

2025

Annual Report

August 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025





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SMFA programs and services reach lands covered by Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10, the traditional lands of the Cree, Dakota, Dene, Lakota, Nakota and Saulteaux peoples, as well as homeland of the Métis. Music provides a universal language to build friendships and new ways of understanding one another.

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

HONORARY PATRONS

Her Honour the Honourable Bernadette McIntyre, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan
The Honourable Scott Moe, Premier of Saskatchewan

HONORARY PRESIDENTS

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

SMFA PROVINCIAL OFFICE

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(306) 757-1722 sask.music.festival@sasktel.net www.smfa.ca

Executive Director
Carol Donhauser

Assistant to the Executive Director
Mariel Unger

Administrative Assistant
Nancy Toppings





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Board of Directors

President.....Dianne Gryba

Vice PresidentAlisha Mann

Past President..... Jeri Ryba

DirectorHeather Macnab

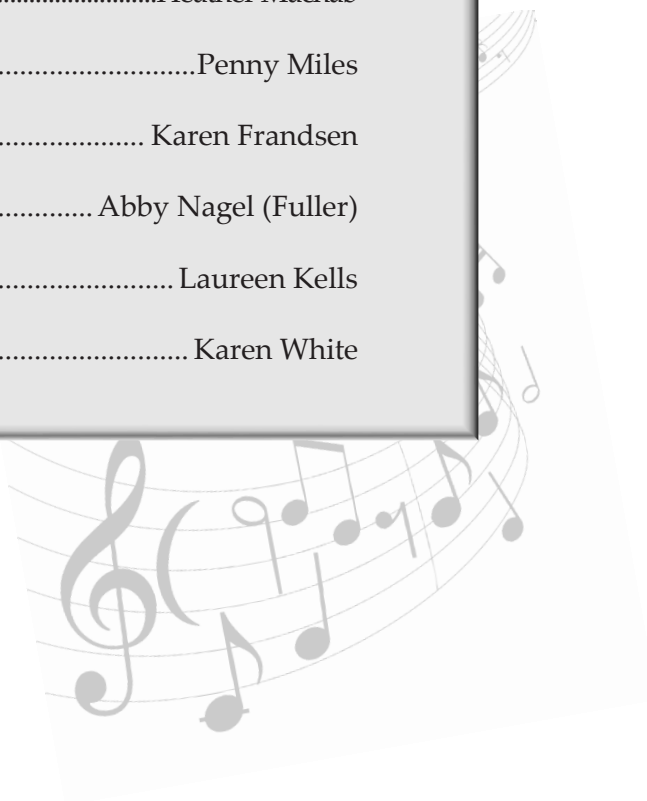
DirectorPenny Miles

Director Karen Frandsen

Director Abby Nagel (Fuller)

Director Laureen Kells

Director Karen White





Vision

Enhancing lives and community through music and the spoken word.

Mission

Providing performance and educational opportunities in Saskatchewan.

Values

Life-long learning

- Keeping people involved throughout their lifetime

Collaboration

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

Inclusiveness

- Opportunities for all

Excellence

- High standards

Leadership with integrity

- Honest
- Accountable
- Vision





History of the SMFA

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

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

The Association, established in 1908, was highly successful in achieving its objectives: to unite musical societies, individual musicians and groups in Saskatchewan into one organization for the purpose of holding annual music festivals.

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

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

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

We continue to further strengthen our organization after the global COVID-19 pandemic and look for adaptations to engage more young performers across Saskatchewan to find their voice, their discipline, and their passion.

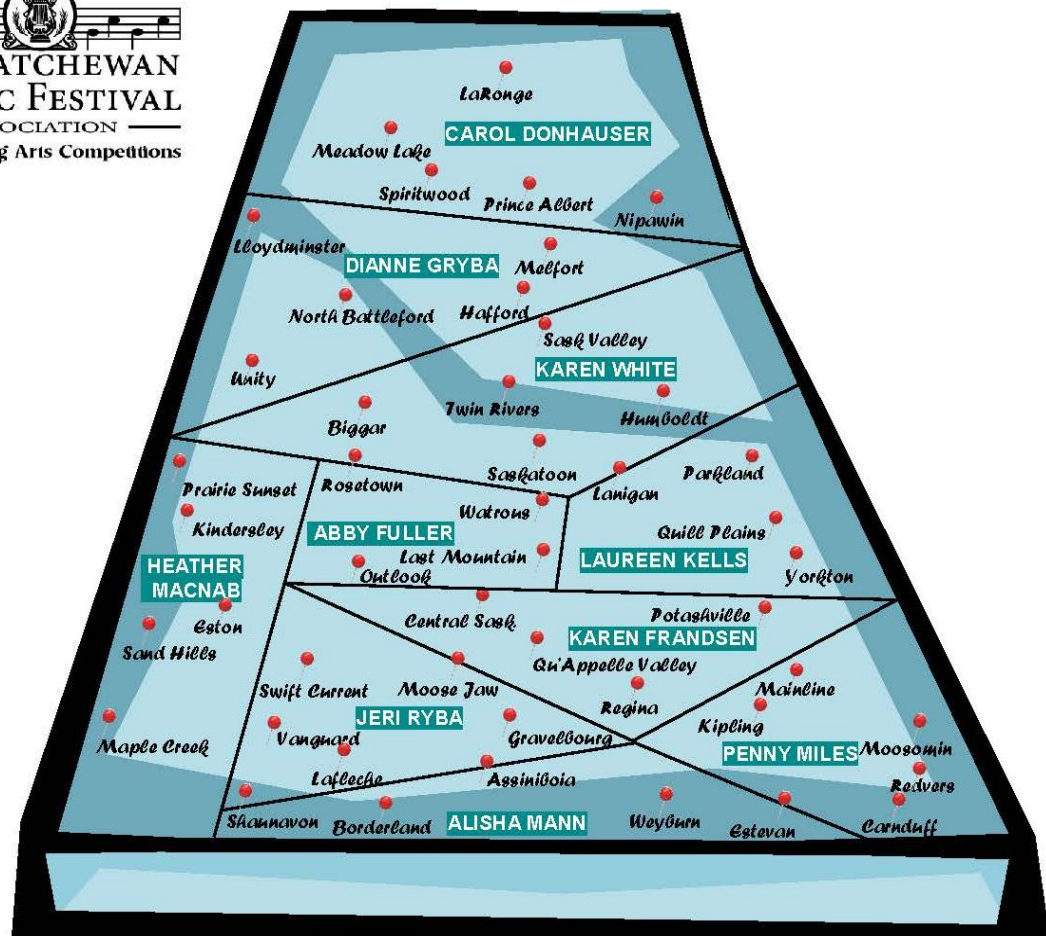
To summarize, we will look to the wise words of Ms. Hancock: *We give thanks for the vision and the effort of all of those who brought us this far in the service of music. We believe that the firm foundation on which the Association has been built will support the vision and effort of our present leaders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



Board of Directors Liaison Map

SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION

OUR MUSICAL RANGE





Cultural Impact Statement

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

Our mandate, which is *"promoting excellence in music and speech through competition, performance, and educational opportunities for people of Saskatchewan"*, requires us to work closely with the many people who come together to keep the festival movement in Saskatchewan alive and well. These people include music and speech students, teachers, parents, volunteers, donors and audiences. There are 44 annual festivals across the province, therefore the impact that is created in all these 44 festivals and surrounding areas is significant.

These communities have embraced the festival concept because it provides:

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

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

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

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



President's Report

In 2024-2025, SMFA continued to provide opportunities for musicians and spoken word artists to develop their skills through performance and feedback from many fine adjudicators. An adjudicator's conference was launched, and SMFA provided teachers, adjudicators and volunteers rewarding opportunities to connect and support each other.

We began our year with the 2024 AGM Zoom meeting on November 30, 2024. 31 festivals were represented. Thanks were expressed to outgoing board members, Tammy Villeneuve (Meadow Lake), Clayton Braybrook (Kindersley) and Krista Brost (Meadow Lake). Three new board members were elected by acclamation: Abby (Fuller) Nagel (Last Mountain), Karen White (Saskatoon) and Laureen Kells (Quill Plains). The skills of these impressive women will be a great asset to the SMFA board.



Congratulations to Trena Wick of Estevan, as well as Jeanne Fetsch and Karen Young of Yorkton for receiving volunteer awards.

In 2024, several festivals celebrated milestone anniversaries. Congratulations to Assiniboia and District, 90 years; Estevan and District, 60 years; Eston, 75 years; Moose Jaw, 75 years; Qu'Appelle Valley, 65 years and Rosetown and District, 90 years.

Although in-person meetings have advantages, the virtual zoom AGM format allows more of our members to attend, be heard and vote about the discussed issues.

The January blues were eased by the Adjudicator's Conference, January 10-11, at the U of S Education Building. Guy Few was our dynamic and inspiring keynote speaker, reflecting on his experience as a festival adjudicator and performer. Other informative sessions were facilitated by Olivia Adams, Lynette Sawatsky,

Cherith Alexander, Dianne Gryba and Bonnie Nicholson. A Midwinter Concert featured soprano, Betty Allison with pianist, Naomi Suchan, speech artist, Heather Macnab, trumpeter, Hanna Hashi and pianist, Olivia Adams.

The 2025 SMFA Concerto Competition was held virtually on February 22. Eleven dedicated and accomplished musicians competed. The winner, Avery Guo, is a 16-year-old pianist who has been living in Saskatoon since moving from China five years ago. Graeme Scott, flautist originally from Regina (now living in Montreal, QC), placed 2nd. Elisha Ruo, violinist from Saskatoon, and Leah Macfarlane, pianist originally from Carnduff (now living in Victoria, BC) tied for 3rd place. The competition was judged by Audrey Sproule (violinist, Paris), Younggun Kim (pianist, Toronto), and Gordon Gerrard (conductor, RSO). We are delighted that Thomas Yu, internationally renowned pianist, will be the Concerto Competition sponsor starting in 2027.

44 District Festivals were held between March and May, engaging 100 adjudicators and thousands of young participants. Many thanks to the many volunteers who spent hours planning and running their festivals, and to the sponsors who provided generous awards for the outstanding performers.

680 district festival entrants were recommended to the SMFA Provincial Finals in Regina, May 29-June 1. The record number of performers made for a wonderful celebration of joyful artistry. The



SMFA board arranged for videographer, Thom Hamilton, to make professional recordings at festival classes, which were then offered to the students and their families for purchase. It was a great addition to our event. Awards and scholarships presented at the provincial festival totalled \$26,550.

The addition of "JOY" awards presented by our adjudicators to students of their choice in district and provincial festival classes was fun for everyone.

SMFA hosted the 4th annual Canada West Performing Arts Festival, July 24-26, on the U of S campus. Competitors from British Columbia and Alberta joined 43 Saskatchewan artists in high level competitions. There were 146 entries in total. Students, teachers and parents found the workshop format of adjudications valuable. The CWPAF event concluded with a gala concert of 13 award winners at Convocation Hall.

The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association gratefully acknowledges the funding received through the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation. We are indebted to the University of Saskatchewan for making venues available for many of our events. We also thank the numerous stakeholders that support festivals throughout the province.

On behalf of the SMFA board, I would like to thank our office staff, Nancy Toppings, Mariel Unger and Carol Donhauser, whose tireless work keeps us moving forward.

As we prepare for the 2026 festival season, we eagerly anticipate building more community amongst our participants, teachers, adjudicators, and volunteers. Together, we will "celebrate the joy"!

Respectfully submitted, Dianne Gryba





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JOY
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**SASKATCHEWAN
MUSIC FESTIVAL**
— ASSOCIATION —
Performing Arts Competitions

REGISTRATION DEADLINES COMING SOON @ smfa.ca



Executive Director's Report

The year 2025 marks five years since the Covid-19 pandemic that shut down almost all of our district festivals in March and live performing arts for several years. With the help of technology, we learned to adapt by going virtual with our festivals. Depression, drought, pandemic, world wars; you name it, we have survived it. The SMFA is, and continues to be, adaptable and resilient.

Unfortunately, we did not escape totally unscathed as Shaunavon, Redvers and Hafford dissolved, dropping our festival numbers and opportunities for Saskatchewan students from 47 to 44. Congratulations to the festivals that survived this difficult period and possibly came out stronger due to the adversity that was faced.

The SMFA volunteer base is the “secret sauce” to our success. As we look to become an even more inclusive organization in the years ahead, the role of volunteerism will become even more important.

Recent Statistics Canada survey findings provide an important update on giving and volunteering trends, providing a snapshot of how Canadians are engaging with charities and non-profits in the post-pandemic era.

Fewer Canadians are giving and volunteering, and they are contributing less of their time and money. These shifts look to be a combination of long-term trends and ongoing post-pandemic effects.

Some of the key findings include:

- Over the past decade, the percentage of Canadians donating has dropped from 82% to 54%.
- Total donations declined modestly to \$13.4 billion in 2023 from \$14.0 billion in 2018.

This builds on a much more significant decline from \$16.4 billion in 2013 (all figures inflation-adjusted).

- The percentage of Canadians volunteering for nonprofits and charities dropped significantly, from 41% in 2018 to 32% in 2023. This is an additional decline from 44% in 2013.
- Total volunteer hours dropped to 1.2 billion, down by over a quarter from 1.7 billion in 2018 and nearly four fifths from 2.0 billion in 2013. In total, this is equivalent to a decline of roughly 451,000 full-time jobs.

These findings confirm what many in the nonprofit sector have been feeling for some time: we are at a critical juncture. With fewer donors, fewer volunteers and increasing community needs, organizations are being pushed to do more with less. Canada, and in particular Saskatchewan, has a longstanding culture of care and community spirit.

SMFA must once again find a way to adapt to these new trends. Recruiting and retaining volunteers will be crucial in our efforts to continue presenting our mission and mandate.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Donhauser





2024 AGM Minutes

The 2024 Annual General Meeting of the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association was held virtually on November 30 @ 2:00pm.

President Jeri Ryba, welcomed everyone to the 2024 Saskatchewan Music Festival Association Annual General Meeting and appointed Nancy Toppings as recording secretary. Jeri explained the voting process.

The roll call was conducted by Past President Tammy Villeneuve. Representatives from 31 District Festivals were present: Battlefords, Central Sask, Estevan, Eston, Gravelbourg, Humboldt, Kindersley, Lafleche, Last Mountain, Lloydminster, Mainline, Maple Creek, Meadow Lake, Melfort, Moose Jaw, Moosomin, Outlook, Parkland, Potashville, Prince Albert, Quill Plains, Regina, Rosetown, Sand Hills, Sask Valley, Saskatoon, Twin Rivers, Unity, Watrous, Weyburn and Yorkton. Not attending were Assiniboia, Biggar, Borderland, Carnduff, Kipling, La Ronge, Lanigan, Nipawin, Prairie Sunset, Qu'Appelle Valley, Redvers, Spiritwood, Swift Current and Vanguard.

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

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

A moment of silence was observed for departed volunteers and committee members. Special mention was made to honour Janet McGonigle and Sharon Penner.

Motion: To approve the agenda.

***Kerry Taylor/Clayton Braybrook
CARRIED***

Tammy Villeneuve announced three three-year board positions to be filled: Abby Fuller (Last Mountain), Karen White (Saskatoon), and Lauren Kells (Quill Plains) have been nominated. Tammy introduced the nominees. Tammy made the first call for nominations from the floor. None were forthcoming.

The minutes of the 2023 AGM as recorded in the Annual Report were presented.

Motion: To approve the minutes as presented.

***Yvonne Sutherland/Jordana Thiessen
CARRIED***

Business Arising

Finance Chair Dianne Gryba presented a summary of the Investment Report from Leander Dueck of Beyond Wealth Management. The Trust Investment Portfolio was valued at \$506,773 at year-end.

Leander reports that the rate of return during this fiscal period was 12.20%. During the same period, the Canadian Balanced Portfolio Benchmark was 12.88%. The priority for the SMFA portfolio has been to reduce volatility while still investing the majority of the portfolio for growth – specifically, the SMFA portfolio contains approximately 21% Canadian Equity, 30% US Equity, 17% International Equity, 31% fixed income and cash (less than 100% due to rounding.) The asset mix is balanced in a way that will help to decrease our risk during times of volatility. Though the investment portfolio did not outperform the benchmark over the last year, when comparing the last 3 years, it continued to perform as desired – returning 4.04% per year compared to the benchmark of 3.19%.



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

Financial Statement Presentation (as prepared by Marcia Herback and Associates)

Statement of Financial Position (Page 73)

The statement of financial position reports on the total assets, liabilities and net assets of the Association. Cash has decreased mainly due to first payment for the 2023/24 year from Saskatchewan Lotteries being received early and the same not happening for the 2024/25 year. Assets held in trust have increased due to the investment change in January 2024. Deferred revenue has decreased over prior year due to receiving the 2023/24 Sask Lottery funding early, but not so for the 2024/25 funding.

Statement of Operations (Page 74)

The statement of operations reflects the revenue and expenditures from the day to day activities of the Association. Revenue has increased from the prior year mainly due to the realized gain on investments due to the January 2024 change. There was still a decrease in the market value of the investments which is shown as unrealized loss. There was also growth in Affiliation Fees and Provincial Finals revenue due to higher numbers of participants. There were fewer donations received in 2024 than in 2023. Total expenses have increased. The Association hired Mariel full time for the Assistant to the Executive Director position, thus increasing administration costs. There was a change in the insurance premium. The premium for a Festival has increased from \$50 to \$200, thus increasing insurance costs. 2023/24 was the Opera Competition year, which had a greater expense than the Concerto Competition of the 2022/23 year. To help with the known decrease in Sask Lottery funding by \$10,000 over the next three years, the Association vacated their office space in June 2024 to work from home.

Statement of Changes in Net Assets (Page 75)

The statement of changes in net assets shows the changes during the year for the various categories of net assets. After recognizing an operational surplus of \$40,866 last year, deducting the current year deficit of -\$25,990, adding \$706 in amortization and \$2,400 withdrawal from the Trust Investment for scholarships, unrestricted net assets are now \$17,982.

Cash Flow Statement (Page 76)

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

Notes and schedules to the financial statements (Pages 72 to 83)

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

Total Assets for 2023/2024 - \$700,239;

Total Liabilities - \$64,874;

Net Assets - \$635,365.

Motion: to accept the auditor's report.

Clayton Braybrook/Diane Jones
CARRIED

Motion: to appoint Marcia Herback as Auditor for the 2024/2025 fiscal year.

Marcie Carswell/Kristine Cool
CARRIED

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



Motion: to close nominations.

Elizabeth Heatcoat/Krista Brost
CARRIED

*Motion: to elect by acclamation Abby Fuller,
Karen White and Laureen Kells to the SMFA
Board of Directors.*

Clayton Braybrook/Claire Seibold
CARRIED

Tammy congratulated the new board members and asked them to unmute and introduce themselves. Jeri welcomed Abby, Karen and Laureen to the SMFA Board.

Jeri Ryba presented an overview of the 2024 Annual Report (August 1, 2023 to July 31, 2024).

Motion: to adopt the 2024 Annual Report as presented.

Laureen Kells/Yvonne Sutherland
CARRIED

New Business

Motion: To increase adjudicator fees from \$350/day to \$400/day effective in the 2025 festival season.

Marcie Carswell/Diane Jones

Joanne Hillis (Regina Festival) requested that, in future, a year's notice be given to allow District Festivals to budget for increases.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion: To increase adjudicator mileage from \$.42/km to \$.48/km effective in the 2025 festival season. Mariel Unger was invited to speak regarding the CMFAA Adjudicator Travel Bursary. Information is found on the CMFAA website, and District Festivals are encouraged to investigate.

Laureen Kells/Clayton Braybrook
MOTION CARRIED

Motion: To accept the SMFA Constitution changes as presented:

- Change SMFA year end from July 31 to August 31.

- Removal of the 2nd Vice President in the Provincial Executive terms.
- Provincial Membership categories: remove the representative organizations.
- District Festival Member categories: remove Sustaining Members and leave the following:
 - Active Members: being all persons participating and who pay the prescribed fee (participants).
 - Associate Members: being all persons in the geographic area who pay the prescribed fee (donors).
- Tweaks to the District Festival Executive and Directors wording/makeup.

Carol Donhauser briefly outlined the Constitution changes including the rationale for each.

Alisha Mann/Mariel Unger

Elizabeth Heatcoat (Sand Hills) raised an issue regarding the number required for quorum at District Festival meetings. Carol Donhauser defended the board's decision to leave quorum at five members.

MOTION CARRIED

1st Adjudicator Conference will take place January 10 & 11, 2025 in Saskatoon, providing an opportunity to recruit/retain, educate and network with SMFA adjudicators.

2025 Concerto Competition will be held February 22, 2025 in virtual format to remove barriers for competitors unable to travel to perform in person. The Concerto Competition is a partnership project with the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras. Prize amounts are \$2,000 (1st), \$750 (2nd), and \$500 (3rd) with the winner receiving an opportunity to appear as guest artist with the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras.



2025 Provincial Finals Competition will take place May 29 to June 1, 2025 at the Conservatory of Performing Arts and Darke Hall in Regina.

4th Annual Canada West Performing Arts Festival will take place July 24-26, 2025 in Saskatoon and is held in partnership with Alberta and BC Music Festivals. Jeri acknowledged the long-standing support of U of S in providing venues and equipment.

Greetings from Representative Organizations

Graham Gilmore, Vice President of Saskatchewan Music Educators Association, brought greetings and expressed appreciation for the work of SMFA.

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

Alex Rogalski, Outreach Consultant, SaskCulture spoke on behalf of SaskCulture.

SMFA Volunteer Awards are presented annually to volunteers who have made significant contributions to their District Festival organizations. Jeri acknowledged this year's recipients:

Trena Wick, Estevan & District Music Festival
Jeanne Fetsch, Yorkton Music Festival
Karen Young, Yorkton Music Festival

The following District Festivals celebrated anniversaries in 2024 and were recognized:

Assiniboia & District Music Festival – 90 years
Estevan & District Music Festival – 60 years
Eston Music Festival – 75 years
Moose Jaw Music Festival – 75 years
Qu'Appelle Valley Music Festival – 65 years
Rosetown & District Music Festival – 90 years

Jeri acknowledged the support received from SaskCulture and the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation, SaskTel and SaskMusic (corporate sponsors of Provincial Finals), as well as our many donors and sponsors.

Jeri thanked the SMFA board, and staff members Carol Donhauser, Nancy Toppings and Mariel Unger, for their work. Retiring board members Tammy Villeneuve, Clayton Braybrook and Krista Brost were thanked for their service in support of the SMFA mission.

Jeri passed the President's gavel to incoming President, Dianne Gryba.

Jeri introduced the new SMFA Board: President Dianne Gryba (North Battleford), Past President Jeri Ryba (Moose Jaw), Vice President Alisha Mann (Estevan), and Directors Heather Macnab (Maple Creek), Penny Miles (Wolseley), Karen Frandsen (Regina), Abby Fuller (Last Mountain), Karen White (Saskatoon), and Laureen Kells (Quill Plains).

The 2025 Conference and AGM date and location will be announced at a later date.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:57pm.





SMFA Adjudicator Conference

Adjudicator training and recruitment is a priority for SMFA. This year's Adjudicator Conference was well attended and received.

In January of 2025, we tried something new: our first ever adjudicator conference! While we've held in-person adjudicator training in the past, we've never attempted something to the scale of a multi-day event. We kicked off the year with this conference, and reception from the adjudicators and presenters was overwhelmingly positive. Much of the positive feedback received focused on the quality of the sessions and the opportunity to network with colleagues. Most attendees indicated that if an event like this was to be held again, they would plan to attend. Our aim was to provide learning opportunities that would appeal to all, from prospective to seasoned adjudicators.

In total we had 44 adjudicators register and attend the conference. These attendees came from around Saskatchewan to join us from Friday to Saturday. Friday's programming included a keynote address from Guy Few and concert performances from Heather Macnab, Hanna Hashi, Olivia Adams, and Betty Allison. The conference continued on Saturday with workshops from Lynette Sawatsky, Olivia Adams, Cherith Alexander, Bonnie Nicholson, Dianne Gryba, and Guy Few on a variety of practical topics for adjudicators of all disciplines.

We are grateful to the University of Saskatchewan Music Department, as always, for the generous support they give us in the form of free use of their venues and instruments. As an extra show of thanks, we offered free conference registration to any current USASK Music student who was interested in learning more about adjudicating.

While our adjudicator conference will not be an annual offering, we hope to be able to host it on a biennial or triennial basis.





SMFA Concerto Competition

The top prize for this competition is \$2,000 and the opportunity to perform with both the Regina Symphony Orchestra and the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra in their upcoming seasons.

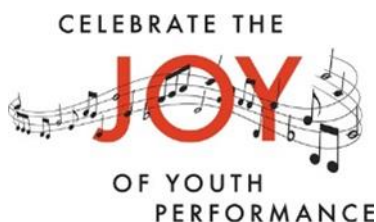
The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA), Dianne Gryba, President is pleased to announce the winner of the 2025 SMFA Concerto Competition. Avery Guo of Saskatoon won the competition with her performance of Robert Schumann's Piano Concerto in A minor, Op. 54. Avery was accompanied by Kathleen Solose.

Avery Guo is a 16-year-old pianist who has been living in Saskatoon since moving from Chongqing, China five years ago. She began piano lessons at the age of five and now studies with Kathleen Solose. Avery competes each year in her local music festival and has advanced to the SMFA Provincial Finals in several classes. Avery was also honoured to receive first prize at the 2024 Gordon C. Wallis Piano Competition, sponsored by the Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers' Association. She recently completed her ARCT exam with the Royal Conservatory of Music. When not playing the piano or focusing on her

high school classes, Avery enjoys working as a lifeguard and swimming instructor.

Eleven musicians competed in the 2025 SMFA Concerto Competition, which was held virtually on February 22. Graeme Scott, flautist originally from Regina (now living in Montreal, QC), placed 2nd. Elisha Ruo, violinist from Saskatoon, and Leah Macfarlane, pianist originally from Carnduff (now living in Victoria, BC) tied for 3rd place. The competition was judged by Audrey Sproule (violinist, Paris), Younggun Kim (pianist, Toronto), and Gordon Gerrard (conductor, RSO).

The next SMFA Concerto Competition will be held in 2027.





Testimonial – Dr. Thomas Yu



Photo credit: Jason Stang

Thomas Yu is one of the most recognized amateur musicians in the world. He has redefined what it means to be an amateur pianist, having performed with orchestras across five continents while maintaining a full-time career as a periodontist. In 2016, Yu was the unanimous winner of the prestigious 7th Cliburn International Amateur Piano Competition in Texas, taking home the gold medal as well as Press and Audience Awards. Ten years earlier, he also swept the Paris International Competition for Outstanding Piano Amateurs. In the span of this decade, Yu also won the 2015 CBC's Piano Hero, 2014 Honens Pro Am Competition (Calgary), 2012 International Amateur Piano Competition (Manchester), 2010 B&B International Piano Competition (New York), and 2009 Bösendorfer International Piano Competition (Vienna). Yu is also a winner of several national competitions, including the Canadian Music Competition and the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers' Associations Piano Competition. In addition to his musical pursuits, Dr. Yu obtained his DMD with Great Distinction from the University of Saskatchewan. He then completed a General Practitioner Residency at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto before obtaining his Master Degree in Periodontics at the University of Toronto. He owns a busy private practice in Calgary, teaches at the Foothills Medical Hospital, and is a sought-after lecturer across Canada. His passion for music was influenced by his two private teachers and mentors, Bonnie Nicholson in Saskatoon, and Marc Durand at the Glenn Gould School/Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto.

As a child, I remember the thrill of being dismissed from school—not for a doctor's appointment or a family trip, but to compete at the Saskatoon Music Festival. At the time, I thought that was the coolest thing ever. There was something magical about walking into those festival halls, my music books tucked under my arm, butterflies fluttering in my stomach. I remember sitting nervously before each class, listening to the other performers, hearing the quiet but distinct scratch of the adjudicator's pencil on paper. Every note mattered.

I'd try to interpret the adjudicator's comments to figure out whether they actually liked my playing. My eyes would dart toward the table where the assistant carefully wrote names on certificates, hoping to catch the pen forming the letters "Thomas Yu." For me, the festival wasn't just a competition—it was a way of life. But win or lose, the day always ended the same way: with a trip to Dairy Queen shared with my parents. Those small moments will stay with me forever.

The Saskatchewan Music Festival was the highlight of my year—every year. It wasn't just about performing; it was about growing. I remember my first time in the Senior Piano Provincial Finals. I played Chopin's First Ballade for adjudicator Dale Jackson. I didn't win that class, but I managed to earn enough elsewhere to qualify for the Grand Awards Competition. When Dale asked what I planned to perform, I said, without hesitation, "The First Ballade." He looked surprised and asked, "Are you sure?" I nodded. "Yes—I can fix what you told me by tonight."



I performed again that evening and won. Taking that risk—and following through—filled me with confidence and pride.

Another highlight for me was the SMFA Concerto Competition. I practiced every day with my teacher, Bonnie Nicholson, pouring everything into my preparation. I remember walking into the lobby of the Regina Inn, seeing other competitors arrive, all of us carrying the weight of hope and ambition. I felt like there'd be no chance for me to do well with so many great musicians. That was the first time I played on a truly great concert grand—a Baldwin piano generously loaned by Roger and Marie Jolly. Performing Rachmaninoff's Second Concerto on that instrument felt like the music had no limits. Because the competition spanned two days, my family drove back to Saskatoon that evening. The next day, I got the phone call: I had won. I can still picture myself leaping up and down on my bed, overjoyed and overwhelmed.

Looking back, I have nothing but gratitude for my festival days. The SMFA gave me more than just performance opportunities—it gave me purpose. The defeats made me hungrier to improve, and the victories motivated me to reach higher. I learned how to prepare under pressure, how to perform through nerves, and even developed a few backstage rituals—some of which I still cling to today.

I hope that SMFA continues to be as influential to young musicians as it was to me. Even now, as I type these words, the memories come flooding back—vivid, alive, and deeply meaningful. I owe so much of my musical journey to the SMFA. Thank you for giving me a stage, a reason to grow, and a lifetime of memories.





Testimonial – Laurel Teichroeb

Laurel Teichroeb holds an ARCT Teachers Diploma with the Royal Conservatory of Music, a Primary/Elementary Piano Pedagogy Diploma, and a Licentiate Diploma in Piano Pedagogy with the Canadian National Conservatory of Music. Laurel is an examiner for CNCM, clinician at provincial music conferences, and an adjudicator for festivals throughout Western Canada. Laurel is very active with, and currently the President of, the Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers Association and plays an instrumental role in organizing workshops for continuing music education for teachers and students.



Ever since I can remember, music has been a part of my life. It began with singing.

When I was young, my mom would play the piano and my sister, two brothers and I would be singing for some event or wedding. My mom was an excellent seamstress, so we had matching home sewn outfits. I usually always got a case of the giggles before the end of the song, which was entertaining to everyone except my siblings.

We sang at school in music class. My favorites were the rounds.

We memorized words and they flowed naturally for every Remembrance Day service and Christmas concert. These special events at the town hall, were shared by our community and I always just thought that everyone loved to sing! In church, I would stand beside my mom and hear her rich alto voice sing out the harmonies. I naturally followed her and loved the rich full sound of hymns and quartets in four or more parts.

Everyone took piano lessons, or so it seemed. At least most of my friends did. I really can't recall the first time I played in the music festival.

It was a big event however, as we had to travel to Yorkton to play in Westview United Church. This event usually involved a new, home sewn dress and quickly became a special occasion year after year. My mom kept one of the first festival programs I was registered in, and there I am in a class of 34 students - all playing the same test piece!! My mom said I had fallen asleep, and she woke me up closer to my time to play. Looking back on that time now, what a nightmare for the adjudicator!! I'm not sure how they would have selected a winner.

I remember driving through many a blizzard to get to the festival. The weather in March was always a toss up between your spring outfit or mittens to keep your hands warm! Through the years, the class entries thinned and each year familiar faces reappeared, eventually becoming lifetime friends.

Festivals were wonderful learning times, especially for me as a young teacher. I still have many notes written throughout my music scores from adjudicators so willing to share their musical knowledge. They opened and inspired a love for historical knowledge of the pieces and the composers' intents of their works. I distinctly remember Robin Harrison sitting at the keyboard, relaying his own story of being seated at young Wolfgang's piano in Salzburg, emphasizing the difference in our



instruments today and the way the sonata would have sounded. His joy in sharing Mozart, and also Chopin, were so evident. Dr. (Sr.) Joan Miller was another welcomed and favoured adjudicator who very much imparted her love for teaching. Her thoroughness and detail made one aware that she was very much engaged in your presentation. Festival was a very important learning tool before the world opened up to us through the internet.

As an adjudicator, I have had the pleasure of meeting many wonderful volunteers and organizers who give of their time each year to see the festival in their community thrive and grow. Small towns are amazing for their ability to make this a community event and support their music students like no other. A special

thank you goes out to the teachers who impart their knowledge, inspiring their students to share their love and passion for the pieces they perform. Especially rewarding is the vast amount of Saskatchewan and Canadian music now available. Composers become personable and are only an email away to answer your questions or hear your thoughts.

We all learn by hearing one another share our unique sound – all in the joy of music making. As my home festival of Yorkton approaches its 100th Year of festival, we can all celebrate the beauty of a rich heritage passed from generation to generation - may festival be enjoyed for many more years to come!





44 District Music Festivals

In addition to 44 annual district music festivals, SMFA provides: a provincial Syllabus; entrance to annual Provincial, Concerto and Opera Competitions; opportunity to advance to the Canada West Performing Arts Festival with competitors from Alberta and British Columbia; and coordinates training, hiring and scheduling of adjudicators. SMFA also provides workshops, fosters recognition of volunteers, organizes provincial archives and maintains a provincial website. In 2025, SMFA hosted the 4th Annual Canada West Performing Arts Festival on the beautiful University of Saskatchewan Campus.

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



District Festival Reports

Assiniboia & District Music Festival March 25 to 30, 2025

Assiniboia & District Music Festival (ADMF) held its 91st festival from March 25-30 at the Assiniboia Alliance Church. We had a total of 128 entries, with over 40 participants from Assiniboia and neighboring communities. A variety of disciplines included piano, strings, accordion, voice, musical theatre, choral and spoken word.

Adjudicating was by Cherith Alexander, a dynamic pianist based in Weyburn. Cherith provided excellent feedback to the performers with encouragement and excitement to improve and grow their craft.

The awards concert was held on the evening of March 30 at the Assiniboia Alliance Church. Community scholarships were awarded to over 40 performers totalling \$2725. A great concert was enjoyed by the community and surrounding communities, followed by an ice cream social for everyone to enjoy.

Thank you to all the committee members and volunteers who helped to make this festival a success. Thank you to our local sponsors, Canalta Hotel and 98FM CKHD Hit Radio.

Respectfully submitted, Raegan Rasmussen



Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival March 17 to 29, 2025

This year's Festival ran from March 17-29. We had three adjudicators: Nancy Loper, Olivia Adams and James McCarthy. There were 305 entries.

Amelie Craibe, Rianka Crespo, Sophie Francais, Emma Harder, Madison Harder, Lizzie Whelan, Ruben Yi and Nathaniel Negad qualified to proceed to Provincial Finals in Regina.

The Awards Gala was held on April 2. Thank you to Lakeland Veterinary Clinic for being a sponsor of our Gala night. We also want to thank all our other sponsors: Arch Rivals Foot Care, Battleford Furniture, Battlefords Animal Hospital, Battlefords Blend Sweet Adelines, Battlefords Massage Therapy, Battleford Ministerial Association, beePLUS Workplace Solutions, Bralin Technology Solutions, Bridges Chev Buick GMC, Joan Bunce, Cecilia and Murray Burton, Donna and Roy Challis, Charbin Seed Farm, Chic and Shabby, CIBC, Dr. Russel Butler Dentistry, Dream Realty, Dynamic Appraisals, EMBM Parent Association, Eternal Memories Funeral Service and Crematorium, Bev and Murray Greenwood, Dianne Gryba, Dr. Hessleson, Hudec Law, Ilene Wettergreen, Jaki Esquirol, Kiwanis Club, Kramer Trailer Sales, Ken and Yvonne Loenhndorf, Marusia Kobrynsky, Matrix Law Group, Mawson Saddlery Ltd., Sobey's North Battleford, Yolanda S. Van Wachem, Hugh McPhail and Meridian Surveys.



Biggar & District Music Festival **March 2 to 8, 2025**

Biggar and District Music Festival was held March 2-8, March 8 being our performers concert that we now are able to livestream and include audience who normally can't partake in the evening. This year was our 97th annual music festival and was very well attended. Our festival included a new musical theatre session for our 'kick-off' day, two days of piano, one day of instrumental, and two days of vocal. FOUR rose bowls were presented to: **Eliana Bakanec** in piano, **Larissa Raddysh** in musical theatre, **Amelia Smith** in vocal, and **Reid Silvernagle** in instrumental. **Taylor Singer, Korina Medancic, Kyra Sittler** and **Eliana Bakanec** were eligible to attend Provincials in piano. As well, we had another record number of vocalists and musical theatre performers who advanced to Provincial Finals this year: **Reid Silvernagle, Malia Hadden, Larissa Raddysh, Amelia Smith, Anara Hoppe** and **Skye Moore**.

Thank you to all our scholarship supporters, award donors and patrons. Our committee held a festive indoor carol festival within the community in early December which received a great deal of community support. At our district music festival there were a total of 264 entries between all three disciplines. We welcomed three adjudicators: **Laureen Kells** for piano, **Brent Pittman** for instrumental, and **Gaye-Lynn Kern** for vocal and musical theatre.

Cando Community School performed in a non-competitive class, and their fee was paid by an anonymous patron. They performed on the theatre stage, and Gaye-Lynn was helpful and encouraging. This school serves the Cando, Mosquito and Red Pheasant First Nations.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the adjudicators for the encouragement and advice they provided to our festival participants. On behalf of the Biggar

Music Festival Association, I would like to thank all our many volunteers that ensured that everything ran smoothly during the music festival. The 97th Biggar Music Festival was once again a success!

Submitted by Janelle Carr, President



Borderland Music Festival **(Coronach)**

April 13 to 15, 2025

The Borderland Music Festival was held at the Coronach Alliance Church from April 13-15. We had a wonderful Sunday evening of hearing musical theater followed by an exciting and energized Monday morning of school group performances. Monday afternoon consisted of solo vocal performances and Tuesday featured the piano pieces. We had a total of 83 entries with vocal, spoken word, choral, piano and instrumental performances, and 4 performers continuing on to Provincials. We were honored to have two wonderful adjudicators at the festival this year. **Louella Friesen** adjudicated the vocal, choral and spoken word performances, and **Sherry Sproule** adjudicated the piano and instrumental pieces. Both women gave wonderful feedback and encouragement to the performers and were a joy to listen to as they gave expert advice.

The Festival of Stars, which is the final performance and awards night, was a wonderful evening of listening to the entrants as they performed pieces from the days prior. The Borderland Festival was honored to give out 63 awards this year and 7 medallions welcoming first time performers. We were also able to



honor Dorothea Trithardt at our Festival of Stars evening.

Dorothea has been an integral part of the Borderland Festival as she has been on the committee, as well as a musical teacher, since the early 90s. She has now retired to enjoy being a grandma and we are so grateful for all the leadership, enthusiasm for music and love for the kids that she brought to the many festivals over the years.

With over 700 audience members and hundreds of hours put in by the many volunteers, it was a wonderful festival experience. The kitchen volunteers provided amazing meals for the performers and adjudicators, as well as wonderful snacks and desserts. Volunteers welcomed guests and directed them to seating, assisted the adjudicator and kept the festival running smoothly. We are very grateful for all of our volunteers and our community who help us put on our festival. With their help and support, we were able to raise \$5055 and we hope this can be put to good use for next year. Our festival committee, consisting of Kalissa Regier, Kaylan Hill, Shelly Rousseau, Marie Lerminiaux, Angelika Budd and Marilyn Remoue, put in many hours leading up to the festival and during the festival to see that everything was well organized and ran smoothly.

We celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Borderland Music Festival this year and look forward to many more years to come.

Respectfully submitted, Angelika Budd



Carnduff & District Music Festival

March 9 to 11, 2025

The 62nd Carnduff & District Music and Arts Festival was held March 9-11. We hosted at two venues this year: Carnduff Legion and Oxbow Prairie Horizon School. We had a total of 121 entries and 71 performers. Our theme for 2025 was *Melodies Reignited*.

We started off March with a Strawberry Tea, hosted on March 1. We open up the stage to the community, and it is an opportunity for anyone (not just festival participants) to get a feel for performance and for the stage area. We had about an hour long program with a variety of selections performed for the crowd. Afterwards, strawberry shortcake, tea, coffee and iced tea were enjoyed by all.

We made the decision for the return of festival to focus on the music this year and hold off on the added art component, until we have a stronger footing and the proper volunteer base.

We had two adjudicators: Daniel McElroy for piano and spoken word, and Jennifer Tenford for band/instrumental/strings. We appreciated the time they took to come and be at our festival and work with our performers. They were so informative, yet gentle and kind with the participants. It has been five years since our last adjudicated festival so we only had a handful of participants that had ever experienced an adjudication. They gave great constructive criticism and lots of ideas for future performances.

Our festival has a great number of patrons and sponsors that help us offer scholarships and awards to our performers. We offered 59 scholarships/awards, a total monetary value of \$3950. We wish to thank all of our sponsors and patrons for their continued support in making Carnduff and District Music and Arts Festival



successful. We also wish to thank the many volunteers for their time and support.

Our highlights concert was held on March 13. 25 of the recipients performed at the concert, and the remaining awards were presented. Our meritorious winners this year were **Mikki East** (band & band instruments) and **Weston Muir** (piano).

While there were a few hiccups and a few new things to learn (and old things to remember), we were happy with Festival 2025. We gained a few more volunteers for the board, found a smaller festival quite manageable, and we really enjoyed seeing and hearing the participants performing once again. Our theme was quite fitting - we are reignited and looking toward the future.

Central Saskatchewan Music and Speech Arts Festival (Davidson) **March 24 to 25, 2025**

This year was the 63rd anniversary of our music festival in Davidson. We had a successful two-day festival March 24 and 25.

Anna Marie Bekolay was our adjudicator for both days, adjudicating piano, spoken word, strings and voice. Anna had adjudicated our festival in the past and it is always an excellent experience for students, parents, family, friends, teachers and committee members. Anna reminded us that Central Sask Music Festival was the first festival she had ever adjudicated. She has been adjudicating for many years and has been a positive influence for so many music students. Thank you, Anna.

Festival entries increased again this year. They have been increasing since 2021, with 16 more entries this year and a total of 148. The Grand Finale concert was held on March 26 with a

large audience in attendance. Scholarships and trophies were awarded.

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

Estevan & District Music Festival **March 30 to April 11, 2025**

The Estevan & District Music Festival has been serving the community for 61 years now!

We had good entry numbers this year, overall, and are impressed to see numbers steadily increasing in all disciplines, except piano, where we saw a decrease due to the loss of a teacher in the community.

From March 30-April 1, adjudicator Spencer McKnight visited to work with our spoken word, vocal and musical theater entries. Band and instrumental followed, with adjudicator Dr. Mark Tse in our community from April 1-3. Lots of good feedback came from his interactive adjudicating and positive demeanor. April 4 brought Leanne Zacharias to our corner of the province to adjudicate strings. Her expertise and kind words with all of the students were so appreciated. We were also pleased to have two adjudicators work with our piano entrants: Janis Smith for one day of junior piano and Daniel Tselyakov for the remaining 4 days of piano entries. Their knowledge and ability to connect with the students was appreciated by teachers and parents alike. All together, we had 437 entries and very few cancellations.

Entrants as young as 3 years old took the stage for the first time and their joyful little smiles lit up the room! We also had quite a few graduating players performing for, possibly, their last time at festival. Thank you for sharing your music with us through the years. We wish them all well in their future endeavors!



The addition of the Notable and Joy Awards were warmly received by students and very much appreciated. In one instance, the adjudicator gave a Joy Award and remarked "how proud and professional the young student looked for his (first ever) festival performance!" He was speechless when he received this recognition! What a beautiful way to celebrate performance and the JOY of making music – not just the winning!

We held two awards and highlights concerts. Participants in spoken word, vocal, musical theater, band, strings and instrumental were featured and awarded in one concert and piano performers were honored in a separate concert. Our top award is the Murray GM Multi-Discipline award, which was won by **Jacob Pyra** after performing in the strings, vocal, spoken word and instrumental classes. The Dwight Thompson Memorial Multi-Discipline Runner-Up Award (donated by Hall Funeral Services) was awarded to **Sarah Pyra**. We are pleased to be able to award over \$10,000 in scholarships and awards, thanks to the many generous donors and businesses in our community. This monetary support provides encouragement and motivation to our many recipients and is greatly appreciated by winners and our committee alike.

Since our band entry numbers continue to be lower than pre-Covid years, we have many band awards that are not given out each year. This year's band adjudicator requested that we use this money (instead of carrying it forward, an accounting nightmare!) for a greater purpose, and a bursary was created for the Midale Band Program. After not having a band program for many decades, a dedicated teacher began the process of rebuilding the program. He even had all four bands enter the festival in this, their resurrection year! We were happy to accept Dr. Tse's suggestion and give this fledgling program an \$1100 bursary.

We were also happy to send performers in more than one discipline to the Provincial Finals Competition - for the first time in many years - held in Regina the first weekend of June. **Hudsyn Hozjan, Kensie Aspinall, Peyton Irwin** and **Jerome Kim** were all eligible to represent our festival in piano classes, and **Lucas Schott** was eligible for his spoken word performances. We are so proud of these young musicians for continuing to challenge themselves and take part in the Provincial Festival. Thank you to the SMFA for the beautiful opportunity presented to these young musicians!

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

Submitted by Alisha Mann, President



Eston Music Festival

April 7 to 9, 2025

The 76th Eston Music Festival was held April 7-9. We were thrilled to have to add an extra day to our festival. Entries were 137, up from 117 the previous year. We had 68 speech arts, 57 piano, 10 vocal and 2 percussion entries.

What a pleasure to have Mr. Cole Knutson as our adjudicator. He was so positive and helpful with the competitors. We had numerous audience members comment on how much they enjoyed him and how good he was with the students.

We again used our local churches as festival venues, and we thank them for always opening their doors! Sacred Heart Catholic Church was the venue for all our sessions. St. Andrew's United Church was our warm-up venue and is conveniently located across the street. The Eston Full Gospel Church hosted our final awards concert. At our final concert we presented



Cindy Gardiner with flowers and an award for serving on the festival committee for the past 20 years!

We had six competitors recommended for Provincials: **Sierra Gardiner** in vocal, **Lilah Loewen** and **Andrew Harbicht** in piano, and **Julia Tunall**, **Teagan Unrau** and **Leah Austin** in spoken word. Good luck to all of you!

The annual Carol Festival was held this past December and got us all in the Christmas spirit! We had a variety of selections in vocal and piano and also had two choirs attend.

We could not have a festival without many people to thank. Firstly, to our area teachers and students who work hard all year towards performing at our festival. Our community support through scholarship donations is simply the best! To our faithful festival volunteers who always say yes when asked, thank you to everyone.

"Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything" - Plato

Respectfully submitted by Brenda Ormsby



Gravelbourg & District Bilingual Music Festival

April 8 to 10, 2025

We had two adjudicators this year. Thank you to Rebecca Hankins-Vopni, our piano and instrumental adjudicator and Elise Parsonage, our vocal, musical theatre and spoken word adjudicator. They shared their enthusiasm and love of the arts with our participants, making our first-time performers feel right at ease.

A huge shout out and thank you goes out to our students and teachers who continued to get together and practice, both in person and virtually. Many of our students take some lessons from teachers in other communities, as rural areas have fewer teachers. We had 32 competitors enter 102 compositions in piano, voice, French and English spoken word, musical theatre and instrumental classes. We are so fortunate to see this wide range of talents represented so well in our small towns. Our numbers are slightly down from last year.

Five of our participants entered 12 provincial classes and advanced to Provincial Finals. We are so proud of their accomplishments. Some of our senior students participated in other festivals in the area as well. We have several students graduate this year and they will be missed.

Our final concert and scholarship award ceremony, The Gravelbourg Grammys, was held at the end of week and also broadcast live via Facebook. All award recipients are chosen by the adjudicator. Except for ensemble classes and musical theatre, participants must compete in two classes of the same discipline to be eligible to receive an award. Our adjudicators



also chose the performances for our final program. Local donors were very generous with their scholarships and awards.

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

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

This year was our 25th Anniversary, and we took opportunities during our festival to draw attention to this and celebrate it. We look forward to celebrating our next 25 years of music excellence!

Submitted by Yvonne Sutherland, President



Humboldt Music Festival

March 24 to April 1, 2025

Humboldt Music Festival held its 88th festival from March 24-April 1. We were very excited to have our festival grow this year by an additional 44 entries, increasing to 311 entries overall from 267 in 2024 in the disciplines of piano, strings, band, vocal, musical theatre and spoken word. We also saw a large increase in the number of

spectators that came out to watch the performers on a daily basis. We were also strong again this year with the number of volunteers coming out to help with the festival and assisting with the positions of door steward and adjudicator secretary. Our festival is very grateful for the help of these amazing volunteers, as it contributes greatly to hosting a successful festival.

Adjudicators were Lynette Sawatsky (piano), Betty Allison (voice and musical theatre), and Gilles Turcotte (band, instruments and strings). Our final concert was held on the evening of April 6 at Westminster United Church and was very well received and attended by the community. There were 49 scholarship recipients, and approximately \$2700 was awarded in scholarships. For the first time in several years, our audience was packed and we needed to set out additional seating to accommodate everyone. This was the largest attendance for our final concert that we have seen in the last six years, which was amazing. We are always so grateful for the support of our community, sponsors and all the volunteers that dedicate their time in bringing this opportunity to the youth in our community and, of course, those who come to watch and support the youth.

This festival year brought our committee a renewed hope as we saw our festival grow for the first time in the past six years. We look forward to next year's festival with encouragement that we will continue to grow and be a sustaining festival.

Submitted by April Pray, Festival Coordinator





Kindersley & District Music Festival March 17 to 26, 2025

Our 2025 Music Festival ran from March 17-26. We hosted 17 competitive sessions over 8 days all in one venue. We also had 2 band workshops in 2 high schools in our district: Eaton and Kindersley Comprehensive School. Over 120 competitors were registered, as well as the 4 bands who were visited in their home schools. In total, we had 281 registrations.

Our first adjudicator was Doreen Renschler, who adjudicated junior and senior piano. We had new schedulers organize the piano sessions, and so had a mix of junior and senior throughout the 4 days at St. Paul's United Church. We had a full 4 days of piano, with 9 sessions overall. We had 2 performers advance to Provincials from our piano students, with **Leif Bews** and **Kiersten de Coninck Smith** both receiving the nod.

Garry Gable adjudicated spoken word, vocal and musical theatre sessions, which were also held at St. Paul's. **Sierra Gardiner** advanced to Provincials in 4 classes of voice and musical theatre. **Angela and Dominic Bosch** qualified for spoken word in 2 classes each. Our other provincial candidate was **Reid Silvernagle** in a voice class, but he had been recommended from an earlier festival.

Our second week saw Jennifer Tenford adjudicating instrumental sessions at St. Paul's United Church. We held 5 sessions: 3 of instrumental, one percussion and one strings. Jennifer was very gracious to use the third day we had booked to do workshops with our high school bands. 5 performances resulted in advancement to Provincial Finals, with woodwind players **Angela Bosch** and **Kaitlyn Herner** qualifying in one and two classes respectively. **Maira Padberg** qualified in two percussion classes.

We were pleased to continue with our "Adjudicator's Invitational Stars of the Festival" concert. Our last session was on Tuesday afternoon, so we had a little extra time to put together the concert for Wednesday evening. Adjudicators not only had the responsibility of choosing scholarship winners, but also the participants and the pieces they would perform in the concert. As we gave out 49 awards, it is not reasonable to have everyone perform, so our adjudicators followed the KDMF suggested number restrictions and put together a program of 21 performances across all disciplines. All scholarships winners were encouraged to attend, and we handed out \$3453 in awards, of which \$1850 was donated by local sponsors.

Though a number of regular sponsors and Friends returned this year, we did lose a few. Some of this was due to the postal strike right in the middle of our fundraising drive, so some follow-up letters were not sent, and possibly some people forgot to send their cheques, as they would have had to wait. However, during the festival, several people came to committee members and asked to be contacted next year! We had a silver collection at the door for all our festival sessions, including the Stars Concert. Other than that, the only other fundraising we have done was to host our annual Christmas Carol Festival in December, also with a silver collection at the door. This event continues to grow after a few years of cancellation. We are also applying for a community initiative grant (KCIP) from the Town of Kindersley.

One of our biggest highlights was having our local hockey team show up to support one of their teammates who competed in senior piano sessions. It was so great to have so many young people attend and bring their energy. Go Klippers!! The piano students all seemed very excited to be able to play on the grand piano, and several commented on the awesomeness of the venue. We set up a photo backdrop in the foyer for people to use to take pictures. Another highlight for our 2025 Festival was an increase in community volunteers coming out to work at the secretary and coordinator tables. A total of



11 people, 3 who were new this year, from outside the committee volunteered, some taking several sessions. All commented about how much fun they had and how great it was to see all the competitors and their talent. Again, we had people coming up to us during Festival asking to be put on the list for next year 😊.

It has been said “Do the best you can until you know better. Then, once you know better, you can do better.” We always reflect back on our year and see ways we have grown and ways we can improve. This year, we continued to have a mixture of printed programs and a QR code to our online program. Online is possibly losing popularity, so we will continue to use that, but we will increase our printed programs. This year we went from selling 30 programs last year to about 70 this year. Our Adjudicator Choice Concert is a success, and we will continue with that. Practice days, first time participant acknowledgement, and how we communicate with concert participants are evolving processes, as our community of participants also evolves. Our online registration program was the most successful to date, with only one using the paper registrations or the in-person drop off. Moving to accepting e-transfers was also a success. As we grow, we will possibly offer a training session for our community volunteers, a more comprehensive guide about festival etiquette, and improve our advertising in the community to draw in more audience. We look forward to continuing to Make Music Matter in Kindersley as we head into our 63rd year!

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

SaskTel 

SMFA gratefully acknowledges SaskTel
for generously supporting
our 44 District Festivals!

Kipling & District Music Festival March 24 to 26, 2025

Our 2025 Music festival was held over a full three days March 24-26 with adjudicator Heather Godden Waldner adjudicating all sessions. A well-rounded, superb adjudicator, she brought expertise to all levels of piano, vocal, musical theatre, spoken word and band. We have never had so many compliments from parents through our comment box, emails about a what great teacher she was, and her positive attitude towards all students.

Our festival grew in entries 40% to 141 entries this year, a steady increase since the Covid years. The greater phenomenon was that there was 100% attendance with no cancellations. Then, our final concert, after a last minute cancellation due to blizzard was rebooked a few days later and only three out of 40-some performers couldn't make it due to performing in other competitions!

A highlight of our festival this year was the theme of recognizing our seniors in the communities that have contributed greatly to our music culture. They were all invited to our final concert, and it was a sight to behold as the front row of final concert was FILLED with several wheelchairs that the handy van so helpfully brought from long-term care, and the tears that flowed from several of them as they listened intently to all the performances that evening! Our cover art was painted by Kipling Long-term Care resident, Faith Knowles, born in 1933. Her extensive music contribution to the Grenfell and Kipling music communities included conductor of choirs, community theatre director, playing piano, organ and cello. She was among many who attended our final concert that received a bouquet of flowers and a framed certificate of thanks.

Rein Morson advanced to Provincial Finals in musical theatre and also to the Provincial level of Canada West. **Eiden Cacho** qualified for



Provincials in voice and musical theatre and both had fantastic performances and a valuable experience as their first time performing in Provincial Finals.

Kipling and District Music Festival has had a great increase in the number of scholarships from community members that feel strongly about supporting the youth; to help inspire and to really show they care and want to see and hear their efforts! Over \$3500 of scholarship money was awarded this year. Kipling and District Music Festival also is wanting to encourage entries in all disciplines and has continued to waive entry fees.



La Ronge & District Music Festival March 31 to April 3, 2025

From March 31 to April 3, the community was treated to four unforgettable days of music, talent, and inspiration at the 2025 Music Festival. With 116 entries spanning a wide range of ages and disciplines, the festival showcased the incredible depth and diversity of musical talent in our region.

Under the discerning ears of our esteemed adjudicators, Peggy L'Hoir and Kristine Beer, performers from preschoolers to graduates took the stage. The festival featured a rich variety of performances, including vocal solos, musical theatre, classical piano, arranged popular piano, orchestral piano, violin, guitar, and harp. Each performance reflected hours of dedication and passion, and the adjudicators provided thoughtful, encouraging feedback to help each participant grow.

A total of 29 scholarships were awarded, recognizing outstanding achievement and potential. Several participants also earned the honor of qualifying for Provincial Finals, a testament to the high caliber of talent nurtured within our community.

The success of this year's festival was made possible by the tireless efforts of an exceptional committee and a dedicated team of volunteers who gave their time and energy throughout the week. Their behind-the-scenes work ensured that every detail ran smoothly.

We are especially grateful for the unwavering support of our community, donors, and sponsors. Their generosity allowed us to engage the talents of professional accompanist Michele Hupalo, whose musicianship elevated many performances and provided invaluable support to our participants.

This year's festival was not only a celebration of music but also a celebration of community spirit. We look forward to building on this success and continuing to foster a love of music in the years to come.



Lafleche & District Music Festival March 30 to April 4, 2025

Our 58th music festival was held Sunday, March 30 to Friday, April 4. Adjudicators were Michelle Rivers for vocal and Jenn Voth for piano. Thank you both for sharing your love and passion of music with each student. They brought much enthusiasm and knowledge to the table and we appreciated all their dedication and hard work.

This year we had a total of 35 participants; quite a bit fewer than last year but they all brought a large amount of passion and talent to each performance. There were 20 entries in spoken word, 33 entries in musical theatre, 34 entries in voice, and 42 entries in piano for a total of 127 entries. We had four district winners: **Willow Lawson, Anya Willis, Chloe Masse and Keira Achter.**

We awarded \$4,500 in scholarships to deserving competitors. Each scholarship is funded by



members of the community and surrounding businesses, and we are eternally grateful for their continuing donations.

On Saturday, April 3, we hosted our annual Lafleche Credit Union Musical Showcase featuring eight excellent performers who were chosen by the adjudicators to compete. We welcomed adjudicators Jenn Voth and Daniel McElroy. The 2025 Showcase winner this year was **Keira Achter**. Congratulations, Keira!

The following night on Friday, April 4, we held our Final Concert. This showcased the top performers of the week and scholarship winners. All recipients of scholarships are carefully chosen by the adjudicators. This night is eagerly anticipated by all the members of the community, as well as friends and family of the performers who travel a good distance to come applaud all the performers' hard work.

Fundraising during the music festival was achieved through bake sales and the sale of raffle tickets. These were for four gift baskets and a quilted runner donated by a community member. Baskets were filled with various items donated by businesses in the community and purchased from the local businesses as well.

We are thankful for the continuing support and generosity from our community who have supported us through hours of volunteering. 31 members of the community contributed over 1450 hours of their time. Without them, the festival would not run so smoothly. We are always so grateful for the support of our town, the teachers, parents and students. We look forward to another successful year!

Submitted by Amy Myers, President



Lanigan & District Music Festival April 7 to 16, 2025

With 232 entries, talent was on full display at the 48th annual Lanigan and District Music Festival. Held at the Christian Fellowship Church in Lanigan and spanning over two weeks (Apr. 7 – 16, 2025), the final concert occurred Thursday, Apr. 17, highlighting a number of performances from the festival.

The adjudicator for vocal, musical theatre, and speech this year was Dianne Gryba; for piano was Claire Seibold; and for strings was Nova Wong. They were all fantastic, providing encouraging feedback and coaching to the students (and teachers)

Featuring piano, voice and strings, talented performers from Lanigan and the surrounding area provided those in attendance with terrific pieces. The festival committee extends our sincere appreciation to the students and teachers who entered this year's festival as well as to the adjudicators and those attending or watching the event virtually, and the donors, sponsors, and the volunteers who put in so much effort to help make the festival a success.

District Festival winners, **Molly Evans, Mallory Tweidt, Geri Lon Valdesimo, Noah Vigoren, Katherine Ostrovsky, Taysia Otsig, and Jay Luis Sumalapao** qualified to compete in the SMFA Provincial Finals May 29 – June 1.

The Festival revenue for 2025 was \$9697.28 and expenses were \$10,696.36 for a loss of \$999.08. Fundraising comes from donations and session/concert attendance fees. The AGM was held on May 21, 2025.

Festival committee members for 2025 included Michelle Foster, Kaylyn Bartel and Karen Bergermann as well as executive members Nata Kline, Amber Yaskiw, Heidi Craig, and Angel Liebrecht.



**Last Mountain District Music
Festival (Strasbourg)
March 31 to April 2, 2025**

Our festival was hosted by Strasbourg again this year and was held at the St. John Lutheran Church for piano, voice, musical theatre and spoken word. Band and choir sessions were held at the WDS Gym.

Our adjudicator was Chelsea Mahan from Dalmeny. She did a great job of adjudicating all disciplines and our students were greatly encouraged by her comments, helpful suggestions and her cheerful, delightful approach in addressing each student.

We are excited to report a slight increase in entries compared to the past couple of years. There were 3 choirs, 14 voice, 5 musical theatre, 10 spoken word, 75 piano and 6 band/ensemble entries. It was exciting to see the number of entries in spoken word increase from 2 entries last year to 10 this year. I predict an even greater number next year!

We had one student enter some Provincial Classes and also a Canada West Class and are happy to report that he advanced to Provincials and the Provincial level of Canada West Competition. Congratulations to **Nathan Wilhelm** of Regina. We wish you all the best in the next level of competitions.

There were 5 participants that self-declared as Indigenous or newcomers to Canada in the past 5 years. We had a total of 10 first time participants in this year's festival. It is exciting to see growth in numbers of entries as well as entrants! All of our sessions were well attended and this is a testament to the support from our community which we so greatly appreciate.

Congratulations to **Catrina Knouse** of Nokomis, recipient of the 2025 Graduating

Student Scholarship. This was presented to her at our Final Awards Night Concert held on Friday, April 4 at St. John Lutheran Church. Many awards were presented to our deserving students that evening as we showcased some of the local talent to a full house of proud parents and grandparents!

A huge thank you goes to all of our volunteers. We had a successful festival and are now looking forward to a bit of a break before we begin plans for our 2026 festival which will be held April 13-15 in Strasbourg.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Danielson

**Lloydminster Kiwanis Music Festival
March 31 to April 10, 2025**

2025 was another successful year for Kiwanis Lloydminster & District Music Festival, with a total of 452 entries.

Our adjudicators were: Laurien Gibson who saw 147 entries in choral, voice, musical theatre and spoken word in 8 sessions over 4 days. Brent Pittman adjudicated 74 entries in strings, guitar, woodwind, brass, percussion and band/ensemble. There were 9 sessions over 4 days. Janet Gieck heard 89 senior piano entries over 3 days in 7 sessions. Doreen Renschler had 142 junior piano entries over 9 sessions in 4 days.

Our Final Concert was Sunday, April 13 with 19 performances and 84 awards presented.

Congratulations to the following District Winners who qualified to compete in the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association Provincial Finals Competition:

Kayla Andres - Piano (2) and Woodwind (1)

Tess Andres - Piano (2) and Woodwind (1)

Leland Lopez - Woodwind (2)

Dana Pham - Piano (3)



Torie Pham - Piano (1)
Kayleigh Reiniger - Voice (1) and Musical Theatre (1)
Kadence Trachuk - Voice (2), Musical Theatre (4), Canada West Musical Theatre and Canada West Classical Voice
Chloe Jones - Voice (2)
Harmony Pollard - Musical Theatre (4)
Macie Jacobson - Musical Theatre (2)
Ruby Hickman - Musical Theatre (4) and Canada West Musical Theatre
Devin Chahley - Musical Theatre (2)
Mattea Gabrielson - Musical Theatre (2)
Natalie Simon - Musical Theatre (1) and Canada West Musical Theatre
Lola Hickman - Musical Theatre (1), Spoken Word (2) and Canada West Speech Arts
Valerie Rollheiser - Spoken Word (1) and Canada West

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

Submitted by Kerry Taylor



Mainline Music Festival (Wolseley) **April 6 to 9, 2025**

Mainline Music Festival successfully held a four-day event, April 6-9 in Wolseley's historic Town Hall/Opera House. Ron de Jager of Caronport adjudicated the first two days, when spoken word, voice, musical theatre, choral, percussion and choral speech entries competed. Audrey Watson adjudicated the final two days of competition, consisting of piano entries and

also delivered a piano workshop to an attentive group of students.

Total entries in 2025 were 131, which was again a slight decrease over previous years. However, we also saw the semi-retirement of a long-standing local piano teacher, so the entries we did see seem proportional to the private teachers in the area. School groups were well represented from Dr. Isman Elementary School. Twenty performers made a return to the stage for the Festival Finale on April 15, where \$1665 in prizes were awarded. Mainline sent seven representatives to the Provincial Finals Competition: **Brynn Ager** (voice & musical theatre), **Jasper Beliveau** (musical theatre), **Thomas Kraushaar** (spoken word), **Joni Lamb** (musical theatre), **Natalie Malo** (voice), **Julia Miles** (voice & musical theatre) and **Jordan Sicard** (voice).

Mainline ends the 2025 festival season with a financial surplus, thanks in part to ten generous patrons who stepped up to be Elite Sponsors, each donating over \$300. In return for their donations, each business/organization received a full-page ad in the festival program. Patrons that donated \$150-\$299 were recognized with banner advertising within the festival program. We have found that offering advertising in the program has incentivized patrons to be just a bit more generous.

Currently, we find ourselves lacking a dedicated board of directors. Key positions remain unfilled, although plans are in the works to possibly combine all operations of the Indian Head and Wolseley Festivals to ensure continuity for next year and beyond. Mainline Music Festival will return to Indian Head in 2026. Both festivals were represented by Penny Miles at the virtual 2024 SMFA AGM; her term on the Provincial Board will end at the upcoming 2025 Provincial AGM.



Maple Creek & District Music Festival

April 7 to 11, 2025

The Maple Creek & District Music Festival was held from April 7-11 and included 21 solo competitors and five ensembles. The total number of entries was 133, with piano entries accounting for 54. This year we welcomed Alicia Vopni-Summach as our adjudicator for all disciplines. Alicia was well received by competitors and the committee. This year we did not have any non-competitive/workshop classes, and we regret that due to staffing changes and labour negotiations we did not have any school band entries this year.

Our awards concert was held on the evening of April 11, with 16 performers and ensembles. This year five of our competitors were recommended to the Provincial Competition: **Evey White** (voice, musical theatre, piano), **Amara Weiss** (voice, musical theatre), **Sophia Uribe** (voice), **Allegra Sifert** (voice), and **Bria Sifert** (spoken word). Scholarships were awarded to 14 individuals, and two ensembles, a total amount of \$1,550.

Fundraising is accomplished by an annual letter to donors, advertising space in the program, the Communities Grant and entry fees.

Our AGM was held on June 26, with six committee members in attendance. Plans are being made for long-term committee members who have been in their roles for many years to mentor other committee members in their duties, to make sure the hand-off is smooth, and that those long-term members are still around for questions and guidance.

Meadow Lake & District Music Festival

April 7 to 11, 2025

As a whole, our entry numbers have remained relatively steady for the last few years with slight fluctuations between disciplines. Financially, our festival is stable and we are very grateful to all our donors who contribute to provide awards to our participants. Also, we send a huge 'thanks' to all the volunteers and audiences who come out to support our students.

Our festival began with School Band on Monday, April 7. We kept our band adjudicator, Gene Aulinger, very busy for two full days. As always, Gene provided the participants with positive feedback, often tinged with humour, that made even the 'coolest' teenagers sit up and take notice. Our school bands performed very well. An additional highlight was the New Horizons (Community) Band which is made up of many former students as well as retired band directors. They provided us with a stellar performance and definitely reminded us that *Music is a Lifelong Activity*.

Vocal/piano sessions began on Tuesday morning and went into Friday afternoon. Our adjudicator, Gillian Rice, made the lengthy trip from Canora to share her expertise with us. Gillian provided all participants with adjudications which encouraged their efforts and provided them feedback to help them improve. There were a number of noteworthy performances which Gillian rewarded with qualifying marks to advance to Provincial Finals – two in musical theatre and two in piano. She also awarded many Joy Awards which brought more smiles.

We certainly appreciated the work both our adjudicators did with all our participants. Their professional approach and positivity was



appreciated by all – participants, teachers, parents and the audience at large.

Our Awards Night highlighted performances by participants who were named as award winners by our adjudicators. 16 performances provided a delightful evening of music from all disciplines. A total of 23 awards were presented to worthy recipients. Following the evening's performances everyone enjoyed ice cream and time to visit. Our committee is looking forward to preparing for another successful festival in 2026.



Melfort Music Festival

March 24 to 31, 2025

This year, Melfort held their 97th annual Melfort Music Festival! We had six days of festival with 215 entries from participants in 6 disciplines – piano (127), strings (40), band (9), voice (20), musical theatre (15), and spoken word (4). Thank you to the parents as well as the 14 teachers who supported and encouraged their students to take part.

Melfort's adjudicators this year were: Leanne Zacharias - strings; Chinley Hinacay - band; Audrey Falk Janzen - piano & voice.

Six performers advanced to Provincial Finals: **Isabella Little** (piano), **Weston Gallant** (piano), **Natalie Wilson** (piano), **Abby Douglas** (piano), **Helena Chester** (2 piano) and **Katie Toews** (2 musical theatre).

On the evening of Thursday, April 3, we held our *Sefton Memorial Competition* followed by our *Highlight's & Awards Program*. This year, we had three piano competitors in the Sefton Memorial Competition: **Helena Chester**, **Shyra Aliguyon** and **Samuel Petersen**. Our local judges were Jodi Allen Corbett, Nadine Hoffman, and Kirsten Regamey. Once this competition had finished, the judges went to a private room to

determine the winner and we continued with our program.

Our Highlights performers consisted of 16 wonderful musicians who performed selections chosen by our adjudicators. Following the Highlight's Program, we handed out 48 Awards and Scholarships which totalled \$2715!

The Overall Winners for 2025 were:

Best Band performance – **North East Community Band** with a mark of 95

Best Piano Performance – **Shyra Aliguyon** with four marks of 88

Best String Performance – **Samuel Petersen** with a mark of 87

Best Vocal Performance– **Alison Summach** with a mark of 89

The \$300 winner of our Sefton Memorial Competition was **Helena Chester**!

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

Committee members for 2025 included Dawne Glanville, Rachelle Heavin, Pam Kellington, Janice Mindiuk, Mavis Peters, Victoria Riley, and Tena Vanden Boomen.





Moose Jaw Music Festival

March 31 to April 13, 2025

The Moose Jaw Music Festival proudly ran from March 31 to April 13, 2025, and what a vibrant, inspiring two weeks it was!

We began on March 31 with our choir classes, led by clinician Stewart Wilkinson. With only four choirs entered this year, we took the festival directly to the schools, listening to the groups in their own practice spaces. The students still dressed up for the occasion, making the experience feel special and celebratory.

Our voice and musical theatre disciplines ran April 6–12 with the wonderful Chris MacRae from Calgary as our adjudicator. His expertise, warmth, and energy made the week exceptional. We were thrilled to see a rise in vocal entries and a significant surge in musical theatre. For the first time, we had entries in every provincial musical theatre class — and subsequently a recommendation in each one. With musical theatre duets becoming increasingly strong and moving, we would love to see a duet category at the Provincial level. The level of preparation and artistry from the students this year was outstanding.

Woodwinds and brass ran over three busy days under the guidance of adjudicator Chinley Hinicay from Edmonton. The band portion covered 2.5 days, and we had enough solo entries to fill an entire afternoon. Mr. Hinicay connected wonderfully with the students, and they genuinely enjoyed his insights. Running a multi-day band event is no small task, and we are incredibly fortunate to have the support of the Centennial Auditorium and the steady leadership of retired band teacher Janie Fries. Her organization keeps everything running smoothly, and we are very grateful.

We were delighted to welcome Lynette Sawatsky from Saskatoon for piano and organ

classes. As an accomplished pianist and published composer, she brought extraordinary musicianship and encouragement. Several students even performed her own compositions. Lynette fostered a spirit of community — having students bow together, hold hands, and support one another — a beautiful reminder that musical paths often intersect in meaningful ways. This year also marked a historic moment: our first organ entry in more than 50 years. **Camron Deans**, who has been studying the Casavant pipe organ at Zion United Church, performed at our Sunday concert. Singing O Canada with the full, resonant sound of those pipes was truly unforgettable. Camron also shared his knowledge with the audience, and many commented online about how much they learned. Very few people in Moose Jaw ever get the chance to play this magnificent instrument, so hearing it in our festival was a privilege.

For strings and guitar, we welcomed Scott McKnight from Saskatoon. Although we have not had a dedicated string adjudicator for nine years, we hoped this would encourage more entries. While numbers remained small at twelve, we were grateful for the students who participated and for Scott's expertise and support.

Overall, entries grew again this year — 415 in total, an increase of 100 over last year. We had 12 Canada West entries, and 30 students qualified for Provincial Finals. This growth is encouraging and reflects the hard work of teachers, families, and performers.

Our festival continues to operate with a very small, extremely dedicated committee of just eight people. Organizing such a large event takes countless hours, and we are deeply appreciative of everyone's commitment. Our online 50/50 and raffle fundraisers made a small but welcome profit, despite licensing delays shortening our timeline. We plan to run both of these again for our 2026 festival.



One of the elements our adjudicators consistently praise is our Scholarship Competition. This year, eleven major scholarships were awarded across multiple disciplines. The eleven students recommended to compete are already winners in their categories, and the evening always brings excitement and celebration. While adjudicators deliberate, everyone enjoys a lovely downstairs luncheon before returning for the big announcements. It remains one of the most enjoyable evenings of the festival — for both performers and adjudicators.

In total, we awarded nearly \$9000 in scholarships — an achievement made possible through the generosity of our donors.

This year we welcomed several new patrons, and we are incredibly thankful. Entry fees alone cannot cover festival costs, yet without entries, we would not have a festival at all. We strive to keep fees reasonable while continuing to rely on the tremendous support of our community. We look forward to launching a larger donor campaign in the fall and building even more excitement around the festival.

The 2025 Moose Jaw Music Festival was filled with talent, growth, connection, and celebration. We are proud of every student who shared their music with us and grateful to everyone who helped make this year such a success.



Moosomin & District Music Festival March 24 to 27, 2025

The Moosomin & District Music Festival was held March 24 to 27. Both adjudicators received a fruit basket to welcome them to our festival. There were 147 entries this year, down from the previous year. These students were taught by sixteen teachers and represented five communities.

The piano section was held at the Baptist Church on March 24 & 25 with Sandra Poole as Festival Chairperson. There were 92 entries, including four duets and four six & under participants. Six & under participants received medals in lieu of a mark. Audience attendance was up from the previous year. We welcomed Adjudicator Janis Smith back to the festival for the 4th time in 25 years. She did well in instructing the students on how to play different styles in the different time periods in piano literature.

Vocal, spoken word and music theatre was held March 26 & 27 at Bethel United Church with Kendra Parrish as Festival Chairperson. Entries were: vocal – 15, musical theatre – 19 (including a children's chorus), and spoken word - 21 (including 6 elementary classrooms). We welcomed Anastasia Winterhalt to adjudicate for her first time. Anastasia took the time for mini vocal workshops for our vocal students. This helped to relax the students for their next performances. We would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to both adjudicators for the encouragement and advice they provided to our participants.

The Awards Concert was held on Sunday, March 30 at Bethel United Church. Kendra Parrish was the emcee for the afternoon award concert. Students advancing to Provincials were: piano - **Anna Lynnes**; voice and musical theatre - **Olivia Brooks**, and spoken word was **Benjamin Fransen**. We wish them all a wonderful experience.

Treasurer's report indicates:

Donations total = \$4025;

Awards: piano - \$825, spoken word - \$405, voice - \$500, musical theatre - \$125, camp awards - \$400; adjudicator fees - \$2912.11.

Current balance \$13,553.80.

On May 10, our festival sponsored a one-day piano workshop with Nicole Wilton as our



clinician. Nicole worked with 12 students throughout the morning and, in the afternoon, held a workshop for 6 teachers. Thank you Nicole for the quality time together.

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

Moosomin & District Music Festival Executive:

Rosanne Kelly (president/program)

Melissa Lynnes (treasurer)

Alice Abrahamson

(corresponding secretary/program)

Tegan Matichuk & Sherrie Meredith (entries)

Desirae Neville & Kendra Parrish (patrons)

Sandra Poole (programming)

Andrea Brooks (phoning)

Attending the SMFA Conference via ZOOM were Rosanne Kelly and Alice Abrahamson.

Respectfully submitted, Alice Abrahamson

Nipawin Music Festival

March 17 to 21, 2025

All registrations were done online through the NFMA website. The programs were also online and 20 printed copies were made. Posters were made and distributed around town as well as advertised on the NMFA Facebook page. Pictures were posted on the NMFA Facebook page. Pianos were tuned by Scott Brinklow.

All sessions were held at the Nipawin United Church except musical theatre at LP Miller School and spoken word at Wagner School. Our adjudicators were Hannah Marple, Alyssa Woolhether and Druscilla Waltz. They stayed at the Nipawin Motor Inn. All adjudicators did a great job and would be welcomed back.

The final concert was held on March 26 at LP Miller School's Multi-Purpose Room, with 15 performances as well as award presentations. The performers and award winners are chosen by the adjudicators. Donuts from Family Bakery were available to everyone in attendance at the end of the program, provided by NMFA.

Outlook & District Music Festival
March 31 to April 4, 2025

The Outlook & District Festival of Music was held March 31-April 4, with the Festival Finale taking place on April 6 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Outlook. 2025 proved to be one of the most diverse years of the festival yet, with performers well into their eighties and as young as seven taking to the stage. After a long hiatus from the festival, we saw the return of the Outlook High School Bands (Grades 6-10), along with a first-time appearance of the jazz band from our other local high school, Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute (LCBI). Choral speech and singing groups (including 10 entries in the singing games classes) from Outlook Elementary School, Dinsmore Composite School, LCBI Concert Choir, LCBI Chamber Choir, LCBI Bel Canto Choir and the Outlook Men's Chorus, along with performances in piano, vocal, musical theatre, handbells, spoken word (poetry, prose and public speaking including original works), string and woodwinds made for one of the most well-rounded festivals our community has seen post pandemic.



We were fortunate to have two extremely accomplished adjudicators in our midst this year. Deborah Buck presided over piano, choirs, choral speech, choral singing, spoken word, voice and musical theater, strings and Canada West Musical Theatre performances. Adjudicator Stacey Mortenson-Spokes joined us on April 3 to preside over the Outlook High School Band performances, the LCBI Jazz Band, the LCBI Handbell Choir, flute and saxophone solos. Both adjudicators provided invaluable advice and critique to performers, along with an abundance of encouragement and positive commentary on the scope of talent in our small community. We look forward to our artists using the lessons learned from Deborah and Stacey to take future performances to the next level.

We had a few unique aspects to the festival this year. One of the most popular performances was given by a resident of Outlook's Long Term Care Home, **Keith Johnson**. Keith's rousing rendition of the cowboy poem *Bet at the Bar* was an absolute inspiration to all present. Adjudicator Deborah Buck noted that our voices usually lose power as we age, but that Keith's performance was a wonderful exception to that notion. At 81 years old, he gave all the performers something to aspire to. Also new to this year's festival was the donation of a beautiful handmade inverted treble clef quilt to be raffled off. The quilt was made and donated by our recording secretary, Cathy McPhail. Raffle tickets were sold during the week of performances at all venues, and the draw was made on April 6 at the conclusion of the Festival Finale. Proceeds will go towards the scholarship fund.

We have the utmost gratitude to the volunteers who make the festival possible. Over 300 hours of time were invested by committee members and community members to plan and execute the 2025 season. The commitment of music teachers to festival performances cannot be underestimated. 20 teachers entered their

students this year. We had a total of 211 entries, and the number of participants in festival classes was 450. This includes children, adults, groups such as duets, trios, choirs, choral speaking classes, bands, handbell choir and school classes. We had a total of 1563 people attend the 14 sessions of festival (including the Finale), increasing our audience numbers from 2024 by over 500 people.

61 scholarships were awarded to participants, at a total value of just over \$3500. These scholarships are made possible by the generous donations of community businesses, individuals, churches and organizations. This support encourages our young people to continue their musical and performing arts journeys and fosters the cultural enrichment of our community.

We extended congratulations and wished the best of luck to our participants who qualified for provincial competition: **LCBI Concert Choir, Isabella Theoret, Kisha Kamanzi and Abby Calvin.**

Our festival committee members are Cathy McPhail, Krystal LeBlanc, Leslie Hicks, Conny Behenna, Kristy Ledene-Johnson, Melissa Theoret, Meagan Anthony and Amber Turton. This was the 43rd year for the Outlook and District Festival of Music, and if this year is any indication, our community can be assured that we will be celebrating the arts for many years to come

*Submitted by Amber Turton,
Social Media/Promotions*





Parkland Music Festival (Canora) **April 22 & 23, 2025**

We had a successful music festival in Canora. Hosting over the Easter break from April 22-23 was our only option. Our piano is housed at our local high school and the new principal did not want to interrupt classes to have our festival during school hours. We met many times and to no avail. As a committee we agreed next time to have a presence of more people to approach the school, and possibly even the school board, as we do think there would be much more involvement from school bands and choruses.

We had 79 entries this year, mostly of piano with only 2 flute entries. Our adjudicator was Allison Luff from Regina. With a committee of 4 people we were busy throughout to make sure everything was smooth. We were small but mighty. As usual we received a lot of community support and nearly every entrant walked away with a scholarship. There is discussion from some of the committee members that this will be their last year so we do not have high hopes for hosting come 2027. There would have to be more community involvement, and it would be nice to see us hosting at a different date other than a school break so we can see our numbers go up.



Potashville Music Festival **(Langenburg)** **March 17 to 19, 2025**

The 55th Annual Potashville Music Festival was held in Langenburg this year from March 17-19. We were pleased to have 109 entries from the communities of Langenburg, Esterhazy, Churchbridge and surrounding areas in band, choir, piano, voice, spoken word and strings. This has been our highest number of entries

since 2019 and an increase of almost 35 entries from 2024. We have been working to increase our entries since COVID-19 pandemic and this was another positive step in that direction. We were also pleased to have increased the number of full bands participating in our festival. One of the negative impacts, though, was that it reduced the amount of time our adjudicator had to spend with each group as we needed to work around bus and school schedules. This has led us to some discussion on how we can improve our band adjudications in the future.

We were very fortunate to have Sarah Clark Gregory as our vocal, spoken word, and piano adjudicator and Stewart Smith as our band adjudicator. They were both very knowledgeable in their respective areas of expertise and most importantly, were very encouraging and positive with our participants. As a committee, we appreciated their support for our music festival and so did our participants.

We were treated to many well-prepared performances - the culmination of hard work and practice. This is the reason we continue to bring the music festival to our communities; we aspire to help our young performers develop their talents.

My thanks to several groups of people who made this festival possible:

- To every participant for being willing to try something new to showcase their talents.
- To the local teachers and accompanists for working with our performers to produce a quality performance.
- To the parents of these participants who encourage and support their children to practice and to enter this festival. To our adjudicators, Sarah Clark Gregory and Stewart Smith, who were both a pleasure to work with and who shared their love of music with the audience and the participants.



- The Town of Langenburg who allow us to use the community hall for the entire festival; Langenburg Central School who welcome us into their school to host the full band sessions.
- To Saskatchewan Lotteries whose valuable funding allows us to continue each year.
- To the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association who continually provide guidance and support to me and to the committee.
- To the Family and Friends Foundation and to Nutrien for their grants to support our festival
- To Shannon McIntyre who provides her guidance and support each year to ensure we have consistency from one community to the next.
- Finally, thank you to the Potashville Music Festival committee who are a small but mighty group of people who come together to ensure this festival is still a vital part of our community. No words can express how much I appreciate their help and support.

We had several district winners this year: **Anthony Glitz** and **Arthur Glitz** in woodwind, **Liam Stevenson** and **Sophia Bittner** in piano, and the **Esterhazy Senior Choir**. We are hoping that this festival has inspired others to work towards this goal.

We would like to thank our local communities for their gracious support through donations and by providing scholarships. We look forward to passing on the torch to Churchbridge next year as they host from March 6-14 in 2026.

*Respectfully submitted,
Lynette Kaminski, President
Potashville Music Festival @ Langenburg*



Prairie Sunset Music Festival (Kerrobert)

April 13 to 16, 2025

Festival was held from April 13-16. Our Festival of Stars was held Thursday, April 17, 2025 with thirty-one performances and was enjoyed by a large audience.

Our adjudicators were Heather Godden Waldner (piano), Morgan Layton (vocal/speech) and Scott McKnight (instrumental). We had a total of 151 entries from 329 participants (school groups and handbell choir included).

Advancing to Provincial Finals:

Eliana Bakanec - instrumental; Canada West piano and three piano classes

Liné Linde - Canada West speech, musical theatre and classical voice; three spoken word; six musical theatre and voice classes

Brooke Bruce - Canada West musical theatre, classical voice; five musical theatre and voice classes

Elias Bakanec - musical theatre class

Mariah Bakanec - instrumental class

Rhett Bruce - piano class

We are very proud and excited that so many provincial recommendations came out of our festival! Liné continued on to Canada West representing PSMF in classical voice and speech, and Eliana represented PSMF in piano.

The committee was happy to see the schools from all three communities participate with many entries even up to the high school level. We appreciated having a strings adjudicator for instrumental as our students are primarily cello and guitar. The adjudicator was able to pass on helpful tips to the students.



The Kerrobert Court House was a popular venue as it brings together the community in many ways. Local artist Victoria Knorr had artwork on display which was a nice addition.

Our festival had revenue of \$11,859.53 and expenses of \$10,714.79 for a profit of \$1,144.74. We are expecting a grant from Luseland Rec Board for \$300. We have agreed to pay partial registration fees totalling \$375.00 for Line Linde and Eliana Bakanec for their Canada West entries.

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

Respectfully submitted by Jackie Golden, President



Prince Albert Music Festival March 3 to 21, 2025

The Prince Albert Music Festival was one to go down in our history books. We faced a challenging reality of not having a Festival Coordinator in place. Our efforts to find a new coordinator had initially resulted in a promising board member to take the position, but due to a work conflict, our potential festival coordinator was unable to take on the position. As a board, we decided that for this festival year, we would try to split up the responsibilities among the board. This had varying success. A major challenge came when our advertising coordinator ended up needing to step down, due to some personal challenges that prevented her from being an active board member, and of course the realities of board members having their regular work and personal responsibilities, regular festival committee responsibilities, with the new responsibilities on top...made for some seriously challenging times. However, thanks to team work and other board members stepping

in to help one another, both in the festival preparation and in the carrying out of the festival, we were able to host and run a successful festival for the youth in Prince Albert.

Our committee for the 2025 festival year included Julie Abbs, Eric Bews, Colleen Bowen, Lauren Depadua, Donna Kreiser, Karen Langlois, Lauren Lohneis, Charlene Tebbutt and Jordana Thiessen. Jordana Thiessen was the Prince Albert Music Festival Association representative at the SMFA AGM.

Our total number of registrants was 1,204, in 258 entries. We had participants in each of the following disciplines: piano, voice (including solos, duets and trios), choir, musical theatre, instrumental and band. Piano was our first discipline, with Kathleen Gable adjudicating all levels of piano. Nick Fanner was our second adjudicator, for the instrumental discipline. Our third discipline was all of our vocal categories: voice, choral and musical theatre all adjudicated by Ron de Jager. The final discipline was band adjudicated by Daryl McKinnon.

Our adjudicators awarded 107 scholarships, totaling \$8,200 with the following amounts in each discipline:

Piano: \$2,500 (28 scholarships)
Vocal/choir/musical theater: \$2,450
(39 scholarships)
Instrumental: \$1,350 (21 scholarships)
Band: \$1,900 (19 scholarships)

These donations are possible because of the generous donations of individuals, families and organizations. The Butler Family Foundation never wants an ad in the program, but their generosity is amazing; in fact, our adjudicator wasn't able to award \$200 of the money from The Butler Family Foundation, as we did not have enough competitors! In total, they donated \$1,575.

The Malcom J. Jenkins Family Foundation does an awe-inspiring amount for our community, including our festival, with \$1,000 donated for scholarships.



Of course, we could not continue on with our festival without the ongoing endowment left us from the Kiwanis Club of Prince Albert, whose chapter has folded, but generously made arrangements for us to continue to receive financial support.

The Optimist Club of Prince Albert and so many small businesses and individuals made a wonderful impact on our ability to award scholarships. Several small businesses and some school boards also supported us financially by purchasing ad space within our program.

Our festival did not do much active fundraising this year, due to not having a committee member in that position, so we had a significant loss in patronage donations this year (\$920 in 2024, to \$165 in 2025). We were able to save a significant amount of money by having our program be primarily digitally accessible, using two venues for free of charge, and the MFS subscription was lower. However, other expenses increased, including adjudicator fees, and the cost of accommodations. Total revenue was \$12,423.89 and total expenses were \$13,638.29. We plan to put more effort into finding new patrons in the way of individuals and corporate donors, possibly increasing registration fees, or having a session cost. We will look for ways to decrease expenses, such as lowering our mileage payout to be the SMFA recommendation.

This year we did not have a festival-wide grand concert, and our awards concerts were for individual disciplines, with the exception of bands and instrumentals, which share an awards concert.

We were so privileged to hear from some incredible young musicians, ranging from young beginners, to those graduating high school. Our youngest performer in instrumentals was not even old enough to be in band yet! Her flute had a bend in it, to allow her the ability to reach all of the keys. Although we did not have many senior piano participants, those we did hear from had spectacular

performances that captured the attention of the audience. They were absolutely incredible! We were able to hear from some vocalists who were recommended to go to Provincials as well- absolutely stunning performances.

District winners for choir were **Ecole Vickers School Choir; Carlton Comprehensive School Choir; Resonate Choir; Big Noise Choir.**

Vocal Soloist district winners were **Tori Korczak; Alex Rensberry; Tazana Nilson; Adrianna Kowalski; Sara Veith; Elizabeth Chamberlain; Cohen Cantin; Leigha Dunn.**

Instrumental district winners were **Chord Fehr**, on bass clarinet; **Cobain Roos** on trumpet; **Tiana Smith** on guitar.

As always, it is a great honour to be a part of music festival and in helping the young musicians in our community have the opportunity to perform and receive quality adjudications.

Submitted by Jordana Thiessen, President

Qu'Appelle Valley Festival (Fort Qu'Appelle) May 1 & 3, 2025

This year our committee was comprised of: Jillian Andrychuk (Chairperson and Entry Secretary), Kristen Martin (Treasurer), Cindy Focht (Recording Secretary), and Kari Verhoog.

We hosted our festival over two days. On Thursday, May 1, we hosted the band, choir, instrumental and string entries at Valley Alliance Church. We had one choir entry, 7 band entries, 9 string entries, 2 duets, and 3 instrumental solos. Two of the solos did not perform. The start was delayed due to the late arrival of the bands, but we were able to get back on track. The adjudicator, Tom Hearn, was very flexible about making the necessary accommodations to adjust the schedule.



Piano, vocal, and musical theatre classes were held on Saturday, May 3 at St. Andrew's United Church. We had 31 piano entries. Gillian Rice adjudicated. She made the most of having lots of time in each session and provided excellent feedback to each entrant, often bringing them up the piano.

\$630 in scholarships were awarded across band, instrumental, and piano. This is a decrease from what was awarded last year. **Jayden Wang** advanced to Provincial Finals in 4 classes and won one class. We held our awards concert on Sunday, May 4 and 58 people attended. Everyone in attendance agreed it was an enjoyable concert.

Fundraising efforts were focused on applying for grants. Thanks are given to the following sponsors: SaskEnergy, MidSummer's Arts Festival, Beta Sigma Phi, and Prairie Coop.

Our expenses were close to \$2400 and revenue was near \$2500 for a total profit of about \$100.

Submitted by Jillian Andrychuk, Chairperson

Quill Plains Music Festival (Wynyard)

April 6 to 10, 2025

The 2025 Quill Plains Music Festival was held in Wynyard from Sunday, April 6 to Thursday, April 10. Venues for the festival included the Grace-Aarnes Lutheran Church (piano and final concert), the United Church (voice, spoken word, musical theatre, choir, choral speech, and guitar and strings) and the Wynyard Elementary School gymnasium (band, woodwinds, brass, and percussion). We are grateful for the support of our community in allowing us to use these venues. We extend a thank you to Laureen Kells, our Saskatchewan Music Festival Board Member Liaison, for attending our music festival and for bringing greetings to our final concert and award ceremony.

Adjudicators included Gail Fry (voice, spoken word, musical theatre, choir, choral speech); Kevin Ackerman (strings, guitar, woodwinds, brass, percussion, band); and Bonnie Nicholson (piano). Under the guidance of our adjudicators, we awarded scholarships totalling \$3490 which were generously donated by individuals, businesses, organizations and services groups from our participating and surrounding communities. These awards were presented at our final concert and awards ceremony on Friday, April 11 where we enjoyed an evening of memorable performances. Congratulations to **Jasmine Bolt, Noah Christensen, Isaac Code, Elizabeth Ruetz** and **Emily Ruetz**, who advanced to Provincial Finals.

Planning for the Wynyard Branch of the Quill Plains Music Festival began in October 2024 followed by additional meetings held throughout the following months. Executive and committee positions include: Laurie Froehlich (President), Donna Hermiston (Corresponding Secretary), Bonita Reeve (Treasurer), Jennifer Melnychuk (Entry Secretary), Donna Hermiston and Laurie Froehlich (Program Secretaries), Marsha Barteski-Hoberg, Linda Burns, and Rosellen Bjarnason (Advisors), Jeff and Laurie Froehlich (Volunteer Coordinators), Laurie Froehlich and Jennifer Melnychuk (Venues and Equipment), Glen and Claire Bolt (Fundraising Coordinators), Kristi Nylen-Burns and Kim Christensen (Scholarship Committee), Donna Hermiston (Independent Scholarship Committee) and Donna Hermiston, Laurie Froehlich, Bonita Reeve, and Claire Bolt (Adjudicator Liaison and Hospitality). Thank you to our dedicated committee members for their hard work in planning and implementing our festival. We would also like to acknowledge and thank the numerous volunteers and service groups for their acts of service. Your mentorship and service provide our community and youth with a tremendous example of the importance of volunteering. We are grateful for the support of our numerous sponsors and the generous monetary support they provided. Thank you for helping make our festival a success!



Regina Music Festival

April 11 to 17 and April 28 to May 4, 2025

The 2025 Regina Music Festival was held in split weeks, working around the Easter break: April 11-17 and resuming April 28-May 4. We were once again honoured to receive generous support from the G. Murray and Edna Forbes Foundation, administered by the South Saskatchewan Community Foundation (SSCF). We are deeply grateful for their continued commitment as our Festival Sponsor.

As per tradition, our final competitions were held on Sunday, May 4 in the historic and beautifully restored Darke Hall. The afternoon competitions included the disciplines of brass/woodwinds, musical theatre, piano, strings, and voice. Two awards are given-out, MLT- Aikins scholarships as well as the Fleming Award. In the evening, the Regina Central Lions scholarships are awarded, as well as the William Cornish Grand Award. This year, only voice, musical theatre and piano were featured in the evening competition. The performances are taped by Access NOW TV and are broadcast after the festival concludes.

This year we hosted the following adjudicators:
Ryan Purchase – brass, woodwinds, percussion
Stewart Wilkinson – choral
Garry Gable – musical theatre, spoken word
David McIntyre – organ
Sofia Mycyk – piano 1
Nancy Nowosad – piano 2
Leanne Zacharias – strings
Robyn Driedger-Klassen – vocal 1
Betty Allison – vocal 2

In the 2023–24 fiscal year, the Regina Music Festival launched a new marketing and branding campaign, made possible by a grant from the Community Services Recovery Fund. This initiative was designed to boost both registrations and donations by expanding our presence in the community. While registrations

were down slightly this year, donations saw a modest increase. Some areas of fundraising fell short of last year's numbers, but others exceeded expectations, and we ultimately finished the year with a positive bottom line.

Festival 2025 marked the first year under the leadership of our new Production Manager, Allison Luff. With a background in Music and Arts Management, Allison brought a high level of professionalism and skill to the role. Her ability to balance both the strategic "big picture" with the smallest operational details resulted in a more streamlined and well-executed festival. She already has plans underway to enhance Festival 2026, with a focus on efficiency and creating an even more beautiful and rewarding experience for all involved.

Of course, the festival would not be possible without the tireless efforts of our volunteers. The list of thank-you's is long and heartfelt. We are entirely dependent on our team of Board Members, Secretaries, Door Monitors, Proofreaders, Site Managers, and many others. This small army of dedicated individuals shares a single purpose: to make the festival experience enjoyable, educational, and fun for every young musician.

At the heart of the Regina Music Festival is always the performer. We continue to provide opportunities for musicians to learn and grow through public performance and thoughtful, professional adjudication. Our theme, "Growth Through Performance," remains our guiding principle.

Submitted by Susan Gorges, Interim President





Rosetown & District Music Festival March 24 to April 2, 2025

The Rosetown Music Festival celebrated 96 years with performances from March 24 - April 2. The festival runs efficient and smoothly due to a small committee of members that are plentiful in talent and enthusiasm, each of them donating countless hours of their valuable time to organize the Annual Music Festival.

Entries in piano, vocal, choral, musical theatre, spoken word, strings and instrumental were down slightly this year to 221 entries. Piano entries remain strong with four days of classes, but vocal and instrumental entries have dropped significantly. Adjudicators Lynn Ewing, Garry Gable and Gilles Turcotte shared their expertise and love of music with all performers. We will continue to explore ways to improve entries in the vocal, instrumental and school band classes. In December, Brenda Ormsby of Eston promoted spoken word classes with a very well-received presentation at the local elementary school.

The Final Awards Concert on April 2 awarded over \$4600 along with many beautiful trophies and plaques to the young performers. The Most Promising Trophy winners were: **Levin Wiebe** - piano, **Kensie Cowan** - instrumental, **Isabelle Sparks** - vocal and **Madison Rawson** - spoken word.

Students that qualified to represent the Rosetown Music Festival at Provincials were: Piano - **Alexander Schmidt, Levin Wiebe, Kensie Cowan, Grace Reed, Elisha Regragio** and **Kaylee Cowan**

Strings - **Kensie Cowan**

Lieder - **Levin Wiebe & Sophie Regier**

Spoken Word - **Madison Rawson** and **Emmitt Moellenbeck**

Vocal - **Isabelle Sparks**

We are very proud of Levin & Sophia for winning their Lieder Class in Regina!

The Annual Carol Festival that takes place the first Monday of December, continues to be a much anticipated and well attended event in Rosetown, and serves as one of our main fundraisers.

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

*Respectfully submitted,
Claire Seibold, President*



Sand Hills Music Festival (Leader) April 13 & 14, 2025

We are pleased to present the final report for the 2025 Sand Hills Music Festival, held on April 13 and 14. This year marked a new scheduling approach, trialing a Sunday/Monday format. The festival experienced a notable increase in participation, with close to 180 entrants submitting a total of 105 entries, an increase of 35 entries from the previous year.

Spoken word saw strong engagement from Grades 1 through 6 classrooms, highlighting the festival's continued connection with the local school and its role in encouraging young performers.

Adjudication for the 2025 festival was provided by Rebecca Hankins-Vopni. Her evaluations offered participants feedback to support their development.

The festival continues its legacy in the community, thanks to the dedication of volunteers and the generosity of the community. Organizing and executing the festival, along with year-round planning and preparation, required approximately 400 volunteer hours—an impressive testament to the commitment of those involved.

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of local businesses and commitment from many individual donors, the festival awarded \$2,970 in scholarships and entrance awards during the Grand Concert, in addition to covering all the operational costs.

The Grand Concert, held at the Leader Community Hall, once again gave each performer the opportunity to share their work in a celebratory setting, while bringing the community together for an evening of appreciation and socializing.

The Sand Hills Music Festival seeks to not only recognize excellence, but encourage the ongoing performance arts development of youth and appreciation of the arts within the community.

The festival committee continues to explore new ways to support performers of all ages and skill levels. We are so grateful for the ongoing support of sponsors, volunteers, and donors who make this event possible.

As we reflect on the achievements of the 2025 Sand Hills Music Festival, we greatly look forward to building on this momentum in the years ahead.

Submitted by Elizabeth Heatcoat



Sask Valley Music Festival (Waldheim) March 25 to April 2, 2025

Our annual festival this year took place from March 25 to April 2 at Salem Church Waldheim. This was our first chance to be in Waldheim since 2019 due to Covid cancellation in 2020, video submissions only in 2021 then lack of a Waldheim venue due to storm damage. We had 223 entries, back to our average range since before Covid. The BOGO for first entrants entering 2 classes (an idea we borrowed from other festivals, thank you) attracted some new faces. We plan to continue this practice in 2026.

Adjudicators Wayne Toews, Garry Gable and Jhena Dela Cruz were very encouraging to our participants while also suggesting ways to improve. When we had fewer instrumental entries than we had hoped for, Wayne spent some good teaching time with our one band entry and accommodated our request for a violin workshop to fill his day with us. We were proud to have 30 performances recommended to Provincial competition in Regina. 3 of our 5 Canada West entries represented SK at the Canada West Festival in Saskatoon in July: **Mia Gillingham** in 17 & under voice, **Emma Gillingham** in 22 & under spoken word and **Stefan Jones** in 17 & under spoken word.

Since this was our 85th Anniversary, our Awards Concert on April 4 became a wonderful celebration with special balloons, posters, and cupcakes along with our usual fine performances by a variety of participants, awarding of trophies and scholarships, and draws for participant and audience door prizes. 41 awards totaling \$3660 were made possible by our donors to whom we give much thanks for their generosity. **Emma Gillingham** again won our Vocal Rose Bowl, but we were unable to award our Piano Rose Bowl as none of our competitors performed at a grade 9 level. We



are also grateful to local businesses and individuals who donate to support our expenses each year.

We have a very diligent committee with various skills, some financial, some on computers, some visually artistic, some experienced in teaching and adjudicating so they can advise the rest of us. Our fund raising consists of approaching interested individuals in person or by mail to make donations for awards or our general financial needs. Last year Linda Swab, Sanne Gillingham and Patricia Keefe attended the SMFA annual meeting on Zoom. Others attended the online workshops, taking the place of an in-person conference. We found them informative and helpful. While it was easy not to travel and participate from home, we missed the personal connections one makes and the ideas shared at the usual annual conferences.

Festival 2026 will take place in Rosthern between March 17 and 25.

Submitted by Linda Swab, President



Saskatoon Music Festival **March 18 to 19, March 31 to April 12, and** **April 28 to May 4, 2025**

The 2025 Saskatoon Music Festival was a well-attended and well-executed event! Spanning one and a half months, our programming got started on March 18 with choirs, which wrapped up on March 19. Dianne Gryba (SK) was our wonderful choir adjudicator and saw 10 groups during her two days. At the end of march Mark Ward (MB), Nadine Ghiglione (SK), and Glen Gillis (SK) joined us for our band week. We were very pleased to have 89 bands participate in the week, which was a significant jump from last year when so many had to cancel due to STF job action.

The following week, Marion Abbott (NS) joined us at the Salvation Army Temple for Kiwanis Musical Theatre, which was held from April 6 to 12. We had 271 entries in this discipline, which is exactly the same as in 2024! The Kiwanis Club of Saskatoon sponsors this week of music, covering everything from volunteer assignments to piano tuning to building rental. We can never thank them enough for everything they do for our musical theatre program.

Our general festival was held from April 28 to May 4 at the University of Saskatchewan. Here again our gratitude cannot be overstated. The Department of Music continues to lend us their space at no charge, which allows us to take full advantage of their excellent venues and beautiful grand pianos. We had 7 adjudicators join us this week: Nora Wilson (MB; brass, woodwind, percussion – 87 entries), Chris MacRae (AB; senior voice – 297 entries, three fewer than in 2024), Melissa Wood (SK; junior voice and spoken word – 2 entries in spoken word, decrease from last year), Han Ding (AB; senior piano – 778 registrations in piano, nearly 100 more than in 2024), Laurel Teichroeb (SK; intermediate piano), Cherith Alexander (SK; junior piano), and Mary-Elizabeth Brown (QC; strings/guitar – 180 registrations, slight decrease from 2024).

Our adjudicators worked for a total of 61 days over these two months of festival. Our committee of 16 people put in countless hours of work in the lead up to festival, and our on-site volunteer team put in hundreds more hours during our events. We had a total of 44 volunteers give at least 900 hours of their time – and this number is doubtless too low of an estimate.

This year we were able to award \$24,615 in scholarships to deserving competitors in the festival. These funds come from community groups, businesses, and individuals, and we are grateful for the ongoing support of all of these



donors. A large part of these funds are awarded at our final Kinsmen Awards Competition, which were held on May 4 this year. This is our final competition with senior students from 5 individual disciplines (strings, piano, classical voice, musical theatre, solo instruments) competing for top prizes of \$1,250 and runner-up prizes of \$750 in each discipline. As the name suggests, the top prizes for all disciplines except musical theatre are provided by the Kinsmen Club of Saskatoon, who have been funding these awards for over 50 years. The top prize in musical theatre is supplied by the Kiwanis Club. We continue to send committee members to the SMFA AGM. In 2024, Meaghan Dormuth (President), Karen White (Past President) and Mariel Unger (Coordinator) attended the Zoom meeting. This year we're looking forward to attending the conference and AGM once again! We were thrilled to see many first-time participants at our Saskatoon Music Festival events this year. It's wonderful to see the musical community of Saskatoon continue to grow and we are excited to continue to be part of it.

Respectfully submitted, Mariel Unger, Coordinator



Spiritwood & District Music Festival April 14 & 15, 2025

The 32nd Annual Spiritwood and District Music Festival was held on April 14 and 15 at the Spiritwood Civic Centre.

We were very pleased to have entries increase to 103 this year, up from only 68 last year. Entries in piano, voice, musical theatre, speech arts and school entries were enjoyed by all present. Our adjudicator was Anna Marie Bekolay of Saskatoon.

The two-day competition culminated in a Gala Awards Concert, held on the evening of April 15. The 21 performers were all chosen by the adjudicator. 30 different scholarships were

awarded, totalling \$1400. The Outstanding Performer of the Festival was **Richard Ilioukevitch**. Richard received a \$100 scholarship donated by Hujber's Market on Main as well as a plaque donated by the Spiritwood & District Lions Club. He also advanced to compete at the Provincial Music Festival in Regina.

We are forever grateful to all the volunteers and sponsors who make this festival possible. Every year students come away challenged and inspired to work harder.

We are also grateful to local artists who added a special touch by submitting works of art to be displayed during the festival. A big thank you goes out to the teachers for their hard work in preparing students, parents who encouraged their children, and all the people who came to listen to these budding artists perform. In all, we can declare the 2025 Spiritwood and District Music Festival to be one of the best ever!

Respectfully submitted, Marjorie Klassen



Swift Current Music Festival April 6 to 10, 2025

The Swift Current Music Festival ran from April 6-10, with a Gala and Awards event April 27.

Our festival was adjudicated by Laurel Teicroeb, Sherry Sproule and Nora Wilson. All three adjudicators were well loved and provided excellent feedback to the entrants and made our festival a wonderful experience.

We had 189 entries (before cancellations) in piano, voice, musical theatre, choir, band, strings and band instruments.

At our Gala event we held our Rose Bowl Competition, in which adjudicator-nominated competitors from each discipline compete for an



overall award. This was adjudicated by Janet Gieck and was won by **Michael Liu** (piano).

Our festival had multiple district winners that advanced to the Provincial competition. They were: **Prairie Spirit Chamber Singers, SCCHS Vocal Jazz Ensemble, SCCHS Chamber Singers, Vaishu Bhathala Venkata, Sophie Regier, Levin Wiebe, Erika Olson, Michael Liu, Clare Meacham, Piper Arnsten, Alexandra Easton and Faye Sheng. Sophie Regier and Levin Wiebe** were winners at Provincials (Lieder) and **Sophie Regier** won in Musical Theatre and advanced to the Canada West Performing Arts Festival in Saskatoon.

Our small but mighty committee consisted of Rachael Eliason, Theresa Soper, Limin Liu, Laura Thibeault and Daria Potapova. Because of our small numbers, fundraising was limited this year and consisted of reaching out to past sponsors. In spite of this, we had great community support from local businesses, individuals and service groups. We were able to award \$4800 in scholarships to deserving musicians. We also gave small awards (non-monetary) to our first time entrants as a means of encouragement.

We would like to thank the community of Swift Current for their continued support, and the music teachers from Swift Current and surrounding area for encouraging their students to participate. We hope that we will be able to build on this year and continue to grow our festival.

Twin Rivers Music Festival (Dalmeny & Martensville)

March 13 to 23, 2025

Twin Rivers Music Festival 2025 is now in the books as a successful festival in many ways. In preparation for festival, 4 committee meetings were held which included 12 very involved members with various responsibilities.

A total of 349 registrants from 142 participants enrolled in voice, musical theatre, spoken word and junior and senior piano. The dates were March 13-21 and Awards Concert on March 23.

Our first three days of vocal were held in Martensville. Our adjudicator gave a lot of helpful advice to our musicians.

Our piano venue was again at the Community Church in Dalmeny where we enjoyed hearing our junior students from Sunday afternoon to Thursday morning, with senior piano performances taking place on Thursday afternoon, evening and ending on Friday afternoon. Here each of our students benefited from positive and constructive comments from the adjudicators.

With the recent change in age divisions we saw the junior division becoming much larger with large attendances. However, our senior division is now much smaller. This also negatively affected our awards in the junior division being spread out across a larger number of students. Our teachers have also voiced their concerns with the syllabus changes and would certainly welcome reverting to the previous divisions, or at least to single age categories. The huge gap in junior piano between youngest and oldest (6-13) speaks for itself.

We send out huge thanks to our many volunteers for their time and effort. Many hours were spent by our TRMF team implementing and presenting a lovely program. Huge thanks to everyone!

Our festival wrapped up on Sunday afternoon with a great attendance at our Awards Concert where we all were encouraged with stellar performances and the presentation of about \$3,000 in awards. We also are pleased to see 11 students advance to Provincial Finals and 3 to the Provincial level of Canada West.

Submitted by Doreen Benson, President



Unity Music Festival

April 7 to 10, 2025

Our 2025 year actually starts in December when we have our Annual Community Christmas Carol Festival. We not only have our students performing but community members as well. We always have a large and appreciative audience.

Our Music Festival this year had 153 entries – seven of which were school entries. This was exciting as ever since COVID we have been trying again to get interest in that area. Our adjudicators were Sarah Clark Gregory for voice, schools and spoken word and Corinne Groff for piano and woodwind. Both adjudicators served very well to encourage our students. We gave out 38 scholarships and awards with \$3500 awarded. Seven participants were recommended to Provincials: **Eden Fawell, Marishka Mauthe, Avyne McLean, Clara Reiche, Sadie Risling, Aimiee Vold and Mayla Williams**. We are excited that **Clara Reiche** won first in Spoken Word Prose (13 years & under) and was chosen to advance to Canada West for Speech Arts and Drama (13 years & under).

Emily Melnyk was our Most Outstanding Piano Performer and **Thea Witzaney** was this year's Most Outstanding Vocal/Musical Theatre Performer. Our Volunteer of the Year Award for the committee went to our President Morag Riddell.

Our next Festival will be our 100th! A celebration is being planned and we are hoping that some of our former students will be able to return and share their talent with us.



Vanguard & District Music Festival

March 17 to 19, 2025

This year we had a change in venue as the Vanguard Catholic Church closed its doors. We were pleased to hold the majority of our festival at the Vanguard Health Centre. Although the acoustics were better at the Catholic Church, we benefited from better accessibility and a more comfortable atmosphere. We were thankful that the Vanguard Community School hosted us for an hour during our band and woodwind performances.

Some highlights from our year:

- Piano workshop with Peggy L'Hoir Nov. 2
- Five first time participants ranging in age from 3 to 14

Our festival was held on March 17 & 18. We had entries in piano (47), vocal, musical theatre, woodwinds, strings, and speech. Our adjudicator was Lori Potter and we appreciated her experience and expertise. She was well prepared, easy to work with, and clearly showed her love of music to our entrants. We are pleased to have three District Winners this year: **Theo Gieck** (musical theatre), **Kenna McComish** (piano) and **Thaliya Tatlow** (piano). All of our entrants worked hard to learn their pieces and it showed in their performances.

At our Awards Night (March 19), we gave out 28 awards and listened to 16 performances in piano, violin, vocal, clarinet and speech arts. Our Puckett Memorial Scholarship was given to **Kenna McComish** as an acknowledgement of her outstanding performances this year.

This year we made some adjustments to our awards to reflect changes made to the syllabus, but also to bring more balance to amounts given based on age. Due to finances, we will put a pause on workshops and will seek to increase sponsorship in our area.



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

8 Committee members scrambling
9 Spoken Word classes projecting
12 Community volunteers working
15 Teachers preparing
20 Scholarship Awards a-given
21 Donors donating
33 Piano players plunking
56 Entries submitted
Countless hours of preparing (for teachers, students & committee members)
AAAND 163 Jubilant performers!
(Please tell me you were singing "The 12 Days of Christmas" as you read this!)

Submitted by Kelly Stein

Watrous & District Music Festival **April 15 & 16, 2025**

Another Watrous District Music Festival has come and gone. New in the program was a written tribute of each of the Memorial Award family members. It was very touching to read their musical backgrounds and the families' desires to carry on their legacy of music.

Also new was the donation from a local restaurant, in addition to funds given towards the operating of the festival, of 2 gift certificates which were decided through a draw from the names of the solo performers.

Awards in the amount of \$1450 were presented at Watrous Elementary School with Imperial School receiving news of their awards by Zoom the morning following the festival.

On the two days of Festival, Watrous Festival procured:

- 1 Multi-faceted adjudicator
- 2 School bands booming
- 4 Full sessions swinging
- 6 Voices singing
- 7 Musical Theatres performing

Weyburn Rotary Music Festival **March 10 to 20, 2025**

This was Weyburn's 67th year for Music Festival. The piano portion was March 10-13 and our adjudicator was Lori Potter. Vocal was held March 16-18 with Spencer McKnight as the adjudicator and band was March 19-20 with Mark Zawerucha as adjudicator.

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

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

Benjamin Sawatzky, Ben Jebelli, Sydnee Thiessen, Camila Renkas, Felicia Deal, Judah Sawatzky and Lily Penner were recommended to Provincial Finals in piano. In vocal, **Alexandra Jose** was recommended for Provincials.

Submitted by Brenda Milatz



Yorkton Music Festival

March 10 to 21, 2025

The 2025 Yorkton Music Festival was held from March 10 to March 21 with a Hi-Lights concert March 23. We had a total of 317 entries perform in choral, vocal, musical theatre, spoken word, band, strings and piano sessions (59 band, 171 piano, 87 vocal, choral and spoken word). Thanks to all our adjudicators: Daryl McKinnon (band and strings), Peggy L'Hoir (piano), Dianne Gryba (vocal, musical theatre, spoken word and choral).

Congratulations to our District Winners who advanced to Provincial Finals: **SHHS Choir** (choral), **SHHS Chamber Choir** (choral), **Sophia Stav** (vocal), **Taylynn Novak** (spoken word), **Kingsley Herman** (musical theatre), **Charis Winslow** (vocal), **Parker Hollinger** (vocal), **Kira Eagles** (musical theatre), **Ava Breitreuz** (piano), **Evia McDowell** (piano), **Janelle Gotengo** (piano), **Minchan Kim** (piano), **Jevon Keyowski** (piano), **Mason Lechner** (piano).

We held our Yorkton Music Festival Hi-Lights concert and Awards Ceremony at St. Andrew's United Church on March 23. It was a wonderful afternoon of many fine performances. Our adjudicators did a great job selecting a variety of performances for our final concert.

We are very grateful to all the donors who continue to support Yorkton Music Festival. It is through the generosity of our patrons and scholarship donors that we are able to host such a fine festival and award so many of our participants with awards. These donations are truly appreciated. The hard-working executive is also much appreciated. Each member of the executive knows their jobs and performs them well. I hope there are many generous people who step up in future Festivals to continue to keep such a fine festival going.

Submitted by Melissa Moen, President

To be a volunteer, it takes...

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

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





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

Member Festival	2025 Entries	2024 Entries	2023 Entries	2022 Entries	2021 Entries	Solo Fees	Num. Adj	Total Awards	Vol. #'s	Vol. Hours	Audience
Assiniboia	128	147	138	99	0	\$20	1	2,525	30	395	476
Battlefords	307	355	358	233	209	\$15	3	7,900	26	600	1170
Biggar	264	203	211	193	170	\$15	3	3,025	20	260	1000
Borderland	83	81	68	87	67	\$15	2	1,800	12	310	793
Carnduff	121	0	0	72	98	\$15	2	3,950	60	813	578
Central Sask	146	132	104	96	0	\$5	1	1,875	11	300	652
Estevan	437	483	409	277	251	\$20	5	9,625	40	900	1,554
Eston	137	117	103	0	44	\$15	1	2,175	31	300	390
Gravelbourg	102	138	127	146	162	\$12	2	2,425	20	626	345
Humboldt	311	267	268	212	168	\$18	3	2,775	35	300	1018
Kindersley	281	272	278	195	172	\$15	3	3,453	17	315	817
Kipling	141	101	69	0	0	\$0	1	3,800	90	650	610
La Ronge	121	115	132	124	109	\$15	2	2,470	24	150	310
Lafleche	129	174	220	133	210	\$15	3	4,500	31	1450	400
Lanigan	230	232	252	229	169	\$12	3	2,560	37	490	715
Last Mountain	113	90	85	0	0	\$10	1	1,715	23	370	618
Lloydminster	452	542	531	387	372	\$18	4	7,475	91	730	1500
Mainline	131	112	147	123	92	\$20	2	1,665	13	420	674
Maple Creek	94	110	89	61	44	\$11	1	1,550	26	265	245
Meadow Lake	166	166	166	110	108	\$15	2	2,100	26	416	1,187
Melfort	215	184	254	87	212	\$15	3	2,715	26	420	633
Moose Jaw	415	311	324	306	299	\$20	5	8,920	48	750	1,200
Moosomin	181	147	161	151	137	\$10	2	2,185	21	425	570
Nipawin	226	214	211	0	254	\$16	3	4,515	23	300	600
Outlook	211	150	145	0	0	\$10	2	3,600	25	350	1563
Parkland	80	111	64	0	0	\$15	1	1,375	11	70	160
Potashville	109	78	41	25	0	\$12	2	3,650	10	560	1070
Prairie Sunset	151	198	160	109	101	\$15	3	3,450	23	320	949
Prince Albert	258	272	174	85	92	\$20	4	8,200	23	30	445
Qu'Appelle Valley	53	65	49	24	0	\$15	2	639	8	100	222
Quill Plains	349	263	230	213	202	\$12	3	3,490	34	1,382	740
Redvers	0	0	0	0	0	\$0	0	0	0	0	0
Regina	807	842	745	741	724	\$34	9	23,475	83	1,700	1,516
Rosetown	221	254	236	192	154	\$15	3	3,925	19	350	1,261
Sand Hills	105	70	59	37	38	\$15	1	2,970	21	372	450
Sask Valley	223	236	168	137	159	\$15	3	3,660	23	1,000	1,363
Saskatoon	1,713	1,669	1,699	1,271	1,024	\$36	12	24,615	44	900	5,145
Spiritwood	103	68	83	0	0	\$15	1	1,400	27	357	559
Swift Current	184	148	141	90	0	\$15	3	4,800	45	500	798
Twin Rivers	349	319	334	215	180	\$15	3	2,945	39	784	1,455
Unity	153	161	153	121	168	\$15	2	3,500	44	850	1,120
Vanguard	80	80	67	0	0	\$10	1	1,115	8	150	342
Watrous	57	64	35	0	42	\$20	1	1,550	23	335	250
Weyburn	295	294	237	153	209	\$15	3	7,100	50	300	450
Yorkton	317	334	270	258	188	\$16	3	5,200	48	685	1,729
Total	10749	10,369	9,795	6,992	6,440		120	\$198,357	1389	23050	39642



Provincial Finals Report

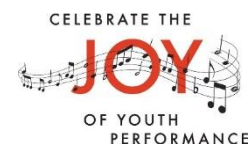
From Thursday to Sunday, over 680 performances by winners from 39 of 44 District Music Festivals across Saskatchewan were heard. Choral entries were adjudicated by recording and were announced following the weekend.

The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA), presented the annual Provincial Finals Competitions and the Provincial Level of Canada West Competition at the University of Regina Conservatory of Performing Arts and Darke Hall from May 29 to June 1, 2025. Adjudicators for the competitions were: **Piano:** Michael Oike, MB; **Voice:** Allison Arends, ON; **Strings/Guitar:** Joan Barrett, AB; **Brass/Woodwind/Percussion:** Darryl Ferguson, MB; **Musical Theatre:** Darnell Thomas, ON; **Spoken Word:** Susan Duska, AB; **Choral:** Dr. Jamie Hillman, ON.

Prizes of nearly \$28,000 were awarded during the weekend's competitions, the most prestigious being the Garth Beckett/Gustin House Senior Piano Scholarship of \$1,500 for the most promising pianist under age 21 performing senior level repertoire, the Sister Geraldine Boyle Memorial Award of \$1,500 for the best overall pianist in the competition for 17 years & under, and the Joanne Messer Senior Vocal Scholarship of \$800 for the best overall vocalist in the competition for 28 years & under. Additional bursaries will be awarded to competitors participating in the Canada West Performing Arts Festival in Saskatoon in July.

The following were declared Provincial Winners and Runners-Up:

Class 1	Saskatchewan Choral Federation Choral - \$500.....	Ignite Chamber Choir (Regina)
Class 2	Kiwanis Club of Regina-Wascana Inc. Gallagher Mem. Choral - \$500.....	Cantate Senior Choir (Regina)
	Luther College High School Treble Choir (Regina) TIE
Class 87	Saskatchewan Choral Federation School Choral Music - \$500	SHHS Choir (Yorkton)
Class 4	Doris Bircham Memorial Spoken Word Concert Group (17 & u) - \$300.....	Stefan Jones (Sask Valley)
Class 5	Alfredo S. Uy Memorial Spoken Word Poetry/Prose (17 & u) - \$300	Stefan Jones (Sask Valley)
Class 6	Challis Spoken Word Poetry (15 & under) - \$200.....	Isabelle Theoret (Outlook)
Class 7	Spoken Word Prose (15 & under) - \$200	Noah Christensen (Quill Plains)
Class 8	Spoken Word Poetry (13 & under) - \$200.....	Liné Linde (Prairie Sunset)
Class 9	Spoken Word Prose (13 & under) - \$200	Clara Reiche (Unity)
Class 10	Goodfellow Memorial Voice Oratorio (28 & under) - \$300	Danielle Daunheimer (Regina)
Class 11	Goodfellow Memorial Voice Operatic (28 & under) - \$300	Paulina Salisbury (Saskatoon)
Class 12	Goodfellow Memorial Voice French Art Song (28 & under) - \$300.....	Danielle Daunheimer (Regina)
Class 13	Henri Loiselle Memorial Vocal Concert Group (28 & under) - \$300.....	Hannah Salen (Saskatoon)
Class 14	Karen Frandsen Voice Canadian Music (28 & under) - \$300.....	Emma Gillingham (Sask Valley)
Class 15	Goodfellow Memorial Voice Recital (28 & under) - \$300.....	Emma Gillingham (Sask Valley)
Class 16	SRMTA-Regina Branch Voice Concert Group (22 & under) - \$300	Danielle Daunheimer (Regina)
Class 17	Heather Laxdal Memorial Voice Recital (22 & under) - \$300.....	Nora Rittinger (Saskatoon)
Class 18	Heather Laxdal Memorial Voice Lieder (28 & under) - \$150.....	Sophie Regier (Rosetown)
Class 18	Whelan Memorial Piano Lieder (28 & under) - \$150.....	Levin Wiebe (Rosetown)
Class 19	Regina Music Festival Voice Concert Group (17 & under) - \$300.....	Mia Gillingham (Sask Valley)
Class 20	A. L.'s Music Voice Folk Song/Ballad (17 & under) - \$300	Natalie Warren (Moose Jaw)
Class 21	Covey Voice Recital (17 & under) - \$300.....	Sydney Kelln (Saskatoon)
Class 22	Music for Young Children Voice Folk Song/Ballad (15 & under) - \$200	Kathleen Booker (Regina)
Class 23	Marilyn Whitehead Voice Recital (15 & under) - \$200	Sadie Gryba (Saskatoon)
Class 24	Music for Young Children Voice Folk Song/Ballad (13 & under) - \$200	Leah Hammond (Regina)
Class 25	Dianne Gryba Voice Recital (13 & under) - \$200.....	Kadence Trachuk (Lloydminster)





	Joanne Messer Senior Voice (28 years & under) Scholarship - \$800	Danielle Daunheimer (Regina)
Class 26	Musical Theatre Ballad Classic/Modern (28 & under) - \$300.....	John Cody (Saskatoon)
Class 26	Runner-up - \$150.....	Nora Rittinger (Saskatoon)
Class 27	Ursan Family Musical Theatre Ballad Contemporary (28 & under) - \$300	Nora Rittinger (Saskatoon)
Class 27	Runner-up - \$150.....	John Cody (Saskatoon)
Class 28	Katja Meszaros Mem. MT Up-tempo Classic/Modern (28 & under) - \$500....	Nora Rittinger (Saskatoon)
Class 28	Runner-up - \$150.....	Forrest Hiebert (Saskatoon)
Class 29	Margaret Caldwell Memorial MT Up-tempo Contemp. (28 & under) - \$300....	Kaleigh Day (Moose Jaw)
Class 29	Runner-up - \$150.....	Paulina Salisbury (Saskatoon)
Class 30	Regan Grant Memorial MT Ballad Classic/Modern (17 & under) - \$300	Isaiah Artavia (Moose Jaw)
Class 30	Runner-up - \$150.....	Natalie Warren (Moose Jaw)
Class 31	Live Fully Productions MT Ballad Contemporary (17 & under) - \$300.....	Natalie Warren (Moose Jaw)
Class 31	Runner-up - \$150.....	Izzy J. Adams (Moose Jaw)
Class 32	Sandra Ryba Mem. MT Up-tempo Classic/Modern (17 & under) - \$300	Sophie Regier (Swift Current)
Class 32	Runner-up - \$150.....	Ella Moskal (Saskatoon)
Class 33	Musical Theatre Up-tempo Contemporary (17 & under) - \$300	Isaiah Artavia (Moose Jaw)
Class 33	Runner-up - \$150.....	Sydney Kelln (Saskatoon)
Class 34	Center Stage Studios MT Ballad Classic/Modern (15 & under) - \$200.....	Asher Brown (Moose Jaw)
Class 34	Runner-up - \$100.....	Sadie Gryba (Saskatoon)
Class 35	Center Stage Studios MT Ballad Contemporary (15 & under) - \$200	Sadie Gryba (Saskatoon)
Class 35	Runner-up - \$100.....	Elizabeth Deans (Moose Jaw)
Class 36	Dorothy Seibold Mem. MT Up-tempo Classic/Modern (15 & under) - \$200 ..	Asher Brown (Moose Jaw)
Class 36	Runner-up - \$100.....	Sydney Hershmiller (Saskatoon)
Class 37	Center Stage Studios MT Up-tempo Contemp. (15 & under) - \$200	Sadie Gryba (Saskatoon)
Class 37	Runner-up - \$100.....	Tessa Macknak (Regina)
Class 38	Krista Brost MT Ballad Classic/Modern (13 & under) - \$200.....	Kadence Trachuk (Lloydminster)
Class 38	Runner-up - \$100.....	Camryn Michener (Moose Jaw)
Class 39	Doris Covey Lazecki MT Ballad Contemporary (13 & under) - \$200	Kadence Trachuk (Lloydminster)
Class 39	Runner-up - \$100.....	Heidi van der Merwe (Regina)
Class 40	Rosetown Festival MT Up-tempo Classic/Modern (13 & u) - \$200	Kadence Trachuk (Lloydminster)
Class 40	Runner-up - \$100.....	Ilyah Brown (Regina)
Class 41	Center Stage Studios MT Up-tempo Contemp. (13 & under) - \$200	Kadence Trachuk (Lloydminster)
Class 41	Runner-up - \$100.....	Jake Loshack (Saskatoon)
Class 42	Arlene Stuart Memorial Piano Bach (28 & under) - \$300.....	Esther Zhu (Saskatoon)
Class 43	Sharon Penner Memorial Piano Sonata (28 & under) - \$300	Avery Guo (Saskatoon)
Class 44	SRMTA Piano Romantic Music (28 & under) - \$300.....	Dustin Nguyen (Regina)
Class 45	Piano French Music (28 & under) - \$300	Dustin Nguyen (Regina)
Class 46	Piano Concerto (28 & under) - \$300.....	Avery Guo (Saskatoon)
Class 47	Piano 20th/21st Century (28 & under) - \$300	not awarded
Class 48	Helen Davidson Memorial Piano Cdn/SK Music (28 & under) - \$300.....	Amy Zhang (Saskatoon)
Class 49	Toppings Family Piano Bach (17 & under) - \$300	Shoshana Miller (Moose Jaw)
Class 50	Dr. Philip Brost Piano Sonata (17 & under) - \$300.....	April Shi (Saskatoon)
Class 51	England & Ferguson Memorial Piano Romantic (17 & under) - \$300	April Shi (Saskatoon)
Class 52	Perspective Festival Piano French Music (17 & under) - \$300.....	Eliana Bakanec (Biggar)
Class 53	Verna Veikle Memorial Piano Concerto (17 & under) - \$300	Boaman Liu (Saskatoon)
Class 54	Piano 20th/21st Century (17 & under) - \$300	Evia McDowell (Yorkton)
Class 55	Hancock Piano Canadian/SK Music (17 & under) - \$300.....	April Shi (Saskatoon)



Class 56	Dr. Thomas Yu Piano Recital (15 & under) - \$200	Jayden Wang (Qu'Appelle Valley)
Class 57	Borderland Festival Piano Canadian/SK Music (15 & under) - \$200	Nirvan Sharma (Saskatoon)
Class 58	Dianne Gryba Piano Recital (13 & under) - \$200.....	Zixuan Zhou (Saskatoon)
Class 59	Jackson Memorial Piano Canadian/SK Music (13 & under) - \$200	Dana Pham (Lloydminster)
Class 60	Anna Klassen Piano Conservatory (Grade 9/10) - \$300.....	Boacus Liu (Saskatoon)
Class 61	Anna Klassen Piano Conservatory (Grade 8) - \$300	Zipeng Wang (Saskatoon)
Class 62	Anna Klassen Piano Conservatory (Grade 6) - \$200	Alvina Sal-ao (Humboldt)
	Garth Beckett/Gustin House Senior Piano Scholarship - \$1,500.....	Dustin Nguyen (Regina)
	Sister Boyle Piano (17 years & under) Scholarship - \$1,500	April Shi (Saskatoon)
Class 63	Fred S. Mendel Memorial Strings Concerto & Sonata (28 & under) - \$300	not awarded
Class 64	Mrs. Clare K. Mendel Memorial Strings Recital (28 & under) - \$300	Elisha Ruo (Saskatoon)
Class 65	Johanna Mitchell Mem. Strings Concerto & Sonata (17 & under) - \$300.....	Xu Zihan (Regina)
Class 66	Robert C. Mitchell Memorial Strings Recital (17 & under) - \$300.....	Robert Yang (Saskatoon)
Class 67	Strings Concerto & Sonata (15 & under) - \$200	Alejandro Gahite (Regina)
Class 68	Regina Music Festival Strings Recital (15 & under) - \$200.....	Mehtab Bath (Saskatoon)
Class 69	Strings Concerto & Sonata (13 & under) - \$200	Vesper Stevenson (Saskatoon)
Class 70	Strings Recital (13 & under) - \$200	Kaia Pas (Saskatoon)
Class 71	Classical Guitar Recital (28 & under) - \$300.....	Tague O'Bright (Moose Jaw)
Class 72	Classical Guitar Concerto (28 & under) - \$300	not awarded
Class 73	Stein Farms Ltd. Classical Guitar Recital (17 & under) - \$300	Felix Lin (Saskatoon)
Class 74	Classical Guitar Concerto (17 & under) Scholarship - \$300.....	not awarded
Class 75	Woodwind Concerto & Sonata (28 & under) - \$300	not awarded
Class 76	Saskatchewan Band Association Woodwind Recital (28 & under) - \$300.....	Anthony Glitz (Potashville)
Class 77	Woodwind Concerto & Sonata (17 & under) - \$300.....	Elise Jackson-Reynolds (Regina)
Class 78	Brost Family Woodwind Recital (17 & under) - \$300	Kayla Andres (Lloydminster)
Class 79	Brass Concerto & Sonata (28 & under) - \$300.....	Andrew Pittman (Saskatoon)
Class 80	Saskatchewan Band Association Brass Recital (28 & under) - \$300.....	Andrew Pittman (Saskatoon)
Class 81	Brass Concerto & Sonata (17 & under) - \$300.....	Mathis Chu (Regina)
Class 82	Brass Recital (17 & under) - \$300	Mathis Chu (Regina)
Class 83	Percussion Concerto & Sonata (28 & under) - \$300.....	not awarded
Class 84	Saskatchewan Band Association Percussion Recital (28 & under) - \$300	Dmitri Masich (Saskatoon)
Class 85	Percussion Concerto & Sonata (17 & under) - \$300	Maira Padberg (Kindersley)
Class 86	Maple Creek Festival Percussion Recital (17 & under) - \$300.....	Kayella Robertson (Saskatoon)

Participants in the Canada West Classes competed at the Provincial Level for the opportunity to represent Saskatchewan at the Canada West Performing Arts Festival in Saskatoon, SK, July 24-26. The following competitors were chosen to advance to Canada West:

Canada West Classical Voice (13 years & under)	Claire Booker (Regina)
Canada West Classical Voice (13 years & under)	Alice Han (Saskatoon)
Canada West Classical Voice (13 years & under)	Liné Linde (Prairie Sunset)
Canada West Classical Voice (17 years & under)	Kathleen Booker (Regina)
Canada West Classical Voice (17 years & under)	Mia Gillingham (Sask Valley)
Canada West Classical Voice (17 years & under)	Sydney Kelln (Saskatoon)
Canada West Classical Voice (22 years & under)	Danielle Daunheimer (Regina)
Canada West Classical Voice (22 years & under)	Hannah Salen (Saskatoon)
Canada West Classical Voice (22 years & under)	Paulina Salisbury (Saskatoon)
Canada West Piano (13 years & under)	Cynthia Gu (Regina)



Canada West Piano (13 years & under)	Boacus Liu (Saskatoon)
Canada West Piano (13 years & under)	Clara Zhang (Saskatoon)
Canada West Piano (17 years & under)	Eliana Bakanec (Prairie Sunset)
Canada West Piano (17 years & under)	Boaman Liu (Saskatoon)
Canada West Piano (17 years & under)	Amy Zhang (Saskatoon)
Canada West Piano (22 years & under)	Avery Guo (Saskatoon)
Canada West Piano (22 years & under)	Esther Zhu (Saskatoon)
Canada West Strings (13 years & under)	Kaia Pas (Saskatoon)
Canada West Strings (13 years & under)	Vesper Stevenson (Saskatoon)
Canada West Strings (17 years & under)	Sophia Tirkajla (Saskatoon)
Canada West Strings (17 years & under)	Robert Yang (Saskatoon)
Canada West Strings (22 years & under)	Elisha Ruo (Saskatoon)
Canada West Woodwind (17 years & under)	Valerie Rollheiser (Lloydminster)
Canada West Brass (17 years & under)	Mathis Chu (Regina)
Canada West Classical Guitar (22 years & under)	Tague O'Bright (Moose Jaw)
Canada West Speech Arts & Drama (13 years & under)	Lola Hickman (Lloydminster)
Canada West Speech Arts & Drama (13 years & under)	Liné Linde (Prairie Sunset)
Canada West Speech Arts & Drama (13 years & under)	Clara Reiche (Unity)
Canada West Speech Arts & Drama (17 years & under)	Stefan Jones (Sask Valley)
Canada West Speech Arts & Drama (17 years & under)	Bria Sifert (Maple Creek)
Canada West Speech Arts & Drama (22 years & under)	Emma Gillingham (Sask Valley)
Canada West Musical Theatre (13 years & under)	Jack Salisbury (Saskatoon)
Canada West Musical Theatre (13 years & under)	Kadence Trachuk (Lloydminster)
Canada West Musical Theatre (13 years & under)	Natalie Simons (Lloydminster)
Canada West Musical Theatre (17 years & under)	Isaiah Artavia (Moose Jaw)
Canada West Musical Theatre (17 years & under)	Sophie Regier (Swift Current)
Canada West Musical Theatre (17 years & under)	Natalie Warren (Moose Jaw)
Canada West Musical Theatre (22 years & under)	Kaleigh Day (Moose Jaw)
Canada West Musical Theatre (22 years & under)	Nora Rittinger (Saskatoon)
Canada West Musical Theatre (22 years & under)	Paulina Salisbury (Saskatoon)
Canada West Community/School Choral (16 years & under)	Luther College High School Treble Choir (Regina)
Canada West Community/School Choral (20 years & under)	SHHS Chamber Choir (Yorkton)

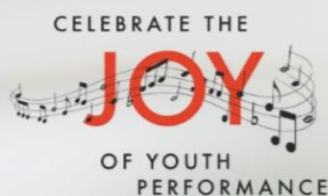
Top: **Dustin Nguyen** accepts the Garth Beckett/Gustin House Senior Piano Scholarship from Michelle Aalders and adjudicator Michael Oike.
 Bottom left: Donor Joanne Messer presents the Sister Boyle Piano Scholarship to **April Shi**.
 Bottom right: **Danielle Daunheimer** accepts the Joanne Messer Senior Vocal Scholarship from adjudicator Allison Arends.





SMFA Scholarship Donors & Supporters

Anna Klassen Endowment • Arlene Lafrentz • Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival • Bonnie Nicholson • Betty Tydeman Memorial Trust • Bill and Helen Davidson Foundation • Borderland Music Festival • Camille & Charles Mitchell • Carol Donhauser • Center Stage Studios (Kathryn Edwards) • Claire & Richard Seibold • Darrell & Kelly Stein • Dianne Gryba • Dr. Philip Brost • Dr. Thomas Yu • Doris Covey Lazecki • Edna Covey • Elisabeth Foucault/Live Fully Productions • Estevan Music Festival • Goodfellow Memorial Trust • Gustin House/L. J. Fournier Family • Hancock Memorial Trust • Heather Macnab • Jeff and Laurie Froehlich • Joanne Messer • Joy McFarlane-Burton • Jordie Hughton/Hughton Family • KLM Ventures • Karen Frandsen • Kathleen Keple • Kiwanis Club of Regina – Wascana • Krista Brost • Maple Creek Music Festival • Marilyn Whitehead • Marshall Whelan • Marusia Kobrynsky & Donald MacKinnon • Mary Anderson Trust Fund • Mary Grant • Meaghan Dormuth • Melissa & Dennis Ong • Moose Jaw Music Festival (in memory of Sandra Ryba) • Music for Young Children Inc. • Nancy and Richard Toppings • Order of the Eastern Star (SK) – Blanche Squires • Perspective Festival (Michael Angell) • Regina Music Festival • Robert Ursan • Rosetown Music Festival • Ross Ulmer & Karen Ast • Roy & Donna Challis • Sandra Senga • Saskatchewan Band Association • Saskatchewan Choral Federation • Saskatchewan Drama Association • Saskatchewan Music Educators Assoc. • Saskatchewan Orchestral Assoc. Bursary • Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers' Assoc. • Saskatoon Music Festival (in memory of Margaret Caldwell) • SRMTA (Regina Branch) • Tracy and Curtis Loucks • Theresa Brost • Verna Veikle Memorial Trust • W. Craig Ferguson • Wallis (Gordon) Memorial Trust





Canada West Performing Arts Festival

The 4th annual Canada West Performing Arts Festival (CWPAF) was held from July 24 to 26, 2025, in Saskatoon on the University of Saskatchewan campus. Saskatchewan's representation was strong, with 41 solo entries by 39 competitors and 2 choirs participating virtually. A highlight of the event was the final concert held on Saturday afternoon, where all winners were invited to participate.



PERFORMING Arts BC

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

Eight adjudicators evaluated and worked with the performers in Saskatoon: Katherine Dowling (piano), Judith Oatway (classical voice), Brian Holt (chamber/strings), Paul Madryga (guitar), Richard Gillis (brass), Glen Gillis (woodwind), Marliss Weber (musical theatre) and Jessica Watson (speech arts). The choral competition was held virtually and adjudicated by Donna Rhodenizer.

The following participants placed at the 2025 competition:

	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Runner-up</u>
Classical Voice (13 & under)	Carlos Gao (BC)	Alice Han (SK)
	<i>Honourable Mention: Lauren Abhirosh (BC), Zuri Ayuno (AB)</i>	
Classical Voice (17 & under)	Leo Teixeira (BC)	Darya Gusarova (AB)
	<i>Honourable Mention: Kai Yee Li (BC), Mia Gillingham (SK)</i>	
Classical Voice (22 & under)	Danielle Daunheimer (SK)	Paulina Salisbury (SK)
	<i>Honourable Mention: Arina Rahimi (BC)</i>	
Piano (13 & under)	Diana Monet (AB)	Joshua Wang (BC)
	<i>Honourable Mention: Ian Quon (AB), Maranda Wu (BC)</i>	
Piano (17 & under)	Demi Alba (AB)	Valery Lou (BC)
	<i>Honourable Mention: Zijia (Jaydon) Zhuang (AB)</i>	
Piano (22 & under)	Esther Zhu (SK)	Logan Choi (BC)
	<i>Honourable Mention: Avery Guo (SK)</i>	
Strings (13 & under)	Michiyo Yu (BC)	Cara Wang (AB)
	<i>Honourable Mention: Chloe Kam (BC)</i>	
Strings (17 & under)	Zephan Wu (BC)	Bowen Li (AB)
	<i>Honourable Mention: Jenny Xu (AB)</i>	
Strings (22 & under)	Jae Park (BC)	Elisha Ruo (SK)
Musical Theatre (13 & under)	Kadence Trachuk (SK)	Mela Pietropaolo (BC)
	<i>Honourable Mention: Daphne Russell (AB)</i>	
Musical Theatre (17 & under)	Isaiah Artavia (SK)	Sophie Regier (SK)
	<i>Honourable Mention: Sarah Taylor (AB)</i>	
Musical Theatre (22 & under)	Anika Carrier (AB)	Brittney Bennet (AB)
	<i>Honourable Mention: Paulina Salisbury (SK), Sebastian Curran (AB)</i>	
Speech Arts (13 & under)	Raymond Chen (BC)	Gajakharini Iynkkaran (AB)
	<i>Honourable Mention: Liné Linde (SK)</i>	
Speech Arts (17 & under)	Stefan Jones (SK)	McKenna Fanning (AB)
	<i>Honourable Mention: Kelian Piayda (AB)</i>	
Speech Arts (22 & under)	Kris Gao (AB)	Rohan Cooper (BC)
	<i>Honourable Mention: Veronica Jiang (BC)</i>	



	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Runner-up</u>
Classical Guitar (13 & under)	Johnny Zhengyang Zhu (AB)	Brody Laing (AB)
Classical Guitar (17 & under)	Kevin Chang (AB)	Zoey Chu (BC)
	<i>Honourable Mention: Felix Lin (SK)</i>	
Classical Guitar (22 & under)	Tague O'Bright (SK)	
Woodwinds (17 & under)	Anya Delafield (AB)	Eric Davidson (AB)
	<i>Honourable Mention: Lynwoo Kim (BC)</i>	
Woodwinds (22 & under)	Aeri Seong (BC)	Xavier Marican (BC)
	<i>Honourable Mention: Anthony Schubert Glitz (SK)</i>	
Brass (17 & under)	Mathis Chu (SK)	Ayan Modi (BC)
	<i>Honourable Mention: Lauren Schaefer (AB)</i>	
Brass (22 & under)	Andrew Pittman (SK)	Esugen Gantumur (AB)
Chamber (17 & under)	ZEN Trio (BC)	
Choral (13 & under)	St. Thomas More Collegiate Grade 8 Concert Choir (BC)	
	Runner-up: Master's Academy Concert Choir (AB)	
	<i>Honourable Mention: SAM Chorus (AB)</i>	
Choral (16 & under)	Luther College High School Treble Choir (SK)	
	Runner-up: LCI Grade 9 School Choir (AB)	
	<i>Honourable Mention: Greystone Centennial Middle School Senior Choir (AB)</i>	
Choral (20 & under)	St. Thomas More Collegiate Chamber Singers (BC)	
	AHSFA Vocal Ensemble (AB)	
	<i>Honourable Mention: Sir Winston Churchill High School Choir (AB)</i>	

As the 2025 host province, SMFA acknowledges support of the NRS Foundation through the Victoria Foundation, and many other sponsors that made this event possible.

The 2026 Canada West Performing Arts Festival will be held July 24-25, 2026 in Edmonton at MacEwan University. For more information, please contact the administrator in your participating province.



Luther College High School Treble Choir under the direction of Evanne Wilhelm





www.canadawestfestival.ca

Canada West Performing Arts Festival

**July 24 - 25, 2026
MacEwan University
(Edmonton)**

Performing Arts BC (PABC), Alberta Music Festival Association (AMFA), and the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA), are pleased to announce the 5th Annual Canada West Performing Arts Festival (CWPAF). The CWPAF provides a unique performance and educational opportunity to music and speech students. To learn more about the CWPAF, please contact the administrator in your participating province:

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



PERFORMING Arts BC



Alberta Music Festival Association



SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
Performing Arts Competitions



Financial Report

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

The Finance Committee consists of myself, President Dianne Gryba, Past President Jeri Ryba, Second Vice-President and Executive Director Carol Donhauser.

This year the Association has changed its year-end from July 31 to August 31 to help ensure that all income and expenses related to the hosting of Canada West Performing Arts Festival is captured.

The detailed audit can be found following my report. The statement of financial position (Page 72) reports the total assets, liabilities and net assets. The statement of operations (Page 73) reflects the revenue and expenditures from the day to day activities. The statement of changes in net assets (Page 74) summarizes the changes during the year for the various categories of net assets. The 2025 column indicates that after recognizing a surplus of \$17,984 in the previous year, less the restricted net assets of \$44,297, adjustments to capital assets and transfers from our Trust account brings our current year deficit to -\$9,580. The notes and schedules added to the end of the financial statements help explain specific items in the statements as well as provide a more comprehensive assessment.

The SMFA Trust investment portfolio is managed by Leander Dueck of Beyond Wealth in Regina. Leander reports that the rate of return during the new fiscal period ending Aug 31 2025 was 11.69%. During the same period, the Canadian Balanced Portfolio Benchmark saw a return of 9.49%. The mandate of the SMFA portfolio continues to be to minimize volatility, while ensuring the majority of the portfolio is invested for growth – currently, the portfolio is heavily diversified, with assets comprising of 22% Canadian Equity, 31% US equity, 16% International Equity, 31% fixed

income and cash. To summarize, the portfolio is approximately 69% invested in the stock market for growth, and 31% invested in fixed income markets (cash and bonds) for stability. The SMFA portfolio has evidently performed very well, given its mandate, as it has outpaced or matched returns of the Canadian Balanced Portfolio Benchmark in the last 1 year (11.69% vs 9.49%), 3 year (9.95% vs 9.98%) and 5 (7.87% vs 6.17%) year periods annualized.

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

SMFA is very dependent on the operational funding from the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation, and we are grateful for this support. SaskCulture administers the allocation of lottery funds in the form of annual global grants which are set every three years after an adjudication process reviews a detailed Trust Submission. Last year, SMFA received \$175,000 for our Annual Global Funding Grant.

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

Respectfully, Alisha Mann, Finance Chair





Audited Financial Statement



**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AUGUST 31, 2025**



MARCIA HERBACK & ASSOCIATES
Chartered Professional Accountants
Professional Corporation

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of
Saskatchewan Music Festival Association

Qualified Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (the Entity), which comprise the statement of financial position as at August 31, 2025 and the statements of operations, statement of changes in net assets and statement of cash flows for the period of August 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In my opinion, except for the effects, if any, of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Saskatchewan Music Festival Association as at August 31, 2025 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the period of August 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025 in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

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

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

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

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

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

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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




audit. I also:

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

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

Regina, Saskatchewan
November 19, 2025


Marcia Herback
CPA, CA



SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT AUGUST 31, 2025
 (with comparative figures for the 12 month period ended July 31, 2024)

	2025	2024
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash (Note 3)	\$ 40,257	\$ 43,330
Cash segregated for future expenditures	556	381
Investment	953	2,934
Investment segregated for future expenditures	10,578	8,402
Accounts receivable	14,139	21,688
Inventory	6,455	8,590
Prepaid expenses	<u>7,787</u>	<u>6,314</u>
	80,725	91,639
Tangible capital assets (Note 4)	4,593	6,355
Assets held in trust (Note 5)	539,164	506,722
Investments segregated for future expenditures (Note 6)	<u>98,934</u>	<u>95,522</u>
	<u>\$ 723,416</u>	<u>\$ 700,238</u>
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 68,412	\$ 61,438
Deferred revenue (Note 7)	<u>1,326</u>	<u>3,434</u>
	69,738	64,872
Long-term liabilities		
Funds held in trust (Note 8)	<u>9,433</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>79,171</u>	<u>64,872</u>
NET ASSETS		
Net assets invested in capital assets	4,593	6,355
Net assets designated for future expenditures	110,068	104,305
Restricted net assets	539,164	506,722
Unrestricted net assets	<u>(9,580)</u>	<u>17,984</u>
	644,245	635,366
	<u>\$ 723,416</u>	<u>\$ 700,238</u>

See accompanying notes

Approved on Behalf of the Board

Dianne Ghyba Director
Justin Ryba Director



**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE PERIOD OF AUGUST 1, 2024 TO AUGUST 31, 2025
(with comparative figures for the 12 month period ended July 31, 2024)**

	2025	2024
Revenue		
Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund	\$ 175,000	\$ 185,000
Self-generated revenue (Schedule 1)	<u>249,803</u>	<u>189,461</u>
	<u>424,803</u>	<u>374,461</u>
Expenditures		
Administration (Schedule 2)	202,224	182,707
Amortization	558	706
Corporate (Schedule 3)	23,797	18,038
Program (Schedule 4)	159,995	106,115
Public relations (Schedule 5)	7,704	4,286
Travel and meeting (Schedule 6)	20,117	22,423
Loss on disposal of obsolete equipment	<u>1,529</u>	<u>807</u>
	<u>415,924</u>	<u>335,082</u>
Excess of revenue over expenditures	<u>\$ 8,879</u>	<u>\$ 39,379</u>

See accompanying notes



SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
FOR THE PERIOD OF AUGUST 1, 2024 TO AUGUST 31, 2025
(with comparative figures for the 12 month period ended July 31, 2024)

	Invested in Tangible Capital Assets	Designated for Future Expenditures	Restricted Net Assets	Unrestricted Net Assets	2025	2024
Net Assets						
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 6,355	104,305	506,722	17,984	\$ 635,366	\$ 595,987
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	(1,529)	5,763	48,942	(44,297)	8,879	39,379
Additions to tangible capital assets	325	-	-	(325)	-	-
Amortization of capital assets	(558)	-	-	558	-	-
Transfers (Note 9)	-	-	(16,500)	16,500	-	-
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 4,593</u>	<u>110,068</u>	<u>539,164</u>	<u>(9,580)</u>	<u>\$ 644,245</u>	<u>\$ 635,366</u>



SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE PERIOD OF AUGUST 1, 2024 TO AUGUST 31, 2025
(with comparative figures for the 12 month period ended July 31, 2024)

	2025	2024
Operating activities		
Excess of revenues over expenditures unrestricted net assets	\$ 8,879	\$ 39,379
Items not involving an outlay (receipt) of cash		
Amortization	558	706
Loss on disposal of equipment	<u>1,529</u>	<u>807</u>
	10,966	40,892
Net change in non-cash operating working capital balances:		
Investment	1,981	11,708
Investment segregated for future expenditures	(2,176)	10,337
Accounts receivable	7,549	1,896
Inventory	2,135	1,660
Prepaid expenses	(1,473)	(1,245)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	6,974	7,132
Deferred revenue	(2,108)	(92,703)
Funds held in trust	<u>9,433</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>33,281</u>	<u>(20,323)</u>
Investing activities		
Change in investments segregated for future expenditures	(3,412)	(24,819)
Additions to assets held in trust	(32,442)	(59,042)
Additions to tangible capital assets	<u>(325)</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash used in investing activities	<u>(36,179)</u>	<u>(83,861)</u>
Decrease in cash	(2,898)	(104,184)
Cash position, beginning of year	<u>43,711</u>	<u>147,895</u>
Cash position, end of year	<u>\$ 40,813</u>	<u>\$ 43,711</u>
Cash consists of:		
Cash	\$ 40,257	\$ 43,330
Cash segregated for future expenditures	<u>556</u>	<u>381</u>
	<u>\$ 40,813</u>	<u>\$ 43,711</u>

See accompanying notes



**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AUGUST 31, 2025**

1. Status and nature of activities

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

2. Summary of significant accounting policies

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

Inventory

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

Tangible capital assets

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

Equipment	10 %
Furniture and fixtures	10 %
Leaseholds	25 months

Full amortization is recorded in the year of purchase.

Revenue recognition

The Association follows the deferral method of accounting.

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

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

Unrestricted donations are recognized as revenue in the period received.

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

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

Financial instruments

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

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



**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AUGUST 31, 2025**

2. Summary of significant accounting policies cont'd

Management estimates

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

3. Cash

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Anna Klassen scholarship	\$ 32,579	\$ 32,444
Betty Tydeman scholarship	314	314
Frances England scholarship	900	1,200
Ken Lee scholarship	2,000	2,000
Mossie Hancock scholarship	1,400	1,700
Ross Ulmer scholarship	3,250	3,500
Verna Veikle scholarship	1,971	2,271
Bouvier scholarship	1,200	3,200
Helen Davidson scholarship	500	800
Amount lent to Bank account - general	-	(5,000)
Scholarship savings unallocated interest	4,113	3,134
Total scholarship savings account	48,227	45,563
Bank account - general	(13,525)	(3,209)
Bank account - travel lottery	85	85
PayPal	5,470	891
Total cash	<u>\$ 40,257</u>	<u>\$ 43,330</u>

4. Tangible capital assets

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated Amortization</u>	<u>2025 Net Book Value</u>	<u>2024 Net Book Value</u>
Equipment	\$ 8,397	4,138	\$ 4,259	\$ 5,515
Furniture and fixtures	1,329	995	334	840
	<u>\$ 9,726</u>	<u>5,133</u>	<u>\$ 4,593</u>	<u>\$ 6,355</u>

5. Assets held in trust

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Canada Life investment portfolio	\$ 519,424	\$ 479,950
BCE Inc. (576 shares)	19,740	26,772
Total investment	<u>\$ 539,164</u>	<u>\$ 506,722</u>

Investments are recorded at fair value.

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



**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AUGUST 31, 2025**

6. Investments

Investments consist of the following term deposits:

- \$34,918 - 3 year, annual interest rate of 4.1%, matures April 2027
- \$37,278 - 5 year, annual interest rate of 3.75%, matures July 2027
- \$26,738 - 5 year, annual interest rate of 4.25%, matures July 2028

7. Deferred revenue

Funding received relating to specific projects has been deferred and will be recognized as revenue in the year the related project or event occurs.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Scholarships	\$ 700	\$ 2,350
Over-paid accounts receivable	626	1,084
	<u>\$ 1,326</u>	<u>\$ 3,434</u>

8. Funds held in trust

Per the Association's by-laws in the event that a District Festival Association ceases operation or becomes inactive for a period of two consecutive years or more, all funds of that District Festival Association are to be transferred to the Provincial Association and be held in trust for a period of five years. If the District Festival Association is not reinstated within the five year period then the funds become the funds of the Provincial Association.

9. Interfund transfers

- During the year \$16,500 was transferred from the Restricted Net Assets Fund to the Unrestricted Net Assets Fund for the funding of the operations of the Association.

10. Economic dependence

The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association receives significant revenue in grants from Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation. As a result, the Association is dependent upon the continuance of these grants to maintain operations at their current level.

11. Change in fiscal year

During the year the Association made a motion and changed the fiscal year from July 31 to August 31.

12. Financial instruments

Saskatchewan Music Festival Association is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments. The following analysis provides a measure of the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association's exposure and concentrations at August 31, 2025:

Credit risk

Credit risk arises from the potential that a party may default on their financial obligations, or if there is a concentration of financial obligations which have similar economic characteristics that could be similarly affected by changes in economic conditions, such that the organization could incur a financial loss. The Association is exposed to credit risk with respect to cash, investments and accounts receivable. The Association manages its credit risk by placing cash and investments with major financial institutions. Credit risk for accounts receivable is managed by the credit quality and diverse debtor base and creating an allowance for bad debts where applicable. There has been no change from credit risk exposure from 2024.



**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AUGUST 31, 2025**

12. Financial instruments (continued)

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Association may not be able to meet a demand for cash or fund its obligations as they come due or not being able to liquidate assets in a timely manner at a reasonable price. The Association is exposed to liquidity risk with respect to its investments and accounts payable but manages its liquidity risk by holding assets that can be readily converted into cash. There has been no change from liquidity risk exposure from 2024.

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is a type of market risk that refers to the risk that the fair value of financial instruments or future cash flows associated with the instruments will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. The Association is exposed to interest rate risk with respect to its cash and investments and its effect on interest income. Fluctuations in interest rates do not have a significant effect on cash and investments due to the fact that interest income is not a major percentage of total revenue. There has been no change from interest risk exposure from 2024.

13. Comparative figures

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



**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
SCHEDULES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD OF AUGUST 1, 2024 TO AUGUST 31, 2025
(with comparative figures for the 12 month period ended July 31, 2024)**

	2025	2024
Self-generated revenue		Schedule 1
Affiliation fees	\$ 43,953	\$ 42,284
Concerto revenue	809	-
Conference	4,048	2,163
Corporate sponsorships	12,000	8,500
Festival unit stationary	2,544	1,742
Fundraising and donations	1,852	4,080
Investment income - restricted	13,244	89,675
Investment income (loss) - unrealized - restricted	40,462	(23,340)
Interest - future expenditures	5,763	4,734
Miscellaneous	-	750
Canada West Performing Arts Festival	58,857	-
Opera competition	-	588
Provincial finals	38,268	34,461
Provincial scholarships	26,550	23,800
Syllabus and directory	1,453	24
	<u>\$ 249,803</u>	<u>\$ 189,461</u>



**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
SCHEDULES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD OF AUGUST 1, 2024 TO AUGUST 31, 2025
(with comparative figures for the 12 month period ended July 31, 2024)**

	2025	2024
Administration expenditures		Schedule 2
Bad debts	\$ -	\$ 221
Bookkeeping	2,543	258
Equipment rental and supplies	-	264
Expired GST rebates	2,746	2,746
Miscellaneous	805	122
Postage	1,342	892
Rent	3,032	13,887
Salaries and benefits	190,899	156,841
Telephone	857	3,617
Utilities and maintenance	-	3,859
	<u>\$ 202,224</u>	<u>\$ 182,707</u>
Corporate expenditures		Schedule 3
Audit	\$ 4,666	\$ 4,666
Bank charges	851	395
Insurance	13,432	7,890
Investment management fees - restricted	4,765	4,777
Membership	83	310
	<u>\$ 23,797</u>	<u>\$ 18,038</u>
Program expenditures		Schedule 4
Adjudicators training	\$ 345	\$ 2,486
Concerto competition	4,619	-
Festival unit supplies	4,034	5,164
Hosting Canada West Performing Arts Festival	67,918	-
Nationals/Canada West	-	10,000
Opera competition	4,320	10,124
Program enhancement	450	4,589
Provincial finals expense	39,817	30,024
Provincial finals scholarship	24,800	29,607
Provincial office supplies	11,752	12,943
Speech arts	125	357
Syllabus/directory	1,815	821
	<u>\$ 159,995</u>	<u>\$ 106,115</u>
Public relations expenditures		Schedule 5
Advertising	\$ 6,320	\$ 4,286
Promotional video	1,384	-
	<u>\$ 7,704</u>	<u>\$ 4,286</u>



**SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
SCHEDULES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD OF AUGUST 1, 2024 TO AUGUST 31, 2025
(with comparative figures for the 12 month period ended July 31, 2024)**

	2025	2024
Travel and meeting expenditures		Schedule 6
SMFA conference charges	\$ 6,952	\$ 6,657
SMFA directors travel	8,979	9,213
Festival visiting	68	260
Executive directors travel	3,184	1,743
Delegates to Federation conference	934	4,550
	<u>\$ 20,117</u>	<u>\$ 22,423</u>



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