus.) and San Francisco Conservatory (M.Mus.). She is a violinist in the Saskatoon Symphony, Starry Nights Chamber Musicians, co-directs and performs with Prairie Vitruosi and with BeMUSed, an inventive ensemble that blends music with literature. Highlights of her active chamber music and freelance career include CBC broadcasts of chamber music performances, performing in the 2007 Junos and in the Centennial Orchestra for Queen Elizabeth II. Joan teaches violin to a large studio of students, from beginner to advanced levels.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2019
 - Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival
- 2017
 - Prince Albert Music Festival
- 2016
 - Nipawin Music Festival
- 2015
 - Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival
 - Melfort Music Festival



Lynette Sawatsky

Saskatoon, SK

Piano

Lynette Sawatsky was born in Langham, Saskatchewan, and began her musical training at the age of four, being part of the first group of students at Yamaha Music Studios in Saskatoon. She completed her performer's A.R.C.T. in piano while in high school. She holds a Bachelor of Education (elementary) from the University of Saskatchewan. Lynette teaches both group and private lessons and has worked as a music specialist in the public school system. She conducts student and teacher workshops across Canada and has adjudicated at music festivals in B.C., Alberta, and Saskatchewan. Lynette currently directs a group of enthusiastic youngsters from core neighbourhoods during a weekly lunch hour choir program in her community. She believes that music is a gift that brings joy and enriches lives. Lynette's piano compositions have been selected as festival test pieces in Ontario, New Brunswick, and Saskatchewan and have recently been added to Conservatory Canada's syllabus. Her elementary collection, Waddle & Quack, is on Music for Young Children's supplemental list. Lynette's music has been described as "charming", "lyrical", and "pedagogically sound." Lynette has an active piano studio in Saskatoon. She and her husband have four adult children. In her leisure time, she enjoys spending time with her family, drinking coffee with friends, and going for long walks along the beautiful South Saskatchewan River.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - Melfort Music Festival
 - Unity Music Festival
- 2023
 - La Ronge & District Music Festival
 - Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival
- 2022
 - Meadow Lake & District Music Festival
- 2019
 - La Ronge & District Music Festival
 - Twin Rivers Music Festival
- 2018
 - Nipawin Music Festival
 - Regina Music Festival
- 2017
 - Biggar & District Music Festival
 - Hafford & District Music Festival
 - Quill Plains Music Festival
- 2016
 - Kipling & District Music Festival
 - Meadow Lake & District Music Festival
 - Sask Valley Music Festival
- 2015
 - Weyburn Music Festival



Clark Schaufele

Toronto, ON

Piano, Double Bass

Alberta-born pianist Clark Schaufele received his Doctorate in Music (Piano Performance) degree at the Université de Montréal under the guidance of Canadian pianist and educator, Paul Stewart. Clark enjoys a multi-faceted career, spanning genres beyond classical piano - on both the keyboards and the double bass, he has been involved in many performances, tours, and studio recordings, ranging from classical to jazz to country and folk. Across the years, he has served as a répétiteur for dozens of musical theatre productions, including performances of *Pirates of Penzance*, *Spamalot*, *Grease*, and *Into the Woods*. As a classical piano educator, he was previously the Head of Piano and Accompaniment at the Regina Conservatory for the Performing Arts, and has adjudicated local and provincial music festivals Canada-wide. Dedicated to his local communities, he frequently performs across Canada in series such as Gustin House, Ranva House, Regina Musical Club, Concerts in Care, and the Hands Across series. Between academic seasons, he has also performed at the Stratford Music Festival, Regina Chamber Music Festival, Banff Centre, and the Orlando Festival in the Netherlands. Having recently joined Payadora, an award-winning tango ensemble, he looks forward to upcoming national and international engagements.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024

Provincial Festival



Claire Seibold

Rosetown, SK

Piano

Claire Seibold began piano lessons with Lela Bourne in Kindersley, SK, and earned a Bachelor of Music in Performance from the University of Saskatchewan, studying piano with Robin Harrison and organ with Harry Abley. She achieved an ARCT Teachers Diploma from the Royal Conservatory of Music under Sheila Shinkewski and is a Certified Advanced Teacher with the RCM. A recent highlight was her participation in the Classical Music Festival in Eisenstadt, Austria, focusing on Joseph Haydn. Claire runs an active studio in Rosetown, serves as President of the Rosetown Music Festival Association, and is an organist at St. Andrew's Anglican Church. She farms with her husband Richard, enjoys time with their six grandchildren, and engages in gardening, golfing, and organizing concerts. The Saskatchewan Music Festival significantly impacted her early training, fostering her commitment to supporting young performers.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2022

Quill Plains Music Festival

2021

Saskatoon Music Festival

Unity Music Festival

2019

Swift Current & District Music Festival

2015

Twin Rivers Music Festival



Maura Sharkey-Pryma

Edmonton, AB

Voice, Musical Theatre

With over 20 years of intensive training and experience, Maura Sharkey-Pryma (she/her) gives singers the best experience as a voice singing specialist, instructor, mentor, clinician and consultant. Maura has enjoyed teaching voice and performance artistry to young and mature singers for over 20 years. She currently holds a position as a sessional instructor at MacEwan University's Theatre Arts Program in Musical Theatre Performance, and teaches privately in person and online from Edmonton, Canada. With a cross-training studio that combines traditional pedagogy with 21st century musical theatre singing pedagogy, Maura strives to remove fear by taking risks and making noises, and cultivating greater awareness of physical sensations. She trains and mentors students in musical theatre, classical, contemporary commercial music, song interpretation, breathing and vocal techniques, basic physiology, aspects of voice and speech, and acting training. In addition to helping singers select music and prepare for auditions, performances and examinations, her main focus is ensuring the voice is functioning as it should for optimal vocal ease, quality and longevity, and advocating for efficient vocal production.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2023

Saskatoon Music Festival



Tracie Skeet-Brook
Voice, Musical Theatre

Olds, AB

Tracie Skeet-Brook is an accomplished, multitalented professional musician, teacher, actor, composer, and beautician. She has studied and performed Opera, Musical Theatre, Celtic, German Lieder, Italian art song, Jazz and many other music styles throughout Canada, Austria and New York winning numerous awards and recognitions for her accomplishments in voice, musical theatre, acting and piano. She regularly teaches and coaches voice, musical theatre, drama and speech arts as well as choreographs musical theatre routines in preparation for music festivals. Tracie has also produced and taught many musical theatre, drama, and glee choir summer camps. She holds a Bachelor of Music Degree specializing in Opera Performance as well as a Diploma in Music. She recently finished a multidisciplinary Degree in Music Business and Marketing, Production, Orchestration, Composing for Film, Television, Games Audio, Advertising and Electronic Music. Tracie produces, directs and stars in a Musical Theatre and Operatic concert series which performs throughout Alberta and beyond

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
Prairie Sunset & District Music Festival
- 2023
Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival
Saskatoon Music Festival
- 2022
Regina Music Festival



Janis Smith
Piano

Regina, SK

Janis Smith began her musical training at a young age with the Sisters of St. Ursuline in Engelfeld, Saskatchewan. She received her Associateship in Piano Teaching from the Royal Conservatory of Music and her Licentiate in Piano Teaching from Trinity College of London under the tutelage of Jean Harach. She started her teaching career in 1982 and joined the faculty at the Conservatory of Performing Arts, University of Regina in 1990. She was Head of the Piano Department for several years, sat on the Scholarship Committee and served on the Faculty Advisory Committee. Janis has sat on many boards including the Regina Musical Club, Art School Sask, Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils. She has judged competitions for the Regina Musical Club, sat on the OSAC Selection Committee, been a member of the Music Selection Committee for the Provincial Syllabus of the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association, and a juror for the Western Canadian Music Awards.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
Yorkton Music Festival
- 2022
Humboldt Music Festival
- 2021
Borderland Music Festival
Weyburn Music Festival
- 2019
Shaunavon & District Music Festival
- 2018
Moosomin & District Music Festival
- 2017
Assiniboia Music Festival
- 2016
Melfort Music Festival
Outlook & District Music Festival
Quill Plains Music Festival
- 2015
Lafleche & District Music Festival
Mainline & District Music Festival
Swift Current & District Music Festival

Stewart Smith

Winnipeg, MB



Band

Born in Yorkton, Saskatchewan, Stewart Smith holds degrees from the University of Saskatchewan and Northwestern University. He taught instrumental music in public and private schools for thirty-three years, covering grades five through twelve. Currently a Sessional Instructor at the University of Manitoba's Marcel Desautels Faculty of Music, he teaches private lessons, coaches a brass chamber ensemble, and leads the Thursday Night Big Band. His primary instruments are euphonium and trombone, and his performance experience includes the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Winnipeg Jazz Orchestra, Winnipeg Wind Ensemble, and the World Civic Orchestra. Smith has composed and arranged music for various levels and remains active as a low brass teacher, clinician, and adjudicator. He co-founded The ALIVE Project in 2004 with Allan Molnar, which links musicians, educators, and students globally through distance learning. Smith has presented workshops on distance learning at numerous national and international conferences.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
Saskatoon Music Festival
- 2023
Moose Jaw Music Festival
- 2022
Regina Music Festival



Sherry Sproule

Lafleche, SK

Piano, voice, musical theatre, speech arts

Sherry Sproule has enjoyed a successful career of instilling her love of music in a large number of families in the Lafleche area. She began her teaching career in the school system and then transitioned to offering private music lessons and group Music for Young Children classes. To enhance music education for her rural students Sherry has hosted many workshops in Lafleche, resourcing excellent colleagues such as Brianna Dennehy, Cherith Alexander and Mary Joy Nelson to name the most recent. Participation in festival and preparing for RCM examinations has also set a standard of excellence for students. For several years Sherry accompanied the Moose Jaw Youth String Orchestra. She is an active accompanist and loves collaborating with singers. Sherry holds a B Ed (Music and Special Education) from the University of Saskatchewan. In 2021 Sherry was recognized for her contribution to music education in Saskatchewan as she was nominated and then shortlisted for a Provincial Saskatchewan Arts Award in the category of Arts and Learning.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
Mainline & District Music Festival
- 2023
Maple Creek & District Music Festival
- 2022
Rosetown & District Music Festival



Kathy Stokes

Yorkton, SK

Choral, Speech Arts

Kathy Stokes holds a B. Ed (Music and Early Childhood Education) from the University of Regina. Active as a soloist, teacher, voice coach, choral director, adjudicator, clinician and music advocate, she has served as President of the Saskatchewan Choral Federation, President of the Potashville Music Festival, Arts Education Teacher Leader for the Saskatchewan Ministry of Learning Curriculum Renewal and Performing Arts Coordinator for the Esterhazy and District Arts Council. Her award winning choirs and choral speech groups have been recognized locally, provincially, nationally and internationally. In 2007, under her direction, Esterhazy High School Jr. Choir, 'Swing Soleil' performed at UNISONG and on Parliament Hill during Canada Day celebrations in Ottawa. In 2015, she directed Regina's Youth Barbershop Chorus 'Harmony 2 Go' at the International Youth Chorus Competition in New Orleans. Her most recent international project was promoting Canadian choral music and collaborating with Marijke Roos and the award winning Bloemhof Girls' Choir in Stellenbosch, South Africa. In 2015, Kathy was nominated for a YWCA Women of Distinction Award for her commitment to promoting the Arts in Saskatchewan. She presently serves as Past President of the Saskatchewan Choral Federation.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2018
Swift Current & District Music Festival
- 2017
Potashville Music Festival



Derek Stoll

Calgary, AB

Piano, Brass, Instruments

Derek Stoll obtained a Bachelor of Music degree in Composition from the University of Calgary. He has composed works for concert band, jazz band, small ensembles and solo instruments. Mr. Stoll has traveled extensively with show bands throughout Canada, the US and Japan. He studied jazz and brass performance at the Banff Centre. He has taught science and music in the BC school system, and was the Director of Musicamrose (Alberta Summer Music Workshop Association) from 1989 to 1995. He has recently lectured at Boston University, and is a consultant for Conservatory Canada's new Contemporary idioms syllabus. He teaches jazz piano at Mount Royal College in Calgary and is currently active as a clinician, adjudicator, and composer. He is active in Alberta's music scene, and is a Board Member of the Calgary Arts Summer School, Calgary Musicians Association, and the Classic Aircraft Collection and Restoration Society. He is a co-founder of Alberta Musician Development Workshops.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2019
 - Regina Music Festival
- 2017
 - Saskatoon Music Festival



Laurel Teichroeb

Yorkton, SK

Piano

Laurel Teichroeb studied piano with the late Jean Laube. She received her Associateship, Teachers diploma, with the RCM and continued further musical studies in electronic and pipe organ. Laurel also received certification in Kindermusik at the U of C. Most recently she completed a Licentiate diploma in Piano Pedagogy with CNCM and is beginning work on a Fellowship. Laurel is past president of the Yorkton branch of the SRMTA where she has served in every capacity on the executive. She is an active examiner for CNCM and adjudicates for festivals around the province and Manitoba.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - Regina Music Festival
- 2023
 - Biggar & District Music Festival
 - Prince Albert Music Festival
- 2021
 - Estevan & District Music Festival
 - Moose Jaw Music Festival
- 2019
 - Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival
 - Rosetown & District Music Festival
- 2018
 - Prince Albert Music Festival
 - Saskatoon Music Festival
- 2017
 - Lanigan & District Music Festival
 - Potashville Music Festival
 - Vanguard & District Music Festival
- 2016
 - Humboldt Music Festival
 - Watrous & District Music Festival
- 2015
 - Kipling & District Music Festival
 - Redvers & District Music Festival



Jennifer Tenford Woodwinds, Band

Regina, SK

Jennifer Tenford is in her twelfth season as Assistant Principal Bassoon and Contrabassoon with the Regina Symphony Orchestra. She holds undergraduate degrees from the University of Regina and the University of British Columbia, as well as a Master of Music degree in woodwind performance and conducting from the University of North Texas. Born and raised in Regina, she began playing the flute with the Regina Lions Junior Band. Attending Campbell Collegiate, Jennifer subsequently took up the saxophone to play in the jazz band, later studying classical saxophone with Karen Finnsson at the U of R. She joined the South Saskatchewan Youth Orchestra, first with her flute, then after beginning bassoon studies with Alan Denike, became principal bassoon. In addition to her orchestral work, she enjoys performing a variety of musical genres including saxophone quartet, big band, woodwind quintet and most of all, musicals. She has put her doubling skills to excellent use playing in the pit orchestra for over 60 musical productions so far. In addition to performing, Jennifer teaches applied saxophone and woodwind techniques at the University of Regina. She recently retired from a rewarding career teaching public school bands in Quesnel, BC and Moose Jaw, SK. Jennifer now lives in Regina with her husband Jim and spoiled cats Charlotte and Harvey. Together they enjoy adventure travelling - some of the highlights being kayaking in the Galapagos Islands, leatherback sea turtle conservation in Trinidad, hiking the Juan de Fuca marine trail on Vancouver Island, a camping safari in Tanzania, and cycling on their tandem bicycle through Europe. At home she enjoys quilting, knitting, gardening and dinners with her book club.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024

Parkland & District Music Festival
Saskatoon Music Festival

2023

Provincial Festival
Yorkton Music Festival



Mark Tse Bands, solo instruments

Saskatoon, SK

Dr. Mark Tse is a Canadian conductor and educator, serving as Assistant Professor of Instrumental Music Education at the University of Saskatchewan, and a settler living on the Treaty Six Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. He conducts the University's Symphony Orchestra and is an instructor of conducting, instrumental music teaching in secondary schools, and guitar pedagogy. Dr. Tse values kindness, collectivism, and continuous learning. He is dedicated to cocreating opportunities for everyone to access and cultivate the joy of music, which includes musicians, conductors, composers and audiences, as well as people and genres who have historically been marginalized from orchestral music. In the 2016 American Prize competition, he won 3rd place for Community Band Wind Ensemble Conducting and an Honourable Mention for College/University Wind Ensemble Conducting. In 2015, he won 2nd place for College/University Wind Ensemble Conducting.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024

Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival



Gilles Turcotte Band, Woodwind

Saskatoon, SK

Gilles Turcotte was born in Saskatoon where he studied with Margaret Wilson and obtained undergraduate degrees in both clarinet performance and in French education from the University of Saskatchewan in 1985 and 1993 respectively. He recently retired from a 21 year career with the Saskatchewan Health Authority to devote more time and energy to return to performing music and instructing clarinetists of all ages. Gilles has performed in recital as well as in large and chamber ensembles from Ontario to British Columbia and North of the Arctic Circle. Gilles has had considerable experience as an educator. He directed grade school bands and served as an adjudicator for the SMFA for a number of years. Gilles has extensive experience as a clinician and private instructor offering his services for lessons, sectionals and master classes for the SBA Honour Band, SBA Summer Band Camps and several schools throughout the province. Gilles pays particular attention in finding the key issues that prevent young musicians from fully realizing their potential on their instrument. He is the first to celebrate when his students begin to understand and control these key concepts. Gilles is currently performing with the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra and other chamber groups as opportunities arise. He also contributes to the community by rehearsing and performing with groups such as Reedy, Set, Go – Saskatoon's Clarinet Choir, North Saskatchewan Wind Orchestra and the newly formed Saskatchewanwinds

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024

Qu'Appelle Valley Music Festival

2023

Saskatoon Music Festival
Weyburn Music Festival



Mark Turner

Saskatoon, SK

Piano

Pianist Mark Turner is the Executive Director of the Saskatoon Symphony. He holds an ARCT in Performance and an Honours Licentiate in Recital Performance from London College. His career includes work as teacher and coach, music director, curator, producer, radio host, consultant, and adjudicator.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2019
 - Shurniak Concerto Competition
- 2018
 - Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival
- 2017
 - Moose Jaw Music Festival
- 2015
 - Shurniak Concerto Competition



Brian Unverricht

Saskatoon, SK

Band, Instruments, Guitar

Brian Unverricht recently retired after nearly 40 years as a music educator and conductor in Canada, Australia, and Germany, where he taught instrumental, choral, and jazz students from grade seven through university level, as well as classroom music. He now pursues his love of music education as an adjudicator of bands and instruments in Saskatchewan and western Canada, a leader of numerous workshops and clinics, and a guest conductor for Honour groups. As a performer he currently performs, arranges, and conducts music in a variety of genres around Saskatoon and district that include the Saskatoon Symphony, Parkland Brass, jazz groups, and the Saskatoon Klezmer band (which he leads).

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2022
 - Saskatoon Music Festival
- 2019
 - Melfort Music Festival
- 2017
 - Prince Albert Music Festival
- 2016
 - Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival
 - Twin Rivers Music Festival
- 2015
 - Saskatoon Music Festival



Heilwig von Koenigsloew

Langley, BC

Strings, Chamber

Born in Hamburg, Germany, Heilwig began her musical studies at the Musikhochschule in Hamburg and continued at the University of Alberta under Thomas Rolston, earning a Master of Music in violin performance at age 22. She has also studied with Lorand Fenyves, Steven Staryk, and the Hungarian String Quartet. From 1976 to 1984, Heilwig was Department Head of the music program at Malaspina University College in Nanaimo, BC, while teaching privately at the Nanaimo Conservatory and Vancouver Academy. She is now a professor of violin at Trinity Western University and teaches violin and chamber music in Langley. A former member of the CBC Radio Orchestra, Heilwig continues to play with the Vancouver Opera Orchestra and as a freelance violinist/violist. She is the president of the Fraser Valley Music Festival (VAYA) and has served as president of Performing Arts BC. Heilwig resides on a 15-acre hay farm in Langley, BC, with her grandchildren, horses, dogs, cats, and other animals.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - Provincial Festival

Alicia Vopni-Summach
Piano, Flute, Vocal, Cello

Tisdale, SK

Alicia doesn't remember a time when she didn't play piano, eventually achieving an A.T.C.L. and L.T.C.L. from Trinity college, studying with Tom Day and Lynn Ewing. As she got older she added flute lessons with Randi Nelson, voice with Naomi Friesen and cello with John Payzant. She has been a member of the Tisdale Lions band, the Saskatchewan Orchestral association and the Saskatoon Youth Orchestra. She enjoyed performing in local and provincial music festivals, community events, concerts and recitals. Alicia has been teaching music since 1995 in North East Saskatchewan. She has a large studio of voice, piano, flute, cello and music theory students. Her students win many awards at local music festivals and exams. She has travelled to summer programs in Calgary, Chicago, Kingston, Colorado and Quebec to further improve her teaching skills. She also enjoys teaching Highland Dance and making music with her 4 children. She lives with her husband and children near Bjorkdale, Saskatchewan.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024
Kindersley & District Music Festival
2021
Sand Hills Music Festival

Heather Godden Waldner
Piano, Brass

Warman, SK



Studying with Dr. Lyell Gustin in Saskatoon, Heather Godden Waldner received her Associate from the Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto and her Licentiate from Trinity College of Music, London, England. Heather is a Registered Music Teacher, an examiner for the Royal Conservatory of Music, a festival adjudicator and workshop clinician. Under the name of Heather Godden Laliberte she has composed and published a number of works for piano and voice through Godden Publications. Ms Waldner has led workshops on the Art of Practising, Examination & Festival Preparation and numerous theory topics. She has performed as an accompanist for a wide variety of events including ballet exams, and over the years has held a number of church organist/music director positions. She currently resides in Warman, SK, where she teaches piano, trombone, and all levels and subjects of music theory, and plays lead trombone in the Saskatoon Concert Band.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2018
Biggar & District Music Festival
2017
Qu'Appelle Valley Music Festival
2016
Lanigan & District Music Festival
2015
Prince Albert Music Festival

Mark Ward
Brass

Medicine Hat, AB



Mark Ward retired from teaching high school band after 32 years having taught in BC and Alberta. Mark completed undergraduate degrees at Western University and the University of Lethbridge and a Master of Music at the University of Victoria. He has served on the board of directors of the British Columbia Band Association and the Alberta Band Association including a term as president. Last year he was recognized by the ABA with an Honorary Lifetime Member Award. He is a member of Phi Beta Mu, an international honorary organization of band directors, Mark continues to share his passion for music as a brass instructor at the Medicine Hat College and conducts the Gold Community Band in Lethbridge and the Andante Community Band in Medicine Hat. He sees community and school music as a critical part of Canadian heritage and culture and is very proud to be part of the strong musical community in Southern Alberta.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024
Saskatoon Music Festival
2023
Kindersley & District Music Festival
Swift Current & District Music Festival
2022
Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival
2021
Prairie Sunset & District Music Festival

Audrey Watson

Rosthern, SK

Piano

Audrey Watson was born in Saskatoon and raised in Vonda, SK. She received most of her early musical education with Thomas Day. She returned to music studies as an adult, first with Janet Caldwell in Meadow Lake, SK. Following a move to Rosthern, she returned to the studio of Tom Day. She received her Associate diploma (Teacher's) while studying with Sheila Shinkewski. In 2002, Audrey was awarded the Dorothy Bee Memorial Scholarship from the Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers Association. In 2010 Audrey returned to studies with Kathleen Lohrenz Gable, focusing on pedagogy and repertoire. Audrey is active in the Sask Valley Music Festival, having completed two terms as president. She is a member of the Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers Association (SRMTA). Audrey has taken a pause from teaching so she and her husband, George can do some travelling. She continues to play for church and is currently studying the violin.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024

Lafleche & District Music Festival
Twin Rivers Music Festival

2023

Kindersley & District Music Festival
Nipawin Music Festival

2022

Gravelbourg & District Bilingual Music Festival

2019

Yorkton Music Festival

2018

Estevan & District Music Festival

2017

Watrous & District Music Festival

2016

Moose Jaw Music Festival

2015

Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival
Meadow Lake & District Music Festival



Marliss Weber

Edmonton, AB

Musical Theatre, Speech Arts

Marliss Weber is a busy director, performer, consultant and workshop clinician based in Edmonton, AB. She has 25 years of experience as a Voice, Speech and Musical Theatre instructor, most recently at the Alberta College Conservatory in Edmonton. Marliss specializes in Musical Theatre, dialect work and vocal care. She is also an active adjudicator in Speech Arts and Musical Theatre categories, having adjudicated at more than 100 festivals across Canada. She holds degrees in Communications, English, Theatre Studies and Performance, and Speech Arts. Along with her husband, she is also a filmmaker, having recently produced the award-winning webseries Necessary Evil, which you can watch on TELUS Optik TV, and an internet near you.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2019

Saskatoon Music Festival

2017

Regina Music Festival



Sasha Weinstangel

Richmond Hill, ON

Strings

Dr. Alexander Sasha Weinstangel, born in Croatia (Yugoslavia), is a prolific composer, passionate conductor, accomplished violinist, and inspiring educator. Beginning his music education at age seven, he completed his first composition by nine and performed as a violin soloist at ten. He earned degrees in Violin/Performance and Composition/Theory from the University of Belgrade and a Doctor of Music degree in Composition/Music Theory from the University of Toronto, studying under John Beckwith. He also trained in conducting with Sir Adrian Boult and Antonio Janigro, and in electronic music with Paul Pignon, Gustav Ciamaga, and Dennis Patrick. As the founding artistic director and conductor of the National Chamber Orchestra of Canada, Dr. Weinstangel is known for his energetic leadership, playing the violin or harpsichord as the repertoire demands. His compositions include chamber, orchestral, and choral works, operas, and concertos, such as the Concerto for Orchestra and A Little Night Music for Winds and Percussion. He has taught at universities in North America and New Zealand and has been an adjudicator for various music competitions.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2023

Provincial Festival



Grant Wenaus

New York, NY, USA

Musical Theatre, Piano, Voice

Grant Wenaus is the former Director of Piano Collaborative Piano Studies at NYU, where he conducted productions including The Magic Flute, L'enfant et les sortilèges, Dido and Aeneas, Orpheus in the Underworld, The Merry Widow, Ragtime, City of Angels and The Light in the Piazza. Dr. Wenaus is a Principal Coach and Assistant Conductor at the Glimmerglass Festival, and has been a vocal coach for the UpNorth Vocal Institute, the Interlochen Center for the Arts, and the Florence Voice Seminar in Italy. At Glimmerglass, he has performed in recitals with such opera luminaries as Eric Owens, Jay Hunter Morris, Nathan Gunn, David Pittsinger, Anthony Roth Costanzo, Marietta Simpson and Peter Volpe. He has also been an accompanist for many concerts at Symphony Space in New York City, working with such Broadway stars as John Kander, Jason Robert Brown, Andrew Lippa, Carolee Carmello, Kate Baldwin, Rebecca Luker, Julia Murney and Brian D'Arcy James. In 2018, Grant was a vocal coach at Sarasota Opera and Atlanta Opera, and joined the faculty at Montclair State University, New Jersey. Concerts in 2019 with the Mirror Visions Ensemble take him to Paris, Boston and New York City.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2021

Regina Music Festival



Britney Wendel

Caronport, SK

Piano

Britney completed her ARCT in Piano Performance with the RCM in 2012, receiving a grade of 90%, and subsequently the provincial medal and the Gustin House/Trounce Heritage Committee Inc. Award. In 2015, she graduated from Briercrest College with a Bachelor of Arts in Music and a Minor in Theology at the top of her program and in the top three of her graduating class. She enjoyed giving solo piano recitals in advance of her ARCT exam and in 2010 to receive the Helen Davidson Award in Weyburn, her hometown. She actively composes, performs, and competes, most recently advancing to the SMFA Provincial Finals in 2017. Britney has many fond memories of her years in bands and choirs, and of her vocal studies and theatre performances at Briercrest, for which she taught dance for 3 years after graduating. Currently in her fourth year of teaching private piano lessons in Caronport and Moose Jaw, she celebrates the growth of her studio and of her bright students! Her passion is helping young musicians understand the history, theory, and technique behind the music while invigorating their pursuit of excellence in the arts and in life. She and her husband reside in Caronport where they are blessed to chase after their energetic baby boy.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2019

Vanguard & District Music Festival



Diana Wiens

Edmonton, AB

Piano

Born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Diana Wiens began her music studies at seven with piano instruction from Dr. Lyell Gustin. After earning her Associate Degree in Piano Performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music and graduating from the University of Saskatchewan, she taught elementary and junior high for three years before furthering her music studies in Europe. In Germany, she studied, performed, and taught piano at the Nordwestdeutsche Musik-Akademie and the University of Bielefeld. Returning to Canada in 1974, she joined the Music Faculty at the University of Guelph, where she and her husband established the first applied music courses in piano and voice. Diana moved to Edmonton in 1975 and served as Adjunct Professor and co-chair of the Music Department at Taylor University College from 1988 to 2009. She is a sought-after adjudicator and workshop clinician across Canada and currently directs and conducts the Te Deum Singers in Edmonton. Although a planned performance of Mozart's *Vesperae Solennes de Confessore* at Carnegie Hall in April 2020 was canceled due to Covid-19, Diana continues her active role in the community choir.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
Saskatoon Music Festival
- 2022
Regina Music Festival
- 2018
Saskatoon Music Festival
- 2015
Regina Music Festival



Stewart Wilkinson

Regina, SK

Choral, Voice

Mr. Wilkinson received his BA and BEd (music majors) from the University of Saskatchewan, and his MMus (choral conducting) from the University of Regina. As chair of the Fine Arts Department at Campbell Collegiate, Regina, his choirs enjoyed international acclaim, with workshops and performances in Seoul, South Korea, the People's Republic of China, the International Jazz Educators Association conference in San Antonio, Texas, and the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland. In the fall of 1999 Mr. Wilkinson moved to Austin, Texas, where he served for twelve years as choral director at St. Stephen's Episcopal School. While there, he organized performance tours to New York City, San Francisco, Washington, D.C., Banff, Taiwan, Germany, the Netherlands, Hungary, Austria, the Czech Republic, and China. Personal honors include the first-ever Downbeat Magazine Award for excellence in music education in 1990, the Saskatchewan Choral Federation's 1992 Pro Musica Award, and the Saskatchewan Music Educators Association's 1993 Outstanding Achievement Award. In 2004 Mr. Wilkinson received an award of merit from the Association of Canadian Choral Conductors in recognition of his 25 years of service to choral music in Canada. Most recently Mr. Wilkinson served for two years as the director of the newly established Saskatchewan Youth Choir.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2022
Regina Music Festival
- 2019
Outlook & District Music Festival
- 2018
Swift Current & District Music Festival
- 2017
Maple Creek & District Music Festival
- 2016
Nipawin Music Festival



Justine Wilks

Medicine Hat, AB

Voice

Justine is a graduate of the University of Toronto with a Masters of Music in Voice Performance specializing in Vocal Pedagogy (2010) and a Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance from the University of Toronto (2008). She also has a Diploma in Music Performance from Cambrian College (2005). Justine is a frequent recitalist and oratorio performer. Oratorio roles include Vivaldi's Gloria, Vivaldi's Magnificat, Handel's Messiah, Charpentier's Messe de minuit pour Noël and Fauré's Requiem. Opera roles include Nella in Puccini's Gianni Schicchi, with the Centre for Opera Studies in Sulmona, Italy and the role of Bastienne in Mozart's Bastien und Bastienne, with the Franco-American Vocal Academy in Salzburg, Austria. Justine has studied at the Vancouver International Song Institute and the Lied Austria program in Leibnitz, Austria. She is an active adjudicator and a member of the Alberta Registered Music Teachers Association. Justine teaches at the Medicine Hat College Conservatory of Music, where she is a voice instructor, the director of the MHC Community Chorus, director of the MHC Girls' Choir and the Bring Back the Music School Choral Program.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - Swift Current & District Music Festival
- 2023
 - Lafleche & District Music Festival
- 2022
 - Prairie Sunset & District Music Festival
- 2019
 - Maple Creek & District Music Festival



David Wilson

Edmonton, AB

Voice, Musical Theatre, Speech Arts, Choral

David Wilson (BMus, Mmus) is a Singer, award-winning Conductor, Voice Teacher, Senior Yoga Instructor/Teacher Trainer and Breath Therapist, and the founder and principal of The Wilson Method for Voice. He is recognized across Canada as the leading authority on the use of Yoga, Functional Vocal Work, Core Empowerment and Breath Therapy to aid healthy singing and speaking techniques. He has served as Artistic Director/Conductor of Edmonton Recorder Orchestra (six years), Calgary Renaissance Singers & Players (ten years), Debut Opera Society (three seasons) and is the founding conductor of SPIRITUS Chamber Choir winning the 1999 International Contemporary A cappella Recording Award for their CD 'Crossing Bridges'). David currently holds voice area teaching positions with Edmonton Musical Theatre, University of Alberta, Cowtown Opera Summer Academy and MacEwan University. At his Edmonton teaching studio David offers professional voice lessons, while also travelling across Canada leading over 20 workshops every year to singers, actors, teachers and professionals on vocal power, emotional and creative freedom, anxiety and asthma relief, respiratory health, core stability and empowerment, somatic movement and public speaking. He has created his Wilson Method Breath Balls and User Manual to assist singers, actors and professional speakers in finding their full vocal potential, and is currently working on his DVD/book: The Wilson Method for Voice.

w: www.the-wilson-method.com

w: www.body-breath-voice.com

FB/IG: thewilsonmethod

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2022
 - Regina Music Festival
- 2017
 - Saskatoon Music Festival



Nora Wilson

Brandon, MB

Brass, Woodwinds, Percussion

Dr. Nora Wilson is the Associate Professor of Low Brass at Brandon University in Manitoba, Canada. Wilson keeps a busy and varied performance schedule through solo, ensemble, and performance art appearances. Some of her recent creative activity includes an experimental sound making in the duo Wire + Bone, commissions and performances of new works for trombone at the International Trombone Festival, and exploring Truth and Reconciliation through a Canada Council for the Arts funded project with Peter Morin, and Brendon Ehinger, titled Sonic Dreaming. She has made numerous appearances with several professional ensembles including the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, the Regina Symphony Orchestra, the Winnipeg Jazz Orchestra, and the Brandon Chamber Players.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - Potashville Music Festival
 - Weyburn Music Festival
- 2023
 - Prince Albert Music Festival

2022
Estevan & District Music Festival
2019
Prince Albert Music Festival
2018
Kipling & District Music Festival
Potashville Music Festival
Regina Music Festival
2017
Carnduff & District Music Festival
Estevan & District Music Festival
2016
Mainline & District Music Festival
Redvers & District Music Festival
Yorkton Music Festival



Nicole Wilton

Saskatoon, SK

Piano

Nicole Wilton has been a music educator in Saskatoon for 30 years, and owns Wilton Academy of Music – a large music school offering early childhood music classes as well as private instrumental lessons in piano, guitar and violin in both Suzuki and Traditional methods. Having been a pianist and musician all her life, Nicole quickly found her niche as a Suzuki piano teacher and early childhood music educator. Her commitment to teaching and excellence is evident in all that she does. Nicole holds a Master of Education degree with an emphasis on early childhood education, an ARCT in piano pedagogy from the Royal Conservatory of Toronto, a Bachelor of Arts degree and is a Registered Music Teacher in Saskatoon. She is a frequent clinician, adjudicator, teacher trainer and presenter at many institutes and conferences. She is one of 5 Canadian Piano Teacher Trainers. In 2018, Nicole received the Royal Conservatory of Music Teacher of Distinction award, and was nominated for a Woman of Distinction Award in the education category. She also received the Canada 150th award for her many contributions to the Saskatoon community.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024
Moosomin & District Music Festival
Swift Current & District Music Festival
2023
Twin Rivers Music Festival



Marla Winters

Alexander, MB

Violin, Fiddle, Chamber Ensembles

Marla grew up in the rural area of Grand Valley and specializes in teaching the Suzuki Method. She currently teaches violin in the Suzuki Talent Education Program at the Eckhardt Gramatté Conservatory, Brandon University. She holds a Bachelor of Music from Brandon University. She is currently the director of the Brandon Suzuki Talent Education Program. She frequently adjudicates at string festivals across the prairie provinces and beyond. She is dedicated to creativity, change and musical outreach. She appreciates how music develops fine character and brings about a life long journey of growth and enjoyment.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2022
Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival
Potashville Music Festival
2019
Kipling & District Music Festival
2018
Regina Music Festival
2017
Carnduff & District Music Festival

Wingtak Nova Wong

Saskatoon, SK



Strings

Nova Wong has collaborated with many of the best musicians in Canada, U.S. and Hong Kong. Performances include her Sask Arts Board-funded recital series in 2013, faculty chamber concert in Universidade de Sao Jose (Macau), and other chamber music performances in Saskatchewan and Ontario. Ms. Wong's education includes B.A. at the Chinese University Hong Kong, Pro.Diploma at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, and M.Mus. in violin performance from the Indiana University. Her principle teachers are Mark Kaplan, Chee-Yun Kim, and Michael Ma. Nova Wong is a devoted baroque violinist. In addition to teaching at her private music studio, Ms Wong also enjoys accompanying on the piano, and coaching her church's choir which is at the Saskatoon Chinese Christian Church.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2019
 - Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival
- 2018
 - Prince Albert Music Festival
- 2017
 - Sask Valley Music Festival

Catherine Wood

Brandon, MB



Woodwinds

Clarinetist **Catherine Wood** has established herself internationally as a performer, educator, and advocate of Canadian music. She has been featured as a guest artist at many festivals including the International Clarinet Association ClarinetFests and the Nuna Iceland Canada Art Convergence. An enthusiast of new music, Wood has commissioned and premiered numerous works at festivals that celebrate new music, including the Winnipeg New Music Festival and Iceland's Dark Music Days. A proponent of the piccolo clarinets, Catherine has commissioned works for both E-Flat and D clarinets. She has performed piccolo clarinet recitals across the globe. A sought-after clinician and adjudicator, Dr. Wood has worked extensively with students in Canada and has served on international competition juries. She has judged several ICA Young Artist Competitions and was invited to China in 2011 to adjudicate the inaugural International Mozart Clarinet Competition at the Beijing Central Conservatory of Music (where she heard seventy performances of the Mozart Clarinet Concerto in one day!). Dr. Wood performs with the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra and is on faculty at Brandon University. She serves as the Continental Chair of North America for the International Clarinet Association. She is a Buffet Crampon performing artist.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - Regina Music Festival
- 2022
 - Saskatoon Music Festival
- 2018
 - Provincial Festival

Melissa Wood

Caronport, SK



Voice, Musical Theatre, Speech Arts, Choral

Originally from Manitoba, mezzo-soprano Melissa Wood has called Saskatchewan home for the past eighteen years. A graduate of Briercrest College, Melissa received her B.A. in Music Performance: Voice under the tutelage of Dr. Ron de Jager. Since graduating, Melissa's passion has been to teach and perform. She has starred in numerous productions encompassing musical theatre to opera. Some of her more recent performances include, Ruth in *Pirates of Penzance*, the Duchess in *The Gondoliers*, Miss Todd in *Old Maid and the Thief*, and Golde in *Fiddler on the Roof*, The Mother Abbess in *Sound of Music* and Marilla in *Anne of Green Gables*. In 2013 Melissa had the privilege of studying under acclaimed mezzo-soprano Paula Rockwell in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. While studying in Nova Scotia, she was featured as a guest soloist at Wolfville Baptist Church's Lenten Concert Series. Melissa has taught at Briercrest College in Caronport, SK for the past 14 years. She is currently completing her Master of Music degree at the University of Regina studying under Dr. Helen Pridmore. Her final Graduate recital features the music of Canadian composers such as Beckwith, Somers, Ford, Greer, Archer and Forsyth. She is the proud mother of three young children, Isabel, Hannah and Felix, who enjoy music just as much as she does.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
 - Regina Music Festival
- 2023
 - Estevan & District Music Festival
 - Kindersley & District Music Festival
 - Vanguard & District Music Festival

2022
Borderland Music Festival
La Ronge & District Music Festival
2021
Biggar & District Music Festival
Nipawin Music Festival
2019
Shaunavon & District Music Festival
2018
Mainline & District Music Festival
2017
Borderland Music Festival

Alicia Woynarski

Airdrie, AB



Voice, Musical Theatre

Alicia Woynarski is a Mezzo-Soprano acclaimed for her role as Carmen in Vancouver Island Opera, described by Opera Canada as "the perfect Carmen—pretty, lithe, and provocative." Her operatic repertoire includes Cherubino (Manitoba Opera), Dritte Dame (Saskatoon Opera), Hansel (A Little Opera on the Prairie), Mercedes (Saskatoon Opera), Dorabella (Calgary Concert Opera and AEDO-Accademia Europea Dell'Opera in Italy), and roles at the European Academy of Music in the Czech Republic, such as Berta in Il Barbiere di Siviglia. She has performed with the Vancouver Symphony, Saskatoon Symphony, Regina Symphony, and Mercury Opera, with concert engagements featuring Handel's Messiah, Charpentier's Te Deum, Mozart's Requiem, and Vivaldi's Gloria. Alicia has received two Saskatchewan Arts Board grants and awards including the Vancouver Women's Musical Society Competition and the Metropolitan Opera Western District Auditions. She has toured with A Little Opera on the Prairie and Saskatoon Opera, and appeared in an Opera Documentary on OMNI 1 television.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2022
Gravelbourg & District Bilingual Music Festival
2018
Lafleche & District Music Festival
2017
Central Sask Music Festival
Yorkton Music Festival
2015
Swift Current & District Music Festival

Leanne Zacharias

Brandon, MB



Strings

Cellist Leanne Zacharias is an interdisciplinary artist known for unique collaborations across genres and geographies. These include her performance project Music for Spaces, recently presented in the Canadian Museum of Human Rights, Listening Booth: solo recitals for solo audience member presented by the Agassiz Chamber Music Festival and SappyFest (Sackville, NB), Sounding the Wake of a Glacier, a Canada150 commission, CityWide: 50 simultaneous recitals presented by the International Cello Festival of Canada, the Portal Zero installation presented by the Winnipeg Symphony's New Music Festival and Sonus Loci: a sound installation on ice, selected by Winnipeg's Warming Huts Competition. She performs widely and appears on many recordings, with her first solo album to be released this year. An energetic educator, Leanne has been on faculty at Brandon University's School of Music since 2008 and serves on the Board of the Manitoba Arts Council. She adjudicates across Canada and has taught at the Domaine Forget International Academy, Rosamunde Summer Academy, Prairie Cello Institute and Cadenza Music Week. She co-directs A Wild Studio (Canadian National Parks), Hybrid Intensive in San Francisco and Wheat City Nuit Blanche. Her unique solo album featuring contemporary repertoire in intimate architectural sites across the prairies will be released this year.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024
Nipawin Music Festival
2021
Provincial Festival
2015
Saskatoon Music Festival



Mark Zawerucha

Yorkton, SK

Band instruments

Mr. Mark Zawerucha received his degree in instrumental music education from the University of Mary, Bismarck, ND. While in university, Mark performed with many groups including the Concert Band, Choir, Jazz Band, Vocal Jazz and Steel Drum Band. In 1997, Mark accepted a teaching position with the Yorkton Public School Division where he taught elementary and high school instrumental music for 19 years. During that time, Mr. Zawerucha's groups performed at many high calibre events including the 1998 Rose Bowl Parade, Live with Country superstar Shania Twain in 2003, Montreux Jazz Festival in 2003, two Walt Disney World Performances, numerous CFL halftime shows, Grey Cup Parades and festivals. In June 2016, Mark retired from teaching to pursue a career in real estate, a long time passion of his. He still maintains an active private lesson studio, performance schedule and adjudication calendar.

Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2023

Quill Plains Music Festival

2019

Parkland & District Music Festival