

A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of piano keys, showing the black and white keys in a row, receding into the distance. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the keys.

2024

Annual Report

Saskatchewan Music Festival Association

August 1, 2023 to July 31, 2024





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the traditional lands of the Cree, Dakota, Dene, Lakota, Nakota and Saulteaux peoples,
as well as homeland of the Métis. Music provides a universal language to build friendships
and new ways of understanding one another.

On behalf of the SMFA we make this acknowledgement
as an act of reconciliation and gratitude to those whose
language, ceremonies, footsteps and songs have marked these lands.

HONORARY PATRONS

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

HONORARY PRESIDENTS

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

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

SMFA PROVINCIAL OFFICE

PO Box 37005, Regina, SK S4S 7K3
Phone: (306) 757-1722 sask.music.festival@sasktel.net www.smfa.ca

Executive Director
Carol Donhauser

Assistant to the Executive Director
Mariel Unger

Administrative Assistant
Nancy Toppings





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Board of Directors

President..... Jeri Ryba

First Vice PresidentDianne Gryba

Second Vice President.....Alisha Mann

Past President.....Tammy Villeneuve

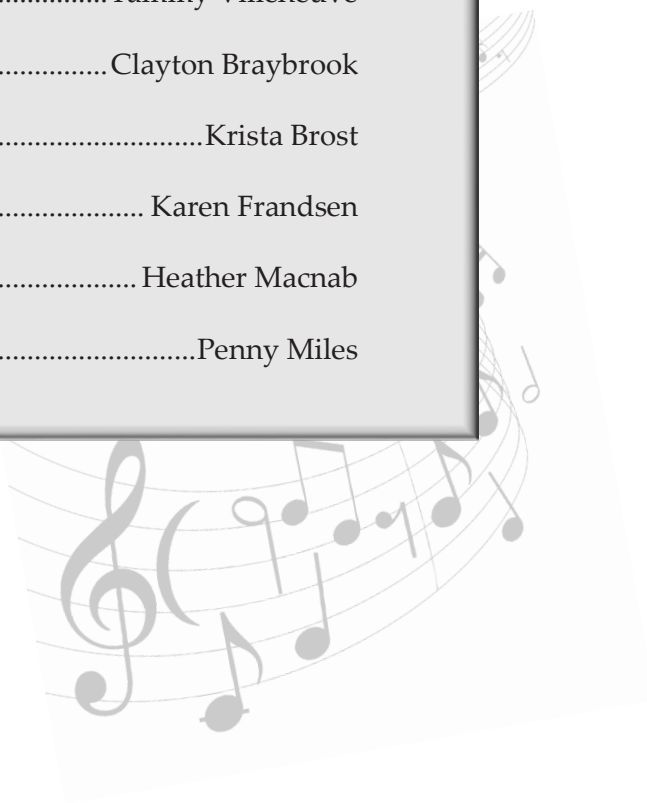
DirectorClayton Braybrook

DirectorKrista Brost

Director Karen Frandsen

Director Heather Macnab

DirectorPenny Miles





Vision

Enhancing lives and community through music and the spoken word.

Mission

Providing performance and educational opportunities in Saskatchewan.

Values

Life-long learning

- Keeping people involved throughout their lifetime

Collaboration

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

Inclusiveness

- Opportunities for all

Excellence

- High standards

Leadership with integrity

- Honest
- Accountable
- Vision





History of the SMFA

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

The SMFA is very proud of its place in history as one of the province's oldest cultural organizations. Its structures and programs have been emulated throughout Canada. Inspired by Governor General Earl Grey's vision of a Dominion-wide festival and supported by Fred Chisholm and Frank Laubach, all Saskatchewan music groups were invited to Regina for the first provincial music festival in 1909.

The Association was highly successful in achieving its objectives: to unite musical societies, individual musicians and groups in Saskatchewan into one organization for the purpose of holding annual music festivals.

The annual festival moved to Saskatoon, Prince Albert and then Moose Jaw. Excellent railway service allowed participants, including large ensembles, to come from all parts of the province. Eventually, the size of Saskatchewan (about that of Texas) along with its expanding population and transportation system promoted the creation of district festivals, the first in Unity in 1926. More and more district festivals sprang up, until there were 51 in 2002, including one fully bilingual event at Gravelbourg. Today, there are 44 active volunteer-run District Festivals.

The Concerto Competition (established in 1979) and the Gordon Wallis Opera Competition (established in 2000), administered by the SMFA, are held in alternating years. In addition to cash prizes, the winners are featured as guest soloists with the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras.

The celebration of our Anniversaries strengthens the conviction that our festivals continue to provide Music for One...Music for All. In 2009, the SMFA celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the first Provincial Festival with a Centennial Re-enactment Concert held in Regina. In addition, special Centennial classes were heard at the SMFA Provincial Finals, and the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals (FCMF) AGM/Conference and National Music Festival Competitions were held in Saskatoon. SMFA also hosted the FCMF AGM/Conference and National Music Festival Competitions as part of our 110th Anniversary celebrations. It was a moment of great pride when Saskatchewan soprano, Emma Johnson, was chosen as the Grand Award winner that year.

We continue to further strengthen our organization after the global COVID-19 pandemic. As we begin our 116th year, we look for adaptations to engage more Saskatchewan residents to Celebrate the Joy of Youth Performance!

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



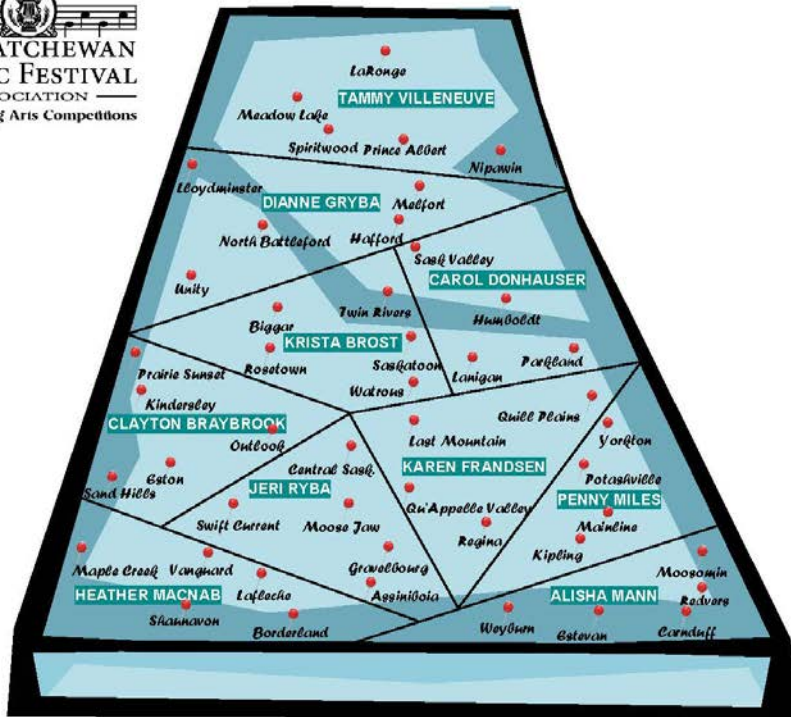


Board of Directors Liaison Map

SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION



OUR MUSICAL RANGE



Funded by:





Cultural Impact Statement

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

Our mandate, which is *"promoting excellence in music and speech through competition, performance, and educational opportunities for people of Saskatchewan"*, requires us to work closely with the many people who come together to keep the festival movement in Saskatchewan alive and well. These people include music and speech students, teachers, parents, volunteers, donors and audiences. There are 45 annual festivals across the province, therefore the impact that is created in all these 45 festivals and surrounding areas is significant.

These communities have embraced the festival concept because it provides:

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

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

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

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



President's Report

SMFA programs and services reach lands covered by Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10, the traditional lands of the Cree, Dakota, Dene, Lakota, Nakota and Saulteaux peoples, as well as homeland of the Métis. Music provides a universal language to build friendships and new ways of understanding one another. We make this acknowledgement as an act of reconciliation and gratitude to those whose language, ceremonies, footsteps and songs have marked these lands..



The 2023-2024 festival season began with Fall Conference hosted in Kindersley October 27 to 28, 2023 with 30 delegates representing 21 District Festivals. Past Presidents Karen MacCallum and Karen Unger were presented with Honorary Life Memberships and 11 District Festival volunteers were honoured for their exceptional service. Kathy and Garry Gable received our Adjudicating Excellence Awards.

At the virtual AGM on November 25, 2023, the Financial Statements were presented, and Karen Frandsen and Krista Brost were acclaimed to the Provincial Board of Directors.

The 2024 Gordon C. Wallis Memorial Opera Competition, held in February in Regina, was won by soprano Kateryna Khartova. She was awarded the prize of \$5,000 and the opportunity to be a featured soloist in an upcoming season with the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras.

Throughout March to May, forty-three of the forty-seven District Festivals were held across the province with over \$195,000 awarded in prizes. Over 1300 volunteers spent over 21,000 hours delivering these festivals.

On May 30 to June 2, 550 performances by winners from District Music Festivals across Saskatchewan were heard at the University of Saskatchewan Campus, Saskatoon with over \$33,000 in awards presented.

The 3rd Annual Canada West Performing Arts Festival, in partnership with Alberta Music Festival and Performing Arts BC, was held in

Victoria, BC on July 25-27, 2024. Over 140 entries competed for over \$30,000 in prizes. Our team Saskatchewan made us proud.

The SMFA Board of Directors continued to work on the strategic goals set out with the focus of providing performance opportunities to more students.

This will complete my term as SMFA President. I would like to thank the SMFA members and Board of Directors for giving me this opportunity. I have enjoyed my term and look forward to being Past President under the leadership of incoming President, Dianne Gryba. Thank you to Board members who have served their terms with the SMFA: Tammy Villeneuve, Krista Brost and Clayton Braybrook. Your enthusiasm and commitment will be missed!

I can't thank enough our incredible staff, Carol Donhauser, Nancy Toppings and Mariel Unger. Their dedication and hard work is unparalleled.

We gratefully acknowledge funding received through the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation and express gratitude to the many stakeholders that support festivals in our province. Many key elements contribute to the success of our programs, and we couldn't achieve this without the many teachers, adjudicators, volunteers, donors and sponsors, who choose to help us deliver our mission.

Respectfully submitted, Jeri Ryba



Executive Director's Report

Competition can boost learner performance, or backfire. We know that it is critical to engage learners in order to bolster success. There are many ways to create engagement and motivation, and our festival system has “hung our hats” on competition.

Competition can be a double-edged sword. Some students can be overly competitive, and can turn competition into a toxic experience for the rest of the community. Others may find the competition intimidating and off-putting, and it causes them to avoid participating, while others will thrive. This debate is not new.

Our goal is to make the competition experience fundamentally positive, so that students come away feeling positive about their experience and themselves. We create a positive environment when we encourage students to provide supportive messages and positive feedback to their fellow participants.

We should also encourage learners to compete with themselves. Competition isn't solely about comparing yourself to another person. It can also mean finding ways to top your personal bests—to extend a streak, or beat a high mark.

Competitions can be more than winning a trophy/award or finishing first. Students may have different strengths, or different roles and objectives. In the Academy Awards they don't just hand out trophies for actors and directors, but for writers, composers, and costume designers as well. Get creative and have some fun! Speech Arts students could win an

honourable mention for best original story or poem.

Our goal in music festivals is not just to win but to gain knowledge and enjoyment from the experience of performing. We gain knowledge from adjudicator comments and from watching other students perform. Whether we support learning through competition, SMFA festivals create a community of students, teachers/adjudicators, audience and volunteers who gather together year after year to “Celebrate the Joy of Youth Performance”.

I would like to thank the SMFA staff, Nancy and Mariel, for their hard work over the course of the year and the board for providing us with leadership and direction.

We are very fortunate to have stable operational funding through the Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation, dedicated stakeholders, generous supporters/volunteers and our corporate sponsors SaskTel and SaskMusic. This funding enables SMFA to deliver our mission of providing performance and educational opportunities through our network of festivals. We look forward to our 2025 festival season!

Respectfully submitted, Carol Donhauser





SMFA Fall Conference

From October 27 to 28, 2023, the Kindersley Music Festival hosted the annual Saskatchewan Music Festival Association Conference. A total of 21 District Festivals were represented by 30 delegates and provincial board members. Throughout the conference, delegates had opportunities to learn from presenters and round-table discussions and to network with one another.

Two former presidents of the SMFA, Karen MacCallum and Karen Unger, were named Honorary Life Members of the Association. Both Karen MacCallum and Karen Unger served on the provincial board in various roles for 12 years, and the SMFA is grateful for their many years of service.

Several District Festival volunteers were honoured at the annual Volunteer Award Luncheon, which was held on October 28. President Jeri Ryba presented awards to: **Helen Barclay** (Kindersley Music Festival), **Dianne Swanson** (Regina Music Festival), **Carmen Ledding** (Rosetown & District Music Festival), **Felice Moure** (Rosetown & District Music Festival), **Kathleen Gatzke** (Spiritwood & District Music Festival), **Marg Andres** (Twin Rivers Music Festival), and **Valerie Redekop** (Twin Rivers Music Festival). Also receiving volunteer awards but unable to attend the luncheon were **Colleen Schindel** (Estevan & District Music Festival), **Alyssa Thompson** (Saskatoon Music Festival), and **Miriam Everett** (Moosomin & District Music Festival). **Darren Green** was recognized, posthumously, for his contributions to the Moosomin & District Music Festival.

Adjudicating Excellence Awards were presented to **Dr. Garry Gable** and **Kathy Gable** (pictured), in recognition of their many years of dedicated service as adjudicators for SMFA district festivals. A scholarship of \$300 was awarded at the 2024 Provincial Finals Competition in honour of their devotion to the festival movement.



Honorary Life Members Karen MacCallum and Karen Unger



2023 AGM Minutes

The 2023 Annual General Meeting of the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association was held virtually on November 25 @ 2:00pm.

Past President Tammy Villeneuve, in the absence of President Jeri Ryba, welcomed everyone to the 2023 Saskatchewan Music Festival Association Annual General Meeting and appointed Nancy Toppings as recording secretary.

The roll call was conducted by Carol Donhauser. Representatives from **28 District Festivals** were present: Battlefords, Central Sask, Estevan, Eston, Gravelbourg, Kindersley, Kipling, Lafleche, Lloydminster, Mainline, Maple Creek, Meadow Lake, Melfort, Moosomin, Parkland, Potashville, Prince Albert, Qu'Appelle Valley, Quill Plains, Regina, Rosetown, Sask Valley, Saskatoon, Twin Rivers, Vanguard, Watrous, Weyburn and Yorkton. Not attending were Assiniboia, Biggar, Borderland, Carnduff, Hafford, Humboldt, La Ronge, Lanigan, Last Mountain, Moose Jaw, Nipawin, Outlook, Prairie Sunset, Redvers, Sand Hills, Shaunavon, Spiritwood, Swift Current and Unity.

Tammy recognized that SMFA programs reach lands covered by Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10, the traditional lands of the Cree, Dakota, Dene, Lakota, Nakota and Saulteaux peoples, as well as homeland of the Métis.

The meeting was called to order at 2:10pm.

A moment of silence was observed for departed volunteers and committee members.

Motion: To approve the agenda.

Bren Keenan/Clayton Braybrook
CARRIED

Tammy Villeneuve announced two board positions (1 one-year, 1 three-year) to be filled: Karen Frandsen (Regina) has been nominated for the three-year position and Krista Brost (Meadow Lake) for the one-year position. Tammy called for further nominations from the floor. None were forthcoming.

The minutes of the 2022 AGM as recorded in the Annual Report were presented. A repetition of the following text was noted on page 13 under Business Arising: *"Finance Chair, Jeri Ryba, presented a summary of the Investment Report."*

Motion: That the minutes be approved as amended.

Kerry Taylor/Yvonne Sutherland
CARRIED

Business Arising

Finance Chair Dianne Gryba presented a summary of the Investment Report from Leander Dueck of Beyond Wealth Management.

The total market value of the funds managed by Beyond Wealth is \$447,680 as of July 31, 2023. The rate of return during this fiscal year was 3.89%. During the same period, the Canadian Balanced Portfolio Benchmark was 5.25%. A priority for the portfolio has been to reduce volatility by investing in multiple asset classes. The SMFA portfolio contains approximately 27% Canadian Equity, 26% US equity, 11% International Equity, 29% fixed income, and 9% Real Estate (less than 100% due to cash allocations). We diversify the portfolio in these asset classes to limit the volatility over complete business cycles, not just over 1-year periods. Though the SMFA portfolio did not outperform the benchmark over the last year, when comparing the last 3 years, the SMFA portfolio has performed as desired – returning 5.59% per year compared to the Canadian Balanced



benchmark of 3.16% per year. This outperformance can be largely credited to limiting the downside volatility in the portfolio.

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

Financial Statement Presentation

Statement of Financial Position (Page 69)

The statement of financial position reports on the total assets, liabilities and net assets of the Association. Cash has increased mainly due to first payment for the 2023/24 year from Saskatchewan Lotteries being received early. Prepaids include a deposit placed on the office and insurance paid. Assets held in trust have decreased due to a decrease in the markets and a withdrawal of \$18,300. Deferred revenue has increased over prior year due to receiving the 2023/24 funding early. Funds held in trust have been brought in to income this year as they were held for the required five years.

Statement of Operations (Page 70)

The statement of operations reflects the revenue and expenditures from the day to day activities of the Association. Revenue has slightly decreased from the prior year due to several factors. There was growth in Affiliation Fees, and Provincial Finals revenue with the increase in fees. There was a Special Initiative Fund grant received from SaskCulture in the amount of \$10,000 that was spent on promoting the Association. Alberta hosted the Canada West Performing Arts Festival, so there were no revenue or expenses for that. There was a further market decrease in investments. Total expenses have decreased mainly due to not having the hosting expenses for the Canada West Performing Arts Festival, but SMFA did contribute \$10,000 to the host, Albert Music Festival Association.

Statement of Changes in Net Assets (Page 71)

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

Cash Flow Statement (Page 72)

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

Notes and schedules to the financial statements (Pages 73 to 79)

The notes are additional information added to the end of the financial statements. The notes help explain specific items in the statements as well as provide a more comprehensive assessment of the Association's financial condition. The schedules are also additional information which provide a more detailed breakdown of the revenue and expenditure items presented in the statement of operations.

Total Assets for 2022/2023 - \$746,428;

Total Liabilities - \$150,442;

Net Assets - \$595,986

Motion: to accept the auditor's report.

*Mariel Unger/Susan Gorges
CARRIED*

Motion: to appoint Marcia Herback as Auditor for the 2023/2024 fiscal year.

*Diane Moss/Penny Miles
CARRIED*

Tammy Villeneuve made the 2nd call for nominations from the floor. None were received.



Tammy Villeneuve presented an overview of the 2023 Annual Report (August 1, 2022 to July 31, 2023).

Motion: to adopt the 2023 Annual Report as presented.

*Bren Keenan/Linda Swab
CARRIED*

New Business

Syllabus Changes Penny Miles, SMFA Director, highlighted Syllabus Changes and directed the meeting to the document on the SMFA website. Work on the 2025-2027 Syllabus will begin soon; requests for changes should be submitted as soon as possible.

Highlights:

- Page 9, Regulation No. 5 (ii): A competitor **may** enter a Provincial class and a non-Provincial class with the same or similar class titles...The competitor may not enter the same repertoire in both classes.
- Recorded accompaniment in NOT allowed with exceptions noted on page 9, Regulation No. 8 (a return to pre-pandemic regulations).
- The qualifying mark to advance to the Provincial level in any class, including Canada West classes, is **87**.
- Canada West Classes:
 - Addition of 10952 Canada West Guitar, 13 years & under
 - 10990 to 10992 Canada West Choral Classes replace the Community and School Choir Classes
 - Piano concertos may not be performed, as availability of a second piano cannot be guaranteed by each hosting province.
 - Changes and additions to Provincial Piano Classes (pages 33 to 35 were outlined and justified).
 - Musical Theatre (pages 40 and 117): Date ranges refer to the year the musical was first staged.

- “Stand-alone” repertoire and selections from revues are not permitted.

2024 Gordon C. Wallis Memorial Opera Competition will be held in February 24 & 25, 2024 at the U of R, Conservatory of Performing Arts (Regina). The Wallis Opera Competition is a partnership project with the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras. The first place winner receives \$5,000 toward further study in opera and the opportunity to appear as a guest artist with the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras.

2024 Provincial Finals Competition will take place May 30 to June 2, 2024 @ the U of S, Saskatoon.

District Festivals will begin in late February and continue through to early May, 2024.

Canada West Performing Arts Festival will take place July 25-27, 2024 in Victoria, BC and is hosted and administered by Performing Arts BC.

Greetings from Representative Organizations
Laureen Kells, President of the Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers’ Association brought heartfelt greetings. Graham Gilmore attended on behalf of Saskatchewan Music Educators Association and brought greetings.

Tammy read a message from Jan Seibel, SaskCulture Chair. Alex Rogalski, Outreach Consultant, was in attendance.

Tammy Villeneuve made the third and last call for nominations from the floor. There were none.

Motion: to close nominations.

*Penny Miles/Jordana Thiessen
CARRIED*



Motion: To elect, by acclamation, Karen Frandsen and Krista Brost to the SMFA Board of Directors.

Susan Gorges/Shannon McIntyre
CARRIED

Each new Board member had an opportunity to say a few words. Tammy welcomed Krista to the SMFA Board, thanked Karen for extending her time on the Board, and thanked outgoing Board member Doug McCosh for his service.

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

The SMFA Board & staff was thanked and introduced: The Executive includes: President: Jeri Ryba (Moose Jaw), Past President: Tammy Villeneuve (Meadow Lake), 1st VP: Dianne Gryba (North Battleford), 2nd VP: Alisha Mann

(Estevan), Clayton Braybrook (Kindersley), Krista Brost (Meadow Lake), Heather Macnab (Maple Creek), Penny Miles (Mainline), and Karen Frandsen (Regina). Staff: Carol Donhauser (Executive Director), Nancy Toppings (Administrative Assistant), Mariel Unger (Executive Assistant).

The 2024 Conference and AGM date and location is to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:54pm.



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Wallis Memorial Opera Competition

Canadian-Ukrainian soprano Kateryna Khartova is the winner of the 2024 Gordon C. Wallis Opera Competition.



The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA) President, Jeri Ryba is pleased to announce that the 2024 Gordon C. Wallis Memorial Opera Competition was won by soprano Kateryna Khartova. The Canadian-Ukrainian singer performed works by Mozart, Schubert and Dvorák, and was accompanied by Kathleen Lohrenz Gable. She was awarded the prize of \$5,000 and the opportunity to be a featured soloist in an upcoming season with the Regina Symphony Orchestra and the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra.

Kateryna is a graduate of the Glenn Gould School of Music in Toronto (2020), as well as a proud alumna of the Music Department at the University of Saskatchewan. During her undergraduate studies, Miss Khartova was a featured soloist in the University's Music Theatre Ensemble under the directory of Dr. Garry Gable and Kathleen Lohrenz Gable. Katya is a passionate performer of Ukrainian art song through the Ukrainian Art Song Project (UASP) in Toronto. She made her Koerner Hall debut as Pamina in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, directed by Joel Ivany and conducted by Nathan Brock.

Eight singers competed on Saturday, February 24, in the Heritage Lecture Theatre at the Conservatory of Performing Arts, University of Regina, followed by a masterclass on February 25. The competition was judged by Phillip Addis (Calgary, AB) and Kim Mattice Wanat (Edmonton, AB). The competition was established by the late Gordon C. Wallis, former assistant director of the University of Regina, Conservatory of Music and is presented by the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association. The competition is held every two years and is intended to support young singers in further studies in opera.

The next Wallis Opera Competition will take place in 2026.






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The advertisement is set against a teal background with a repeating geometric pattern of squares and lines. The text and logos are contained within dark blue rectangular frames with double borders.



Testimonial – Meagan Milatz

Meagan Milatz, winner of the 2024 Prix Opus “Discovery of the Year”, is “a remarkable pianist with a seemingly limitless palette of expression” (Le Devoir). Meagan regularly shares the stage with top international musicians including Andrew Wan, concertmaster of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, Stefan Dohr, Principal Horn of the Berlin Philharmonic, Kai Gleusteen, concertmaster of the Orchestra del Gran Teatre del Liceu of Barcelona, cellist Matt Haimovitz, and mandolinist Avi Avital. Meagan has appeared as soloist with the Edmonton, Regina, Sherbrooke, and McGill Symphonies. She has performed in concert in Ireland (New Ross Piano Festival 2023), France, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Scotland, and Malta. Meagan’s duo “meagan&amy” won the first-ever 50-concert Pan-Canadian Tour offered by Jeunesses Musicales Canada, Debut Atlantic, and Prairie Debut. Meagan has a recording contract for nine albums of solo and chamber music with ATMA Classique. She is grateful to her teachers and lifelong mentors Cherith Alexander, Ilya Poletaev, fortepianist Tom Beghin, and Philip Chiu.



Photo credit: Steve Gerrard

The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association was absolutely key in my growth as a pianist from the very earliest days! I started out by participating in the Weyburn Music Festival at age 5 through the encouragement of my teacher, Cherith Alexander, who I was lucky enough to study with for the next 13 years. The annual occasion of the music festival always seemed like a very natural part of the process during the year - maybe TOO natural, as I was known to sit in the audience deeply engrossed in word searches or the latest Harry Potter book until literally seconds before going on stage. (I would love to go back to this nonchalant approach!!!!) I loved performing, particularly if it was an EXCITING piece by David L. McIntyre, or something fast and punchy like Prokofiev, or grandiose like Rachmaninoff. It was the Weyburn Music Festival that helped me to discover my love for perfecting and performing. I also remember distinctly the Saskatchewan adjudicators that I grew up deeply admiring (and being slightly intimidated by, in a good way!), such as Bonnie Nicholson, Dianne Gryba, and Kathleen Gable, to name just a few. I valued the feedback I received from every adjudicator who passed through

Weyburn.

Eventually, my festival radius expanded to include the Estevan and Regina Music Festivals, providing further performance opportunities and opening my eyes to a whole other world of talent that I was completely in awe of (special shout-out to James Coghlin, Sam Deason, Maria Fuller, Alex Dyck, Helen Kashap, and many others who are now life-time colleagues and friends thanks to our shared experiences with the SMFA). Yes, these pianists were my competitors, but more importantly they were a huge source of inspiration with every chance that I got to hear them play, whether at the local or provincial levels of the festival.



The National Music Festival was also a fantastic opportunity, and some of my most exciting memories as a young Saskatchewan pianist come from these occasions. Team Sask of 2007 in Moncton, NB with Danika Lorèn and Mark Turner will go down in history as one of the most fun musical experiences of my life - and the first time I ever tried mussels, with Cherith's encouragement - and vivid memories continued to be made with every edition to follow.

A huge thank you to the SMFA for allowing me to "spread my wings" as a young performer. These positive experiences in Saskatchewan had a larger impact than I could have realized at the time, and I look back on those years with much gratitude!



Photo credit: Antoine Saito



Testimonial – Jeffery Straker

Singer-songwriter pianist Jeffery Straker performs over 100 shows per year across Canada, Europe and Latin America. Serving up a rootsy-storytelling brand of song, his song-writing has the ability to transport a listener - out onto a northern lake or to the main street of a prairie town. Across 9 albums to date, critical comparisons have been drawn to the likes of Kris Kristofferson & Murray McLauchlan while performances have seen him live on BBC radio in the UK, on theatre stages and performing to festival crowds. Named 'Roots-Folk Artist of the Year' in consecutive Saskatchewan Music Awards, Jeffery has also been honoured with a Western Canadian Music Award. The Saskatchewan Country Music Awards have named him keyboard player of the year 4 years running. Wherever he performs his audience-connections are stand-out and to that end CBC Radio recently said: "Straker has a way of drawing us into his world and making us feel like we're a welcome guest; an old friend he's ready to catch up with".



When I close my eyes and think back to my early years competing in the Last Mountain District Music Festival, I can still see the stage in the Govan Community Hall. The old upright piano was placed a little over to stage left, and when you looked out into the hall from the piano bench the adjudicator was front and centre waiting to assess your efforts that day. You could hear a pin drop. Nerves were in abundance. I loved it. I always wanted to do well and to do well I knew I had to practice. I really worked hard to prepare for that week of

festival performing. I always felt like it was a 'performance' first and a 'competition' second; that the best thing to focus on was to try to have the adjudicator feel my playing. And the better I knew the music through practicing, the better I would be able to let it flow through me to try to communicate it to the listeners. But even before I played in music festivals I learned to enjoy practicing and wanted to do it because I really wanted to impress my piano teacher back in Punnichy – Mrs. Vicki Young. She was a fantastic teacher who struck that magical balance of gently encouraging, while reminding me that practice and discipline was what was going to separate the wheat from the chaff so to speak. I'm forever grateful for my years with her. I think the big thing I learned was the power of perseverance and work ethic. And also, that you didn't need to learn it all in one sitting – you could go back to it and keep improving little by little over time.

Mrs. Young handed me over to my second piano teacher Mrs. Dawn MacTavish in Raymore, SK. Dawn also struck that brilliant teaching balance: incredible gentle encouragement of the art form and the enjoyment of the beauty of music while instilling drive. I progressed quite well under



her teaching and again, as with Mrs. Young, I wanted to impress Mrs. MacTavish. She first introduced me to music festivals and entered me into the Last Mountain District Festival. I remember some of the adjudicators I had there too - Shirley Lummerding pops to mind when I start to think about the list. She was energized, detailed and had something good to say about everyone's playing while also pointing out where we could do better. Something I learned from all of the adjudicators at every festival was: even if your playing was really good, there was always something you could work at to make it even better. There were always suggestions to try approaching a piece in a slightly different way.

My hard work often paid off and I received a lot of first place and second place certificates in the festivals, and if you did well during festival week, you got invited to perform at the big "final concert" - I was delighted to get to do that. Awards & scholarships were given out at the final concerts, but I honestly didn't care about them too much. I really found the reward was if people said they enjoyed my playing. Those early music festival years were so formative in helping me realize that playing music for a room full of people wasn't just about playing all the notes to win a prize. Rather it was playing music in a way that helped the people in the room feel it. And that's art isn't it? You can't tell someone how to do that, and it's not a trophy or prize that matters. What matters is if people leave the room having felt something - that's the prize. To get good at this it takes great teachers, it takes dedication over time, it takes attention to detail and it takes opportunities to get better at performing. These local music festivals are such a golden opportunity for honing your performance chops.

One thing about competing in music festivals is that it was a real shake up of your usual music habits. You were traveling to your performance in a different town, performing in a different room vs what you were used to, you were performing for new listeners which was thrilling and terrifying at the same time, and you were playing on a different piano. And of course you were also competing against your peers. Everything was different and you had to adapt really quickly. I didn't realize at the time how much that was preparing me for my music work that I do now as a touring singer-songwriter pianist.

When I was 14 years old the adjudicator at the Last Mountain District Festival was (finally!) a man - Frank Crumley. He liked my playing and, on the recommendation of Mrs. MacTavish, I moved on to study with him the next year at the Conservatory of Music at the University of Regina. Frank entered me into the Regina Music Festival and I was recommended to provincials quite a few times from there too. In my first piano competition at the Conservatory (I was 15 years old) I competed against a herd of U of R Bachelor's Degree piano students and (I still don't know how this happened) - I won. And it was a real wind in my sail to keep working hard with Frank. I loved my years studying there - it felt light years away from my home town - what a different world that was. There was a very memorable masterclass that I was part of with the incomparable Helmut Brauss. I played a Beethoven Sonata for him (Opus 2, No. 3) and in his feedback of my playing he took an excruciating(!) 45 minutes with me in front of a very full recital hall. In that time, he took me from playing "down" (into the keys) to playing "up" from the keyboard and forever changed my piano playing. To this day I thank him for



that. I could immediately hear the difference. It was like discovering a new colour to paint with. I recall some people coming up to me afterwards and saying that he took too long with me and that he was so tough on me... and said they'd have been embarrassed to sit there that long. The thing was, I can still see that moment like a movie in my mind and, to me, the experience was wonderful. This guy really wanted to help my playing and if it took 45 minutes and put the whole day behind-schedule, well then so be it. I felt it was an act of generosity, of someone who cared. In 45 minutes, Helmut completely changed the way I play the piano. In my senior year at the Conservatory, I won the Silver Medal for performance and received my Licentiate Diploma in Piano Performance from Trinity College London.

Helmut, every adjudicator I ever played for, and of course (especially) my 3 piano teachers Mrs. Young, Mrs. MacTavish and Mr. Crumley all spent countless hours with me in a room with a piano. The wisdom, technique, encouragement, passion for music and art that they shared never left me. After leaving piano studies, competitions and festivals for a few years (and keeping it alive as my hobby) I found my way back into music as a singer-songwriter pianist – writing words and music for my own original works. It's been my full time work for 17 years. Though the music I write isn't the classical music I learned and played growing up, the core of what I do when I perform it is so much of what I absorbed in my younger years. Those lessons I learned from music festival

adjudicators and my teachers still ring true: Perseverance is a requirement to succeed at anything, and knowing your material well in order to perform it freely for your listeners will let them feel something when they're there in that moment listening to you. And if listeners can leave your performance having felt something, that is the grand prize.



Jeffery Straker offers encouragement to Mitchell Kovach, big fan and participant at the Regina Music Festival.



45 District Music Festivals

In addition to 45 annual district music festivals, SMFA provides: a provincial Syllabus; entrance to annual Provincial, Concerto, Opera and Musical Theatre Competitions; opportunity to advance to the Canada West Performing Arts Festival with competitors from Alberta and British Columbia; and coordinates training, hiring and scheduling of adjudicators. SMFA also provides workshops, fosters recognition of volunteers, organizes provincial archives and maintains a provincial website. In 2022, SMFA hosted the inaugural Canada West Performing Arts Festival on the beautiful University of Saskatchewan Campus.

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



District Festival Reports



Assiniboia & District Music Festival March 19 to 23, 2024

Assiniboia & District Music Festival (ADMF) held its 90th festival from March 19-23. The sessions were held at the Assiniboia Alliance Church as they have been for many years. We had 43 participants performing 147 entries, from Assiniboia and neighboring communities. Eight participants were playing in the ADMF for the first time.

Our adjudicator was Carol McFadden, who recently moved from out of province to Waldheim, SK. Carol seemed exceptionally knowledgeable in the voice submissions, was very helpful in the piano submissions, and was able to provide good feedback to our speech arts and string participants. She had many helpful comments to encourage students to keep going and to improve in their disciplines.

The Assiniboia & District Music Festival held their awards concert on the evening of March 28 at the Assiniboia Alliance Church. \$2,625 in community scholarships were awarded to 43 worthy participants from the festival. We had a great concert followed by the distribution of awards and finishing with an ice cream social.

Thank you to all the committee members and volunteers who helped make this festival a success.

Respectfully submitted, Julie Petersen



Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival April 15 to 27, 2024

This year's Festival ran from April 15 to April 27. We had three adjudicators: Mark Tse, Ron de Jager and Sharon Rodney. There were 355 entries.

Amelie Craibe, Rianka Crespo, Sophie Francais, Emma Harder, Anwyn Mannix, Eli Morin, Ava Smith, Natalie Voigt and Deklin Wall advanced to Provincial Finals.

The Awards Gala night was held on April 30. Thank you to Lakeland Veterinary Services, sponsor of our Gala night. We also want to thank all our other sponsors, Arch Rivals Foot Care, Battleford Furniture, Battlefords Animal Hospital, Battlefords Blend Sweet Adelines, Battlefords Maddage Therapy, Battleford Ministerial Association, Beeplus Solutions, Bralin Technology Solutions, Bridges Chev Buick GMC, Joan Bunce, Cecilia and Murray Burton, Canadian Tire, Donna and Roy Challis, Charbin Seed Farm, Chic and Shabby, CIBC, Dr. Russel Buttler Dentistry, Dream Realty, Dynamic Appraisals, EMBM Parent Association, Eternal Memories Funeral Service and Crematorium, Bev & Murray Greenwood, Dianne Gryba, Dr. Hessleson, Hudec Law, Ilene Wettergreen, Jaki Esquirol, Kiwanis Club, Kramwe Trailer Sales, Ken and Yvonne Loenhdorf, Marusia Kobrynsky, Matrix Law Group, Mawson Saddlert LTD., Hugh McPhail and Meridian Surveys.

Dianne Gryba attended the SMFA Conference.



Biggar & District Music Festival March 3 to 9, 2024

Biggar and District Music Festival was held March 3-9, March 9 being our performers concert that we now are able to livestream and include audience who normally can't partake in the evening! This year was our 96th annual music festival and was very well attended. Our festival included two days of piano, one day of instrumental and two days of vocal. Three rose bowls were presented to **Kera Savostianik** (piano), **Larissa Raddysh** (vocal) and **Valeria Sanchez** (instrumental). Kera was also eligible to compete at Provincial Finals in piano. We had a record number of vocalists able to attend Provincials this year: **Malia Hadden, Annika Hadden, Skye Moore, Larissa Raddysh, Claire Mantyka** and **Izac Mactal**. Thank you to all of our scholarship supporters, award donors and patrons.

Our first fundraisers for the spring festival happened in October in conjunction with our town wide "block party". We had locally donated raffle items in a beautiful basket and sold all the tickets, raising over \$1,500! Once again this year, our committee held festive outdoor caroling within the community in early December, alongside our Carol Festival at the theatre. We received a great deal of community support and raised approximately \$1,600.

At our district music festival there were a total of 203 entries across all three disciplines. We welcomed three adjudicators: Cherith Alexander for piano, Daryl McKinnon for instrumental and Anna Bekolay for vocal. We would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the adjudicators for their encouragement and the advice provided to our festival participants.

On behalf of the Biggar Music Festival Association, I would like to thank all our many volunteers that ensured that everything ran smoothly during the music festival. The 96th Biggar Music Festival was once again a success!

Submitted by Janelle Carr, President

Borderland Music Festival **(Coronach)** April 21 to 22, 2024

The 2024 Borderland Music Festival (BMFA) was held April 21-22 at the Alliance Church in Coronach. The festival began with a full afternoon and evening of vocal and musical theatre and continued our second day with choral speech and piano entries. In total, we had 75 entries in all disciplines. Our adjudicators, Dr. Melissa Morgan and Janet Gieck were both wonderful people to work with and our committee was thrilled to meet and work with them this year. The 2024 Borderland festival also had 11 entries in Provincial classes and of these, 5 entries qualified for Provincial Finals.

Over the two days of competition, we hosted nearly 450 people as entrants and audience. The Festival of Stars evening concert was held April 23 with more than 150 people in attendance. Our door admission (by donation) and program sales raised almost \$1200. Donations by community members and local businesses raised over \$5000. We are always humbled by the generosity of our community when it comes to supporting our festival. This year, we also awarded over \$1700 in scholarships and gave out more than 25 first year medallions.

The morning sessions on Monday, April 22 were absolutely buzzing with excitement, with more than 150 students from Pre-Kindergarten



through to Grade 6 from Rockglen and Coronach schools gathering to compete in choral and choral speech. This was well attended by many parents, grandparents and other community members. Volunteers in the kitchen were ready with enough cookies and cakes for everyone after the competition.

Our format for the Festival of Stars has changed over the last two years to combine the awards process with performances, allowing us to complete a full programme of 21 performances and deliver all awards in just over one hour. This effort has been appreciated by many, as our evening concert usually falls on a weeknight. The back of the church was decorated to offer great photo opportunities to award winners and brought a celebratory feel to the evening. Annual awards are displayed in the trophy cases at the local schools for all to see.

Many volunteers from the community were enlisted to help with admission, program sales, assisting the adjudicators and helping in the kitchen. We are fortunate to have a local bed and breakfast that takes very good care of our adjudicators during their stay. The BMFA festival committee, Kaylan Fisher, Dorothea Trithardt, Shelly Rousseau, Marilyn Remoue, Angelika Budd and Marie Lermineaux worked very hard during the days and weeks preceding the festival to ensure that it was a success. Without the community effort and volunteerism, the Borderland Music Festival would not take place. We are looking forward to another great festival in April 2025!

Respectfully submitted, Kalissa Regier, President



Carnduff & District Music and Arts Festival

NO FESTIVAL IN 2024

This year was a chance for us evaluate the future of Music & Art Festival in the Southeast. Our story has been interesting since 2020. In 2020, we were one of the last festivals to happen live as the pandemic really took off after our week, so much so that our highlights concert that always has followed on the next Tuesday didn't occur.

Navigating the emotions and beliefs of the communities that we live in, we opted to have a virtual festival contest in 2021. The participants could upload a performance or two or three of their choosing each week during the month of March and each week we awarded prizes. The community really rallied around it in the uncertainty of the time. It was a tough decision by the board to not host a festival for the first time in 61 years, but one that we felt was correct. We had 49 participants with just over 100 performances. We were able to give all participants local gift certificates (to help our local community members who were also feeling the effects of the pandemic) valued from \$25 to \$75.

The next year, 2022 we had a small remaining board that was spread thin. We lost many music teachers in the area due to moving or finding other jobs, or the aftermath of the pandemic. We opted, once again, not hold a festival but instead to invite the participants to enter pieces for the public in a music festival showcase, held for the month of March. We had 54 performers with 80 performances total. We missed being together live, so we then hosted a Festival concert on April 10 at the Carnduff Legion. It was such a blessing to hear the hall filled with live music again. We were able to give each participant gift certificates ranging from \$25 to \$50.



Our AGM in Sept 2022 was a teary one. For various reasons, we found our board dwindling even more. So much so that by the end of the meeting it was decided that 2023 we would not host a festival. It was to be used as a year of reflection and evaluation for the community. Unfortunately, circumstances made it such that this was also the fate of our 2024 festival.

However, festival was missed in our community and on March 9, 2024 we hosted a Strawberry Tea and invited music and art students in the communities to participate. We had a total of 23 entrants that day with 36 performances. Due to the fact that we had not fundraised in a few years, we did not offer the participants any sort of award or gift certificate, but instead a participation certificate and a plea to return to us in the 2025 season. It was a delight for all who attended and encouraged our communities that a place to showcase, learn and grow in our musicality was vital for the area. With that, we had a reorganization meeting on March 28, 2024 which was well attended and encouraging. We had some past members return to the board (to be finalized in the fall) and we had new members hear our pleas and come to the table.

With that, we plan to make a return to the festival family and have been approved for the week of March 9-15. We anticipate our festival being shorter than the 7 days it had grown into, but the board is very optimistic for its restart. We anticipate a full day of band and instrumental, as the band program is still going strong in our communities, and then a day and a half or so of mostly piano with some vocal, speech arts and musical theatre. We plan to once again hold a strawberry tea, pre-festival, and a highlights concert following the festival. We look forward to returning as a full-fledged festival in the 2025 season.



Central Saskatchewan Music and Speech Arts Festival (Davidson)


March 18 to 19, 2024

This year was the 62nd anniversary of our music festival in Davidson. We had a successful two-day festival March 18 and 19.

Lori Potter was our versatile adjudicator for both days. She adjudicated piano, speech arts, strings and voice. It was a wonderful festival experience for students, parents, family, friends, teachers and committee members. We appreciate the expertise, encouragement and comfort level she provided. Thank you, Lori.

Our Grand Finale Concert was held on March 20 with a large audience in attendance. Scholarships and trophies were awarded.

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



60 Years of Festivals

Estevan & District Music Festival

March 11 to 23, 2024

The Estevan & District Music Festival celebrated its 60th year of festivals in 2024! It was so wonderful to celebrate this milestone year with our community, volunteers, benefactors, teachers, families, and past and present entrants! We had special décor and stickers made to attach to participant and scholarship certificates. As one adjudicator told the performers, "This is very special! It will never happen again!" It was a nice nod to the dedication of the committee for all these years of hard work. We had good entry numbers this



year, overall, and are impressed to see numbers steadily increasing in all disciplines. From March 11-12, adjudicator Tom Hearn visited to work with our band and instrumental entries. Lots of good feedback came from his interactive adjudicating and positive demeanor.

March 12-14 brought Jeri Ryba to our corner of the province to adjudicate spoken word, vocal and musical theater entries. Her expertise, and kind words with all of the students, was so appreciated.

Anna Marie Bekolay was in Estevan March 15 to work with strings entrants. We had even more growth in the strings discipline this year and hope to see that continue. We heard much positive feedback about the specialized adjudicator and hope we can continue to offer that to encourage the growing number of students.

We were also pleased to have Sarah Clark Gregory with us for 6 days of piano entries (294 entries!!). Her knowledge and ability to connect with the students was appreciated by teachers and parents alike.

All together, we had 483 entries (an increase of 74 entries) and very few cancellations. Entrants as young as 3 years old took the stage for the first time and their joyful little smiles lit up the room! We also had quite a few graduating players performing for, possibly, their last time at festival. Thank you for sharing your music with us through the years. We wish them all well in their future endeavors!

We held two awards and highlights concerts. Participants in spoken word, vocal, musical theater, band, strings and instrumental were featured and awarded in one concert and piano performers were honored in a separate concert. Our top award is the Murray GM Multi-Discipline award, which was won by **Jacob Pyra** after performing in the strings, vocal, spoken word and instrumental classes. The Dwight

Thompson Memorial Multi-Discipline Runner – Up Award (donated by Hall Funeral Services) was awarded to **Sarah Kimball**. We are pleased to be able to award over \$10,000 in scholarships and awards, thanks to the many generous donors and businesses in our community. This monetary support provides encouragement and motivation to our many recipients and is greatly appreciated by winners and our committee alike.

We were also happy to have more than one of our district entrants advance to the Provincial Competition - for the first time in many years - held in Saskatoon the first weekend of June. **Jennika Linthicum, Hudsyn Hozjan** and **Kensie Aspinall** were all eligible to represent our festival in 12 & under piano, with the first two named attending the competition. We are so proud of these young musicians for continuing to challenge themselves and take part in the Provincial Festival. Thank you to the SMFA for the beautiful opportunity presented to these young musicians!

Tons of volunteers came out to support this milestone festival and give the gift of their time to our organization. Without their commitment, we have no festival. Thank you could never be enough! Here's hoping we're still celebrating music for another 60 years in our community!

Submitted by Alisha Mann, President





Eston Music Festival April 15 to 16, 2024

The 75th Eston Music Festival was held April 15 & 16. Brenda Ormsby read a report dated 1958 from Mrs. Ursula Holmes as to the formation of the Eston Music Festival. It was truly a major community event back in the day! The 1947 program sold for 10 cents and up to 25 cents in 1954. The 1952 program had 25 girls in the 10 & under vocal class, all singing the same song! I wouldn't want to be the adjudicator! The adjudicators were treated royally, and the silver tea service was used at session breaks.

This year, we had 117 entries, up 14 from 2023 (40 piano, 2 strings, 2 percussion, 3 vocal, 2 musical theatre, 2 choral and 66 spoken word).

Sacred Heart Catholic Church was the venue for all sessions, with the Full Gospel Church hosting the final awards concert. St. Andrew's United Church served as our warmup venue, located across the street from the session venue. Thank you to all three churches for welcoming the festival to use their facilities whenever we needed them. Session attendance averaged 38 people, and approximately 140 attended our final concert. Thanks to all who came to listen and support our young performers.

It was a pleasure to have Nancy Loper from Caronport as adjudicator for all disciplines. She was very knowledgeable and encouraging with all festival competitors and did an awesome job!

We hosted the annual Carol Festival in December and had great community support for this event.

We cannot host this event without our very faithful festival cheerleaders of volunteers and scholarship donors. They are truly the best!

I was honoured at our final concert with a gorgeous bouquet of flowers and a lovely plaque for serving on the festival committee for 20 years! Thank you to all I have served with over the years; you have all made it a labour of love!

Respectfully submitted by Brenda Ormsby



Gravelbourg & District Bilingual Music Festival April 8 to 11, 2024

We had one adjudicator this year; thank you to Lori Potter for working with us so she could adjudicate our whole week. She shared their enthusiasm and love of the arts with our participants, making our first-time performers feel right at ease. We hope she returns another year to our community.

A huge shout out and thank you goes out to our students and teachers who continued to get together and practice, both in person and virtually. Many of our students take some lessons from teachers in other communities, as rural areas have fewer teachers. In total, we had 42 competitors enter 138 compositions in piano, voice, French and English spoken word, musical theatre and instrumental classes. We are so fortunate to see this wide range of talents represented so well in our small towns. Our numbers are slightly up from last year. Also, a number of our participants entered 25 provincial classes and all qualified to advance to Provincial Finals. This is a much larger number than previous years and shows the high level of talent of our senior students. We are so proud of their accomplishments. Many of our students participated in other festivals in the area as well.

Our final concert and scholarship award ceremony, The Gravelbourg Grammys, was held at the end of week and also broadcast live



via Facebook. All award recipients are chosen by the adjudicator. Except for ensemble classes and musical theatre, participants must compete in two classes of the same discipline to be eligible to receive an award. Our adjudicators also chose the performances for our final program. Local donors were very generous with their scholarships and awards.

Our committee is always open to new members and volunteers. Many of us will soon have children who have “aged out” of our local festival. We need new parents and community members who are interested in supporting the arts in Gravelbourg and area to join our planning committee. The talent and spirit in Gravelbourg never cease to amaze me, but finding individuals to fill board roles is proving difficult. We have been working closely with the Assiniboia Music Festival committee to support and network ideas.


I would like to thank the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association for their guidance and support this past year. Thank you also to the Church of Christ for use of their wonderful building to host our festival. And finally, to our local committee and dedicated volunteers: thank you for all your hard work. Your dedication to local arts and our youth is commendable.

Next year will be our 25th Anniversary, and we have already begun planning for this Silver Anniversary year. We look forward to celebrating 25 years of music excellence in 2025!

Submitted by Yvonne Sutherland, President



Hafford & District Music Festival NO FESTIVAL IN 2024



Humboldt Music Festival April 15 to 24, 2024

Humboldt Music Festival held our 87th festival from April 15-24. We were very excited to have our festival grow this year and have many spectators come to watch the performers. We also saw an increase in the number of volunteers wishing to help out at our festival. With the help of these amazing volunteers, we were able to host a very successful festival. We had, in total, 267 entries with 128 participants between the disciplines of piano, strings, band, vocal and musical theatre. Our final concert was held on the evening of April 28 at Westminster United Church and was very well received and attended by the community. We had the largest attendance for our final concert that we had in the last five years, which was amazing to see. We are always so grateful of the support that is given to us by our community, sponsors and all the volunteers that dedicate their time in bringing this opportunity to the youth in our community.

Submitted by April Pray, Festival Coordinator



Kindersley & District Music Festival March 18 to 27, 2024

Our 2024 Music Festival ran from March 18-27. We hosted 20 sessions over 8 days in 4 venues. Over 230 students registered, including 4 high school bands. In total, we had 272 registrations. We had to rearrange our schedule a little, moving vocal to the end of the week and starting with piano, to help our participants and teachers who were involved in two festivals concurrently.

Our first adjudicator was Alicia Vopni-Summach, who adjudicated junior and senior piano. We started with senior piano at St. Paul's United Church before moving for junior piano to the Norman Ritchie Community Centre. We had a full 4 days of piano, with 10 sessions keeping our adjudicator busy!

Gaye-Lynn Kern came to adjudicate spoken word, vocal and musical theatre sessions, which were moved this year to St. Paul's United church. One of our participants, **Sierra Gardiner**, was recommended to Provincials in both vocal and musical theatre.

Our second week saw James McCarthy adjudicating instrumental sessions at St. Paul's United Church. Due to teacher job action, one high school band was unable to participate as it wasn't their regular class time. Four other bands played during their band class times in their home schools. A big thank you to James for being so flexible up to the very last minute as we had to juggle a bit. Thanks also to the private teachers who took over the at-venue tuning and calming of nerves for teachers who couldn't attend because of sanctions. Instrumental sessions were up this year, with 6 sessions over 3 days.

We were very pleased to continue with our "Adjudicator's Invitational Stars of the Festival" concert. Our last session was on Wednesday afternoon, and we put together the concert for Wednesday evening, which was a bit of a rush,

but our volunteers made it look easy! Adjudicators not only had the responsibility of choosing scholarship winners, but also the participants, and their pieces, that would perform in the concert. As we gave out 49 awards, it was not reasonable to have everyone perform, so our adjudicators followed the KDMF suggested number restrictions and put together a program of 25 pieces across all the disciplines. All scholarship winners were encouraged to attend, and we handed out \$3190 in awards, \$2290 of which was donated by local sponsors.

Though a good number of regular sponsors returned this year, we did lose a few. We also gained a few new sponsors. The only extra fundraising we have done so far was to host our annual Christmas Carol Festival in December, with a silver collection at the door. This event continues to grow after having to cancel for a few years. We are also applying for a community initiative grant (KCIP) from our town.

One of the highlights of the year was hosting the SMFA Annual Fall Conference in October. Our committee was pleased to provide the appetizers and punch for the evening session on Friday, as well as continental breakfast/snacks and a soup and sandwich meal on Saturday, with most of the food being prepared by our own committee members. It was an excellent opportunity to meet with other festival committee members, to learn about what's new at the SMFA, and to celebrate the achievements of festivals from across the province, as well as the amazing volunteers, one of which was our very own Helen Barclay-Rosher!

Another highlight for our 2024 Festival was an increase in community volunteers coming out to work at the secretary and coordinator tables. A total of 11 people from outside the committee volunteered, some taking several sessions. All commented on how much fun they had and how great it was to see all the competitors and their talent.



We are always growing and changing: as we know better, we do better. This year, we combined having printed programs with our online program. Most people chose online, so we will continue to use that, but we did sell about 30 printed as well. Our Adjudicator Choice concert is a success, and we will continue with that. Practice days, first time participant ribbons, and communication with concert participants are evolving processes, as our community of participants also evolves. Our online registration program had the most success ever, with no one using paper registrations or the in-person drop off offered. Our committee, made up of parents, music teachers and people who have a desire to see music celebrated in our community, uses their individual strengths to support each other and together make a strong contribution to Make Music Matter in Kindersley.

*Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Glass (chair) on behalf of the KDMF committee:
Sharleen Gilmour, Shannon Skinner, Deborah Klassen, Helen Barclay & Clayton Braybrook*



Kipling & District Music Festival March 25 to 26, 2024

NO REPORT SUBMITTED
101 entries
Adjudicator: Lori Potter

La Ronge & District Music Festival March 18 to 20, 2024

The 36th Annual La Ronge and Area Music Festival was held from March 18-20. We had 115 performances by 42 participants. Disciplines represented included: classical piano, arranged piano and student-arranged piano, orchestral piano, violin, vocal solo and musical theatre.

Our adjudicators were Gillian Rice and Sandy Foster. We are grateful for the enthusiasm and insight they brought to encourage participants in their musical endeavours. The dedication, commitment, knowledge and experience they brought to our festival are much appreciated. We hired an accompanist, Michele Hupaelo, to drive up from Saskatoon and accompany the musicians at our festival. She did an amazing job, and we were so grateful to have her.

Our Outstanding Performances Concert on March 21 was very well attended. This concert ran well and included the presentation of 27 scholarships and awards. Total value of the scholarships was \$2155. We felt very blessed by the support from the community and the encouragement given to our young musicians at this concert.

We are pleased to report that four of our performers were able to move on to the provincial level. **Amelia Putz, Peyton Bell, Serenity Mack** and **Alina Mack** were our district winners who all participated in the SMFA Provincial Finals Competition at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. Serenity and Alina Mack performed in the vocal and piano Lieder class at provincials. Amelia and Peyton both performed in voice. Alina also performed in piano and violin. We hope to continue sending musicians to participate in this valuable learning opportunity.



We would like to thank everyone who contributed towards this valuable event to encourage musicians. Our committee would like to thank the organizations, local businesses and individuals who sponsored our festival and make our festival possible. This year our committee members were Tamara Putz, Marlene Wolkosky, JoAnn Layton, Lori Bell and Melanie Mack. The Alliance Church generously allowed the use of their facility for our festival and the Outstanding Performances Concert. We appreciate being able to use this facility year after year as it suits our festival's needs. We look forward to next year!



Lafleche & District Music Festival April 15 to 18, 2024

We held our 57th annual Music Festival in Lafleche from Sunday, April 15 to Thursday, April 18. We had a total of 175 entries (78 piano, 2 violin, 1 choir, 34 vocal, 38 musical theatre and 22 spoken word). Our adjudicators were Spencer McKnight (vocal) and Audrey Watson (piano). Thank you for sharing your passion for music with our participants and captivating our audience throughout the week.

Our festivals are not possible without our dedicated volunteers. We simply would not be able to continue without their hard work. Thank you to all the board members for all their years of service. Your hard work and dedication to our festival is very much appreciated.

This year we hosted our first Lafleche Credit Union Competition on Thursday, April 18. The adjudicators chose eight outstanding performers from the festival week to compete. We welcomed adjudicators Ron de Jager and Audrey Watson. The 2024 Lafleche Credit Union Competition winner was **Rayna Baedke**. Congratulations Rayna!

Following the Music Festival, we held the Final Concert on Friday, April 19. The Final Concert showcased the top performers of the week and scholarship winners. All recipients of scholarships are at the discretion of the adjudicator.

A huge thanks to our program sponsors and generous scholarship donors. Thank you to our local music teachers for supporting our festival.

Submitted by Sharla Davidson-Girardin, President



Lanigan & District Music Festival April 15 to 23, 2024

The 46th Lanigan and District Music Festival took place at Christian Fellowship Church in Lanigan, April 15-18 and 22-23, with a final concert on the evening of Thursday, April 25. The first week consisted of piano, guitar and violin classes, adjudicated by Rebecca Hankins-Vopni. Vocal, musical theatre, ensemble and spoken word classes, adjudicated by Deborah Buck, took place the following week. There were 232 entries this year: 127 in piano, 18 in guitar, 9 in violin, 56 in vocal & musical theatre, 17 in spoken word, and 5 in groups. The final concert featured performances selected by the adjudicators and was a great culmination to the festival. All sessions were open to the public, and performances were live streamed to Lanigan & District Music Festival's Facebook page for those unable to attend enjoy in person. Students, families, teachers and volunteers enjoyed the refreshments served at coffee breaks held mid-morning and mid-afternoon in between sessions.

In total, 91 students participated in the festival, from the communities of Lanigan, Watrous, Watson, Jansen, Humboldt, Drake, Engelfeld, Leroy, Guernsey and Quill Lake. They were taught by thirteen different teachers and ranged in age from five years & under to 18 years & under, as well as a few parents who performed



in duet or group classes with their children. While many of the participants had been performing at the festival for years, there were also several beginners for whom it was their very first festival experience!

Highlights this year were the piano and violin masterclasses held by adjudicator Rebecca Hankins-Vopni, in which students received specific technical and musical instruction in group classes. Additionally, six students from our festival advanced to the Provincial Finals Competition: **Katherine Ostrovsky** (piano), **Molly Evans**, **Jordyn Govan** and **Mallory Tweidt** (musical theatre), **Ger Lon Valedesimo** (vocal, musical theatre and piano) and **Jenevieve Melin** (musical theatre and spoken word). Congratulations to all of these students!

The final concert was held on April 25, at which a large audience enjoyed performances by students in all disciplines. Following the concert, awards were presented, with scholarships totalling more than \$2700.

Revenues for the year, as of the date of the annual meeting, were \$8105 and expenses were \$8951, leaving a deficit of \$846. Lanigan & District Music Festival relies on the generosity of sponsors to operate, and we gratefully acknowledge the SMFA corporate sponsors, as well as our local supporters: Village of Drake, Drake Meats, Bruce Elke, Jansen Players, Renee Nunan-Rappard, Pound-Maker Agventures, St. Mary's Catholic Women's League, Lanigan Advisor, Long Lake Insurance, Humboldt Co-op, Eva Elka & Al Shumaker, and Nutrien – Lanigan Potash. We are also thankful for the many sponsors of awards which encourage so many students at our festival.

The Lanigan & District Music Festival Executive is composed of four volunteer officers: Nata Kline (president), Angel Liebrecht (entry secretary), Heidi Craig (treasurer) and Laura Melin (corresponding secretary). The festival's volunteer committee members are Michelle Foster (awards, patrons & donors), Kaylyn

Bartel (volunteer coordinator), Amber Yaskiw, member at large), and Nata Kline & Angel Liebrecht (program). We are very thankful for the many volunteers from our community who helped make the 2024 festival a grand success.

Last Mountain District Music Festival (Strasbourg) April 15 & 16, 2024

The LMDMF was held in Strasbourg on April 15 and 16 at the St. John Lutheran Church. This is the second year we have hosted it in this venue, which has a grand piano. Last year it was a new experience for our young musicians to play on a grand piano. There were some jitters and nervous moments as they got used to playing on such a beautiful instrument! This year the feeling was more relaxed and filled with anticipation and excitement!!

Most of our solo participants were in the piano discipline. We had 30 piano participants, 7 voice participants, 30 participants in band, 40 students in a choir, 8 participants in a rhythm ensemble, and we are happy to report that we had 1 participant in spoken word. I have had some conversation with parents and other students about participating in this discipline so I am optimistic that there will be a larger number of participation in next years' festival! We had 11 participants that are Indigenous or newcomers to Canada. There was one first-time participant.

Our Festival was not without some glitches but we were overcomers and, in spite of some set backs, we had a very successful festival. At the last minute our assigned adjudicator, Corinne Groff from Regina, was not able to be with us due to sickness. We are so grateful to SMFA for working hard to find a replacement for us. Heather Macnab from Maple Creek did a splendid job adjudicating all disciplines on such short notice. The ongoing uncertainty of the



teachers' strike and sanctions on extra curricular activities posed a problem for us as the visiting bands from Raymore and Bulyea Schools were not able to attend the festival. This was a huge disappointment for our students.

Our Final Concert and Awards Night was held on Friday, April 19. It was well attended which was a great support to our musicians. It was extra special to have Karen Frandsen, our SMFA liaison, attend our Awards Night and bring greetings from SMFA to our community! Also, we had Graham Condo from Access Now TV record our event which was aired at a later date on a local Access TV channel.

Congratulations to **Alynn Rustia** from Strasbourg who was the recipient of our Graduating Student Scholarship of \$200.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Danielson



Lloydminster Kiwanis Music Festival April 22 to May 3, 2024

2024 was another successful year for Kiwanis Lloydminster & District Music Festival. We had a total of 542 entries, up slightly from last year. Our festival ran from April 22 to May 3.

Our adjudicators were:
Sofia Mycyk (144 senior piano entries over 9 sessions);
Heather Kurtenbach (167 junior piano entries over 8 sessions);
Chris MacRae (139 vocal, musical theatre, choir and spoken word entries in 9 sessions);
Kevin Ackerman (92 entries in band, strings, and instrumental in 10 sessions).

Our Final Concert was Sunday, May 5 with 18 performances and 82 awards presented.

We had 16 competitors qualify for SMFA Provincial Finals in Saskatoon. Congratulations to:

Kayla Andres - piano
Tess Andres - piano
Mattea Gabrielson - musical theatre & spoken word
Alizay Hickman - musical theatre
Lola Hickman - musical theatre & spoken word (1st in Spoken Word Poetry 12 & under)
Ruby Hickman - vocal and musical theatre (1st in Musical Theatre Ballad Contemporary 14 & under, runner-up in Musical Theatre Up-tempo Classic/Modern 14 & under and 1st in Canada West Musical Theatre 13 & under)
Chloe Jones - vocal
Julia Krenz - piano
Chloe Kvill - piano
Dana Pham - piano (3rd in Canada West Piano 13 years & under))
Harmony Pollard - musical theatre
Kayleigh Reiniger - vocal
Jonathan Rollheiser - piano
Valerie Rollheiser - spoken word & woodwind
Natalie Simons - musical theatre
Kadence Trachuk - vocal and musical theatre (1st in Musical Theatre Ballad Contemporary 12 & under, 1st in Musical Theatre Up-tempo Contemporary 12 & under and 2nd in Canada West Musical Theatre 13 & under)

Congratulation to the following students who qualified for the Canada West Performing Arts Festival this July in Victoria, BC:

Dana Pham - Piano 13 & under
Ruby Hickman - Musical Theatre 13 & under (Honourable Mention)
Kadence Trachuk - Musical Theatre 13 & under

A huge thank you to all the students, teachers, parents, sponsors, volunteers and committee members. It is your involvement that makes this happen.

Submitted by Kerry Taylor



Mainline Music Festival (Indian Head) March 25 to 27, 2024

A fantastic year to have Festival in Indian Head this year. We had many changes in our core committee. Miranda Plouffe stepped in as Treasurer under the guidance of Tim Taylor from Wolseley Mainline Festival. Jennifer Russell took over as Corresponding Secretary and Penny Miles was our Entry and Program director. Bonnie Malanik continues with Patrons and Donations and we received significant funds due to mail outs and follow up phone calls.

We worked calmly and set up the venues at the Memorial Hall and Festival Finale at the Grand Theatre. Thanks to community members who volunteered their time to help the adjudicator, welcome the students and introduce what the Festival is.

The following competitors qualified for Provincial Finals:

Piano Conservatory Grade 8 – **Julia Miles, Nicholas Miles**

Vocal Recital & Folk Song (17 & under) – **Abbeygail May, Julia Miles**

Musical Theatre (17 & under) – **Abbeygail May** (3 classes), **Julia Miles** (2 classes)

Canada West Musical Theatre (17 & under) – **Abbeygail May**

Congratulations to **Abbeygail May**, winner of the Covey Vocal Recital Scholarship for 17 years & under at Provincial Finals.

All Provincial Classes entered were paid for by the Indian Head Mainline Music Festival.

The success of this year's festival was attributed in part to the support of local teachers and parents who see festival as a viable place to grow as a performer and receive immediate feedback. Sherry Sproule was the adjudicator for all disciplines and exhibited so much enthusiasm that the performers were excited to

go on stage. Feedback is crucial, and Sherry demonstrated different techniques to all (parents included).

Next year, Mainline Festival will be in Wolseley, and we expect the enthusiasm we saw in Indian Head will continue.



Maple Creek & District Music Festival

April 21 to 24, 2024

The Maple Creek & District Music Festival was held from 21 to 24 April, and included 32 solo competitors, three school bands, and three small ensembles. The total number of entries was 133 with piano entries accounting for 54. This year we were pleased to have Olivia Adams as our adjudicator for all categories. She was well received by competitors and the committee. This year we had non-competitive/workshop classes for piano and band.

Our awards concert was held on the evening of 26 April, with performances by 18 performers or ensembles. This year six of our competitors were recommended to the Provincial Competition: **Evey White** (voice, musical theatre, piano), **Amara Weiss** (voice, musical theatre), **Rylie Huck** (voice, musical theatre), **Cadence Pratt** (spoken word), **Bria Sifert** (spoken word), and **Kinley Pratt** (spoken word, piano). Scholarships were awarded to 15 individuals, two small ensembles, and one school band ensemble, a total amount of \$1,605. Our AGM was held on 21 June, with six committee members in attendance. Past president Andrew Hecker has agreed to stand as acting president until after the 2025 festival.





Meadow Lake & District Music Festival

April 16 to 24, 2024

The 46th annual Meadow Lake & District Music Festival was held over two weeks this year, from April 16-24. We had 166 entries in the disciplines of piano, voice, musical theatre, violin, guitar, band, and instrumental. Our entries did not rise or fall this year; they stayed exactly the same as last year which was quite interesting to see. We had 155 entries in our SMFA Syllabus competitive classes, 11 in our local addendum classes, and 1 in our SMFA Syllabus Non- Competitive Class.

Adjudicators were Audrey Falk Janzen (piano and voice), and Daryl McKinnon (band and strings). Our performers benefited from their strong background in their respective disciplines. Their positive and constructive feedback made the competition an enjoyable experience for all students.

We were extremely excited to have four entrants compete in seven Provincial Classes at the district level. Congratulations to our district winners: **Piper MacFarlane** and **Danica McLaughlin** (musical theatre) and **Kenzi Hildebrand** (piano).

This year, the committee introduced a new scholarship for 'Most Promising'. Each adjudicator chose one student that they saw throughout the festival and believed would benefit from receiving the award. In total, 36 monetary scholarships were given out at our Awards Night, and ice cream sundaes were enjoyed by all after the evening concluded. The festival committee would like to thank our many volunteers, and patrons, without whom the festival would not be possible.

Melfort Music Festival

March 4 to 11, 2024

This year, Melfort held their 96th annual Melfort Music Festival! We had five days of festival with 184 entries from participants in 6 disciplines: piano (115), strings (42), band (10), vocal (2), musical theatre (2), and spoken word (13). Thank you to the eleven teachers who supported and encouraged their students to take part.

Our festival saw a big drop in voice entries this year. Our long time vocal teacher usually entered her students in our festival plus another in the area. This year, the decision was made to enter her students into only one festival and, for obvious reasons, she chose the other festival as it was closer for her students.

Melfort's adjudicators this year were: Oxana Ossiptchouk, strings; Glen Gillis, band; Lynette Sawatsky, piano. As we had very few entries in voice this year, Lynette also graciously took an afternoon and adjudicated our vocal, musical theatre and spoken word performers.

Two competitors advanced to Provincial Finals: **Anna Ingram** in the Grade 8 Piano Conservatory Provincial Scholarship Class for her performance of *Song*, by Smetana.

Elyse Johnson in two 17 years & under piano classes: Piano Recital Provincial Scholarship Class with her performance of *Intermezzo #1* by Ponce and the Piano 20th/21st Century Scholarship Class with her performance of *Reverie in F Minor* by Alexander.

On the evening of Friday, March 15, we held our Festival Highlights and Awards Program.

Our Highlights Program consisted of 18 remarkable musicians performing selections chosen by our adjudicators. With only one entry submitted to compete in our annual Sefton



Memorial Competition, the competition did not take place this year.

The Overall Winners for 2024 were:

Best Band performance – **North East Community Band** with a mark of 88

Best Piano Performance – **Elyse Johnson** with a mark of 90

Best String Performance – **Samuel Petersen** with a mark of 83

Best (Voice) Spoken Word Performance – **Isaac Friedt** with a mark of 87

Following the Highlight's Program, we handed out 44 awards and scholarships which totalled \$2265!

Thank you to the many volunteers, businesses, sponsors, donors, and the SOA who have generously supported our Melfort Music Festival over the past 96 years!

Our committee members for 2024 included Dawne Glanville, Rachelle Heavin, Pam Kellington, Janice Mendiuk, Mavis Peters, Victoria Riley and Tena Vanden Boomen.



Moose Jaw Music Festival

April 10 to 18, 2024

Our adjudicators were Garry Gable (voice and musical theatre) Gail Fry (choral), Peggy L'Hoir (piano) and Nick Fanner (band and brass and woodwind solos). We appreciated their wisdom and enthusiasm very much! As well, we are thankful for Gail and Nick's willingness to accommodate changing venues, scheduling, etc. due to the teacher job action. Special thanks to committee member Janie Fries for organizing all of the band conflicts.

Voice and musical theatre disciplines ran from Saturday, April 13 to Thursday, April 18. There were 112 musical theatre entries and 83 vocal entries. We had two Canada West entries in musical theatre 13 & under and 17 & under.

Piano/strings were held from April 16 to April 18. There were 74 piano entries and 12 string solos.

Band was held April 16 to April 18. There were 16 local elementary and high school band entries and 10 solos in brass/woodwinds.

Choir was held on Wednesday, April 10. Due to teacher job action, we held the clinics at the schools. We had two schools enter two choirs each. This is fewer than normal entries, which we attribute to the job action by teachers.

Total entries for the festival were 315.

Thursday evening was our multi-discipline scholarship competition. There were 11 competitors chosen and \$3900 in scholarships were awarded.

We presented over \$8000 in scholarships and are so thankful to our many donors and patrons. We received a special scholarship from Professor Thomas Davidson of McGill University in memory of Sharon Penner, long time avid supporter and volunteer for the Moose Jaw Music Festival.

A big thank you to our volunteers who helped out during the week of festival! We had the biggest turnout of volunteers in a few years! We are hopeful this trend will continue! A very special thanks to Lianne King who hosted the piano venue as well as putting together the reception following our



multi-discipline scholarship evening! We appreciate you so much! Also, thanks to our local Coop for donating gift cards to provide the food and beverages.

We have started planning for 2025 and are very excited for another festival and celebrating the joy of music!



Moosomin & District Music Festival March 11 to 14, 2024

The Moosomin & District Music Festival was held March 11 & 12 for piano and March 13 & 14 for vocal, spoken word and musical theatre. Both adjudicators were given a fruit basket to welcome them to our festival.

There were 147 entries this year, down from the previous year. These students were taught by 16 teachers and represented 5 communities. The piano classes were held at the Baptist Church on March 11 & 12 (92 piano entries which included 4 duets and four participants 6 years & younger. 6 years & under participants received medals, donated by 3rd Avenue on Main, in lieu of a mark. Audience attendance was up from the previous year. Adjudicator Nicole Wilton did an amazing job working with students. She adjudicated individual pieces and invited most students to come up for a mini lesson on the piece they performed. She also demonstrated at the piano.

Vocal, spoken word and musical theatre was held March 13 & 14 at Bethel United Church (15 vocal entries, 19 musical theatre entries including a children's chorus, and 21 spoken word entries including six elementary classrooms). Adjudicator Gaye-Lynn Kern was back to adjudicate for her fifth time. We appreciate her coming to fill in for the first adjudicator assigned who cancelled due to health concerns. Gaye-Lynn took the time to

share her knowledge with students. We would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the adjudicators for the encouragement and advice they provided to our participants.

The Awards Concert was held on Sunday, March 17 at Bethel United Church. Jaime Finlay was the MC for the afternoon of entertainment and award presentations. **Anna Lynnes** advanced to Provincial Finals in piano. **Shaughny Fingas, Avah Neville** and **Olivia Brooks** advanced to Provincial Finals in voice/musical theatre. We wish them all a wonderful experience.

Treasurer's report indicates:

Donations total = \$4025

Awards: Piano - \$825, Speech -\$405, Vocal - \$500, Musical Theatre - \$125, Camp Awards - \$400

Adjudicator Fees - \$2912.11

Current balance \$13,553.80

The Moosomin & District Music Festival relies on the generous donations from the SMFA corporate sponsors, Sask Lotteries, SARCAN, and SaskTel. Our major local sponsors are: Nutrien Rocanville, Borderland Co-op, Moosomin Thrift Store, Pharmasave Moosomin, Celebration Ford, Moosomin Elks Lodge #340, Rocanville Community Thrift Store, RM of Rocanville #151, Kinmen of Moosomin, Prairie Livestock Inc. We also would like to thank our award sponsors and patrons. Without your generous donations we would not be able to continue providing the festival for children in our service area. Thanks also to volunteers that ensured everything ran smoothly during our festival.

Moosomin & District Music Festival Executive:

Rosanne Kelly (president/program)

Melissa Lynnes (treasurer)

Alice Abrahamson (corresponding secretary & program)

Sherrie Meredith & Tegan Matichuk (entries)



Desirae Neville & Kendra Parish (patrons)
Sandra Poole (programming)
Attending the SMFA AGM via Zoom were
Rosanne Kelly, Sandra Poole, and Alice
Abrahamson.

Respectfully submitted, Alice Abrahamson

Nipawin Music Festival

April 8 to 11, 2024

Nipawin Music Festival was held April 8-11, 2024. There were sessions of piano, vocal, musical theatre, guitar and strings with adjudicators Janet Gieck, Spencer McKnight & Leanne Zacharias. There were only two spoken word groups so our goal for the coming year is to work on increasing the registrations for spoken word. The sessions were all held at the Nipawin United Church with the exception of musical theatre at LP Miller High School and spoken word at Wagner Elementary School. Admission to the music festival is by donation and it brought in good donations, more than we received when we charged admission.

The Final Concert & Awards was held on April 17. Fifteen performers were chosen by the adjudicators to play at the Final Concert. A total of \$4200 was given to award recipients. MC for the evening was NMFA President, Jamie Hildebrandt, and awards were presented by committee members Lisa Lang and Myra Schmidt, along with service club representatives. A photographer was hired to take photos of each of the participants and award winners. Everyone was invited to stay for a donut.

We are grateful for all of the "Friends of the Festival", which includes many businesses and community members, for their financial support. Thanks to their generous financial contributions, the Nipawin Music Festival has been able to continue for over 80 years.

Outlook & District Music Festival

March 11 to 15, 2024

A successful week of festival competition took place in Outlook March 11-15, culminating in a Grand Finale Concert on March 17. This year we had four days of competition featuring a vast variety of performances including piano, vocal, musical theatre, choral, hand bells, spoken word (poetry, prose, public speaking, choral speech), strings and woodwinds.

We had two wonderful adjudicators: Hannah Marple for piano, strings and woodwinds, and Daniel McElroy in voice, musical theatre, choral and spoken word. Both adjudicators commented on the quality of the performances they were hearing.

The festival could not run without the efforts of volunteers. This year committee members, volunteers, and set-up crews put in more than 250 hours. Our community is truly fortunate to have wonderful music teachers. 21 teachers entered students in this year's festival. We had 305 people participate in the festival including children, adults, groups, classrooms and choirs. They represented a total of 150 entries.

An interesting aspect to our festival this year was the participation of several adults who entered musical theatre and spoken word classes for the first time. Adjudicator David McElroy said, "This festival is doing something right and unique."

We have a wonderful community that is supportive of the arts. Thanks to the generosity of businesses, individuals and organizations, our festival was able to award 65 scholarships valued at a total of more than \$3800.

We congratulate those moving on to provincial competition from our festival: **LCBI Chamber**



Choir, LCBI Concert Choir, and Trason Ridgewell in musical theatre.

Our festival committee members are Sandy Stephenson, Cathy McPhail, Heather Larson, Leslie Hicks, Krystal LeBlanc, Kendra Fuglerud and Shelley Luedtke.

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



**Parkland Music Festival
(Preeceville/Sturgis)
April 8 to 10, 2024**

This year the Parkland Festival was held in Preeceville and Sturgis from April 8-10. We had 111 entries, fewer than other years, but since it was our first year in this location after COVID cancellations, we were pleased with the involvement level. We did attempt a workshop for teachers in January to promote classroom participation but were unable to recruit any teachers to join us this year. This was likely related to the impending job action and the heavy workloads that teachers are experiencing.

The piano and choral speech/vocal was 5 sessions long. Piano entries ranged from 3 years old, 1st year of instruction level, to approximately grade 6 level. We had no individual vocal or spoken word entries this year but were delighted to have the Sturgis Grades 3/4 classroom attend, performing 2 selections of choral speech and 2 singing games entries. We invited a Preeceville classroom to attend as audience, to help increase exposure to music festival. Both the participating classroom and the audience classroom enjoyed the experience. We had awesome feedback from the participating classroom with a lovely thank you to the committee from the teacher for

“creating the opportunity” for the students. She forwarded some written comments from the students about how they enjoyed how well the audience listened to them, enjoyed the selections they performed and, of course, enjoyed the juice and cookies that were served after their performance.

Our band entries included the local senior and junior bands. Our band adjudicator, Jennifer Tenford, did excellent workshops with each band following their adjudicated performances. We had an afternoon of excellent performances from a variety of brass and woodwind solos and an ensemble. Our adjudicator was booked for two days but, because of low entries, had only one day of adjudicated performances. She graciously agreed to go to Kamsack, our neighboring community, to workshop with their bands, since they were unable to attend our festival as they normally do.

Our final concert was the highlight of festival, with integration of performances, scholarship presentations and acknowledgements of our sponsors.



**Potashville Music Festival (Esterhazy)
March 25 to 26, 2024**

The 54th Potashville Music Festival was held in Esterhazy on March 25 & 26. Thank you to our adjudicators Nancy Loper (voice, spoken word, string & piano) and Nora Wilson (band) for sharing their expertise, insight and encouragement with students from Churchbridge, Langenburg, Esterhazy and surrounding areas.

I am pleased to acknowledge that entries were up from the previous year. This year there were 78 entries, which included 2 strings, 26 piano, 16 vocal, 20 band and ensemble, as well as 14 individual entries for woodwind, brass and percussion. Wrapping up the festival, the



Awards Concert was held on the evening of March 27 and featured ten incredible performances from all disciplines. The amount of local talent is both impressive and inspiring and bodes well for the future of the festival.

And, of course, the festival would not be possible without the generous support of local businesses and donors. We were fortunate to also have sponsorship from Canalta Hotel and Nutrien this year. These contributions enable the festival to operate and provide an opportunity for our young performers to receive professional feedback. 25 scholarships and prizes were awarded in the amount of \$3875, thanks to the support of surrounding businesses and individuals.

As always, we thank our volunteers, community, students, teachers and parents for their participation and support of our festival. A heartfelt thank you to Shannon McIntyre and Tamara Sauser, who helped guide a fledgling committee as we navigated hosting our first festival since 2018.

For over half a century, the Potashville Music Festival has provided an opportunity for young musicians and performers to cultivate and showcase their skills and share their music with their surrounding communities. We look forward to continued success next year when the festival is hosted in Langenburg.

*Respectfully submitted,
Audra Norek, President
Potashville Music Festival @ Esterhazy*



Prairie Sunset Music Festival (Macklin)

April 22 to 25, 2024

Festival was held from April 22-25. Our Festival of Stars was held Friday, April 26 with forty-seven performances and was enjoyed by a large audience.

Our adjudicators were Hannah Marple (piano), Tracie Skeet-Brook (vocal/speech) and Nick Fanner (instrumental). We had a total of 190 entries from fifty-two participants.

Advancing to Provincial Finals:

Eliana Bakanec - Instrumental; Canada West Excellence in Piano and three piano classes

Liné Linde - Canada West Excellence in Speech, Musical Theatre and Classical Voice; spoken word, six musical theatre and vocal classes

Willem Hoogstad - Canada West Excellence Speech Arts (representing Unity); spoken word

Steyn Hoogstad - Canada West Excellence Speech Arts (representing Unity); spoken word

We are very proud and excited that so many provincial qualifiers advanced from our festival! Liné continued on to Canada West representing PSMF in all three disciplines; (Steyn and Willem Hoogstad were recommended to Canada West as well, representing Unity as their festival was before PSMF).

Macklin was very pleased to host the festival this year after a seven-year hiatus due to COVID forcing cancellation in 2020 and holding a virtual festival in 2021 (our festival rotates between Macklin, Kerrobert and Luseland).

Our festival had revenue of \$9,663 and expenses of \$10,285 for a loss of \$621. We are expecting a grant from Luseland Rec Board for \$500 and an undetermined grant from Macklin.

None of our committee members attended the SMFA conference.



Major sponsors include SaskTel and Sask Lotteries as well as many local businesses from our three participating communities of Macklin, Luseland and Kerrobert.

Respectfully submitted by Jackie Golden, President



Prince Albert Music Festival February 26 to March 14, 2024

Prince Albert Music Festival took place with entries in the disciplines of piano, voice, choir, musical theatre, instrumental and band. District winners were **Anthony Stergios** (piano), **Adrianna Kowalski** (voice, musical theatre), **Resonate** choral group directed by Lauren Lohneis, **Reverb** choral group directed by Lauren Lohneis, and **Big Noise Youth Choir**, also directed by Lauren Lohneis.

We were fortunate to benefit from the in-depth feedback of our adjudicators: Cherith Alexander (piano), Dianne Gryba (vocal), George Charpentier (instrumental), and Dawn McLean-Belyk (band). We are especially appreciative of the adjudicators who were flexible and understanding when our festival was impacted by inclement weather and school division job action.

As in previous years, numerous scholarships were offered, thanks to the generosity of local donors. We awarded 94 scholarships totalling \$7625. Significant donations from the Malcolm Jenkins Family Foundation, the Prince Albert Kiwanis Club (endowment), and the Butler Family Foundation allowed for numerous scholarships across disciplines. We appreciate everyone, from individuals to large corporations, who provide donations to support the hard work and musical growth of youth in our community.

A significant bursary that we administer is the Gladys Strom Memorial Bursary, sponsored by

local choral group, the Watsonairs. They support this fund in memory of Mrs. Strom, who was a member and director of the choral group for over 50 years. After her passing in 2006, the Watsonairs created this bursary in her name specifically for the Prince Albert Music Festival. The bursary is used to assist local youth to pursue music education and can help cover costs of music lessons, instrument repair, music camp tuition, and related activities. In 2024 we awarded the bursary to 4 deserving applicants: **Scott May** (piano), **Alexis Weger** (voice and piano), **Mackenzie Bender** (instrumental), and **Willow Vogelgesang** (voice).

On April 30, we held a special gala concert where a selection of entrants was invited to perform under the bright lights and on the big stage of the E.A. Rawlinson Centre for the Arts. This was an event marked by community building, peer support, and celebration of music. We strive to provide opportunities for learning and growth, not to mention promotion of classical music, and we were so please that the Gala Concert was enthusiastically received. We hope to continue the tradition of bringing our community together in this way in future years.

The music festival does not run without the dedicated volunteerism of those who sit on the committee and individuals who assist on festival days. We appreciate the many folks who ensured, through their unique skills and knowledge, that festival remains an important annual event to perform and learn in the arts. We are also grateful to new and former “Friends of the Festival” who believe in building the community through musical growth. Finally, private and school teachers are integral to music festival’s activities – we couldn’t do it without their constant dedication and support of their students.

We look forward to Music Festival in 2025 and continuing to nourish local arts.

Submitted by Jesse Campbell, Festival Coordinator



Qu'Appelle Valley Festival (Fort Qu'Appelle) March 15 to 16, 2024

We hosted our festival over two days. On Friday, March 15, we had two classroom entries – one rhythm ensemble class and one spoken word class. We had 5 band entries (fewer than last year because one band was away on a trip), 6 woodwind entries, 2 guitar entries, 1 brass entry and 3 string entries. The adjudicator was Gilles Turcotte and, because of the small number of entries, he was able to provide a workshop for each band. This was well received.

Piano, vocal and musical theatre classes were held on Saturday, March 16. We had 43 piano entries (12 more than last year, including multiple new entrants), and 2 vocal entries. Lauren Kells was the adjudicator.

\$875 in scholarships were awarded across band, instrumental and piano. This is an increase over last year. We had a number of entries qualify for Provincials with one entrant winning her class at the Provincial level. We held our awards concert on Sunday, March 17 and we had a full house (although the room only had a capacity of 30). Everyone in attendance agreed it was an enjoyable concert.

Given our jobs and other volunteer commitments, the committee agreed that March is not an ideal time for our festival. Going forward, we will return to our tradition of hosting our festival in April.

Thanks are given to our sponsors: SaskTel, Prairie Coop, SaskEnergy and Access Communications Children's Fund.

Our expenses were close to \$2873 and our revenue totaled \$2962 for a profit of about \$100.

Submitted by Jillian Andrychuk, Chairperson



Quill Plains Music Festival (Wynyard) April 14 to 17, 2024

The 2024 Quill Plains Music Festival was held in Wynyard from Sunday, April 14 to Wednesday, April 17. Venues for the festival included the Grace Aarnes Lutheran Church (piano and Final Concert), the United Church (guitar & strings, vocal/spoken word/musical theatre) and the Wynyard Composite High School gymnasium (band/percussion). We are grateful for the support of our community in allowing us to use these venues for our festival. We would like to extend a thank you to Karen Frandsen, our Saskatchewan Music Festival Board Member Liaison, for attending our music festival and for bringing greetings to our final concert and award ceremony.

Adjudicators this year included Louella Friesen (vocal/spoken word/musical theatre), Trevor Cooper (band/guitar/strings and percussion) and Sharon Rodney (piano). Under the guidance of our adjudicators, we awarded 56 scholarships totalling \$2850 which were generously donated by individuals, businesses, organizations and services groups from our participating and surrounding communities. These awards were presented at our final concert and awards ceremony on Friday, April 19 where we enjoyed an evening of memorable performances. Congratulations to **Signy Thorsteinson**, who received a provincial recommendation in piano.

Planning for the Wynyard Branch of the Quill Plains Music Festival began in October 2023 followed by additional meetings held throughout the following months. Executive and committee positions include: Laurie



Froehlich (President), Bonita Reeve (Treasurer), Donna Hermiston (Recording/Corresponding Secretary), Marsha Barteski-Hoberg (Entry Secretary/Programs), Linda Burns and Rosellen Bjarnason (Advisors), Jeff and Laurie Froehlich (Volunteers), Laurie Froehlich and Jennifer Melnychuk (Venues and Equipment), Glen and Claire Bolt (Decorating), Glen and Claire Bolt (Fundraising), Krisit Nylén-Burns and Kim Christensen (Scholarships), Donna Hermiston, Bonita Reeve and Laurie Froehlich (Independent Scholarship Committee) and Donna Hermiston (Hospitality). Thank you to our dedicated committee members for their hard work in planning and implementing our festival.

We would also like to acknowledge and thank the numerous volunteers and service groups for their acts of service. Your mentorship and service provide our community and youth with a tremendous example of the importance of volunteering. We are grateful for the support of our numerous sponsors and the generous monetary support they provided. Thank you for helping make our festival a success.

Redvers & District Music Festival
NO FESTIVAL IN 2024

SASKOMUSIC



Regina Music Festival
April 15 to 28, 2024

The RMFA again held an in-person music festival April 15-28. The festival is sponsored by the G. Murray and Edna Lloyd Foundation administered by the South Saskatchewan Community Foundation. We are so very grateful for this generous support as a naming sponsor.

Our festival was held at the Conservatory of Performing Arts at the College Avenue Campus of the University of Regina. We are thankful for the venue support we receive from the University of Regina. The venue is accessible and provides a lovely setting with top quality equipment and facilities. Our choral classes were held at Christ Lutheran Church and virtual pipe organ was adjudicated from taped performances.

We were very fortunate to have benefit of a Marketing Project Grant (Community Services Recovery Fund) this year and were therefore able to completely revamp our logo and marketing plan as well as develop a new website. This also led to an increased presence on social media and increased use of the website for information, scheduling and for our program. We found this to be successful overall although we did identify areas for improvement in the areas of sponsorship and advertising. This has been addressed. Our marketing is branded around the phrase "Growth Through Performance" as we provide a much needed performance opportunity for our entrants.

Registrations were slightly up this year; however, this was almost all in the younger age groups. Our senior classes were quite small this year in all disciplines. We had hoped that our increased marketing would increase our audiences, however this did not happen. We did however collect \$1000 more in door donations than 2023.



We were able to fully sponsor our festival disciplines and our final competitions. We had support from sustainers and donors as well, similar to past years. We were able to meet our budget and believe our funding to be continuing into next year in many cases. We do offer advertising opportunities for businesses and other arts groups which were subscribed. We did not need to sponsor a specific fundraiser this year.

Our Adjudicators were Kathy Gable and Laurel Teichroeb in piano, Barbara Collier and Melissa Wood in vocal, Tak Kwan in strings, Kevin Power in musical theatre and Catherine Wood in brass, winds and percussion. Cynthia Peyson Wall was our choral adjudicator and Thomas Annand heard our pipe organ entries. We are very grateful for their knowledgeable and appropriate comments and recommendations. A few preferred to record their comments digitally, but most used paper adjudications. We were able to offer either, and to upload all into Music Festival Suite.

We were able to award most of our 75 scholarships with a value of close to \$25,000. We receive many notes of thanks from these recipients.

Our final competitions were again held in the magnificent Darke Hall. Our Intermediate competition is sponsored by MLT-Aikins and our Senior Competition by the Lions Club. This year we were pleased to include musical theatre as well as the other disciplines, and this made for a lovely well-rounded concert in the afternoon and evening. We do get a good audience for these events and we are happy to give our top candidates this opportunity to play on the big stage. The Fleming Award (overall winner in the intermediate level) was won by Judy Luo (piano). The winner of the Cornish award for the senior class was Pacey Olafson (flute).

We want to thank our Production Manager, Brad McDougall for his fine work this year. As always, I am indebted to our excellent Board who work hard to bring about the festival every year. I especially want to thank Susan Gorges who has put in much more than her share of time and effort. She will finally be allowed to step back this year and get a well-deserved rest! She is entirely responsible for our amazing progress with the marketing plan and website, along with generally keeping us afloat! I also want to thank Leslie Beck for her work with Venue and Facilities and thank her for her work on the Board. I am also so pleased to have Katherine Bergman overseeing the large scholarship portfolio as well as providing computer expertise when we really needed it!!

We are also very grateful to our wonderful volunteers who continue to support us, under the excellent guidance of Susan Nurse.

Above all, we thank the SMFA for their leadership and support. It is a pleasure to work under your organization.

Submitted by Joanne Hillis, President



Rosetown & District Music Festival March 11 to 21, 2024

Rosetown Music Festival celebrated their 95th music festival from March 11-21. Despite being small in number, the festival committee members are plentiful in talent and enthusiasm, each donating countless hours of their valuable time to organize this event.

254 entries in piano, vocal, choral, musical theatre, spoken word, strings and instrumental were adjudicated by our knowledgeable and encouraging adjudicators Bonnie Nicholson,



Karen Frandsen and Chinley Hinacay. Instrumentalists also gained much knowledge about their instruments during an afternoon workshop with Chinley. We continue to look for ways to encourage more instrumentalists and school bands to participate in our festival. Brenda Ormsby of Eston helped us promote spoken word classes with a very well received presentation at the local elementary school.

At the final concert, over \$4500 was awarded, along with many beautiful trophies and plaques. The Most Promising Trophy winners were:

Levin Wiebe, piano
Kensie Cowan, instrumental
Cecilia Ledding, vocal
Madison Rawson, spoken word

Students advancing to Provincial Finals were:

Temi Igbekoyi, piano
Levin Wiebe, piano
Kensie Cowan, piano & strings
Levin Wiebe & Sophie Regier, Lieder

In honour of our 95th festival, 95-year-old Audrey (Schroeder) Braun performed her composition, *Sunset in Saskatchewan*, which she composed when she was 12 years old. It was a very special performance and a wonderful way to honour the past leaders who have worked tirelessly to build a strong artistic and financial foundation for this organization for the past 95 years.

In addition to the music festival, the Rosetown Music Festival Association organized two live concerts. Calgary pianist Han Ding performed to an appreciative audience and also presented a teacher workshop and student master class. Violinist Véronique Mathieu, with pianist Kathleen Gable, performed a concert on one of the coldest evenings of the year! Véronique also provided a free strings workshop.

The Annual Carol Festival continues to be a much anticipated and well attended event in

Rosetown and serves as one of our main fundraisers.

We are very fortunate to have generous sponsors and scholarship donors. The Thrasher Family provides a \$500 scholarship which is awarded to a festival performer who demonstrates meaningful volunteering in the community. The Ledding Family provides accommodations for all adjudicators during the entire festival. Our dedicated volunteers are the heart of this festival, and we are so thankful for their donation of time and encouragement.

*Respectfully submitted,
Claire Seibold, President*



Sand Hills Music Festival (Leader) April 22 & 23, 2024

We are delighted to present the final report for the 2024 Sand Hills Music Festival. Held on April 22 & 23, this year's festival marked another successful celebration of the performing arts in our community.

Building on the momentum of previous years, the 2024 festival saw a total of 70 entries across a variety of disciplines, showcasing the talent and dedication of participants ranging from young students to seasoned performers. A handful of entrants participated in provincial categories, vying for the opportunity to compete at both Provincial Finals and Canada West competitions. Others prepared their own written works in guitar, speech arts and essay writing.

Under the adjudication of Audrey Falk Janzen, participants received invaluable feedback and guidance, enhancing their skills and enriching their artistic journey. Ms. Falk Janzen's expertise and constructive critiques contributed



significantly to the positive learning environment of the festival.

We are thrilled to announce that the festival received support from the SaskCulture Small Grant Accessibility Program for Performing Arts Development. This grant enabled us to expand our community engagement efforts, including the establishment of a children's choir and the offering of a speech arts workshop to elementary classrooms. Additionally, it provided crucial support and coaching to spoken word participants, ensuring they received comprehensive guidance and encouragement in their artistic endeavors.

Thanks to the generous support of our local business community and individual donors, we were able to award 26 scholarships and awards totaling \$2415. These contributions not only recognize outstanding talent but also ensure the sustainability and growth of our festival for years to come.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the organizations and individuals who provided sponsorship to help cover the increasing operational expenses of the festival. Their support is invaluable in ensuring the smooth execution of the event and in enhancing the overall experience for participants and attendees alike.


One of the highlights of this year's festival was the Grand Concert held at the Leader Community Hall, where each participant was invited to showcase their chosen entry in front of a full house. This special event not only celebrated the talents of our performers but also brought the community together in appreciation of the arts.

Looking ahead, the festival committee remains committed to its mission of promoting and celebrating the performing arts in our community. We are grateful for the ongoing

support of volunteers, sponsors, and donors who make this event possible year after year.

As we reflect on the successes of the 2024 Sand Hills Music Festival, we look forward with optimism to the future, anticipating even greater participation and achievement in the years to come.

Submitted by Elizabeth Heatcoat



Sask Valley Music Festival (Rosthern/Waldheim) March 13 to 20, 2024

Our 84th annual Sask Valley Music Festival wrapped up on Friday, March 22 with our Awards Concert attended by over 200 people who were amazed by the performances they heard in piano, voice, musical theatre, instrumental and spoken word. The students were encouraged and taught, between March 13 and 20, by expert adjudicators Kathleen Lorenz Gable, Chelsea Mahan and Brent Pittman. Special congratulations to the students qualifying in 21 different classes to compete at Provincial Finals at the U of S in Saskatoon from May 30-June 2. Our vocal Rose Bowl winner was **Emma Gillingham** and our piano Rose Bowl winner **Lochlan Lester**.


As we find our way back from the pandemic, our entries were up 30% over 2023, almost a record number. This was the first time in over two decades that we were able to have a band day. What a pleasure that we hope continues! With some promotion efforts, our spoken word showed considerable increase in numbers. We were pleased that the STF job action did not interfere with our attendees. Just lucky scheduling.

We are grateful for strong audiences throughout, not only at the final concert. We could not do this without many donors, both business and individuals, with a passion for



music. Of special note this year were two new scholarships for duets, vocal and instrumental, donated by the Steinke and Nickel families in memory of loved ones that passed this last year. With these, the families hope to encourage cooperative music making.

Submitted by Linda Swab, President



Saskatoon Music Festival

March 7 to 19, April 14 to May 4, 2024

The 2024 Saskatoon Music Festival was a well-attended and well-executed event! Spanning two months, our programming got started on March 7 with bands, which all wrapped up by March 15. This year our three band adjudicators were Gene Aulinger (SK), Jen Tenford (SK), and Stewart Smith (MB). Unfortunately, a few of our later bands were forced to cancel due to STF sanctions, but we were pleased to still be able to offer a virtual experience for any bands that were interested. In total we had 86 bands registered, a slight decrease from 2023 which was not unexpected due to the uncertainty at the provincial bargaining table.

The following week Marcia McLean (SK) came up to Saskatoon to adjudicate our choirs on March 19. This was originally supposed to be a three-day choral celebration but once again STF sanctions made it impossible for many of the choirs to participate. Marcia spent a day in Saskatoon adjudicating and then graciously offered a virtual option for interested choirs later in the spring. We had a total of 10 choirs registered, which is steady from 2023.

Kim Mattice Wanat (AB) joined us for our week of Kiwanis Musical Theatre, which was held from April 14 to 20 at the Salvation Army Temple. We had 271 entries in this discipline, which is an increase from 2023! The Kiwanis

Club of Saskatoon sponsors this week of music, covering everything from adjudicator fees to building rental. They also supply their own volunteers for the week to cover the door admissions and adjudicator assistants. We can never thank them enough for everything they do for our musical theatre program.

Our general festival was held from April 27 to May 4 at the University of Saskatchewan. Here again our gratitude cannot be overstated. The Department of Music continues to lend us their space at no charge, which allows us to take full advantage of their excellent venues and beautiful grand pianos. We had 7 adjudicators join us this week: Mark Ward (AB; Brass, Woodwind, Percussion – 97 registrations, significant increase from 2023); Sarah Hall (MB; Senior Voice); Judith Oatway (MB; Junior Voice and Spoken Word – 300 registrations in voice, slight increase from 2023; 14 registrants in spoken word, slight increase from 2023); Michael Oike (MB; Senior Piano); Nancy Nowosad (MB; Intermediate Piano); Diana Wiens (AB; Junior Piano – 690 registrations in piano, significant decrease from 2023); and Maria Medlow (AB; Strings – 186 registrations, slight increase from 2023).

Our adjudicators worked for a total of 62 days over these two months of festival. Our committee of 15 people put in countless hours of work in the lead up to festival, and our on-site volunteer team put in hundreds more hours during our events. We had a total of 58 volunteers give at least 887 hours of their time – and this number is doubtless too low of an estimate.

This year we were able to award \$25,345 in scholarships to deserving competitors in the festival. These funds come from community groups, businesses, and individuals, and we are grateful for the ongoing support of all of these donors. A large part of these funds are awarded at our final Kinsmen Awards Competition, which was held on May 4. This is our final



competition with senior students from 5 individual disciplines (strings, piano, classical voice, musical theatre, solo instruments) competing for top prizes of \$1250 and runner-up prizes of \$750 in each discipline. As the name suggests, the top prizes for all disciplines except musical theatre are provided by the Kinsmen Club of Saskatoon, who have been funding these awards for over 50 years. The top prize in musical theatre is supplied by the Kiwanis Club.

We continue to send committee members to the SMFA conference and AGM. In 2023, Karen White (President) and Mariel Unger (Coordinator) attended these events.

We were thrilled to see many first-time participants at our Saskatoon Music Festival events this year. It's wonderful to see the musical community of Saskatoon continue to grow and we are excited to continue to be part of it.

Respectfully submitted, Mariel Unger, Coordinator



Spiritwood & District Music Festival March 25 to 26, 2024

Spiritwood & District Music Festival had 68 entries in piano, vocal, spoken word and school groups. It was a disappointment to have the schools cancel at the last minute due to STF sanctions.

Our adjudicator was Doreen Renschler of Castor, AB.

The Awards Concert was held on March 26 with 19 items on the program. Total scholarships awarded came to \$1350. The Outstanding Performer of the Festival was **Langston Davies**.

We are very appreciative of all the hard work by our volunteers and donors. A big thank you

goes out to all of you. Our festival would not be possible without the generosity of many people and businesses in our surrounding community.

Delegates attending the SMFA Fall Conference this year were Heather Gatzke and Kathleen Gatzke.

Respectfully submitted, Marjorie Klassen



Swift Current Music Festival April 7 to 11, 2024

Adjudicators: Nicole Wilton, Justine Wilks

District Winners were:

Levin Wiebe, Michael Liu, Nicole Dyck,

Vaishu Venkata Bhathala (piano)

Prairie Spirit (choral)

Sophie Regier & Levin Wiebe, Erika Olson &

Michael Liu (Lieder)

Sophie Regier (musical theatre)

Committee: Charmaine Keck, Laura Thibault, Rachael Eliason, April Bradley, Daria Potapova, Alanna Howell, Theresa Soper

The Gala was held on April 20. We reintroduced the Rose Bowl Competition, judged this year by Sherry Sproule.

We did a 50/50 draw and baskets for fundraising. Thank you to all donors listed on the website and in the program.

Submitted by Charmaine Keck, President







Twin Rivers Music Festival (Dalmeny & Martensville)

March 14 to 22, 2024

As our 2023 festival wound up, we knew we would need some intervention in order to keep going. Our committee was seriously depleted in number with several resignations taking place in spring, so our Annual General Meeting was approached by some of us with great trepidation. Would you believe we welcomed six new volunteers to our AGM, all of whom were ready to step in and take on new positions! We filled our difficult IT position and our time consuming Entry Secretary position with a husband and wife team - Adam and Melissa, who did a wonderful job keeping up to all the demands and many hours of work. We welcomed Crystal, who came alongside Melissa to give assistance as necessary. We thank Val Redekop who gave of her time and knowledge to equip these gals in their new position! Our new adept team working on Scholarships and Awards is Karen and Tony, and our new Fund Raising person, Lisa, jumped right into her new role!


We are so grateful for each of our committee members and thankful that Sharon remained in her position as Secretary (which does include a host of other responsibilities). Cecile continued on as our able and knowledgeable Treasurer, and Jessica used her expertise once more in compiling and bringing forth a great program. We are sorry to see our gifted Leigha leave her position this year, and will look to finding someone to fill our Volunteer/Facebook spot.

Our 2024 Festival was held from March 14 - 22. It was a great success with a total of 319 entries. There were 137 entrants and 19 teachers entered those students.

Our venues in Martensville (vocal) and Dalmeny (piano) were well attended and our adjudicators (Laurien Gibson, Audrey Watson and Dr. Sofia Mycyk) very well received. Once again we had some very generous people who supported our festival at the door. Many volunteers gave of their time as hostesses and secretaries and we thank them.

Our final Awards Concert was held on Sunday afternoon to a full house. We were treated to some very inspiring performances! Thirteen awards were presented to our spoken word/vocal/music theatre performers and 38 awards were given to our junior and senior piano performers. All in all, we had a wonderful year!

Submitted by Doreen Benson, President



Unity Music Festival

March 15 to 18, 2024

Our Carol Festival in mid-December helped to put us all in the Christmas spirit despite the likelihood of a "brown" Christmas! Twenty-five selections were presented including choirs, solos, strings and brass, as well as family poetry. Our Outstanding Piano and Vocal Performers from our 2023 festival also shared their musical talents.

Our 2024 music festival was held April 15-18 with our Final Performances showcasing the award winners on Sunday afternoon, April 21. Our adjudicators were Chelsea Mahan (voice, musical theatre and schools) and Lynette Sawatsky (piano) who both did such a good job of encouraging our 161 entrants. This year we had really gone an extra mile in recruiting school entries after COVID. Unfortunately, due to the negotiations between STF and the provincial government, the entries had to be cancelled.



We continue to appreciate the financial support of our community in the many awards we are able to present; the hundreds of dollars for our three schools for musical instruments each year from a family who called Unity home. Even though our motel is under new management, they have stated that they will still pay over half of adjudicator accommodation costs, as did the previous owner.

We wish to congratulate two Provincial winners! **Steyn Hoogstad** won the L. I. Bryson Memorial Spoken Word Scholarship for Spoken Word Concert Group 28 years & under and also the Canada West Speech Arts and Drama Scholarship, 22 years & under. **Willem Hoogstad** won the Doris Bircham Memorial Scholarship for Spoken Word Concert Group 17 years & under, the Alfredo S. Uy Memorial Scholarship for Poetry/Prose 17 years & under, and the Sask. Drama Assoc. Canada West Speech Arts and Drama Scholarship, 17 years & under.



Vanguard & District Music Festival

March 25 to 26, 2024

This was a year of change and learning as we added new members to our committee and had other members step back to a volunteer role, vacate, or change roles. We are thankful for the past committee members who have worked to help new members get comfortable and up to speed on how the festival committee works throughout the year.

Some highlights from our year:

- Donation of guitars to Vanguard School to encourage music education.
- Piano workshop with Janna Olson on February 10.
- Creating a simple website and increasing social media and community awareness.

- Increase in entries that led to the need for a two-day festival instead of the regular one-day festival. (67 entries in 2023, 80 entries in 2024).
- Eight first time participants ranging in age from 3 to 14.

Our festival was held on March 25 and 26. We had entries in piano (58!), vocal, woodwinds, strings and speech. Our adjudicator was Anna Marie Bekolay, and we appreciated her experience and expertise. We are pleased to have three district winners this year: **Resound** (Sacred Choir, Open), **Janessa Thiessen** (Piano Solo, Recital Piece, 17 years & under), and **Kenna McComish** (Piano Solo, Recital Piece, 14 years & under). All of our entrants worked hard to learn their pieces and it showed in their performances.

At our Awards Night (March 27), we gave out 31 awards and listened to 17 performances in piano, violin, vocal, clarinet and speech arts. Our Puckett Memorial Scholarship was awarded to **Janessa Thiessen** to acknowledge her outstanding performances this year.

We look forward to the year ahead in the hopes of providing opportunities for music and speech arts in our area. We are thankful for our sponsors and volunteers (Laura Enns, Colleen Gerbrandt, Sandra Krushelniski, Kelvin Thiessen) who make this all possible. Thank-you to our committee members who have poured in hours of volunteer service to keep this festival going: Lorie Thiessen (President), Missy McComish (Awards), Danielle Johnston (Corresponding Secretary), Karen Reddekopp (Entry Secretary), Greg Shwaga (Treasurer)





Watrous & District Music Festival April 25 to 26, 2023

The band director combined 2-3 school bands of the same Grade level to form one band. Watrous Elementary School (WES) allowed bands to use the gym to save hauling band equipment. Different classes throughout the band sessions came to listen.

Voice and musical theatre were held in the evening session for more community people to attend. The Lutheran Church provided the perfect venue for spoken word and musical theatre, with the raised platform and 3 steps for a group to be seen.

Spoken word increased over last year from 6 to 7 groups. Bands entered 8 classes ~ one with 2 adults (teachers in the school) for a Community Band entry. There were 20 solos between piano and voice/musical theatre entries - another increase because there is now a piano and voice teacher in our area!! These young ambitious teachers also joined our festival committee.

\$1625 was given out in scholarships & awards.

Our adjudicator, Peggy L'Hoir, gave wonderful encouraging remarks to all the performers. She had each of the soloists shake hands with each other after adjudication.

One picture of the group classes was taken after performances to be put on SeeSaw app through the school for parents to see.

The program was designed by a former Festival performer, Kaelin Hardy, now for the third time.

The main fundraiser held another successful Pancake Breakfast in July during the FunRun Car Show.



Weyburn Rotary Music Festival March 11 to 21, 2024

This was Weyburn's 66th year for Music Festival. The piano portion was March 11-14 and our adjudicator was Dianne Gryba. Vocal was held March 17-19 with Laurien Gibson as the adjudicator and band was March 20-21 with Nora Wilson as adjudicator.

Piano entries this year totalled 175. Entries for vocal came to 81 and band had 38 entries, making a grand total of 294 entries.

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

There was some difficulty this year due to the STF job sanctions. Because of these sanctions, many of the band students were forced to cancel. To fill up the time, Dr. Wilson gave mini lessons to individual students.

Felicia Deal, Lily Penner and Judah Sawatzky advanced to Provincial Finals for piano. For vocal, **Keira Mahnke, Lindsay Van De Weyer, Donald Alexander and Avryelle Molnar** advanced to Provincials.

Submitted by Brenda Milatz





Yorkton Music Festival

March 11 to 23, 2024

The 2024 Yorkton Music Festival was held from March 11 to March 23 with a Hi-Lights concert March 24. We had a total of 355 entries perform in choral, vocal, musical theatre, spoken word, band, strings and piano sessions. (58 band, 201 piano, 76 vocal, choral and spoken word).

Thanks to all our adjudicators: Jim McCarthy (band and strings), Janis Smith (piano), Marcia McLean (vocal, musical theatre, spoken word, and choral),

Congratulations to our district winners who advance to Provincial Finals:

Keisha Quinto and **Charith Winslow** (vocal);
SHHS Choir (choral);

Tabatha Buhler, Angela Fetsch, Janelle Gotengco, Evia McDowell, and Juliana Ubongen (piano).

We held our Yorkton Music Festival Hi-Lights concert and Awards ceremony at St. Andrew's United Church on March 24. It was a wonderful afternoon of many fine performances. Our adjudicators did a great job selecting a variety of performances for our final concert.

We are very grateful to all the donors who continue to support Yorkton Music Festival. It is through the generosity of our Patrons and Scholarship donors that we are able to host such a fine Festival and award so many of our participants with awards. These donations are truly appreciated.

The hard-working executive is also much appreciated. Each member of the executive knows their jobs and performs them well. I hope there are many generous people who step up in future festivals to continue to keep such a fine festival going.

Submitted by Jean Fetsch, President

To be a volunteer, it takes...

- Generosity, a willingness to give your time to others
- Compassion, to truly care about making someone else's life better
- Patience, because the process doesn't always go as smoothly as it might
- Dedication, to stick with the project and see it through

You've shown these qualities and so much more, so thank you for all that you do.





DID YOU KNOW?



Music can lower your stress level, make you healthier, ease pain and enhance your creativity in all areas of your life.

Cassandra Sheppard, The Neuroscience of Singing

CULTURE BUILDS COMMUNITY!



Biggar & District Music Festival – Success Story

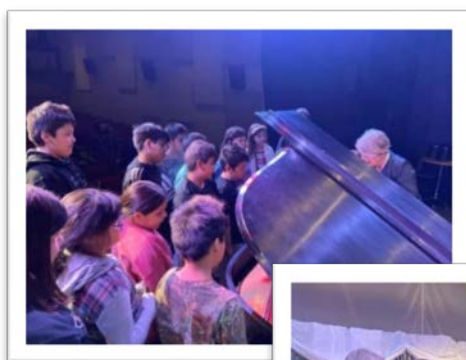
A small festival with a big heart!

Biggar and District Music Festival was happy to sponsor students from a neighboring community in 2024. Due to the waiving of entry fees for the second consecutive year, 15 students from Cando Community School committed to make the 30 mile trip to Biggar to perform on our Majestic Theatre stage.

Five students were pianists from Cando’s Heart of the City Piano Program. Ten students from Kindergarten to Grade Three also participated in the Singing Games portion of the festival. As Biggar holds their festival in the Majestic Theatre, the students not only got to perform on a stage, but also got to tour backstage to see the props for the local theatre group’s upcoming production.

The Saskatchewan “twist” to this story was that the students were supposed to perform on Monday morning.....right after a weekend blizzard. Unfortunately, most of the students could not get out of their homes until later in the week. Committee members quickly found local sponsorship for theatre rent and a local adjudicator so these students could still perform in the theatre, only a week later. Students received a personal adjudication, participation certificates and a memory that will last a lifetime!

Saskatchewan Festivals are creative, resilient and truly have big hearts!





Member Festival	2024 Entries	2023 Entries	2022 Entries	2021 Entries	2020 Entries	Solo Fees	Num. Adj	Total Awards	Vol. #'s	Vol. Hours	Audience
Assiniboia	147	138	99	0	0	20	1	2,625	14	230	548
Battlefords	355	358	233	209	0	15	3	8,500	20	320	925
Biggar	203	211	193	170	228	15	3	2,925	12	260	680
Borderland	81	68	87	67	0	15	2	1,725	15	329	619
Carnduff	0	0	72	98	273	0	0	0	14	43	0
Central Sask	132	104	96	0	0	5	1	1,930	8	300	598
Estevan	483	409	277	251	0	20	4	11,100	40	900	1,692
Eston	117	103	0	44	0	15	1	2,130	25	250	350
Gravelbourg	138	127	146	162	0	12	1	3,500	26	584	563
Hafford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0
Humboldt	267	268	212	168	114	18	3	2,400	42	300	1048
Kindersley	272	278	195	172	175	15	3	3,190	17	240	854
Kipling	101	69	0	0	0	0	1	2,215	54	414	275
La Ronge	115	132	124	109	0	15	2	2,155	10	300	450
Lafleche	174	220	133	210	0	10	2	4,900	37	1400	500
Lanigan	232	252	229	169	0	12	2	2,490	42	500	606
Last Mountain	90	85	0	0	0	10	1	1,444	22	275	441
Lloydminster	542	531	387	372	0	18	4	7,075	98	850	1100
Mainline	112	147	123	92	0	20	1	1,975	12	350	592
Maple Creek	110	89	61	44	0	11	1	1,605	15	385	421
Meadow Lake	166	166	110	108	0	15	2	2,234	26	415	894
Melfort	184	254	87	212	296	15	3	2,265	26	310	603
Moose Jaw	311	324	306	299	0	20	4	8,470	26	300	1,500
Moosomin	147	161	151	137	0	10	2	2,205	43	400	650
Nipawin	214	211	0	254	0	16	3	4,500	25	300	500
Outlook	150	145	0	0	0	10	2	3,810	26	270	1002
Parkland	111	64	0	0	0	11	2	1,350	49	800	550
Potashville	78	41	25	0	0	12	2	3,875	23	484	667
Prairie Sunset	198	160	109	101	0	15	3	3,675	23	321	655
Prince Albert	272	174	85	92	375	20	4	7,625	26	375	1,245
Qu'Appelle Valley	65	49	24	0	0	15	2	925	7	80	180
Quill Plains	263	230	213	202	0	12	3	2,650	23	950	767
Redvers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0
Regina	842	745	741	724	0	33	9	27,750	84	1,725	1,150
Rosetown	254	236	192	154	0	15	3	4,650	25	450	1,261
Sand Hills	70	59	37	38	0	15	1	2,415	21	300	450
Sask Valley	236	168	137	159	0	15	3	3,310	19	1,000	1,490
Saskatoon	1,669	1,699	1,271	1,024	0	28	12	25,345	58	887	3,405
Shaunavon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
Spiritwood	68	83	0	0	0	15	1	1,300	19	275	237
Swift Current	148	141	90	0	0	15	3	2,600	40	240	369
Twin Rivers	319	334	215	180	0	15	3	2,660	31	750	1,668
Unity	161	153	121	168	0	15	2	2,475	40	1060	1,033
Vanguard	80	67	0	0	0	8	1	1,440	5	200	223
Watrous	64	35	0	42	0	20	1	1,625	43	308	719
Weyburn	294	237	153	209	189	15	3	6,675	50	300	500
Yorkton	334	270	258	188	229	16	3	5,560	46	645	1,495
Total	10,369	9,795	6,992	6,440	1,879		113	\$195,273	1342	21390	35475

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



Provincial Finals Report

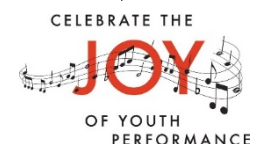
From Thursday to Sunday, over 550 performances by winners from District Music Festivals across Saskatchewan were heard. Choral entries were adjudicated by recording and were announced prior to the weekend.

The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA), now in its 116th year, presented the annual Provincial Finals Competitions and the Provincial Level of Canada West Competition at the University of Saskatchewan Campus, Saskatoon from May 30 to June 2, 2024. Adjudicators for the competitions were: Piano: **Dr. Katherine Dowling** and **Clark Schaufele**, ON; Voice/Musical Theatre: **Laura Ciekiewicz**, MB; Strings/Guitar: **Heilwig von Koenigsloew**, BC; Brass/Woodwind/Percussion: **Erin Brophay**, SK; Musical Theatre: **Donna Fletcher**, MB; Spoken Word: **Deborah McGladdery**, BC; Choral: **Donna Rhodenizer**, NS.

Prizes of more than \$33,000 were awarded during the weekend's competitions, the most prestigious being the Garth Beckett/Gustin House Senior Piano Scholarship of \$1,500 for the most promising pianist under age 21 performing senior level repertoire, the Sister Geraldine Boyle Memorial Award of \$1,500 for the best overall pianist in the competition for 17 years & under, and the Joanne Messer Senior Vocal Scholarship of \$800 for the best overall vocalist in the competition for 28 years & under.

The following were declared Provincial Winners and Runners-Up:

- Class 1 **Mary Anderson Memorial Choral Sacred - \$500**Luther College High School Senior Choir (Regina)
- Class 2 **Sask. Choral Federation Choral Open - \$300**.....Ignite Chamber Choir (Regina)
Betty Tydeman Memorial Choral Open, Runner-up - \$200Cantate Senior Choir (Regina)
- Class 3 **Kiwanis Club of Regina-Wascana Inc. Gallagher Mem. Choral - \$500**..Cantate Combined Choir (Regina)
- Class 4 **Sask. Choral Federation School Choral Music - \$500**.... Luther College High School Senior Choir (Regina)
- Class 5 **Goodfellow Memorial Vocal Grade A (28 & under) - \$400** James Raquion (Regina)
- Class 6 **Heather Laxdal Memorial Vocal SMSCT Gr. B (28 & under) - \$400** Paulina Salisbury (Saskatoon)
- Class 7 **Vocal Tenor/Baritone/Bass Grade B (28 & under) - \$400**..... Adam Brookman (Saskatoon)
- Class 8 **Goodfellow Memorial Vocal Opera/Operatic (28 & under) - \$400** Kelsey Ronn (Saskatoon)
- Class 9 **Goodfellow Memorial Vocal French Art Song (28 & under) - \$400** Adam Brookman (Saskatoon)
- Class 10 **Goodfellow Memorial Vocal Oratorio (28 & under) - \$400** Kelsey Ronn (Saskatoon)
- Class 11 **Heather Laxdal Memorial Vocal Lieder (28 & under) - \$200**..... Adam Brookman (Saskatoon)
- Class 11 **Whelan Piano Lieder (28 & under) - \$200**..... Hannah Meginbir (Saskatoon)
- Class 12 **Karen Frandsen Vocal Canadian Music (28 & under) - \$400**..... Kelsey Ronn (Saskatoon)
- Class 13 **Henri Loiselle Memorial Vocal Concert Group Grade A (28 & under) - \$400** not awarded
- Class 14 **Nancy & Alastair Todd Mem. Vocal Concert Grp Gr B (28 & u) - \$400** Emma Gillingham (Sask Valley)
- Class 15 **Covey Vocal Recital SMSCT (17 & under) - \$300**Abbeygail May (Mainline)
- Class 16 **A. L.'s Music Vocal Recital TBB (17 & under) - \$300**Isaiah Artavia (Moose Jaw)
- Class 17 **Garry & Kathleen Gable Vocal Folk Song/Ballad (17 & under) - \$300**..... Nora Rittinger (Saskatoon)
- Class 18 **Regina Music Festival Vocal Concert Group (17 & under) - \$300**..... Isabelle Adams (Saskatoon)
- Class 19 **Marilyn Whitehead Vocal Recital (14 & under) - \$200**Cooper Loshack (Biggar)
- Class 20 **Music for Young Children Vocal Folk Song/Ballad (14 & under) - \$200**Sadie Gryba (Saskatoon)
- Class 21 **Dianne Gryba Vocal Recital (12 & under) - \$100**Claire Booker (Regina)
- Class 22 **Music for Young Children Vocal Folk Song/Ballad (12 & under) - \$100**Claire Booker (Regina)





	Joanne Messer Senior Vocal (28 years & under) Scholarship - \$800	Kelsey Ronn (Saskatoon)
Class 23	Arlene Stuart Memorial Piano Bach (28 & under) - \$500.....	Esther Zhu (Saskatoon)
Class 24	Sharon Penner Memorial Piano Sonata (28 & under) - \$400	Gabriell Omolida (Regina)
Class 25	SRMTA Piano Romantic/Chopin (28 & under) - \$400	Gabriell Omolida (Regina)
Class 26	MYCSTA Piano French Music (28 & under) - \$400	Gabriell Omolida (Regina)
Class 27	Piano Concerto (28 & under) - \$400.....	Gabriell Omolida (Regina)
Class 28	Helen Davidson Mem. Piano 20 th /21st C. Music (28 & under) - \$400	Hannah Meginbir (Saskatoon)
Class 29	SRMTA-Regina Branch Piano Cdn/SK Music (28 & under) - \$400.....	Hannah Meginbir (Saskatoon)
Class 30	Toppings Family Piano Bach (17 & under) - \$300	Amy Zhang (Saskatoon)
Class 31	Dr. Philip Brost Piano Sonata (17 & under) - \$300.....	Dustin Nguyen (Regina)
Class 32	England/Ferguson Memorial Piano Romantic/Chopin (17 & under) - \$300	Dustin Nguyen (Regina)
Class 33	Verna Veikle Memorial Piano Concerto (17 & under) - \$300	Judy Luo (Regina)
Class 34	Piano 20 th /21st Century (17 & under) - \$300	Joongi Lee (Regina)
Class 35	Gordon & Mossie Hancock Piano Canadian/SK (17 & under) - \$300.....	Boaman Liu (Saskatoon)
Class 36	Jackson Memorial Piano Recital (17 & under) - \$300	Judy Luo (Regina)
Class 37	Dr. Thomas Yu Piano Recital (14 & under) - \$200.....	Ayumi Sinclair (Qu'Appelle Valley)
Class 38	Borderland Music Festival Piano Canadian/SK (17 & under) - \$200.....	April Shi (Saskatoon)
Class 39	Dianne Gryba Piano Recital (12 & under) - \$100	Cynthia Gu (Regina)
Class 40	Doris Covey Lazecki Piano Canadian/SK (12 & under) - \$100.....	Byeolha Seo (Assiniboia)
Class 41	Anna Klassen Endowment Fund Piano RCM/CC (Grade 10) - \$400	April Shi (Saskatoon)
Class 42	DMS Services Inc. Piano RCM/CC (Grade 8) - \$300.....	Byeolha Seo (Assiniboia)
	Garth Beckett/Gustin House Senior Piano Scholarship - \$1,500	Esther Zhu (Saskatoon)
	Sister Boyle Piano (17 years & under) Scholarship - \$1,500	Dustin Nguyen (Regina)
Class 43	Mrs. Clare K. Mendel Memorial Strings Recital (28 & under) - \$400	not awarded
Class 44	Fred S. Mendel Memorial Strings Concert (28 & under) - \$400.....	not awarded
Class 45	Robert C. Mitchell Memorial Strings Recital (17 & under) - \$300	Elisha Ruo (Saskatoon)
Class 46	Johanna Mitchell Memorial Strings Concert (17 & under) - \$300	Elisha Ruo (Saskatoon)
Class 47	Regina Music Festival Strings Recital (14 & under) - \$200	Sophia Tirkajla (Saskatoon)
Class 48	Strings Concert (14 & under) - \$200.....	Mehtab Singh Bath (Saskatoon)
Class 49	Strings Recital (12 & under) - \$100.....	Vesper Stevenson (Saskatoon)
Class 50	Strings Concert (12 & under) - \$100.....	Sage Grey (Saskatoon)
Class 51	Sask. Music Educators Classical Guitar (28 & under) - \$400.....	Tague O'Bright (Moose Jaw)
Class 52	Stein Farms Ltd. Classical Guitar (17 & under) - \$300	Stephen Daniels-White (Saskatoon)
Class 53	Sask. Band Association Woodwind (28 & under) - \$400	Ziqin Zhao (Saskatoon)
Class 54	Brost Family Woodwind (17 & under) - \$300	Elise Jackson-Reynolds (Regina)
Class 55	Sask. Band Association Brass (28 & under) - \$400	not awarded
Class 56	Scotsburn Dental Centre Brass (17 & under) - \$300	Mathis Chu (Regina)
Class 57	Sask. Band Association Percussion (28 & under) - \$400	Dmitri Masich (Saskatoon)
Class 58	Maple Creek Festival Percussion (17 & under) - \$300	not awarded
Class 59	Ursan Family Musical Theatre Ballad (28 & under) - \$400.....	Matthew Schermann (Regina)
Class 59	SMFA Musical Theatre Ballad (28 & under) - \$400	Kai Batycki (Saskatoon)
Class 59	Runner-up Scholarship - \$200	Adam Brookman (Saskatoon)
Class 60	Katja Meszaros Memorial Musical Theatre Up-tempo (28 & u) - \$500	Matthew Schermann (Regina)
Class 60	Runner-up Scholarship - \$200	Alice Willett (Regina)
Class 61	Regan Grant Memorial MT Ballad Classic/Mod. (17 & under) - \$300.....	Sydney Kelln (Saskatoon)
Class 61	Runner-up Scholarship - \$150	Presley McLeod (Moose Jaw)
Class 62	Margaret Caldwell Memorial MT Ballad Contemp. (17 & u) - \$300	Piper MacFarlane (Meadow Lake)



- Class 62 Runner-up Scholarship - \$150..... Antony Salisbury (Saskatoon)
- Class 63 Sandra Ryba Memorial MT Up-Tempo Classic/Mod. (17 & u) - \$300** Sophie Regier (Swift Current)
- Class 63 Runner-up Scholarship - \$150..... Nora Rittinger (Saskatoon)
- Class 64 Meadow Lake Music Festival MT Up-tempo Cont. (17 & under) - \$300** Isaiah Artavia (Moose Jaw)
- Class 64 Runner-up Scholarship - \$150..... Piper MacFarlane (Meadow Lake)
- Class 65 Center Stage Studios MT Ballad Classic/Modern (14 & under) - \$200** Elizabeth Deans (Moose Jaw)
- Class 65 Runner-up Scholarship - \$100..... Kayella Robertson (Saskatoon)
- Class 66 Center Stage Studios MT Ballad Contemporary (14 & under) - \$200** Ruby Hickman (Lloydminster)
- Class 66 Runner-up Scholarship - \$100..... Cooper Loshack (Saskatoon)
- Class 67 Dorothy Seibold Memorial MT Up-tempo Classic/Mod. (14 & u) - \$200** Sadie Gryba (Saskatoon)
- Class 67 Runner-up Scholarship - \$100..... Ruby Hickman (Lloydminster)
- Class 68 Center Stage Studios MT Up-tempo Contemporary (14 & under) - \$200**... Elizabeth Deans (Moose Jaw)
- Class 68 Runner-up Scholarship - \$100..... Aubrie Rittinger (Saskatoon)
- Class 69 Krista Brost MT Ballad Classic/Modern (12 & under) - \$100** Vesper Stevenson (Saskatoon)
- Class 69 Runner-up Scholarship - \$50..... Olivia Brooks (Moosomin)
- Class 70 Doris Covey Lazecki MT Ballad Contemporary (12 & under) - \$100**.....Kadence Trachuk (Lloydminster)
- Class 70 Runner-up Scholarship - \$50..... Grace Handy (Moose Jaw)
- Class 71 Rosetown Festival MT Up-tempo Classic/Mod. (12 & under) - \$100** Heidi van der Merwe (Regina)
- Class 71 Runner-up Scholarship - \$50..... Leo Sawatzky (Regina)
- Class 72 Center Stage Studios MT Up-tempo Cont. (12 & under) - \$100**Kadence Trachuk (Lloydminster)
- Class 72 Runner-up Scholarship - \$50..... Jake Loshack (Saskatoon)
- Class 73 L. I. Bryson Memorial Spoken Word Concert Group (28 & u) - \$500**..... Steyn Hoogstad (Unity)
- Class 74 Alfredo S. Uy Memorial Spoken Word Poetry/Prose (17 & u) - \$300** Willem Hoogstad (Unity)
- Class 75 Doris Bircham Memorial Spoken Word Concert Group (17 & u) - \$300**..... Willem Hoogstad (Unity)
- Class 76 Spoken Word Poetry (14 & under) - \$200**.....Natalie Voigt (Battlefords)
- Class 77 Spoken Word Prose (14 & under) - \$200**Kinley Pratt (Maple Creek)
- Class 78 Spoken Word Poetry (12 & under) - \$100**..... Lola Hickman (Lloydminster)
- Class 79 Spoken Word Prose (12 & under) - \$100** Liné Linde (Prairie Sunset)

Participants in the Canada West Excellence Classes competed at the Provincial Level for the opportunity to represent Saskatchewan at the Canada West Performing Arts Festival in Victoria, BC, July 25-27. Scholarships were awarded to the following competitors:

- Canada West Classical Voice (13 & under) 1st - \$200**.....Claire Booker (Regina)
- Canada West Classical Voice (13 & under) 2nd - \$50..... Liné Linde (Prairie Sunset) & Stephanie Siba (Saskatoon)
- Lafleche Music Festival Canada West Classical Voice (17 & under) 1st - \$300** Erik Jeerakathil (Saskatoon)
- Hughton Family Canada West Classical Voice (17 & under) 2nd - \$100 Isabelle Adams (Saskatoon)
- Blanche Squires Canada West Classical Voice (22 & under) 1st - \$500** Adam Brookman (Saskatoon)
- Anna Klassen Endowment Fund Canada West Piano (13 & under) 1st - \$200** Tingzhang Wu (Saskatoon)
- Anna Klassen Endowment Fund Canada West Piano (13 & under) 2nd - \$50 Boacus Liu (Saskatoon)
- MacKinnon Family Canada West Piano (17 & under) 1st - \$300**..... Esther Zhu (Saskatoon)
- Anna Klassen Endowment Fund Canada West Piano (17 & under) 2nd - \$100 Hannah Meginbir (Saskatoon)
- Battlefords Festival Canada West Strings (13 years & under) 1st - \$200**Sophia Tirkajla (Saskatoon)
- Battlefords Festival Canada West Strings (13 years & under) 2nd - \$50 Cameron Gajadhar (Regina)
- Sask. Orchestral Assoc. Canada West Strings (17 & under) 1st - \$300**..... Elisha Ruo (Saskatoon)
- Canada West Strings (17 years & under) 2nd - \$100 Ekaterina Pletneva (Saskatoon) & Zelda Faulkes (Regina)
- Canada West Woodwind (17 & under) 1st - \$300**.....Elise Jackson-Reynolds (Regina)



Canada West Speech Arts & Drama (13 & under) 1st - \$200Liné Linde (Prairie Sunset)
 Canada West Speech Arts & Drama (13 & under) 2nd place - \$50 Cadence Pratt (Maple Creek)
Sask. Drama Canada West Speech Arts & Drama (17 & under) 1st - \$300Willem Hoogstad (Unity)
 Canada West Speech Arts & Drama (17 & under) 2nd - \$100 Bria Sifert (Maple Creek)
 Canada West Speech Arts & Drama (17 & under) 3rd - no award Chloé Massé (Lafleche)
Canada West Speech Arts & Drama (22 & under) 1st place - \$500 Steyn Hoogstad (Unity)
Battlefords Festival Canada West Musical Theatre (13 & under) 1st - \$200..... Ruby Hickman (Lloydminster)
 Battlefords Festival CW/Excellence Musical Theatre (13 & under) 2nd - \$50 Kadence Trachuk (Lloydminster)
Estevan Festival Canada West Musical Theatre (17 & under) 1st - \$300..... Sydney Kelln (Saskatoon)
 Hughton Family Canada West Musical Theatre (17 & under) 2nd - \$100 Nania van der Merwe (Regina)
Sandra Senga Canada West Musical Theatre (22 & under) 1st - \$500 Trason Ridgewell (Outlook)
Myrna Bentley Canada West Musical Theatre (22 & under) 2nd - \$150..... Adam Brookman (Saskatoon)
 Canada West Musical Theatre (22 & under) 3rd - no award Matthew Schermann (Regina)



Dustin Nguyen, winner of the Sister Boyle Piano Scholarship for Piano, 17 years & under



Photo credit: Stephen Nicholson

Kelsey Ronn, winner of the Joanne Messer Senior Vocal Scholarship



Esther Zhu, winner of the Garth Beckett/Gustin House Senior Piano Scholarship



SMFA Scholarship Donors & Supporters



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CELEBRATE THE
JOY
OF YOUTH
PERFORMANCE





Canada West Performing Arts Festival

The third annual Canada West Performing Arts Festival (CWPAF) was held from July 25 to 27, 2024, in Victoria, BC on the University of Victoria campus. Five choirs from Saskatchewan participated virtually, while 29 solo performers traveled to Victoria to compete. A highlight of the event was the final concert held on Saturday evening, where all winners were invited to participate.



142 performances were heard in all disciplines from provincial festivals across British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan. Over \$30,000 in prize money was awarded.

Eight adjudicators came to evaluate and work with the performers in Victoria: Renato Fabbrio (piano), Sandra Stringer (classical voice), Laura Camacho (strings), Eli Schill-Hudson (guitar), Gustavo Camacho (brass & woodwind), Ron Long (musical theatre), Sydney Sengotta (speech arts), and Heilwig von Koenigsloew (chamber). The ninth discipline, choral, was held virtually and adjudicated by Gaye-Lynn Kern.



The following participants placed at the 2024 competition:



PERFORMING Arts BC

	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Runner-up</u>
Piano (13 & under)	Verity Leung (BC)	Elliana Sun (BC)
	<i>Honourable Mention: Ian Quon (AB)</i>	
Piano (17 & under)	Matthew SL Cheung (BC)	Austin Ng (BC)
	<i>Honourable Mention: Esther Zhu (SK)</i>	
Piano (22 & under)	Sam Zefreh (AB)	N/A
Voice (13 & under)	Carlos Gao (BC)	Stephanie Siba (SK)
	<i>Honourable Mention: Nathan Morphis (AB)</i>	
Voice (17 & under)	Anika Howell (BC)	Joel van den Berg (AB)
	<i>Honourable Mention: Erik Jeerakathil (SK)</i>	
Voice (22 & under)	Elizabeth Fast (AB)	Adam Brookman (SK)
	<i>Honourable Mention: Claire Bidulka (BC)</i>	
Musical Theatre (13 & under)	Isabella Cucnik (BC)	Birkley Cornish (AB)
	<i>Honourable Mention: Ruby Hickman (SK)</i>	
Musical Theatre (17 & under)	Alexa Andrews (AB)	Lyra Sales (BC)
	<i>Honourable Mention: Alicia Malelang (BC)</i>	
Musical Theatre (22 & under)	Alexandre Sahil (AB)	James Miguel (BC)
	<i>Honourable Mention: Lucas Gregory (BC)</i>	
Strings (13 & under)	Sacha Jorba-Wu (AB)	Wesley Ku (BC)
	<i>Honourable Mention: Jiayu Li (BC)</i>	
Strings (17 & under)	Timothy Li (BC)	Elisha Ruo (SK)
	<i>Honourable Mention: Anthony Yue (AB)</i>	
Strings (22 & under)	Luke Kim (BC)	Andrew Loe (BC)
	<i>Honourable Mention: Melissa Lank (AB)</i>	
Speech Arts (13 & under)	Kai Yee Li (BC)	Emily Toews (AB)
	<i>Honourable Mention: Clara Norton (AB)</i>	
Speech Arts (17 & under)	Willem Hoogstad (SK)	Ava Leong (AB)
	<i>Honourable Mention: Robert Zhao (AB)</i>	
Speech Arts (22 & under)	Kris Gao (AB)	Steyn Hoogstad (SK)
	<i>Honourable Mention: Elizabeth Penner (BC)</i>	



	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Runner-up</u>
Guitar (13 & under)	Emily Ma (AB)	N/A
Guitar (17 & under)	Nathan Bautista (AB)	N/A
Woodwinds (17 & under)	Eric Davidson (AB)	Yishan Natalia Xia (BC)
Woodwinds (22 & under)	Ainsley Mercer (BC)	Camilo Aybar (BC)
Brass (17 & under)	Tavis Dueck (AB)	N/A
Brass (22 & under)	Gillian Nash (AB)	N/A
Chamber (17 & under)	Pi Trio (BC)	Luminara Trio (AB)
	<i>Honourable Mention: ZEN Trio (BC)</i>	
Chamber (22 & under)	Kimbro's String Quartet (BC)	N/A
Choral (age 13/gr. 6 & under)	Master's Academy Concert Choir (AB)	Sir Alexander Mackenzie El. Sch.(AB)
	<i>Honourable Mention: Cantate Apprentice Choir (SK)</i>	
Choral (age 16/gr. 9 & under)	Greystone Centennial MS Choir (AB)	Vedder MS Choir (BC)
	<i>Honourable Mention: All City JHS Choir (AB)</i>	
Choral (age 20/gr. 12 & under)	Archbishop MacDonald HS Choir (AB)	William Aberhart HS Ensemble (AB)
	<i>Honourable Mention: Cantate Senior Choir (SK)</i>	

As the 2024 host province, Performing Arts BC acknowledges support of the NRS Foundation through the Victoria Foundation, and many other sponsors that made this event possible.

The 2025 Canada West Performing Arts Festival will be held July 24-26, 2025 in Saskatoon on the University of Saskatchewan Campus. For more information, please contact the administrator in your participating province.

Willem Hoogstad, 1st place in Speech Arts, 17 years & under





www.canadawestfestival.ca

Canada West Performing Arts Festival

**July 24 - 26, 2025
University of Saskatchewan
(Saskatoon)**

Performing Arts BC (PABC), Alberta Music Festival Association (AMFA), and the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA), are pleased to announce the 4th Annual Canada West Performing Arts Festival (CWPAF). The CWPAF provides a unique performance and educational opportunity to music and speech students. To learn more about the CWPAF, please contact the administrator in your participating province:

- **British Columbia:** festival@bcprovincials.com
- **Alberta:** info@albertamusicfestival.org
- **Saskatchewan:** sask.music.festival@sasktel.net



PERFORMING Arts BC

AMFA
Alberta Music
Festival Association

SASKATCHEWAN
MUSIC FESTIVAL
ASSOCIATION
Performing Arts Competitions



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We help artists and musicians from the start of their careers, through to international touring artists and award winners. We assist industry professionals, recording studios, and more, in all musical styles.

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Why do I play music?

Because it makes my heart sing.





Financial Report

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



The Finance Committee consists of myself, President Jeri Ryba, Past President Tammy Villeneuve, Second Vice-President Alisha Mann, and Executive Director Carol Donhauser.

The detailed audit can be found following my report. The statement of financial position reports the total assets, liabilities and net assets. The statement of operations reflects the revenue and expenditures from the day to day activities. The statement of changes in net assets summarizes the changes during the year for the various categories of net assets. The 2024 column indicates that after recognizing a surplus of \$40,866 in the previous year, less our current year deficit of -\$25,990, added to \$706 in amortization and \$2,400 from the Trust Investment for scholarships finds the unrestricted net assets at \$17,982. The notes and schedules added to the end of the financial statements help explain specific items in the statements as well as provide a more comprehensive assessment.

The SMFA Trust investment portfolio is managed by Leander Dueck of Beyond Wealth Management in Regina. Leander reports that the rate of return during his fiscal period was 12.20%. During the same period, the Canadian Balanced Portfolio Benchmark was 12.88%. The priority for the SMFA portfolio has been to reduce volatility while still investing the majority of the portfolio for growth – specifically, the portfolio contains approximately 21% Canadian Equity, 30% US equity, 17% International Equity, 31% fixed income and cash (less than 100% due to rounding). Though the investment portfolio did not outperform the benchmark over the last year, when comparing the last 3 years, it continued to

perform as desired – returning 4.04% per year compared to the benchmark of 3.19%.

SMFA also holds 576 BCE (Bell Canada) shares, which continue to see steady returns with quarterly interest payments accounted for in investment segregated for future expenditures.

SMFA is very dependent on the operational funding from the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation, and we are grateful for this support. SaskCulture allocates lottery funds in the form of annual global grants which are set every three years after an adjudication process reviews a detailed Trust Submission. Last year, SMFA received \$185,000 for our Annual Global Funding Grant.

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

Respectfully, Dianne Gryba, Finance Chair



Audited Financial Statement



SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JULY 31, 2024



MARCIA HERBACK & ASSOCIATES
Chartered Professional Accountants
Professional Corporation

2320 Lorne Street Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 2M9
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Email: marcia@mherback.ca

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of
Saskatchewan Music Festival Association

Qualified Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (the Entity), which comprise the statement of financial position as at July 31, 2024 and the statements of operations, statement of changes in net assets and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In my opinion, except for the effects, if any, of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Saskatchewan Music Festival Association as at July 31, 2024 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

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

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

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

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

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

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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



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

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

Regina, Saskatchewan
November 26, 2024


Marcia Herback
CPA, CA



SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT JULY 31, 2024
(with comparative figures for 2023)

	2024	2023
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash (Note 3)	\$ 43,330	\$ 137,763
Cash segregated for future expenditures	381	10,129
Investment	2,934	14,642
Investment segregated for future expenditures	8,402	18,739
Accounts receivable	21,688	23,584
Inventory	8,590	10,250
Prepaid expenses	<u>6,314</u>	<u>5,069</u>
	91,639	220,176
Tangible capital assets (Note 4)	6,356	7,869
Assets held in trust (Note 5)	506,722	447,680
Investments segregated for future expenditures (Note 6)	<u>95,522</u>	<u>70,703</u>
	<u>\$ 700,239</u>	<u>\$ 746,428</u>
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 61,440	\$ 54,305
Deferred revenue (Note 7)	<u>3,434</u>	<u>96,137</u>
	<u>64,874</u>	<u>150,442</u>
NET ASSETS		
Net assets invested in capital assets	6,356	7,869
Net assets designated for future expenditures	104,305	99,571
Restricted net assets	506,722	447,680
Unrestricted net assets	<u>17,982</u>	<u>40,866</u>
	<u>635,365</u>	<u>595,986</u>
	<u>\$ 700,239</u>	<u>\$ 746,428</u>

See accompanying notes

Approved on Behalf of the Board

 Director
 Director



SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JULY 31, 2024
 (with comparative figures for 2023)

	2024	2023
Revenue		
Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund	\$ 185,000	\$ 185,000
Self-generated revenue (Schedule 1)	<u>189,461</u>	<u>136,981</u>
	<u>374,461</u>	<u>321,981</u>
Expenditures		
Administration (Schedule 2)	182,707	161,104
Amortization	706	1,948
Corporate (Schedule 3)	18,038	11,367
Program (Schedule 4)	106,115	101,609
Public relations (Schedule 5)	4,286	11,526
Travel and meeting (Schedule 6)	22,423	26,668
Loss on disposal of obsolete equipment	<u>807</u>	<u>2,127</u>
	<u>335,082</u>	<u>316,349</u>
Excess of revenue over expenditures	<u>\$ 39,379</u>	<u>\$ 5,632</u>

See accompanying notes



SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JULY 31, 2024
 (with comparative figures for 2023)

	Invested in Tangible Capital Assets	Designated for Future Expenditures	Restricted Net Assets	Unrestricted Net Assets	2024	2023
Net Assets						
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 7,869	99,571	447,680	40,866	\$ 595,986	\$ 590,354
Excess of revenue over expenditures	(807)	4,734	61,442	(25,990)	39,379	5,632
Amortization of capital assets	(706)	-	-	706	-	-
Transfers (Note 9)	-	-	(2,400)	2,400	-	-
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 6,356</u>	<u>104,305</u>	<u>506,722</u>	<u>17,982</u>	<u>\$ 635,365</u>	<u>\$ 595,986</u>



**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JULY 31, 2024
(with comparative figures for 2023)**

	2024	2023
Operating activities		
Excess of revenues over expenditures unrestricted net assets	\$ 39,379	\$ 5,632
Items not involving an outlay (receipt) of cash		
Amortization	706	1,948
Loss on disposal of equipment	<u>807</u>	<u>2,127</u>
	40,892	9,707
Net change in non-cash operating working capital balances:		
Investment	11,708	8,811
Investment segregated for future expenditures	10,337	(18,739)
Accounts receivable	1,896	(3,381)
Inventory	1,660	(431)
Prepaid expenses	(1,245)	(3,869)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	7,135	(47,064)
Deferred revenue	(92,703)	88,580
Funds held in trust	<u>-</u>	<u>(4,924)</u>
Cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>(20,320)</u>	<u>28,690</u>
Investing activities		
Change in investments	-	3,919
Change in investments segregated for future expenditures	(24,819)	3,336
Additions to assets held in trust	(59,042)	21,239
Additions to tangible capital assets	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,021)</u>
Cash provided by (used in) investing activities	<u>(83,861)</u>	<u>27,473</u>
Increase (decrease) in cash	(104,181)	56,163
Cash position, beginning of year	<u>147,892</u>	<u>91,729</u>
Cash position, end of year	<u>\$ 43,711</u>	<u>\$ 147,892</u>
Cash consists of:		
Cash	\$ 43,330	\$ 137,763
Cash segregated for future expenditures	<u>381</u>	<u>10,129</u>
	<u>\$ 43,711</u>	<u>\$ 147,892</u>

See accompanying notes



SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JULY 31, 2024

1. Status and nature of activities

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

2. Summary of significant accounting policies

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

Inventory

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

Tangible capital assets

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

Equipment	10 %
Furniture and fixtures	10 %
Leaseholds	25 months

Full amortization is recorded in the year of purchase.

Revenue recognition

The Association follows the deferral method of accounting.

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

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

Unrestricted donations are recognized as revenue in the period received.

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

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

Financial instruments

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

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



**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JULY 31, 2024**

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**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JULY 31, 2024**

2. Summary of significant accounting policies cont'd

Management estimates

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

3. Cash

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Anna Klassen scholarship	\$ 32,444	\$ 30,967
Betty Tydeman scholarship	314	514
Frances England scholarship	1,200	1,500
Ken Lee scholarship	2,000	2,000
Mossie Hancock scholarship	1,700	2,000
Ross Ulmer scholarship	3,500	3,500
Verna Veikle scholarship	2,271	2,571
Bouvier scholarship	3,200	-
Helen Davidson scholarship	800	-
Amount lent to Bank account - general	(5,000)	-
Scholarship savings unallocated interest	3,134	1,922
Total scholarship savings account	45,563	44,974
Bank account - general	(3,209)	91,684
Bank account - travel lottery	85	85
Undeposited cash	-	557
PayPal	891	463
Total cash	<u>\$ 43,330</u>	<u>\$ 137,763</u>

4. Tangible capital assets

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated Amortization</u>	<u>2024 Net Book Value</u>	<u>2023 Net Book Value</u>
Equipment	\$ 10,818	5,302	\$ 5,516	\$ 6,462
Furniture and fixtures	2,204	1,364	840	1,407
	<u>\$ 13,022</u>	<u>6,666</u>	<u>\$ 6,356</u>	<u>\$ 7,869</u>

5. Assets held in trust

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Canada Life investment portfolio	\$ 479,950	\$ 414,871
BCE Inc. (576 shares)	26,772	32,809
Total investment	<u>\$ 506,722</u>	<u>\$ 447,680</u>

Investments are recorded at fair value.

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



**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JULY 31, 2024**

11. Financial instruments (continued)

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is a type of market risk that refers to the risk that the fair value of financial instruments or future cash flows associated with the instruments will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. The Association is exposed to interest rate risk with respect to its cash and investments and its effect on interest income. Fluctuations in interest rates do not have a significant effect on cash and investments due to the fact that interest income is not a major percentage of total revenue. There has been no change from interest risk exposure from 2023.

12. Comparative figures

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



SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
SCHEDULES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JULY 31, 2024
 (with comparative figures for 2023)

	2024	2023
	Self-generated revenue	Schedule 1
Affiliation fees	\$ 42,284	\$ 40,347
Concerto revenue	-	750
Conference	2,163	2,900
Corporate sponsorships	8,500	14,034
Festival unit stationary	1,742	820
Fundraising and donations	4,080	11,255
Investment income - restricted	89,675	17,981
Investment income (loss) - unrealized	(23,340)	(17,034)
Interest - future expenditures	4,734	5,793
Miscellaneous	750	4,924
Opera competition	588	-
Provincial finals	34,461	26,537
Provincial scholarships	23,800	18,100
Sale of promotional items	-	24
SaskCulture - Special Initiatives fund	-	10,000
Syllabus and directory	24	550
	<u>\$ 189,461</u>	<u>\$ 136,981</u>



**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
SCHEDULES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JULY 31, 2024
(with comparative figures for 2023)**

	2024	2023
Administration expenditures		
		Schedule 2
Bad debts	\$ 221	\$ -
Bookkeeping	258	1,466
Delivery	-	48
Equipment rental and supplies	264	138
Expired GST rebates	2,746	-
Miscellaneous	122	-
Postage	892	680
Rent	13,887	14,400
Salaries and benefits	156,841	136,255
Telephone	3,617	3,006
Utilities and maintenance	3,859	5,111
	<u>\$ 182,707</u>	<u>\$ 161,104</u>
Corporate expenditures		
		Schedule 3
Audit	\$ 4,666	\$ 4,866
Bank charges	395	1,090
Insurance	7,890	1,418
Investment management fees - restricted	4,777	3,793
Membership	310	200
	<u>\$ 18,038</u>	<u>\$ 11,367</u>
Program expenditures		
		Schedule 4
Adjudicators training	\$ 2,486	\$ 503
Concerto competition	-	8,459
Festival unit supplies	5,164	2,884
Nationals	10,000	10,000
Opera competition	10,124	720
Program enhancement	4,589	1,397
Provincial finals expense	30,024	35,326
Provincial finals scholarship	29,607	31,300
Provincial office supplies	12,943	9,590
Speech arts	357	369
Syllabus/directory	821	1,061
	<u>\$ 106,115</u>	<u>\$ 101,609</u>
Public relations expenditures		
		Schedule 5
Advertising	\$ 4,286	\$ 10,811
Annual report	-	715
	<u>\$ 4,286</u>	<u>\$ 11,526</u>



SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
SCHEDULES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JULY 31, 2024
(with comparative figures for 2023)

	2024	2023
Travel and meeting expenditures		Schedule 6
SMFA conference charges	\$ 6,657	\$ 8,295
SMFA directors travel	9,213	12,086
Festival visiting	260	253
Executive directors travel	1,743	6,034
Delegates to Federation conference	4,550	-
	<u>\$ 22,423</u>	<u>\$ 26,668</u>



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