

# Adjudicator Directory

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**This SMFA Adjudicator Directory contains short bios, photos and lists of assignments within the past six years (2019-2025, excluding 2020) for all current SMFA adjudicators. It is organized by province and then alphabetically by adjudicator last name.**



## Kevin Ackerman

Humboldt

### Guitar, Woodwinds, Brass, Small Ensemble

Kevin earned his Bachelor of Arts with Distinction (2012) in music from the University of Saskatchewan, specializing in music history/literature and guitar. His studies included attending the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon, where he explored the invention of music, notably through the figure of Jubal and Pythagoras. Kevin has presented papers at institutions such as the City University of New York, Simon Fraser University, and the Saskatchewan Music conference. A part-time guitar instructor and Registered Music Teacher in Saskatchewan, Kevin prepares students for music festivals, Royal Conservatory exams, and university auditions. He is also an adjudicator for the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association and a past president of the Watrous Music Festival. Kevin now balances his music career with semi-retirement from power engineering, and he is involved in teaching through BHP Potash Academy and Carlton Trail College. He also serves as a relief lighthouse keeper with the Canadian Coast Guard in British Columbia. Additionally, Kevin volunteers with the K+S Shortline 101 Vulcan steam locomotive. He performs province-wide with his guitar-flute duo, and recently expanded into The Rose Quartz Trio. Kevin and his duo have been part of Via Rail's 'Artists on Board' program for several years.

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2025
  - Quill Plains Music Festival
- 2024
  - Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival
- 2023
  - Kipling & District Music Festival
- 2022
  - Prairie Sunset & District Music Festival
- 2021
  - Nipawin Music Festival
- 2019
  - Estevan & District Music Festival



## Scott Adelman

Regina

### Band, Brass, Instruments

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2023
  - Estevan & District Music Festival
  - Qu'Appelle Valley Music Festival
- 2019
  - Redvers & District Music Festival



## Cherith Alexander

Weyburn

### Piano

Cherith Alexander is a dynamic pianist based in Weyburn, Saskatchewan, with thirty years of experience as a respected piano and music theory teacher. She has worked with students of all ages and levels, many of whom have won provincial awards and RCM gold medals, and has fostered a love of music that has led some to become professional musicians and educators. An enthusiastic member of the RCM College of Examiners, Cherith is also an experienced collaborative pianist and chamber musician, often coaching young musicians "from the piano bench." She is passionate about music festivals, having adjudicated at events across Western Canada, and in 2017, she developed and facilitated the first "Adjudicator Boot Camp" in Saskatchewan to train and inspire adjudicators. Educated at the University of British Columbia under Kum Sing Lee, she has also learned from William Moore and Marcelle Guidos, completing her ARCT at fifteen. Cherith lives on a grain farm with her husband Tim and enjoys traveling to visit their young adult children in Toronto, Waterloo, and Calgary.

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2025
  - Assiniboia Music Festival
  - Saskatoon Music Festival
- 2024
  - Biggar & District Music Festival
  - Prince Albert Music Festival

2023  
 Central Sask Music Festival  
 Last Mountain & District Music Festival  
 2022  
 Rosetown & District Music Festival  
 Saskatoon Music Festival  
 2021  
 Humboldt Music Festival  
 Moosomin & District Music Festival  
 2019  
 Sask Valley Music Festival  
 Twin Rivers Music Festival



## Betty Allison

Saskatoon

### Voice

Teaching artist and soprano, Dr. Betty Allison is a professor of voice at the University of Saskatchewan. A graduate of the Canadian Opera Company Ensemble, Betty has performed a varied repertoire, demonstrating her natural ability from the Countess (*Le Nozze di Figaro*) and Tatiana (*Eugene Onegin*), to Vixen (*Cunning Little Vixen*) and Elizabeth I (*Gloriana*). She is equally comfortable on the concert and recital stage. Recently, Betty completed her doctorate at the University of Toronto. Her research focused on the connection between a singer's voice and their overall wellness and resilience. Specifically, she examined the non-musical stressors and coping strategies that elite singers use to maintain their voices and careers.

### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025  
 Humboldt Music Festival  
 Regina Music Festival



## Gene Aulinger

North Battleford

### Band, Instruments

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

### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025  
 Meadow Lake & District Music Festival  
 2024  
 Humboldt Music Festival  
 Saskatoon Music Festival  
 2021  
 Kindersley & District Music Festival  
 2019  
 Prince Albert Music Festival



## Anna Marie Bekolay

Saskatoon

### Vocal, Strings, Speech Arts, Musical Theatre, Choral, School Music

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

### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025  
 Central Sask Music Festival  
 Spiritwood & District Music Festival

2024  
 Biggar & District Music Festival  
 Estevan & District Music Festival  
 Parkland & District Music Festival  
 Vanguard & District Music Festival

2023  
 Borderland Music Festival  
 Kipling & District Music Festival  
 Nipawin Music Festival  
 Prince Albert Music Festival

2022  
 Melfort Music Festival  
 Moosomin & District Music Festival

2021  
 Estevan & District Music Festival  
 Mainline & District Music Festival  
 Melfort Music Festival

2019  
 La Ronge & District Music Festival  
 Nipawin Music Festival

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## Amy Boyes

### Piano

Warman

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024  
 Humboldt Music Festival

2023  
 Quill Plains Music Festival

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## Erin Brophey

### Woodwind

Saskatoon

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024  
 Provincial Festival

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## Deborah Buck

### Piano, Speech Arts, Voice, Choirs

Saskatoon

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025  
 Outlook & District Music Festival  
 Twin Rivers Music Festival

2024  
Lanigan & District Music Festival  
2019  
Meadow Lake & District Music Festival

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## George Charpentier

Saskatoon

### Band, Winds, Strings, Percussion, Classroom

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024  
Prince Albert Music Festival  
2022  
Yorkton Music Festival  
2019  
Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival

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## Sarah Clark Gregory

Watrous

### Piano, Voice, Speech Arts

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025  
Potashville Music Festival  
Unity Music Festival  
2024  
Estevan & District Music Festival  
2023  
Assiniboia Music Festival  
Meadow Lake & District Music Festival

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## Ron de Jager

Caronport

### Voice

Ron de Jager, a native of Nova Scotia, holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in Vocal Performance from Shenandoah University. He has a diverse performance background, including solo recitals, opera, oratorio, musical theatre, ballet, and film. Notable performances include singing for King Charles III and The Queen Consort in 2012 and serving as guest soloist for the inauguration of Pier 21 on Canada Day 2000. He has performed roles such as Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Papageno in *Die Zauberflöte*, and Cosme McMoon in *Souvenir*, with critics praising his vocal color and expressive performances. Ron has performed internationally and collaborates with his wife, pianist Elena de Jager. As a professor at Briercrest College, he teaches voice, vocal pedagogy, and musical theatre, directs opera scenes, and serves as the Artistic Director for *A Briercrest Christmas*. Dr. de Jager is committed to tailoring instruction to each singer's unique needs and has mentored students who have gone on to perform in opera houses and pursue graduate programs. He is a certified instructor in Somatic Voicework™ and has adjudicated festivals and competitions across Canada and the U.S. Ron expresses deep gratitude for his mentors and aims to pass on their wisdom and experience.

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025  
Mainline & District Music Festival  
Prince Albert Music Festival  
2024  
Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival  
2023  
Sask Valley Music Festival

2021  
Lafleche & District Music Festival  
Melfort Music Festival  
2019  
Borderland Music Festival  
Estevan & District Music Festival  
Swift Current & District Music Festival

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## Jhena Dela Cruz

Saskatoon



### Piano

Jhena Dela Cruz has been teaching piano for 10 years in Saskatoon and continues to work on her professional development. She completed her ARCT, ATCL and LTCL while teaching, and her musical achievements include receiving first place in the Pedagogy class for the Gordon C. Wallis Piano Scholarship competition in 2016 and the Florence Bowes Piano Pedagogy category of 2017. Jhena has been involved in the Saskatoon Contemporary Showcase since 2022 by taking the secretary position and assisting with scheduling and coordinating the event, and currently has the role of Publicity & Advertising for the SRMTA Executive

### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025  
Sask Valley Music Festival

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## David Dick

Regina

### Brass, Band

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

### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2023  
Saskatoon Music Festival  
2019  
Swift Current & District Music Festival  
Yorkton Music Festival

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## Lynn Ewing

Saskatoon

### Piano, Voice, Speech Arts

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

### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025  
Rosetown & District Music Festival  
2023  
Melfort Music Festival  
Twin Rivers Music Festival  
2022  
Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival  
Sand Hills Music Festival  
2019  
Melfort Music Festival



## Audrey Falk Janzen

Rosthern

### Piano

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

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

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

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

### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2025
  - Melfort Music Festival
- 2024
  - Meadow Lake & District Music Festival
  - Sand Hills Music Festival
- 2023
  - Moosomin & District Music Festival
- 2022
  - Twin Rivers Music Festival
- 2021
  - Yorkton Music Festival
- 2019
  - Lanigan & District Music Festival
  - Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival



## Nick Fanner

Saskatoon

### Band, Brass

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

### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2025
  - Prince Albert Music Festival
- 2024
  - Moose Jaw Music Festival
  - Prairie Sunset & District Music Festival
  - Swift Current & District Music Festival
- 2023
  - Humboldt Music Festival
  - Meadow Lake & District Music Festival





## Karen Frandsen

Regina

### Voice, Musical Theatre, Speech Arts

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024

Rosetown & District Music Festival

2023

Yorkton Music Festival



## Janie Fries

Moose Jaw

### Band, Classroom Music, School Choir

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2019

Mainline & District Music Festival



## Louella Friesen

Waldheim

### Voice, Musical Theatre, Speech Arts, Choir

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025

Borderland Music Festival

2024

Quill Plains Music Festival

2023

Lanigan & District Music Festival

2022

Estevan & District Music Festival

2021

Weyburn Music Festival

2019

Twin Rivers Music Festival

Yorkton Music Festival





## Gail Fry

### Choral

Regina

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025  
Quill Plains Music Festival  
2024  
Moose Jaw Music Festival  
2021  
Quill Plains Music Festival  
2019  
Unity Music Festival



## Garry Gable

### Voice, Musical Theatre

Saskatoon

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

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

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025  
Kindersley & District Music Festival  
Regina Music Festival  
Rosetown & District Music Festival  
2024  
Moose Jaw Music Festival  
2022  
Lanigan & District Music Festival  
2021  
Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival



## Nadine Ghiglione

### Bands

Regina

Nadine Ghiglione is a dedicated music educator with over three decades of experience teaching instrumental music within the Regina Catholic School Division at both the high school and elementary levels. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from the University of Saskatchewan and has taught band in Yorkton, Kindersley, and Saskatoon. Nadine's ensembles have consistently earned numerous Awards of Excellence for Outstanding Performance, reflecting her exceptional leadership and her students' talent. Her concert and jazz bands have performed at prestigious events such as the Rocky Mountain Festival in Banff, AB, and have been invited to attend MusicFest Canada. Nadine has also contributed to the Saskatchewan Band Association, serving on the executive board as treasurer and as a member-at-large on other committees. Additionally, she has worked as a conductor and saxophone clinician at numerous band camps across the province.

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025  
Saskatoon Music Festival



### Voice, Musical Theatre

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2025
  - Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival
- 2024
  - Melfort Music Festival
  - Twin Rivers Music Festival
  - Weyburn Music Festival
- 2023
  - Biggar & District Music Festival
  - Unity Music Festival
- 2022
  - Prince Albert Music Festival



### Piano, Composition

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2025
  - Borderland Music Festival
  - Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival
- 2024
  - Borderland Music Festival
  - Nipawin Music Festival
- 2022
  - Mainline & District Music Festival
- 2021
  - Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival
- 2019
  - Humboldt Music Festival
  - Maple Creek & District Music Festival



## Glen Gillis

Saskatoon

### Band, Woodwinds, Brass, Percussion, Strings

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2025
  - Canada West Performing Arts Festival
  - Saskatoon Music Festival
- 2024
  - Melfort Music Festival
- 2023
  - Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival
- 2022
  - Humboldt Music Festival
- 2019
  - Meadow Lake & District Music Festival



## Corinne Groff

Regina

### Piano

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2025
  - Unity Music Festival
- 2023
  - Gravelbourg & District Bilingual Music Festival
  - Yorkton Music Festival
- 2022
  - Assiniboia Music Festival
  - Prince Albert Music Festival
- 2021
  - Saskatoon Music Festival
- 2019
  - Potashville Music Festival



## Dianne Gryba

North Battleford

### Piano, Voice, Choir

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2025
  - Lanigan & District Music Festival
  - Saskatoon Music Festival
  - Yorkton Music Festival

2024  
 Prince Albert Music Festival  
 Weyburn Music Festival  
 2023  
 Swift Current & District Music Festival  
 2022  
 Moose Jaw Music Festival  
 Regina Music Festival  
 2021  
 Biggar & District Music Festival  
 Sask Valley Music Festival  
 2019  
 Regina Music Festival  
 Sand Hills Music Festival

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## Rebecca Hankins-Vopni

### Piano, Strings, Brass

Tisdale

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025  
 Gravelbourg & District Bilingual Music Festival  
 Sand Hills Music Festival  
 2024  
 Lanigan & District Music Festival

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## Tom Hearn

Melville

### Band, Instruments

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025  
 Qu'Appelle Valley Music Festival  
 2024  
 Estevan & District Music Festival  
 2022  
 Quill Plains Music Festival  
 2019  
 Carnduff & District Music Festival



## Terry Heckman

Saskatoon

### Band, Brass, Woodwinds, Percussion

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2019

Biggar & District Music Festival



## Chris Kayler

Caronport

### Piano, Vocal

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2022

Weyburn Music Festival

2021

Eston Music Festival

Maple Creek & District Music Festival



## Laureen Kells

Tuffnell

### Piano

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025

Biggar & District Music Festival

2024

Qu'Appelle Valley Music Festival



## Chris Kelly

Saskatoon

### Voice, Piano

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2023

Eston Music Festival  
Melfort Music Festival

2022

Lanigan & District Music Festival  
Sask Valley Music Festival

2021

Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival  
Kindersley & District Music Festival  
Prince Albert Music Festival

2019

Humboldt Music Festival



## Gaye-Lynn Kern

Saskatoon

### Voice, Music Theatre, Choral, Speech Arts

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025

Biggar & District Music Festival

2024

Kindersley & District Music Festival  
Moosomin & District Music Festival

2023

Twin Rivers Music Festival

2022

Canada West Performing Arts Festival

2021

Lanigan & District Music Festival



## Sarah Konecsni

Regina

### Piano

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2023

Weyburn Music Festival

2021

Prince Albert Music Festival

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## Caroline Konecsni-Christie

Dysart

### Piano, Organ

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2019

Lafleche & District Music Festival

Parkland & District Music Festival



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## Heather Kurtenbach

Saskatoon

### Piano

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024

Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival

2019

Regina Music Festival





## Choral

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

### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2023

Regina Music Festival

Saskatoon Music Festival

2019

Swift Current & District Music Festival



## Peggy L'Hoir

## Piano

Peggy L'Hoir is a seasoned teacher, clinician, artist, examiner, and composer, dedicated to educating, empowering, and inspiring students of all ages. She values connection, community, and collaboration in her work, fostering an approachable environment. With an Associate Diploma in Piano Performance from Trinity College, London, Peggy has shared her passion for music for over five decades and is committed to lifelong learning in teaching, performing, and composing. Her diverse musical endeavors include choral and orchestral direction for local musicals, keyboard playing in pop/jazz ensembles, composing, and leading community projects like *From Prairie to Pine* and the *Heart of the City Piano Program*. She has contributed to organizations such as the Sask Arts Board, Biggar Music Festival, and the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers. Peggy has been honored with several awards, including the RCM 40 Years of Dedicated Service Award (2019), SMFA Adjudicating Excellence Award (2022), and the CFMTA Hughean Fergusson Distinguished Teaching Award (2024). Outside of music, she enjoys spontaneous music-making, reading, fishing, crafting, and spending time with her family and friends.

### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025

La Ronge & District Music Festival

Yorkton Music Festival

2024

Moose Jaw Music Festival

Watrous & District Music Festival

2023

Regina Music Festival

Sask Valley Music Festival

2022

Twin Rivers Music Festival

2021

Prairie Sunset & District Music Festival

2019

Quill Plains Music Festival

Saskatoon Music Festival

Spiritwood & District Music Festival



## Kathleen Lohrenz Gable

Saskatoon

### Piano

Kathleen Lohrenz Gable, originally from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, has devoted herself to music as both a performer and teacher, specializing in developing solo pianists, collaborative pianists, singers and instrumentalists. She began her studies with Dr. Lyell Gustin in Saskatoon and later earned her Bachelor of Music from Wilfrid Laurier University, followed by a Diploma in Lieder from the Franz Schubert Institute in Austria, a Fellowship from Trinity College in London, and a Master of Music in Accompanying and Chamber Music from the University of Michigan. Kathy has taught at various institutions, including the University of Michigan, Wilfrid Laurier University, and the University of Windsor, before returning to Saskatchewan in 1994 to teach at the University of Saskatchewan. She has worked with opera companies like Edmonton's Opera Nuova, Calgary Opera, Saskatoon Opera, and Vancouver Summer Opera Study program, and as the Music Director for the University of Saskatchewan Music Theatre Ensemble. Kathy has also performed and taught in China and was an official pianist at the World Saxophone Congress in 2009. She is a judge, performer, and workshop leader for numerous music festivals.

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025

Prince Albert Music Festival  
Twin Rivers Music Festival

2024

Regina Music Festival  
Sask Valley Music Festival

2022

Biggar & District Music Festival

2021

Quill Plains Music Festival

2019

Nipawin Music Festival



## Nancy Loper

Caronport

### Voice, Musical Theatre, Choral

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025

Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival  
Regina Music Festival

2024

Eston Music Festival  
Potashville Music Festival



## Allison Luff

Regina

### Piano

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025

Parkland & District Music Festival

2019

Mainline & District Music Festival



## Chelsea Mahan

Dalmeny

### Vocal

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

### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2025
  - Last Mountain & District Music Festival
- 2024
  - Sask Valley Music Festival
  - Unity Music Festival
- 2023
  - Rosetown & District Music Festival
- 2022
  - Quill Plains Music Festival
  - Sask Valley Music Festival
- 2021
  - Gravelbourg & District Bilingual Music Festival
- 2019
  - Sask Valley Music Festival



## Dale Malden

Melfort

### Band, Instruments

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

### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2021
  - Moose Jaw Music Festival



## Hannah Marple

Saskatoon

### Piano

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

She believes in creating and sharing an environment for students to discover how music is relevant in every day life. Away from the piano, Hannah is usually found outdoors – skiing, running or cycling along the South Saskatchewan River!

### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2025
  - Nipawin Music Festival
- 2024
  - Outlook & District Music Festival
  - Prairie Sunset & District Music Festival
- 2023
  - Humboldt Music Festival
- 2021
  - Gravelbourg & District Bilingual Music Festival
  - Kindersley & District Music Festival



## James McCarthy

Saskatoon

### Percussion, Band

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2025
  - Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival
- 2024
  - Kindersley & District Music Festival
  - Yorkton Music Festival
- 2023
  - Biggar & District Music Festival
  - Melfort Music Festival
  - Rosetown & District Music Festival
- 2022
  - Meadow Lake & District Music Festival
  - Qu'Appelle Valley Music Festival
- 2021
  - Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival
  - Estevan & District Music Festival
  - Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival
  - Prince Albert Music Festival
- 2019
  - Humboldt Music Festival
  - Weyburn Music Festival



## Adria McCulloch

Regina

### Voice, Musical Theatre, Speech Arts

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

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



## Daniel McElroy

Caronport

### Voice, Musical Theatre, Choir, Speech Arts, Piano

Born and raised in Saskatchewan, Daniel McElroy completed his MMus: Vocal Performance degree at the University of Regina in 2023. He graduated from Briercrest College and Seminary in 2020 with a BA Music: Vocal Performance. A prolific performer, his recent roles include The Beast (Beauty and the Beast), Major General Stanley (The Pirates of Penzance), Perchik (Fiddler on the Roof), Figaro (Le Nozze di Figaro), and Adam (Seven Brides for Seven Brothers). Having grown up competing in SMFA festivals, Daniel has received awards such as the Hardwicke Memorial Grade A Vocal Scholarship (Regina Music Festival), Thomas and Donald Hatton Vocal Award (Regina Music Festival), and Goodfellow Memorial Senior Oratorio Scholarship (SMFA Provincial Music Festival). In 2022, he took first place in the Moose Jaw Arts in Motion Sylvia Wilson Vocal Competition. Daniel completed his Grade 9 RCM piano exam in 2017. He teaches voice, piano, music theory, musical theatre, and choir with the Briercrest Conservatory of the Performing Arts and has extensive experience with students from the elementary to college levels. He is also an active composer of vocal and choral music, primarily setting the texts of Saskatchewan poets. He's delighted to help the next generation of young musicians realize their potential!

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025

Carnduff & District Music Festival

2024

Outlook & District Music Festival



## Carol McFadden

Waldheim

### Piano, voice, choral

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024

Assiniboia Music Festival

2023

Quill Plains Music Festival



## David L. McIntyre

Regina

### Piano, Choral, Organ

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2019

Outlook & District Music Festival



## Daryl McKinnon

Regina

### Band, Choir

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025

Prince Albert Music Festival

Yorkton Music Festival

2024  
Biggar & District Music Festival  
Meadow Lake & District Music Festival  
2023  
Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival  
Potashville Music Festival  
2022  
Saskatoon Music Festival  
Saskatoon Music Festival

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## Scott McKnight

Saskatoon

### Strings

Cellist Scott McKnight is an active performer and teacher in Saskatoon and throughout Saskatchewan. Though classically trained, he performs in a variety of styles, from baroque to jazz. Scott has been a member of the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra since moving to the province in 2010. He also performs with many other groups including YXE Quartet, Flamenco Borealis, and Prairie Virtuosi, the last of which he is also co-director. Festival appearances include Prairie Cello Institute's CelloDrama, Victoria Flamenco Festival, Strata Festival, and Saskatchewan Jazz Festival. You can also find Scott under the stage, playing for productions at Persephone Theatre and Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan. He frequently solos with choirs throughout the city including the Chamber Singers. Originally from Ontario, Scott is a former member of the Ottawa and Guelph Symphony Orchestras. In addition to performing, he maintains a private studio and teaches with the Saskatoon Suzuki String Program. He is a sessional lecturer at the University of Saskatchewan and adjudicates at music festivals throughout the province. Scott holds a master of music degree in cello performance (University of Ottawa), a bachelor of music in cello performance and a chamber diploma (Wilfrid Laurier University).

### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025  
Moose Jaw Music Festival  
Prairie Sunset & District Music Festival  
2023  
Melfort Music Festival  
2021  
Nipawin Music Festival  
2019  
Prince Albert Music Festival

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## Spencer McKnight

Outlook

### Voice

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

### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025  
Estevan & District Music Festival  
Weyburn Music Festival  
2024  
Lafleche & District Music Festival  
Nipawin Music Festival  
2023  
Swift Current & District Music Festival  
2022  
Yorkton Music Festival  
2021  
Moose Jaw Music Festival



## Dawn McLean Belyk

Saskatoon

### Concert Band, Jazz Band, Brass

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
  - Prince Albert Music Festival
- 2023
  - Nipawin Music Festival
- 2022
  - Kindersley & District Music Festival
  - Saskatoon Music Festival
- 2019
  - Saskatoon Music Festival



## Brett Mitchell

Caronport

### Voice, Musical Theatre, Choir

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

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



## Terri-Lynn Mitchell

Saskatoon

### Voice, Musical Theatre, Speech Arts, Choir, Piano

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
  - Humboldt Music Festival
- 2023
  - Moosomin & District Music Festival
- 2022
  - Central Sask Music Festival
  - Twin Rivers Music Festival
- 2019
  - Prairie Sunset & District Music Festival



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## Melissa Morgan

Regina



### Choir, Voice

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
  - Borderland Music Festival
- 2021
  - Yorkton Music Festival
- 2019
  - Weyburn Music Festival

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## Stacey Mortenson-Spokes

Saskatoon



### Band, Brass, Woodwind, Percussion

Stacey Mortenson-Spokes plays 4th horn in the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra, serves as a sessional lecturer at the University of Saskatchewan and is the music director at Evan Hardy Collegiate, where she conducts three concert bands, two jazz bands, a choir, a drumline and several jazz combos. Stacey has been teaching music for 29 years. Between Lloydminster and Saskatoon, from grades three to twelve, she has taught at Centennial Collegiate, Walter Murray Collegiate and Evan Hardy Collegiate. Stacey enjoys guest conducting and adjudicating around Saskatchewan, and in the fall of 2013, she founded the Saskatoon Serenade, Saskatoon's first all-female concert band of 40+ lovely musicians. Stacey is a proud recipient of the Keith Mann Outstanding Canadian Band Director Award at Musicfest Canada (2016) and the Saskatchewan Band Association's Distinguished Band Director Award (2017). Ms. Mortenson-Spokes is passionate about music education and its value in shaping students' lives, and her Master of Music Thesis focused on band programs during the pandemic and the importance of continuing music programs through adversity.

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2025
  - Outlook & District Music Festival

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## Sofia Mycyk

Saskatoon



### Piano

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2025
  - Regina Music Festival
- 2024
  - Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival
  - Twin Rivers Music Festival
- 2023
  - Sand Hills Music Festival

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## Darrin Oehlerking

Saskatoon



### Band

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

### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2019

Moose Jaw Music Festival

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## Oxana Ossiptchouk

Saskatoon



### Strings

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

### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024

Melfort Music Festival

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## Elise Parsonage

Saskatoon



### Voice, speech, choir, beginner piano, band

Elise Parsonage is a soprano originally from Vernon, BC. She moved to Saskatoon in September of 2018 to pursue her bachelor of music in voice and graduated in the spring of 2022. She went on to study music education at the University of Saskatchewan, graduating in 2024. She's been involved in various events in Saskatoon like the music festival, Saskatoon Opera's Proms series, and young artist competitions. She won the Canada West competition in classical voice in July of 22, and the Kinsmen competition in Saskatoon in May of 21. In the summer of 2022 she attended Opera Nuova in Edmonton and worked on the Monteverdi opera *The Coronation of Poppea* for six weeks. She also has contributed to the musical theatre scene in Saskatoon with roles in *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Music Man*, and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. She joined the Greystone singers choir in September of 2018 and sang with them for 5 years. She recently went to New York City and performed Elaine Hagenburg's *Illuminare* at Carnegie Hall with the same choir. She joined the Fireside singers in September of 2024 and participated in their Christmas Memories concert as a soloist.

### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025

Gravelbourg & District Bilingual Music Festival

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## Larry Pearen

Yorkton

### Band, Woodwind, Brass, Percussion

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

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

### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2023

Saskatoon Music Festival

2022

Weyburn Music Festival



## Casey Peden

Glaslyn

### Voice, Choral, Speech Arts

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2022  
Moose Jaw Music Festival  
2021  
Sask Valley Music Festival  
2019  
Regina Music Festival

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## Cynthia Peyson Wahl

Regina

### Choir

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024  
Regina Music Festival

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## Naomi Piggott-Suchan

Saskatoon

### Piano

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2023  
Nipawin Music Festival  
Spiritwood & District Music Festival  
2019  
Eston Music Festival



## Brent Pittman

Saskatoon

### Bands, Brass, Woodwind

Brent is retired after 37 years of teaching music, having worked in two school divisions: Arcola School Division (1986-1989) and Saskatoon Public School Division (1989-2023). Over his 34 years with SPSPD, he taught in 13 elementary schools and two high schools—Walter Murray Collegiate and Aden Bowman Collegiate. During university, Brent received the R.J. Staples Award at the University of Saskatchewan for academic achievement and contributions to music. In 2014, he earned the Saskatchewan Band Association Distinguished Band Directors Award for outstanding musical leadership and promotion of musical excellence. In November 2024, he was honored with the Saskatchewan Music Educators Outstanding Achievement Award. Brent has performed with various community groups and served as a guest conductor and clinician across Saskatchewan, including at SBA summer camps, the Alberta International Band Festival, and SMC conferences. He directed the Junior Summer Band Camp in Saskatoon during the late 90s and later coordinated the Junior North Provincial Honour Band for three years.

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025

Biggar & District Music Festival

Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival

2024

Sask Valley Music Festival



## Lori Potter

Regina

### Piano

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025

Vanguard & District Music Festival

Weyburn Music Festival

2024

Central Sask Music Festival

Gravelbourg & District Bilingual Music Festival

Kipling & District Music Festival

2023

Parkland & District Music Festival

Potashville Music Festival

2022

Qu'Appelle Valley Music Festival



## Mark Preece

Regina

### Band, Brass, Woodwind

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2022

Mainline & District Music Festival

2021

Biggar & District Music Festival

2019

Potashville Music Festival



## Shawna Ramsay

North Battleford

### Voice, Choral, Speech Arts

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2019

Hafford & District Music Festival



## Gillian Rice

Canora

### Piano

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025

Meadow Lake & District Music Festival

Qu'Appelle Valley Music Festival

2024

La Ronge & District Music Festival

2023

Humboldt Music Festival

Kipling & District Music Festival

2022

Unity Music Festival



## Robyn Rutherford

Unity

### Piano

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2019

Biggar & District Music Festival



## Jeri Ryba

Moose Jaw

### Voice, Musical Theatre

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2025
  - Sask Valley Music Festival
- 2024
  - Estevan & District Music Festival
- 2023
  - Regina Music Festival
- 2022
  - Humboldt Music Festival
  - Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival
  - Swift Current & District Music Festival
- 2021
  - Borderland Music Festival
- 2019
  - Biggar & District Music Festival
  - Last Mountain & District Music Festival



## Joan Savage

Saskatoon

### Strings

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2019
  - Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival



## Lynette Sawatsky

Saskatoon

### Piano

Lynette Sawatsky began her musical training at the age of four and completed her performer's A.R.C.T. in piano while in high school. She holds a Bachelor of Education (elementary) from the University of Saskatchewan. Lynette has taught both group and private lessons, worked as a music specialist in the public school system, and participated as a guest workshop clinician and piano adjudicator across Canada. Lynette currently directs a group of enthusiastic youngsters from core neighbourhoods during a weekly lunch hour choir program in her community. She believes that music is a gift that brings joy and enriches lives. Lynette's piano compositions are being played and enjoyed by students of all ages. Several of her pieces have been recently selected by Conservatory Canada for their new Mosaics repertoire series. Lynette's music has been described as "imaginative", "charming", "lyrical", and "pedagogically sound." One of her greatest pleasures as a composer is to connect with teachers and students who are playing her compositions. Lynette has an active piano studio in Saskatoon. She and her husband Joel have four adult children and three granddaughters. In her leisure time, Lynette enjoys spending time with family, drinking coffee with friends, and going for long walks along the beautiful South Saskatchewan River.

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2025
  - Humboldt Music Festival
  - Moose Jaw Music Festival
- 2024
  - Melfort Music Festival
  - Unity Music Festival
- 2023
  - La Ronge & District Music Festival
  - Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival
- 2022
  - Meadow Lake & District Music Festival





## Claire Seibold

Rosetown

### Piano

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2025  
Lanigan & District Music Festival
  - 2022  
Quill Plains Music Festival
  - 2021  
Saskatoon Music Festival  
Unity Music Festival
  - 2019  
Swift Current & District Music Festival
- 



## Janis Smith

Regina

### Piano

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2025  
Moosomin & District Music Festival
  - 2024  
Yorkton Music Festival
  - 2022  
Humboldt Music Festival
  - 2021  
Borderland Music Festival  
Weyburn Music Festival
  - 2019  
Shaunavon & District Music Festival
- 



## Audrey Sproule

Lafleche

### Strings

Audrey Sproule is a Canadian violinist, string quartettiste, and community music initiator from Lafleche, Saskatchewan. She studied with renowned musicians such as Ernest Kassin, Rudolf Sternadel, and Mark Fewer, and holds degrees from McGill University, the Cleveland Institute of Music, and the Paris Conservatory. In 2009, Audrey co-founded the Crimson String Quartet, which is known for its innovative concert programming and annual community residency tours across the Canadian Prairies. She moved to Paris in 2014, where she joined the Quatuor Naos, winning second prize at the Bellan International Chamber Music Competition and performing at Wigmore Hall. Audrey is also a core member of the Ensemble des Possibles and a founding member of the Quatuor Odyssée. Passionate about music outreach, she was named a TD Scholar and a finalist for the Canada National Millennium Award and the US-Canada Fulbright Scholarship. Audrey has served in various educational roles, including as Educational Director of CityMusic Kidz in Cleveland and section leader with the Canada-India Youth Orchestra. She also co-coordinated a contemporary music workshop in Bogotá. In 2022, Audrey became Professor of Violin and String Quartet at the Conservatoire à Rayonnement Départemental of Pantin, France, where she is currently on tenure track.

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2025  
Shurniak Concerto Competition





## Sherry Sproule

Lafleche

### Piano, voice, musical theatre, speech arts

Sherry Sproule has enjoyed a successful career of instilling her love of music in a large number of families in the Lafleche area. She began her teaching career in the school system and then transitioned to offering private voice and piano lessons and group Music for Young Children classes. She is an active accompanist and loves collaborating with singers. Sherry earned a B Ed (Music and Special Education) from the University of Saskatchewan and has studied with Saskatchewan teachers of piano, voice and theory. In 2021 Sherry was recognized for her contribution to music education in Saskatchewan as she was nominated and then shortlisted for a Provincial Saskatchewan Arts Award in the category of Arts and Learning. Now splitting her time between Lafleche and Calgary, she enjoys singing with the Scarboro Choir and plays violin with the Prairie Mountain Fiddlers.

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2025
  - Swift Current & District Music Festival
- 2024
  - Mainline & District Music Festival
- 2023
  - Maple Creek & District Music Festival
- 2022
  - Rosetown & District Music Festival



## Laurel Teichroeb

Yorkton

### Piano

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2025
  - Saskatoon Music Festival
  - Swift Current & District Music Festival
- 2024
  - Regina Music Festival
- 2023
  - Biggar & District Music Festival
  - Prince Albert Music Festival
- 2021
  - Estevan & District Music Festival
  - Moose Jaw Music Festival
- 2019
  - Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival
  - Rosetown & District Music Festival



## Jennifer Tenford

Regina

### Woodwinds, Band

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2025
  - Carnduff & District Music Festival
  - Kindersley & District Music Festival
- 2024
  - Parkland & District Music Festival
  - Saskatoon Music Festival



## Mark Tse

Saskatoon

### Bands, solo instruments

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025  
Estevan & District Music Festival  
2024  
Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival

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## Gilles Turcotte

Saskatoon

### Band, Woodwind

Gilles Turcotte was born in Saskatoon where he studied clarinet with Margaret Wilson and obtained undergraduate degrees in both clarinet performance and in French education from the University of Saskatchewan in 1985 and 1993 respectively. He retired from a 21-year career with the Saskatchewan Health Authority in 2021 to devote more time and energy to performing and instructing music particularly to clarinetists of all ages. Gilles has performed in recital as well as in large and chamber ensembles throughout Canada and in Europe. Career highlights include performing with the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra, participating in the Music Performance and Communication program in Toronto, organizing and participating in 4 Northern tours under the guidance of George Zukerman and producing and recording a solo CD entitled "Demografx" for which he was nominated for a Western Canadian Music Award. Gilles has also been recorded by the CBC. Gilles has had considerable experience as an educator having directed grade school bands and served as an adjudicator for the SMFA for several years. Gilles has extensive experience as a clinician and private instructor and has taught private lessons, sectionals and masterclasses for the SBA Honour Band, SBA Summer Band Camps and several schools throughout the province. Gilles is currently performing with the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra and other chamber groups. He also contributes to the community by rehearsing and performing with groups such as Reedy, Set, Go – Saskatoon's Clarinet Choir and the North Saskatchewan Wind Orchestra. He lives on an acreage with his wife, Juliane, 2 horses, 4 cats and their dog. When not involved in music or farming related activity Gilles can often be seen pedalling his e-bike on many of Saskatoon's beautiful bike paths.

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025  
Humboldt Music Festival  
Rosetown & District Music Festival  
2024  
Qu'Appelle Valley Music Festival  
2023  
Saskatoon Music Festival  
Weyburn Music Festival  
2022  
Biggar & District Music Festival

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## Mark Turner

Saskatoon

### Piano

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2019  
Shurniak Concerto Competition



## Brian Unverricht

Saskatoon

### Band, Instruments, Guitar

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2022

Saskatoon Music Festival

2019

Melfort Music Festival

## Alicia Vopni-Summach

Tisdale

### Piano, Flute, Vocal, Cello

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025

Maple Creek & District Music Festival

Watrous & District Music Festival

2024

Kindersley & District Music Festival

2021

Sand Hills Music Festival



## Jenn Voth

Regina

### Piano

Jenn Voth is an active musician in Regina. She has a Masters in Piano Performance and Pedagogy and teaches all ages and stages in her studio. She loves collaborating with different instrumental students as well as working with her professional colleagues either in small ensemble settings or in the larger context such as big bands or symphonies. She enjoys working in pop, jazz and of course, classical music! In her spare time, she enjoys nature, her kids, and reading a good book!

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025

Lafleche & District Music Festival

## Heather Godden Waldner

Warman

### Piano, Brass

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025

Kipling & District Music Festival

Prairie Sunset & District Music Festival



## Drusilla Waltz

Saskatoon

### Violin, Piano, Instrumental Ensemble (Band)

Drusilla Waltz was born and raised in rural Alberta, where she thoroughly enjoyed playing with her family band, performing in local festivals, and teaching students of her own. After completing her ARCT in Violin Performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music in 2018, Dru moved to Saskatoon to study violin with Dr. Veronique Mathieu (Associate Professor of Violin, David L. Kaplan Chair in Music) at the University of Saskatchewan. After earning her music degree in 2022, Dru received the Arthur Collingwood Prize in Music, awarded to the most distinguished graduate of the program. In 2024, Dru finished her Bachelor of Education degree, successfully completing the Music Education double-degree program. Currently, Dru is an active member of the music community, directing and performing chamber music regularly with the YXE Quartet, teaching band and fiddle in schools, teaching private lessons, and playing as a member of Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra.

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025

Nipawin Music Festival

## Audrey Watson

Rosthern

### Piano

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025

Mainline & District Music Festival

2024

Lafleche & District Music Festival

Twin Rivers Music Festival

2023

Kindersley & District Music Festival

Nipawin Music Festival

2022

Gravelbourg & District Bilingual Music Festival

2019

Yorkton Music Festival



## Britney Wendel

Caronport

### Piano

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2019

Vanguard & District Music Festival



## Stewart Wilkinson

Regina

### Choral, Voice

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025

Moose Jaw Music Festival  
Regina Music Festival

2022

Regina Music Festival

2019

Outlook & District Music Festival



## Nicole Wilton

Saskatoon

### Piano

Nicole Wilton has been a music educator in Saskatoon for over 30 years, and is the owner and director of Wilton Academy of Music – a large music school offering early childhood music classes as well as private instrumental lessons in piano, guitar and violin in both Suzuki and Traditional methods. Having been a pianist and musician all her life, Nicole quickly found her niche as a Suzuki piano teacher and early childhood music educator. Her commitment to teaching and excellence is evident in all that she does. Nicole holds a Master of Education degree with an emphasis on early childhood education, an ARCT in piano pedagogy from the Royal Conservatory of Toronto, a Bachelor of Arts degree and is a Registered Music Teacher in Saskatoon. She is a frequent clinician, adjudicator, teacher trainer and presenter at many institutes and conferences. She is one of 4 Canadian Piano Teacher Trainers in the Suzuki method. In 2018, Nicole received the Royal Conservatory of Music Teacher of Distinction Award, and was nominated for a Woman of Distinction Award in the education category. She also received the Canada 150th award for her many contributions to the Saskatoon community.

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025

Quill Plains Music Festival

2024

Moosomin & District Music Festival  
Swift Current & District Music Festival

2023

Twin Rivers Music Festival



## Anastasia Winterhalt

Saskatoon

### Voice, Musical Theatre, Elementary Piano

Short-listed for the 2014 Lieutenant Governor's Arts Awards in Leadership by the Saskatchewan Arts Board, Anastasia Winterhalt is passionate about performing and empowering her students to find their unique voice and to become capable performing artists. Anastasia is founder and artistic director of Little Opera On the Prairie (LOOP). Working in partnership with Dr. Susan Reschny, Anastasia encouraged and supported school students as they wrote, performed and produced a 30-minute opera. The project helped to both break down classroom social barriers and inspire interest in opera and the arts among students. Anastasia holds a Master's Degree from the University Saskatchewan and an Artist Diploma in Opera from the Glenn Gould Professional School. She has performed with Saskatoon Opera, Edmonton's Opera NUOVA and Toronto Operetta Theatre and LOOP. Producer, director, performer, teacher wife and mother, Anastasia is also an avid volunteer in her community.

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025

Moosomin & District Music Festival



### Strings

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025  
Lanigan & District Music Festival  
2019  
Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival

## Melissa Wood

## Caronport



### Voice, Musical Theatre, Speech Arts, Choral

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025  
Saskatoon Music Festival  
2024  
Regina Music Festival  
2023  
Esteron & District Music Festival  
Kindersley & District Music Festival  
Vanguard & District Music Festival  
2022  
Borderland Music Festival  
La Ronge & District Music Festival  
2021  
Biggar & District Music Festival  
Nipawin Music Festival  
2019  
Shaunavon & District Music Festival

## Alyssa Woolhether

## Regina



### Voice, Musical Theatre

Residing in Regina, Saskatchewan soprano, Alyssa Woolhether, leads an active career as a voice teacher, glee instructor, choir director and performer. She teaches private voice lessons and advanced glee at the University of Regina's Conservatory of Performing Arts where she is passionate about guiding singers of all ages in finding their authentic voice through vocal empowerment and functional voice training. Alyssa has been a vocal instructor and band coach at GRR! Regina and is the current director of the Sisters in Song Women's Choir of Regina. Alyssa holds a Master of Music Performance and Literature from Western University (2019) and a Bachelor of Music Performance from the University of Regina (2010) as well as Level I, II and III certification in Somatic Voicework™ - The LoVetri Method (2021). Alyssa has performed with various opera companies across Ontario including Vera Causa Opera, Toronto City Opera, MY Opera and Opera by Request. Alyssa is also a successful cross genre performer and accomplished songwriter. Working and performing with her soul band, Lyssa & the Try-Tones, Alyssa has released two EP's (Basement City View, 2022 and Chasing Shadows, 2023) and played many notable music festivals including Regina Folk Festival, Sasktel Saskatchewan Jazz Festival and Gateway Festival.

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025  
Nipawin Music Festival



## Mark Zawerucha

Yorkton

### Band instruments

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

### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2025
  - Weyburn Music Festival
- 2023
  - Quill Plains Music Festival
- 2019
  - Parkland & District Music Festival





## Christine Bootland

Medicine Hat

### Strings

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

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



## Renée Brad

Edmonton

### Voice, Musical Theatre

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2023
  - Saskatoon Music Festival
- 2019
  - Provincial Festival



## Trevor Cooper

Edmonton

### Guitar

The guitar has become a passport to Trevor Cooper and it travels with him wherever he goes. It has taken him from his upbringing in the cold western Canadian Prairies to the heat of southern Spain. Large urban centers like Toronto (U of T, BMusPerf '13) gave way to mountain towns like Salzburg (Mozarteum, MA '19). In *Spanish Vistas*, he realized a life-long dream and made his orchestral debut performing the *Concierto de Aranjuez* with the Concordia Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Danielle Lisboa. In 2018 he toured western Canada and Norway with Henry Reitan. He has performed recitals with the Guitar Societies of Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver and has recently given masterclasses at Mount Royal University, the University of British Columbia, and Concordia University of Edmonton. Trevor Cooper was one of 14 internationally selected guitarists to study in the III Master de la Interpretación de la Guitarra Clásica at the Universidad de Alicante in Alicante, Spain. This followed studies in Seville, Spain, where he was invited to study with Spanish guitarist Francisco Bernier. Born and raised in Edmonton, he started playing guitar at a young age.

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2024
  - Quill Plains Music Festival



## Jacques Després

### Piano

Edmonton

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2023

Provincial Festival

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## Han Ding

### Piano

Calgary

Han is a classical pianist and composer. He has performed concerts, composed numerous original chamber and solo works, and written dozens of piano arrangements. He has taught piano for over two decades and he has adjudicated at festivals across Western Canada. Han has performed Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concerto No. 1* with Symphony of the Kootenays, and solo recitals in Alberta and Saskatchewan. His compositions include *Three Dances for Oboe and Piano*, which received an AFA grant for a recording in Montreal, and *Ballad Concerto for Cello and Piano*, which was performed in Calgary and Toronto. His arrangement of *Ho Ho Watanay* was commissioned by ARMTA for Canada's 150th and published along with works by other Alberta composers. Han received a Bachelor of Music in piano performance and a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Calgary, and Licentiate and Associate piano diplomas from the Royal Conservatory of Music.

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025

Saskatoon Music Festival

2023

Rosetown & District Music Festival

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## Lauren Eselson

### Woodwinds, Instruments, Band

Calgary

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2021

Regina Music Festival

2019

Provincial Festival



## Frank Ho

Edmonton

### Strings

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2022

Provincial Festival



## Gareth Jones

Calgary

### Brass, Band

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2022

Provincial Festival



## Alison Kilgannon

Sherwood Park

### Piano

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2021

Provincial Festival



## Rick Lett

Medicine Hat

### Band (and Band instruments), Guitar

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2019

Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival



## Kim Mattice Wanat

Edmonton

### Voice, Musical Theatre

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024

Opera Competition

Saskatoon Music Festival

2021

Saskatoon Music Festival



## Maria Medlow

Calgary

### Violin, Piano

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024

Saskatoon Music Festival

2023

Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival

Shurniak Concerto Competition

2022

Regina Music Festival



## Janet Nichol

Edmonton

### Musical Theatre, Voice, Choir, Speech Arts

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2023

Regina Music Festival

2019

Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival

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## Eric Nyland

Calgary



### Piano, Speech Arts

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2022

Saskatoon Music Festival

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## Janna Olson

Edmonton



### Piano

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2019

Saskatoon Music Festival

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## Viktoria Reiswich-Dapp

Edmonton



### Piano

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2021

Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival

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## Doreen Renschler

Castor



### Piano

Doreen began her musical studies in Biggar, Saskatchewan, where she completed much of her piano and theory training, before moving to Edmonton to study under Marina Stoylar. She earned an Associateship Diploma in Piano Performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music in 2009. Her teachers and mentors have included Peggy L'Hoir, Marina Stoylar, and Janna Olson. Doreen teaches piano, theory, accompanying, and composition, with many of her students receiving recognition for their achievements at local festivals, earning scholarships, awards, and performing at the Alberta Music Festival Provincials. In Castor, Alberta, where she resides with her husband Ryan and their two boys, Doreen founded a Canadian National Conservatory of Music exam center and has organized workshops with composers like Lynette Sawatsky and Wes Froese. Doreen is passionate about agriculture, fitness, reading, and spending time with friends and family, while her passion for teaching combines education with entertainment.

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025

Kindersley & District Music Festival  
Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival

2024

Spiritwood & District Music Festival

2023

Unity Music Festival

2022

Prairie Sunset & District Music Festival

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## Maura Sharkey-Pryma

Edmonton



### Voice, Musical Theatre

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2023

Saskatoon Music Festival

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## Tracie Skeet-Brook

Olds

### Voice, Musical Theatre

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024

Prairie Sunset & District Music Festival

2023

Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival

Saskatoon Music Festival

2022

Regina Music Festival

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## Derek Stoll

Calgary

### Piano, Brass, Instruments

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2019

Regina Music Festival

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## Mark Ward

Medicine Hat

### Brass

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025

Maple Creek & District Music Festival

Saskatoon Music Festival

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2024  
Saskatoon Music Festival  
2023  
Kindersley & District Music Festival  
Swift Current & District Music Festival  
2022  
Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival  
2021  
Prairie Sunset & District Music Festival  
2019  
Saskatoon Music Festival

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## Marliiss Weber

Edmonton

### Musical Theatre, Speech Arts

Marliiss Weber, MA, is a busy director, producer, performer, consultant and workshop clinician from Edmonton, Alberta. She specializes in Musical Theatre and Speech Arts, and has adjudicated at more than 150 music festivals across Canada. She is frequently called upon as a speech and dialect coach for theatre companies in Edmonton, and teaches the various aspects of musical theatre and scene study to students of all ages. She holds degrees in Theatre Studies and Performance, English, Communications, and Speech Arts. She has a broad professional background spanning broadcast television, journalism, corporate communications, theatre and film. She has produced award-winning short films and web series, and is also an accomplished visual artist.

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025  
Canada West Performing Arts Festival  
2019  
Saskatoon Music Festival

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## Diana Wiens

Edmonton

### Piano

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024  
Saskatoon Music Festival  
2022  
Regina Music Festival

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## Justine Wilks

Medicine Hat

### Voice

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

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





## David Wilson

Edmonton

### Voice, Musical Theatre, Speech Arts, Choral

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

w: [www.the-wilson-method.com](http://www.the-wilson-method.com)

w: [www.body-breath-voice.com](http://www.body-breath-voice.com)

FB/IG: thewilsonmethod

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2022

Regina Music Festival



## Alicia Woynarski

Airdrie

### Voice, Musical Theatre

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2022

Gravelbourg & District Bilingual Music Festival



## Melissa Ballard

Brandon

### Percussion, Piano, Band, Instrumental, General

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2019

Estevan & District Music Festival



## Mel Braun

Winnipeg

### Vocal

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2022

Musical Theatre Competition



## Claudette Caron

Winnipeg

### Piano

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2019

Regina Music Festival



## Lara Ciekiewicz

Winnipeg

### Voice, Musical Theatre

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024

Provincial Festival

2022

Musical Theatre Competition



## Eleanor Epp

Minnedosa

### Piano, Organ, Keyboard

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2019

Estevan & District Music Festival



## Cheryl Ferguson

Winnipeg

### Band, Instruments

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2023

Saskatoon Music Festival



## Donna Fletcher

Winnipeg

### Musical Theatre, Voice, Speech Arts

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024

Provincial Festival

2022

Saskatoon Music Festival



## Darryl Friesen

Winnipeg

### Piano

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

[www.darrylfriesen.com](http://www.darrylfriesen.com)

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2023

Shurniak Concerto Competition

2021

Provincial Festival

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## Richard Gillis

Winnipeg



### Brass, Band, Instruments, Jazz Band

Richard Gillis studied at The Banff Centre and The University of Michigan (M.Mus.; DMA), as well as privately with Armando Ghitalla, Vincent Cichowicz and James Stamp. Dr. Gillis is brass chair at the University of Manitoba, and artistic director of the Winnipeg Jazz Orchestra, and performs internationally with Icelandic guitarist Björn Thoroddsen. Richard has recorded 24 albums as a leader and sideman; two of these received recognitions/awards from the Icelandic Music Awards, and four received nominations at the Western Canadian Music Awards. Most recent projects include Devotion, a collection of original solo and chamber pieces, and East Meets West: Tidal Currents ([winnipegjazzorchestra.com](http://winnipegjazzorchestra.com)).

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025

Canada West Performing Arts Festival

2021

Provincial Festival

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## Sarah Hall

Brandon



### Voice, Speech Arts, Choir

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024

Saskatoon Music Festival

2022

Canada West Performing Arts Festival

2021

Regina Music Festival

2019

Saskatoon Music Festival

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## Tannis Hofer

Deloraine

### Piano

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2022

Kindersley & District Music Festival

Kindersley & District Music Festival

Lafleche & District Music Festival

2019

Kipling & District Music Festival



## Monica Huisman

Winnipeg

### Voice

Dutch-Canadian soprano Monica Huisman is renowned for her "flawless technique and dramatic impact" (Opera Canada) and "silken voice" (Winnipeg Free Press). She has performed across the globe, including in major Canadian opera productions like *Cunning Little Vixen*, *Carmen*, *La Bohème*, and *Don Giovanni*, alongside top Canadian talents, with many performances aired on CBC Radio 2. Huisman has also captivated audiences with renowned orchestras, including NACO and TSO, in works by Strauss, Brahms, Mahler, and Mozart. In addition to her performing career, she is a voice instructor at the University of Manitoba, a sought-after teacher, clinician, and adjudicator for programs such as Opera Kelowna and MB Opera's DEAP. Her students have earned significant successes, including debuts with San Francisco Opera and accolades in major competitions like the COC Studio and Metropolitan Opera Council auditions.

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2021

Provincial Festival



## Paul Madryga

Brandon

### Guitar

Paul Madryga's academic credentials include a B.Mus. degree from Brandon University and a Masters degree in Classical Guitar Performance from Brisbane, Australia's Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University. Paul's work in Brandon includes professorial duties in Classical Guitar at the Brandon University School of Music, one-on-one and group instruction in the Suzuki and traditional environments through the Eckhardt-Gramatté Conservatory of Music, and the EGCM Guitar Ensemble Program. He is also an accomplished music engraver, with several self-published works to his credit.

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025

Canada West Performing Arts Festival



## Wendy Zander McCallum

Brandon

### Band, Brass, Woodwind, Percussion

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2021

Saskatoon Music Festival



## Nancy Nowosad

Winnipeg

### Piano, Organ, Woodwinds, Brass

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025

Regina Music Festival

2024

Saskatoon Music Festival

2021

Regina Music Festival

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## Judith Oatway

Winnipeg



### Voice, Musical Theatre

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025  
Canada West Performing Arts Festival  
2024  
Saskatoon Music Festival  
2023  
Moose Jaw Music Festival

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## Michael Oike

Winnipeg



### Piano

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025  
Provincial Festival  
2024  
Saskatoon Music Festival  
2022  
Canada West Performing Arts Festival  
Provincial Festival

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## Catherine Robbins

Winnipeg



### Choir, Voice

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2019  
Saskatoon Music Festival



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## Stewart Smith

Winnipeg



### Band

Stewart Smith, born in Yorkton, Saskatchewan, holds degrees from the University of Saskatchewan and Northwestern University. He taught instrumental music for thirty-three years in both public and private schools, covering grades five through twelve. Currently a Sessional Instructor at the University of Manitoba, he teaches private lessons, coaches a brass chamber ensemble, and leads the Thursday Night Big Band. His primary instruments are euphonium and trombone, and he has performed with the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Winnipeg Jazz Orchestra, Winnipeg Wind Ensemble, and the World Civic Orchestra. Smith has composed and arranged music for various ensembles and remains active as a low brass teacher and clinician. He has adjudicated at music festivals in Saskatchewan and Manitoba and taught at band camps in the prairie provinces, the International Music Camp, and the Melville Jazz Retreat. He co-founded and co-directs The ALIVE Project, which connects musicians, educators, and students through distance learning. Since 2004, it has brought together participants with notable musicians from groups like the Chicago Symphony, New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, and alumni of legendary big bands, as well as prestigious composers and conductors. Smith has also presented workshops on distance learning at conferences across North America, Europe, and Australia.

### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025  
Potashville Music Festival  
2024  
Saskatoon Music Festival  
2023  
Moose Jaw Music Festival  
2022  
Regina Music Festival

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## Daniel Tselyakov

Brandon



### Piano

Artsfile has described Dr. Daniel Tselyakov as "one of several young musicians in a deep pipeline of keyboard talent coming out of Canada." His performances are characterized by a rare blend of sensitivity, emotional depth, and virtuosity. Born into a musical family, Daniel began piano at five, studying under his father, renowned pianist Alexander Tselyakov. His formal training led him to a Bachelor's at Oberlin Conservatory under Angela Cheng, a Master's at Université de Montréal with Jimmy Brière, and a Doctorate in Piano Performance and Musicology with Dr. Ning Lu from the University of Utah, where he also taught. Daniel has received numerous awards, including the President's Full Scholarships at Oberlin, Montreal, and Utah, and top prizes from the San Jose International Piano Competition and the Livorno International Piano Competition. A sought-after soloist and chamber musician, he has performed with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, La Orquesta Sinfónica de San Luis Potosí (Mexico) and the Toronto Canadian Sinfonietta, gracing stages such as the Kennedy Center, Washington; Glenn Gould Studio, Toronto and international festivals. Daniel is the youngest artist ever invited to the Virtuosi Concert Series and collaborates with leading ensembles like the Penderecki String Quartet and James Ehnes. He is the co-artistic director of the Clear Lake Chamber Music Festival and academic staff at Brandon University's School of Music.

### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025  
Estevan & District Music Festival

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## Nora Wilson

Brandon



### Brass, Woodwinds, Percussion

Nora Wilson is a trombonist and Associate Professor of Low Brass at Brandon University. She has performed with professional ensembles such as the Winnipeg and Regina Symphony Orchestras, the Winnipeg Jazz Orchestra, and the Brandon Chamber Players. While deeply rooted in classical and jazz traditions, her passion lies in creating new music for trombone. She has commissioned several works, including a piece for trombone and 8-bit accompaniment by Kenley Kristofferson, premiered at the 2024 International Trombone Festival. Through the Canada Council for the Arts-funded project Sonic Dreaming, she collaborates with Peter Morin to develop a land-based methodology for music and art, shaping recording projects and installations. Nora is also a founding member of Transfixed, an experimental music ensemble. A dedicated advocate for 2SLGBTQIA+ rights, she frequently speaks on panels and at conferences, emphasizing the role of music in her transition and the importance of safe spaces for gender-diverse students. She has presented at the Midwest Clinic International Band and Orchestra Festival and the Tempo: Manitoba Music Conference.

### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025  
Saskatoon Music Festival  
Swift Current & District Music Festival  
2024  
Potashville Music Festival  
Weyburn Music Festival  
2023  
Prince Albert Music Festival



2022  
Estevan & District Music Festival  
2019  
Prince Albert Music Festival

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## Marla Winters

Alexander

### Violin, Fiddle, Chamber Ensembles

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2022  
Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival  
Potashville Music Festival  
2019  
Kipling & District Music Festival

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## Catherine Wood

Brandon

### Woodwinds

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024  
Regina Music Festival  
2022  
Saskatoon Music Festival

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## Leanne Zacharias

Brandon

### Strings

Cellist Leanne Zacharias performs across genres and geographies as a collaborative and solo artist. An energetic educator, she is on faculty at the Brandon University School of Music, co-directs Wheat City Nuit Blanche and is an artistic director of the Groundswell concert series in Winnipeg. She leads the Wild Studio workshop in Canadian National Parks and has taught at the Rosamunde Academy, Cadenza Music Week, Prairie Cello Institute, Domaine Forget International Festival, Hybrid Intensive (San Francisco) and lectured at the Parsons School of Design in New York, the Banff Centre's Research in Culture Workshop and earlier this year at Mexico City's UNAM. Her solo album Music for Spaces was released on Redshift Records in 2021. She holds degrees from the University of Manitoba, Rice University's Shepherd School of Music, and the University of Texas – Austin.

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025  
Estevan & District Music Festival  
Melfort Music Festival  
Regina Music Festival  
2024  
Nipawin Music Festival  
2021  
Provincial Festival



### Alan Crane

Vancouver

#### Piano

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

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



### Robyn Driedger-Klassen

Vancouver

#### Voice

Robyn Driedger-Klassen has been seen on many recital, concert and opera stages. Known particularly for her zeal for contemporary music, she performs and premieres many works by contemporary composers. Robyn is Head of Voice at the Vancouver Academy of Music where she teaches in their college program. She also owns and operates *Robyn D Klassen Voice Studio*, through which she gains immense satisfaction and joy working with advanced students of classical voice. She is always ready to give unsolicited reading recommendations, and is passionate about gardening. She lives with her husband and two young vocal critics, both of whom are capable of consuming shocking amounts of cereal each day. By osmosis, she knows a considerable amount about ocean creatures both living and prehistoric, and is an expert at avoiding Lego underfoot.

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2025
  - Regina Music Festival
- 2021
  - Saskatoon Music Festival
- 2019
  - Regina Music Festival



### Calvin Dyck

Abbotsford

#### Strings

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2022
  - Saskatoon Music Festival



## Joanne Hounsell

Victoria

### Voice, Musical Theatre

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2021

Regina Music Festival



## Sonia Lee

Vancouver

### Piano

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2022

Canada West Performing Arts Festival



## Deborah McGladdery

Penticton

### Speech Arts

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024

Provincial Festival



## Heilwig von Koenigsloew

Langley

### Strings, Chamber

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024

Provincial Festival



## Olivia Adams

Ottawa

### Piano

Olivia Adams is a pianist, researcher, and music educator, serving as the Director of Education at the Lotus Centre for Special Music Education in Ottawa, which supports neurodivergent and disabled musicians. She is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Ottawa, researching accommodations for neurodivergent pianists in music performances under Dr. Erin Parkes. Her research has earned multiple awards, including the prestigious Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Doctoral Fellowship. Olivia holds an MA in Music and Feminist Studies and an Honours B.Mus. in Piano Performance. She published part of her master's research in *Loud and Clear: A Guide to Levelled Piano Music by Women Composers in the 20th and 21st Centuries*, widely used across Canada. Olivia organizes Ottawa's Music by Women Marathon, supports women's shelters, and adjudicates festivals across Saskatchewan and Ontario. Outside of work, she enjoys playing piano, singing, baking, and exploring trails with her partner, Nick, and their dog, Nori.

### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2025
  - Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival
  - Twin Rivers Music Festival
- 2024
  - Maple Creek & District Music Festival
- 2023
  - Qu'Appelle Valley Music Festival
  - Saskatoon Music Festival
  - Watrous & District Music Festival
- 2022
  - Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival
  - Yorkton Music Festival
- 2021
  - Melfort Music Festival
  - Nipawin Music Festival



## Allison Cecilia Arends

Toronto

### Voice, Musical Theatre, Speech Arts

### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2025
  - Provincial Festival
- 2023
  - Regina Music Festival
- 2022
  - Saskatoon Music Festival
- 2021
  - Unity Music Festival
- 2019
  - Lloydminster & District Kiwanis Music Festival



## Katherine Dowling

Toronto

### Piano

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

[www.katherinedowling.com](http://www.katherinedowling.com)

### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

- 2025
  - Canada West Performing Arts Festival
- 2024
  - Provincial Festival

2023  
Saskatoon Music Festival  
2021  
Lafleche & District Music Festival  
Rosetown & District Music Festival  
2019  
Kindersley & District Music Festival  
Qu'Appelle Valley Music Festival  
Weyburn Music Festival

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## Guy Few

Kitchener

### Brass, Piano

Guy is a versatile and fearless performer, praised by the international press for his "outrageous" and "simply phenomenal" interpretations. He has performed as a trumpet and piano soloist with various Canadian and US orchestras, and is an active chamber musician with ensembles like Few Mara Duo, Spirit 20, Sounding Thunder, and HEAT. Guy has appeared at prestigious festivals including Tanglewood, Oregon Bach Festival, and Elora Festival. A prolific recording artist, his CDs have been released on labels like Naxos and MSR Classics, earning honors such as a JUNO nomination and Best Classical Orchestral Album at the Just Plain Folks Music Awards. Guy has been featured on CBC-TV, CTV, BRAVO, and NPR. He has also received the Sylva Gelber Foundation Award and CAPACOA Touring Artist of the Year. As an adjudicator, Guy has judged festivals and competitions across Canada, and has served on panels for the Ontario Arts Council and Canada Council for the Arts. He is a sessional lecturer at Wilfrid Laurier University, where he teaches trumpet and piano, and is the Artistic Director of NUMUS Concerts in Kitchener-Waterloo. Guy is a gold medal graduate of Wilfrid Laurier University and holds a Fellowship Diploma from Trinity College, London.

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2022  
Regina Music Festival

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## Younggun Kim

Toronto

### Piano

Younggun Kim is a pianist known for his technical prowess and rich sound, supported by a natural phrasing sense (Timothy Gilligan, New York Concert Review). He has performed across North America and Europe as a concerto soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician, and teaches at the University of Toronto. Since 2011, he has been involved with the Health Arts Society (Concerts in Care), performing for audiences who may find it difficult to visit conventional venues. Recent performance highlights include a solo appearance with the Toronto Korean-Canadian Choir/Orchestra playing Beethoven's Choral Fantasy, a recital at Queen's University, a duo recital with Vienna Philharmonic's Sophie Dervaux, a performance with the Isabel Quartet of Schumann's Quintet, and a concerto with the Niagara Symphony, along with recital engagements in Seoul. Younggun has won several prizes, including the San Antonio International Competition, Concours International de Piano Francis Poulenc, and the University of Toronto's Doctor of Musical Arts Recital Competition. Upon completing his doctoral degree, he received the Tecumseh Sherman Rogers Graduating Award. A Toronto-based Canadian from South Korea, Younggun switched careers from French literature to music in his early twenties, completing his education at the Glenn Gould School, Peabody Institute, and University of Toronto, studying with renowned artists such as Kyungrok Park, Roger Admiral, Boris Slutsky, and the late Marietta Orlov.

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025  
Shurniak Concerto Competition  
2023  
Regina Music Festival

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## Ryan Purchase

Ottawa

### Brass, Band

Ryan Purchase is a freelance trombonist currently residing in Ottawa, Ontario. Orchestrally-trained, he now focuses his musical energy primarily on klezmer and free improvisation. Ryan received his musical education in Regina, Saskatchewan, through the Regina Lions Band, Campbell Collegiate High School bands, South Saskatchewan Youth Orchestra, and the University of Regina, where he studied with Richard Raum. He was Assistant Principal Trombone in the Regina Symphony Orchestra until completing his bachelor's degree in 1999. After completing a Master's degree in Performance at the University of Toronto and touring Canada and Japan with the National Youth Orchestra, Ryan was a repeat scholarship student at the Klezkanada Summer Music Workshops for many years, eventually teaching an improvising ensemble there. He also studied improvised, klezmer, Gypsy, and German folk musics in Weimar, Germany, through the Other Music Academy. He is the former Personnel Manager for the National Arts Centre and Vancouver Symphony Orchestras. Ryan is the recipient of many awards and scholarships, including grants from the Canada Council, the Saskatchewan Arts Board, and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts. He has appeared on over 20 recordings as both a performer and composer, including his 45-minute improvised chamber music suite, "Morphology of a Lover." He lives in Ottawa with his wife and their two children, their cats, and a lot of records & books. He is a founding member of bands such as The Lithuanian Empire, Mike Essoudry's Mash Potato Mashers, and the Bank Street Bonbons. He plays a lot of Dungeons & Dragons, owns more dice than is reasonable, and is working on an upcoming D&D podcast titled "Advanced Make-Believe."

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025  
Regina Music Festival  
2019  
Saskatoon Music Festival



## Clark Schaufele

Toronto

### Piano, Double Bass

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2024

Provincial Festival



## Sasha Weinstangel

Richmond Hill

### Strings

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2023

Provincial Festival



## Mary-Elizabeth Brown

Montreal

### Strings, Chamber Music, String Orchestra

Canadian violinist Mary-Elizabeth Brown is a renowned performer and educator, praised for her "ability to unfold bittersweet magic" and "perfect command of her instrument." Her solo and chamber music performances have taken her to prestigious venues across Europe, Asia, and the Americas, including the Festival do Campos do Jordão (Brazil), the White House, and the Aldeburgh Festival (UK). With over 20 years as a concertmaster, she has led orchestras on four continents, working with conductors like Lorin Maazel and Plácido Domingo, and regularly performs with l'Orchestre Metropolitain and Yannick Nézet-Séguin. As a teacher, she founded the AVIVA Virtual Young Artist Program in 2012, pioneering web-based music education, and has been a visiting artist at institutions like Dalhousie University and the University of Texas. Named a Teacher of Distinction by the Royal Conservatory in 2020, she also advocates for innovation in music through her work on low-cost instruments using polymers and 3D printing, featured in over 400 media outlets globally. Brown holds degrees from the University of Toronto, DePaul University, and l'Université de Montréal, where she completed her doctorate as a Schmeelk Fellow, alongside graduate certificates from the London School of Economics and Harvard University. She plays a 1766 Gagliano violin.

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025

Saskatoon Music Festival





### Marion Abbott

#### Musical Theatre, Speech Arts

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025

Saskatoon Music Festival

2021

Provincial Festival

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### Donna Rhodenizer

Kentville

#### Choral

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2025

Canada West Performing Arts Festival

2024

Provincial Festival

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### Christianne Rushton

Wolfville

#### Voice

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

#### Recent Festivals Adjudicated:

2023

Provincial Festival