



# 2025 AGM Minutes

**Saskatchewan Music Festival Association, Annual General Meeting (ZOOM)  
November 29, 2025 @ 2:00pm**

President Dianne Gryba welcomed everyone to the 2025 Saskatchewan Music Festival Association Annual General Meeting and appointed Nancy Toppings as recording secretary. Dianne referenced the music advocacy video, played while delegates entered the meeting room. The video was produced by Thom Hamilton of Summit Visual Agency, in partnership with Saskatchewan Band Association, SaskOrchestras, Saskatchewan Choral Federation and Saskatchewan Music Educators Association.

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

Dianne 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 2:14pm.

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

***Motion: To approve the agenda. Krista Brost/Kerry Taylor. CARRIED.***

Jeri Ryba announced two three-year board positions to be filled: Katherine Bergman (Regina), and Marcie Carswell (Moose Jaw) have been nominated. Jeri introduced the nominees. Jeri made the first call for nominations from the floor. None were forthcoming.

The minutes of the 2024 AGM as recorded in the Annual Report were presented.

***Motion: That the minutes be approved as presented. Miranda-Lee Couture/Tanya Gordon. CARRIED.***

## **Business Arising**

Finance Chair Alisha Mann introduced the members of the Finance Committee: President Dianne Gryba, Past President Jeri Ryba, Vice President Alisha Mann and Executive Director Carol Donhauser.

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

Alisha presented a summary of the Investment Report from Leander Dueck of Beyond Wealth Management. The Trust Investment Portfolio was valued at \$539,164 at year-end. Leander reports that the rate of return during the new fiscal period ending August 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 comprised 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 year.

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 72)**

The statement of financial position reports on the total assets, liabilities and net assets of the Association.

- Current assets remained somewhat the same from the previous year with the largest change noted in the accounts receivable.
- Pre-paids are for the pre-paid portion of insurance.
- Assets held in trust have increased due to increase in the value of investments.
- Funds held in trust is the amount received when Hafford Music Festival dissolved. As per the Association's bylaws, in the event that a District Festival ceases operations or becomes inactive for a period of **two** consecutive years or more, all funds of that District Festival are to be transferred to the Provincial Association and be held in trust for a period of five years. If the District Festival is not reinstated within the five-year period, the funds become the funds of the Provincial Association.
- Total assets for the August 31, 2025 year are \$723,416; total liabilities are \$79,171; net assets are \$644,245.

##### **Statement of Operations (Page 73)**

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 hosting of the Canada West Performing Arts Festival in July 2025.
- There was an increase in the market value of the investments which is shown as unrealized income.
- There was also growth in Affiliation Fees and Provincial Final revenue due to higher numbers of participants.
- There were less donations received in 2025 than in 2024.
- Total expenses have increased. This is partially due to the fact the comparative figures are for 12 months and the 2024/25 figures are for 13 months due to the change in fiscal year-end.
- The 2024/25 year saw another increase in insurance premiums.
- The 2024/25 expenses are further increased due to the costs of hosting Canada West Performing Arts Festival.
- The 2024/25 year includes part of the cost of a music advocacy video produced in partnership with other Saskatchewan music associations.
- To help with the known decrease in funding for future years, the Association vacated their office space in June 2024 to work from home. 2024/25 is the first full year of working from home.

##### **Statement of Changes in Net Assets (Page 74)**

The statement of changes in net assets shows 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, adjustments to restricted net assets of -\$44,297, adjustments to capital assets and transfers from our Trust account of \$16,500 leaves us at a deficit of -\$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.

### **Cash Flow Statement (Page 75)**

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 financial activities. It outlines the flow of cash in and out of the Association.

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.

***Total Assets for 2024/2025 - \$723,416; Total Liabilities - \$79,171; Net Assets - \$644,245***

***Motion: To accept the auditor's report. Yvonne Sutherland/Patricia Keefe. CARRIED.***

***Motion: To appoint Marcia Herback & Associates as Auditor for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. Claire Seibold/Shannon McIntyre. CARRIED.***

Jeri Ryba made the 2<sup>nd</sup> and final call for nominations from the floor. None were received.

***Motion: To close nominations. Karen White/Krista Brost. CARRIED.***

***Motion: To elect by acclamation Katherine Bergman and Marcie Carswell to the SMFA Board of Directors. Krista Brost/Miranda Lee-Couture. CARRIED.***

Jeri congratulated the new board members and asked them to unmute and introduce themselves. Dianne welcomed Katherine and Marcie to the SMFA Board.

Dianne Gryba presented an overview of the 2025 Annual Report (August 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025).

***Motion: To adopt the 2025 Annual Report as presented. Katherine Bergman/Patricia Keefe. CARRIED.***

### **New Business**

2026 Wallis Opera Competition to be held February 21 & 22, 2026 in Saskatoon at the University of Saskatchewan Convocation Hall, in partnership with the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras. The competition is open to non-professional vocalists, between 20 and 35 years of age. In July 1999, prior to his death, Gordon Wallis established an opera competition to encourage and assist young Saskatchewan singers in furthering their vocal studies in opera. Held every two years under the administration of the SMFA, its \$5,000 first-place prize is one of a kind in Canada. In addition to the prize money, the winner may be featured as guest artist with the Regina and Saskatoon Symphony Orchestras.

44 District Festivals will operate between March and May, welcoming students in communities across Saskatchewan.



2026 Provincial Finals Competition will take place June 4 to 7, 2026 in Saskatoon at the University of Saskatchewan.

5<sup>th</sup> Annual Canada West Performing Arts Festival in partnership with Alberta and Performing Arts BC, will take place July 24 to 25, 2026 in Edmonton, Alberta hosted by the Alberta Music Festival Association.

Laureen Kells, Past President of the Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers' Association brought greetings from SRMTA. Laureen expressed appreciation for the work of SMFA and for co-hosting the Ensemble Conference in October 2025.

Dianne thanked retiring board members Heather Macnab and Penny Miles for their service in support of the SMFA mission.

Dianne acknowledged the support received from SaskCulture and the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation, SaskTel, Richardson Pioneer, and Business for the Arts Saskatchewan for their corporate sponsorship, as well as our many donors and supporters. Dianne expressed appreciation to the University of Saskatchewan for its long-standing support in providing venues at no cost to SMFA, and to Dean McNeill for his support.

Dianne thanked the SMFA board, and staff members Carol Donhauser, Nancy Toppings and Mariel Unger, for their work.

Dianne introduced the new SMFA Board: President Dianne Gryba (Saskatoon), Past President Jeri Ryba (Moose Jaw), Vice President Alisha Mann (Estevan), and Directors Karen Frandsen (Regina), Abby Fuller (Last Mountain), Karen White (Saskatoon), Laureen Kells (Quill Plains), Katherine Bergman (Regina) and Marcie Carswell (Moose Jaw).

The 2026 Conference and AGM date and location will be announced at a later date.

***The meeting was adjourned at 2:44pm.***