2026

Annual Report

September 1, 2025 to August 31, 2026

SMFA

SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION

Performing Arts Competitions



SASK LOTTERIES

SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION

Established in 1908

Incorporated under the Non-Profit Corporations Act and
Canadian Registered Charity

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. Vince Bruni-Bossio, University of Saskatchewan

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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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CELEBRATE THE

JOY

OF YOUTH PERFORMANCE

Make music, make friends, and hone your musical skills with top quality music educators.






Classes for all ages and skill levels.
Come join the fun!

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Sask Culture

SMFA

SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION

Performing Arts Competitions

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL PERFORMERS!

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Board of Directors

President ..... Dianne Gryba

Vice President ..... Alisha Mann

Past President ..... Jeri Ryba

Director ..... Karen Frandsen

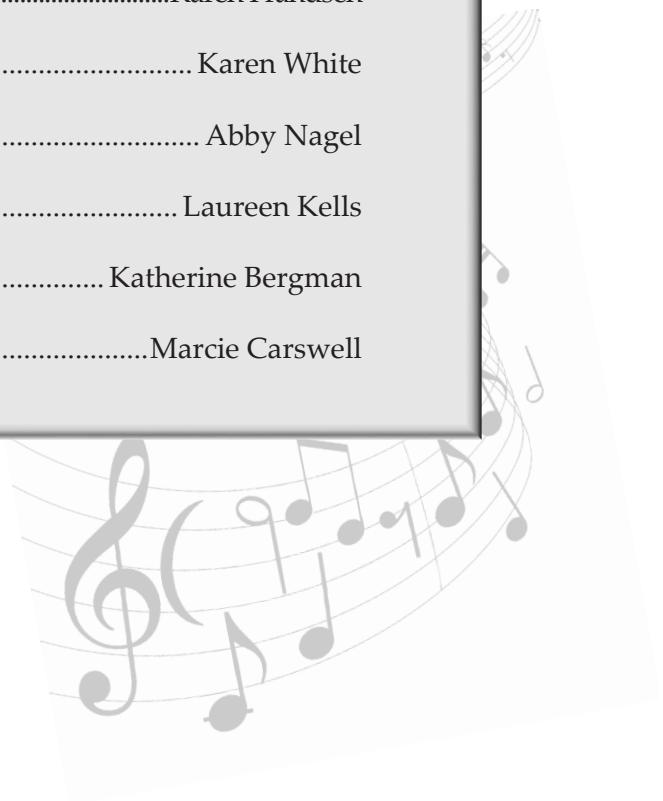
Director ..... Karen White

Director ..... Abby Nagel

Director ..... Laureen Kells

Director ..... Katherine Bergman

Director ..... Marcie Carswell



SMFA Mission, Vision and Values

Vision

Enhancing lives and community through music and the spoken word.

Mission

Providing performance and educational opportunities in Saskatchewan.

Values and Endeavours

Life-long learning

- Learning keeps minds active, delays memory loss associated with aging and develops cognitive and motor skills.

Collaboration

- Working together with patrons, teachers, performers, educators, volunteers and similar organizations.
- Committed to the values, principles and Calls to Action of the Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC).

Inclusivity

- Providing opportunities for all and accepting of diverse World views.

Excellence

- Recognizing and rewarding performances of high standard.

Leadership with integrity

- Striving for honesty, accountability and aiming to be visionary.

Wellness

- Fostering social connections and healthy lifestyles, improving mental health and building resilience and confidence.

IDEA Statement – *Music for One, Music for All*

The SMFA is committed to embracing and finding joy in the diversity, equity, inclusion and access for all to our programs and services.

Strategic Conclusion:

Preserve SMFA's legacy of musical excellence while transforming how the organization serves Saskatchewan's changing communities.

CELEBRATE THE JOY OF YOUTH PERFORMANCE




SASK LOTTERIES
Every Lotto Spot ticket you buy gives back to
12,000+ groups
across Saskatchewan

Doris Covey Lazecki (1939 - 2026)



Doris Covey Lazecki passed away on January 7, 2026 at the age of 80 years. Doris served as the Executive Director of SMFA from 1982 until 2005. In her retirement, she continued to support the Association as Adjudicator Liaison. She visited all 49 festivals throughout her career and during her time as Executive Director saw the completion of the 80-year history of SMFA, "Music for One…Music for All" and a Speech Arts Resource Manual, both written by Mossie Hancock. Together with the late Gordon Wallis, Doris planned and executed the Wallis Opera Competition, which is now held biennially, alternating with the SMFA Concerto Competition. One of the highlights of her career was assisting with the production of the 100th Anniversary Re-enactment Concert in May of 2009.

Doris was an active member of the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals serving as Chair of Membership and Choral Committees and as President. Her connection with music festivals began as a young student performing in the Saskatoon Music Festival, and throughout her teaching career she prepared her voice students for festivals at the district, provincial and national levels. As an adjudicator, Doris served festivals in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

SMFA is deeply grateful for the life and work of Doris Covey Lazecki.

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 43 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.

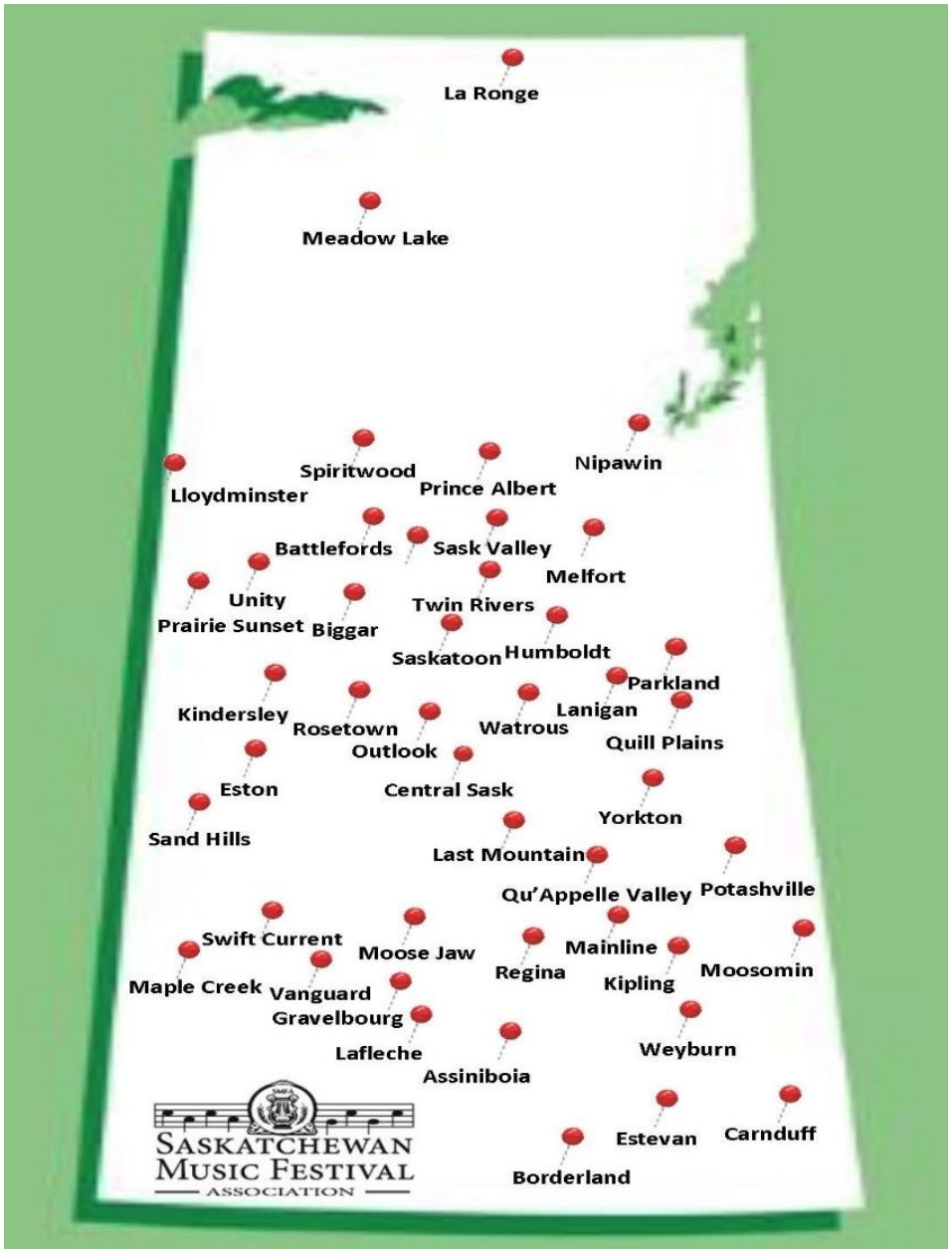
The celebration of our Anniversaries strengthens the conviction that our festivals continue to provide Music for One…Music for All. In 2009, the SMFA celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the first Provincial Festival with a Centennial Re-enactment Concert held in Regina. In addition, special Centennial 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.

Following the global COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, we continue to further strengthen our organization and have found new ways to deliver our programs/services and 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.*



SMFA Affiliated District Festival Map



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 provides a centralized, structured framework and plays a critical role in balancing equity while maintaining high standards.

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 2025-26, the SMFA board and staff continued to build pathways toward inclusion, diversity and connection. Much of our board work was focussed on how to remain relevant and valuable to our stakeholders while upholding our traditions and goals.



The fall "Ensemble" conference on October 24-25, 2025 was a rewarding collaborative event with the Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers Association. SMFA and SRMTA have many common goals, and it was helpful to share ideas and information. Fun and inspiring music from the Saskatoon Fiddle Orchestra and Kathy and Garry Gable enhanced the event, which was held at the University of Saskatchewan Education Building.

District Festivals were congratulated for their milestone anniversaries in 2025: Borderland Music Festival (50 years), Gravelbourg Bilingual Music Festival/Festival de Musique bilingue de Gravelbourg et Région (25 years), Potashville Music Festival (55 years), Prairie Sunset Music Festival (60 years), and Sask Valley Music Festival (85 years).

We are deeply grateful to the University of Saskatchewan Fine Arts Department, and to Dean McNeill, for their ongoing support and for providing the venue for this conference.

At the November 29, 2025 AGM Zoom meeting, 31 festivals were represented. Thanks were expressed to outgoing board members, Heather Macnab and Penny Miles. Those positions were filled by Katherine Bergman (Regina) and Marcie Carswell (Moose Jaw). They are bringing vital viewpoints and skill to the board.

The Gordon Wallis Memorial Opera Competition was held at the University of Saskatchewan in Convocation Hall, February 21, 2026. Seven performers competed and then participated in a masterclass on February 22 with our esteemed adjudicators, Mel Braun and Robyn Driedger-Klassen. The winner of the $5000 scholarship and performance opportunities with the Regina and Saskatoon symphony orchestras was Kelsey Ronn.

Once again in 2026, extraordinary volunteers operated 43 district festivals throughout the province, giving students and teachers the opportunity to learn and grow. We thank the 93 dedicated adjudicators who shared their time and knowledge with young artists around the province.

Unity and Yorkton festivals reached their 100th anniversaries this year. In the next 5 years, SMFA will honour 5 more festivals celebrating that remarkable achievement.

From those 43 exciting district festivals, 704 entrants moved on to the Provincial Finals Festival held June 4-7 in Saskatoon. This was an increase in numbers from 680 in 2025 – the biggest provincial festival on record. We engaged three voice adjudicators to help scheduling run smoothly and efficiently. Winners were awarded a total of

$28,400, and many JOY awards were presented. Each performer brought something unique and special to us. We are proud to give these wonderful students the SMFA "festival experience".

There were 42 eligible competitors chosen to represent Saskatchewan at the 2026 Canada West festival in Edmonton, July 24-25. 17 Saskatchewan youth were recognized as 1st, 2nd or 3rd place winners. Excellent workshop adjudications and a beautiful final concert made the event memorable. Go Team Saskatchewan!

Sadly, our vice president, Alisha Mann, had to resign in the summer of 2026. Penny Miles has agreed to return to the board in her position, and Jeri Ryba and Dianne Gryba will extend their board terms for one extra year. We thank Alisha for her dedication and wish her all the best going forward.

Some facets of SMFA's evolution in 2025-26 include the launching of an SMFA partnership with the Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers. The organizations are creating workshop opportunities for district festival communities, their students and teachers. Qualified clinicians can be engaged with the help of SRMTA and half of the cost will be covered by SMFA. Details can be found on the SMFA website.

Syllabus changes are giving young artists increased opportunities and accessibility including an Indigenous Classical Music database being created to help teachers and students access more works by Indigenous composers. The joy of performance continues to inform the SMFA's vision.

The inaugural Dr. Thomas Yu Concerto Competition will take place in 2027, with a virtual first round, and final performances in person at the end of the provincial festival.

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 free of charge for many of our events and we thank Dean McNeill for facilitating those bookings. We also thank the numerous stakeholders that support festivals throughout the province.

On behalf of the SMFA board, I would like to express my gratitude to our office staff, Nancy Toppings, Mariel Unger and Carol Donhauser, whose remarkable work, organizing and passion for music festivals keeps us on track.

As we prepare for the 2027 festival season, we look forward to opening more doors for all participants, teachers, adjudicators, volunteers and audiences. The SMFA board will continue to consider our values of life-long learning, collaboration, inclusiveness, excellence, leadership and wellness as we make decisions. Together, we will "celebrate the joy"!

Respectfully submitted, Dianne Gryba

Executive Director's Report

Preserving SMFA's legacy of musical excellence while transforming how the organization serves Saskatchewan's changing communities is of increasing importance. SMFA is committed to cultivating that awareness of diversity by providing information, education, and opportunity.



This year marked an end to an era for me with the loss of my mentor and friend Doris Covey Lazecki. It was in December 2002 that I started learning the Assistant to the Executive Director position. Never did I fathom that I would still be here now. When you enjoy something as much as I have enjoyed working for SMFA it is hard to call it work. Doris was instrumental in making the transition a smooth one, and for that, I will be ever grateful to her. Rest in peace my friend!

Diversity has been front and center, in our board discussions, as we attempt to break down barriers, expand our reach and engage a more diverse group. There is much work to be done to make "Classical… and more" music accessible to all aspiring musicians. Having affordable music education available to everyone is an immense task - a task that is so important to maintain our relevancy in Saskatchewan's cultural landscape.

I am proud to be part of an organization that is so unique with our network of dedicated volunteers which are the backbone to the 43 District festivals providing essential administrative support, advocacy and stability that paid staff alone cannot sustain. Committed volunteers bring long-term reliability and institutional knowledge, providing allowance to stretch very limited budgets and maximize social impact.

Our success is also dependent on the support of a committed Board of Directors and staff, donors and financial supporters..Thank you for the SMFA Board of Directors lead by Dianne Gryba, President and to my staff, Nancy Toppings and Mariel Unger for your dedication to our mission/mandate. Thank you also to those who generously give financially to the SMFA.

For over 10 years, SaskTel has been our corporate sponsor for Provincial Finals. What a great partnership this has become.

Thank you to SaskCulture and the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation for the ongoing operational funding. Through an agreement with the Government of Saskatchewan net proceeds from Sask Lotteries ticket sales are distributed to support non-profit, volunteer-led organizations across the province. By purchasing your lottery tickets, your support helps, not only SMFA, but thousands of organizations in our Province. Thank you for your support!

Respectfully submitted, Carol Donhauser



2025 AGM Minutes

The 2025 Annual General Meeting of the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association was held virtually on November 29 @ 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: To approve the minutes 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 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 fewer 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 as Auditor for the 2025/2026 fiscal year.
Claire Seibold/Shannon McIntyre
CARRIED

Jeri Ryba made the 2nd 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 Marcia to the SMFA Board.

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

43 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.

5th Annual Canada West Performing Arts in partnership with Alberta Music Festival Association (AMFA) and Performing Arts BC (PABC), will take place July 24 to 25, 2026 in Edmonton, Alberta hosted by the AMFA.

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 2:44 pm.

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Ensemble! SMFA/SRMTA Conference

For the first time in many years, the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association and the Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers' Association held their fall conferences in collaboration. The atmosphere at this conference was one of celebration, and the collaboration was a great success. We are better together!

On the evening of October 24, 41 delegates from 24 of the 44 affiliated SMFA District Music Festivals gathered together with Saskatchewan music teachers for the **2025 Ensemble! SMFA/SRMTA Fall Conference** at the University of Saskatchewan Education Building to network, learn and share experiences. Session presentations continued throughout the evening and the following day, some sessions jointly between the two groups, and some running concurrently with options to attend the presentation of choice. Friday evening concluded with entertainment by members of the Saskatoon Fiddle Orchestra, refreshments, and time to visit and renew friendships.

The Volunteer Awards Luncheon is a Conference highlight, and this year delegates, award recipients and their guests were treated to an inspiring keynote address and wonderful entertainment by Dr. Garry Gable and Kathleen Lohrenz Gable. SMFA Volunteer Awards were presented to: June Newsom (posthumously) and Dianne Gryba (Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival), Dorothea Trithardt (Borderland Music Festival), Krista Brost (Meadow Lake Music Festival), Claire Seibold (Rosetown Music Festival), Bernadette Fanner (Saskatoon Music Festival), Doreen Benson (Twin Rivers Music Festival) and Carla Laycock and Jeannette Wheeler (Yorkton Music Festival). Also receiving Volunteer Awards but not in attendance were Sharlene North (Carnduff Music Festival), Nicole Smigiel (Estevan Music Festival), Ted Glass (Kindersley Music Festival), Ashley Boehme and Tim Taylor (Mainline Music Festival), Rosanne Kelly (Moosomin Music Festival), Susan Gorges (Regina Music Festival) and Nick Fanner (Saskatoon Music Festival).



Sandra Senga was presented an Honorary Life Membership with SMFA for her valued contribution at both the district festival and provincial levels. Sandra served two terms on the SMFA Board of Directors and continues to be an active supporter of the festival movement.

Claire Seibold and Laurel Teichroeb were recipients of the SMFA Adjudicating Excellence Awards. These two adjudicators were chosen based on a lifetime of sharing their knowledge and encouraging students in Saskatchewan and beyond. A provincial scholarship of $300 was presented at the 2026 Provincial Final Competitions in honour of their outstanding work.

SRMTA presented Cherith Alexander with their Outstanding Achievement Award in recognition of her influence in her students' lives, her musical community and at the branch level. SMFA also congratulates Cherith and is deeply appreciative of her contribution to music festivals as an adjudicator, clinician and collaborative artist at the district and provincial levels and beyond.

District Festivals were congratulated for their milestone anniversaries in 2025: Borderland Music Festival (50 years), Gravelbourg Bilingual Music Festival/Festival de Musique bilingue de Gravelbourg et Région (25 years), Potashville Music Festival (55 years), Prairie Sunset Music Festival (60 years), and Sask Valley Music Festival (85 years).

We are deeply grateful to the University of Saskatchewan Fine Arts Department, and to Dean McNeill, for their ongoing support and for providing the venue for this conference.








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SASKATCHEWAN REGISTERED MUSIC TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Wallis Opera Competition

The prize for this competition is $5,000, dedicated to further study in opera, and performance opportunities with both the Regina Symphony Orchestra and the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra in upcoming seasons.



Photo credit: Stephen Nicholson

Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (Dianne Gryba, President) is pleased to announce that the 2026 Gordon C. Wallis Memorial Opera Competition was won by soprano Kelsey Ronn. Kelsey performed works by Donizetti, Strauss and Cipullo, and was accompanied by Kathleen Lohrenz Gable.

Kelsey Ronn is a Canadian soprano known for her euphonious tone, florid coloratura, and warm timbre, performing as a soloist and operatic vocalist across Canada, the United States, and Europe. This season she joined Calgary Opera's McPhee Artist Development Program, making her role debut as Kate Pinkerton and the Aunt in *Madama Butterfly*, with additional performances as the title role in *Little Red Riding Hood* and as Berta in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. She appeared in Nino Rota's *The Witty Squirrel* and covered Norina in *Don Pasquale*. An alumna of Opera Kelowna and L'Institut canadien d'art vocal, Kelsey holds degrees from the University of Manitoba and McGill University and brings a passion for acting to every role she embodies.

Seven singers competed on Saturday, February 21, in Convocation Hall at the University of Saskatchewan, followed by a masterclass on February 22. The competition was judged by Robyn Driedger-Klassen (Vancouver, BC) and Mel Braun (Winnipeg, MB). The competition was established by the late Gordon C. Wallis, former assistant director of the University of Regina, Conservatory of Music and is presented by the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association. The competition is held every two years and is intended to support young singers in further studies in opera. For more information, visit www.smfa.ca.

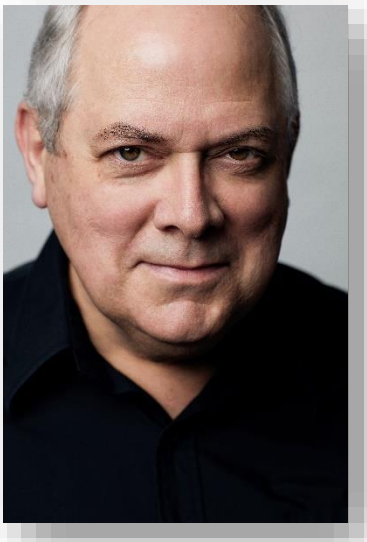
The next Wallis Opera Competition will be held in February of 2028.

SASKATOON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

CELEBRATE THE JOY OF YOUTH PERFORMANCE

REGINA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Testimonial – Dr. Garry Gable



Dr. Garry Gable has enjoyed a performing career that has taken him across Canada and into the USA and China in all types of classical music, musical theater, drama, television, radio, in-concert, and stage presentations. Garry has also been heard widely in recital with his spouse/pianist Kathleen Lohrenz Gable. A resident of Saskatoon since 1994, he taught vocal studies and directed the Music Theatre Ensemble as Associate Professor at the University of Saskatchewan. In that role he has been recipient of the Provost's Award for Outstanding Teaching at the University of Saskatchewan. Now retired from his role as a university professor, Garry continues to teach voice in Saskatoon and is a respected adjudicator for the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association.

As a boy, there was a piano in our house from as far back as I can remember. Neither of my parents played - and I still don't play very well - but they endeavoured to assure that each of their four kids had some exposure to learning to play and read music. A dearth of teachers in our town led to me leaving piano training when I about ten years old. I was ok with that - I had all my sports. But then I was introduced to singing. I had sung in church choir since early on, but a grade six music teacher convinced a bunch of boys in school to enter a thing called 'Music Festival' in a solo class for '11 years and under' boy sopranos. I don't remember exactly how many from my school, but at least four were entered to sing *Any Boy to any Ship*, along with seven others from other towns in the region. I did my best, as did the others, each of us with no idea of what music festival was as soloists. We had all climbed on the bus to do choir in festival since Kindergarten, but solo! There were girls also enrolled separately … (This is all leading somewhere, hang in). No one in my school won their class, but we all survived - though I was told I "should not be singing", later figuring out that my voice had changed already and so did not belong in a boy soprano class. That's why the notes felt so high … ?!

Grade 7 brought more music festival for many of us again - but this year we asked Mrs. Pratt to enrol us. There were eight this time, boys and girls! I don't remember much about that one - except we all developed a group of sorts around the events, helping each other prepare by learning lines, practicing at each other's homes occasionally, etc. (I still encounter some of these people via things like social media - and singing and music remain important to most of us.) A couple of the girls did well in festival - the boys stumbled through, I suspect - but no ribbons. Where am I going here? - Well, in Grade 8 it was announced at school that we would be mounting a musical production in the spring of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance*. None of us really knew what that was, but the idea of doing live theatrical performing really caught on at school. Mrs. Pratt played recordings of the music, and then taught some of the choruses in class - and by late fall all soloists were named - I was the Pirate King!

We had a ball learning the music and how to play parts (acting) - and staying after school for rehearsals, around sports and other activities/distractions (both in school and in town). Come late April, *The Pirates of Penzance* was 'on the boards' as they say. It was wild! Makeup, costumes, play acting, singing and togetherness in our wee town of 3000! Our families were all so supportive, and even rivalries and other

differences were forgotten so the 'show could go on'. We were heralded in the local paper and recognized on the streets of town for our achievements. Wow!! But - a seed had been planted, in me at least, because of a lovely grade six teacher (who remained a loyal 'fan' until her dying day - always asking after me when she met folks up on Main Street) - who had a vision for her pupils to learn to love, or at least appreciate, music alongside their other passions. And it all started with music festival - almost sixty years ago - Thank you, Lois Pratt.

I had no idea how important 'Festival' would become back in Grade 6 - entering classes and receiving feedback both from adjudicators, and, as importantly, self-assessing my work against the results of fellow competitors. Singing so much in *The Pirates of Penzance*, and then festival, led to singing lessons and many more festival (and other competition) and theatrical experiences that ran right through high school and university and into my early professional career as I continued to pursue singing and theatre.

Through music festival, I gained new music ideas, performance 'tricks', controlling illness so I could perform, self-evaluation and self-worth. I learned of, and studied, poetry and literature in multiple languages, then singing in those languages. I so appreciate that I learned to value being dedicated to something to improve myself, and to refine actions in my body with thoughts and emotion. In my pursuits, I have been able to study and/or perform with renowned teachers and artists - many of whom, in Canada and other countries, had cut their performing teeth in music competitions of some type. It becomes a sort of 'bonding moment' in casts to share our music festival or other competition experiences as we seek our commonalities for 'team building'.

Music Festival remains a 'measuring stick' for progress for me, now as a teacher and adjudicator, as much a reference point for my students, as a source of new repertoire, as a place to share teaching and learning and performing with colleagues and students, and a place where communities learn of each other, share something beautiful together, and create opportunities for young people to discover their potential, not just as musicians, but as contributing members of a diverse society.

Testimonial – Kathleen Lohrenz Gable

Originally from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Kathleen Lohrenz Gable has dedicated herself to the pursuit of music as both a performer and a teacher. She has tirelessly worked to aid in the development of solo pianists, collaborative pianists, singers and instrumentalists. Alongside her continued performing and teaching, Kathy maintains a busy schedule of adjudicating national, provincial and local music festivals across Canada and in the United States.



I am grateful for the chance to write about what music festival means to me. I have a long history with the music festival as participant, teacher, accompanist, volunteer, festival committee member, and finally adjudicator. From the age of 6, I always looked forward to music festival because of the opportunity to reunite with many friends. In Prince Albert, a number of students came from surrounding communities and festival was the only time we would get to see and hear each other. We were encouraged to take the whole week off of school, and could therefore attend almost all of the sessions, which was a great learning experience. It opened our ears to a lot of new repertoire, and the adjudications were very educational. And of course, there was a major social component in the cookie and juice time.

When I began to teach, my attention turned to my students, and it was a great thrill to see them perform at the highest level of which they were capable. The music festival has a magical effect on students' brains. Miraculously, they begin to function at a higher level. When application forms are submitted, students exhibit a heightened level of commitment, and there is a significant jump in focus. I insist on timing every piece with my students, even if it means that I have to play it, because suddenly there is a new awareness of exactly how much growth needs to take place. It is a great learning experience for students to anticipate a performance on a specific date. I was once preparing a young student who was procrastinating working on the finishing touches of their piece. I reminded them that the festival started in two days and they said to me defiantly, “You told me the festival is in May!” I said, “Yes it is, but today is April 29.” Now I take out a calendar and regularly show my students exactly how many lessons they have left before festival.

The month before the festival is the magic month. Pieces really start taking shape, and trouble spots that may have seemed previously insurmountable are now effortlessly being conquered. I also arrange for rehearsals and recitals in the lead up to festival, so the socializing is beginning. I always tell my students that festival is a time for us to bond, as in the lead-up to festival, we begin seeing each other a lot more frequently. I truly believe that the benefit of festival happens long before the day that a student actually

performs. In fact, the actual festival class is just the celebration of the learning and growth that has taken place in the last year. And doing so much performing in a short space of time has a profound impact on students' growth — nothing else can provide them with this opportunity.

I was always grateful when my students had a balanced experience with regard to whether or not they placed in a class. No one is ever going to win all the time in life. It is just as important, if not even more important, to learn how to pick oneself up and carry on without being totally devastated. Before the festival even begins, I remind students that the value of festival is in the depth of practice that happens in the months, weeks, days, hours, and minutes before their performance. I ask them to answer this question: Would you have made as much progress if it had not been for the goal of playing at music festival? The answer is always, definitively, no. I feel it is important to have this discussion before festival so that they acknowledge the accomplishments that they have made away from the emotion of the performance at festival and all that goes with that.

The weeks following the festival bring their own benefits and growth. I am convinced that they often make more progress in the months following the festival than they do in the many months leading up to it. The students come back from festival so excited about learning new pieces, and they can seemingly learn new pieces so much faster. If they have really pushed themselves to prepare fully, their skill level will also have grown immensely. The key is the level of preparation. If students are disappointed in their performance at festival, then once some time has passed, there is an opportunity to help them determine what they would like to do differently the next year. It's important for students to debrief after festival is over in order to learn from their experiences. It is not just their musical development that benefits from this — their whole person, emotionally and intellectually, has a chance to learn and grow from this self-evaluation. How many other places in life are students granted this kind of focused attention on personal growth? This is one of the things that I find most exciting about the music festival system. There is absolutely no other event, recital, master class or exam that can consistently, year after year, create this level of commitment, and therefore this level of growth.

Adjudicating has brought my festival experience full circle. Adjudicating is a big responsibility, as each community puts their trust in you to be helpful, honest, and encouraging, to celebrate them and be respectful. It is such a privilege to spend time in different communities and get to know them in some small way. Playing the piano is such a joy to me, and I love sharing the knowledge and ideas about performing and practicing creatively that have been passed on to me.

Music festivals play a huge role in the growth of these young participants! Bravo to all involved for keeping the Music Festival alive and vital in our communities!

Testimonial – Meara Conway



Meara Conway is a lawyer, community organizer, and musician with deep roots in Saskatchewan. Throughout her career, she has fought for some of Canada's most vulnerable. A public defender with Legal Aid, she was named one of Canadian Lawyer's 25 Most Influential Lawyers of 2019 for her public interest work, including her advocacy for proper Legal Aid funding and her work with Indigenous communities calling for systemic change. This work took her to politics and in 2020, she was elected MLA for one of Regina's core neighbourhoods in the constituency of Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Meara is a strong advocate for the arts and obtained a Master of Music from McGill, where she won the National Music Competition. Motivated by her belief that all voices should be heard in places of power, she went on to earn a law degree at McGill, where she studied in both official languages. Before returning to Saskatchewan, she worked on human rights issues at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. and in Toronto in the area of constitutional law. She has appeared at all levels of court, including at the Supreme Court of Canada.

Meara was born and raised in Regina's Cathedral neighbourhood, where she now resides with her partner Nick, a teacher, and their three kids Lew, Éamon, and Maeve.

Music was woven through my life from the very beginning. I started cello lessons when I was five — my earliest memory is figuring out how to play the theme song to my favourite Saturday morning cartoon, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, alone in my living room. And from there I discovered voice, harp, piano, choir, orchestra and musical theatre. Music became one of the constants of my young life, and eventually, the festival became a regular part of that world.

Competition was not always easy for me. I had serious nerves, I took losses hard, and criticism could sting. But over time, festival taught me lessons that reached far beyond music. I learned how to live with nerves, how to hear feedback without being undone by it, and how much preparation and hard work could pay off.

Every time I walked onto a stage, whether the result was what I hoped for or not, I left having done something difficult. Each performance became another small building block in my confidence as a young woman. And through it all, the genuine love of music instilled by countless teachers and adjudicators kept drawing me back to the practice room, to the stage, and to the next challenge.

My grandmother never missed a performance. She would sit in the audience, scribbling down something positive about each performer in her unmistakable handwriting. She often brought along friends and, looking back, I love the thought of them coming to watch young people do something that was, in its

own way, quite brave - standing up in front of a room, making themselves vulnerable, and putting their work out into the world.

Even now, I still feel those familiar butterflies when I walk into Luther College. Festival eventually led me to study voice and complete a Master's in Opera. Later, I won the SMFA Gordon Wallis Opera Competition, and the support from that award allowed me to study with recognized teachers in Lyon, France, and even Buenos Aires. It still astounds me to think how far the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association helped carry this Regina girl.

My life eventually took me in very different directions, first into law and later into politics. But so much of what music taught me has stayed with me: poise, communication, persuasion, discipline, resilience, preparation, and confidence.

The path from those early festival days to the life I eventually built was not a straight one, but the connection is clear to me now. The festival was one of the first places where I learned to work hard, take risks, fail, improve and try again. It gave me opportunities to test myself, to grow in confidence, and to discover what I was capable of. More than anything, it helped nurture a lifelong love of music - and for that, I remain deeply grateful.



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.

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

District Festival Reports

Assiniboia & District Music Festival
March 17 to 20, 2026

The Assiniboia & District Music Festival enjoyed another successful festival year in 2026. Our festival continues to provide an important opportunity for young musicians and performers from Assiniboia and surrounding communities to develop their skills, receive professional adjudication, and celebrate their accomplishments. The 2026 festival included 115 entries representing a variety of disciplines. A total of 36 entrants participated, including 33 participants under the age of 19, two participants aged 30–54, and one participant aged 55+. Seven teachers entered students in the festival.

Our adjudicator was Jenn Voth from Regina, and sessions took place over four days. The adjudication process provided students with an opportunity to receive professional feedback and participate in extended learning through masterclass style instruction. The committee appreciated the adjudicator's preparation and engagement with the festival and participants. The festival was pleased to provide 45 awards and scholarships totaling $3,150.

The festival was organized by a dedicated seven-member committee supported by additional community volunteers. In total, 11 volunteers contributed approximately 195 volunteer hours to the festival.
The 2026/27 committee includes:
Chair: Raegan Rasmussen
Treasurer: Karen Reisner
Corresponding Secretary and Media Director: Cecette Brons Rhodes
Entry Secretary: Tina McCaslin
Members at Large: Leesa Kuntz, Iryna Kenes and Teri Hanstock

Festival-generated revenue included $280 from Stars of the Festival, $886 in door donations, and $108 from program sales. The committee gratefully acknowledges the generous support received from local organizations and businesses. In particular, we extend our sincere appreciation to Canalta, which generously covered approximately $937 in expenses. We are also very appreciative of the excellent promotional support provided by CKDH Hit Radio, which helped advertise and promote our festival within the community.

Support from Saskatchewan Lotteries and other community partners continues to play an important role in maintaining the accessibility and sustainability of our festival.

A major highlight of the 2026 festival was once again seeing young performers develop their confidence and musicianship through performance and adjudication. With the large majority of our entrants being under 19 years of age, the festival continues to make an important contribution to music and performing arts education for young people in our district. The strong piano participation, along with entries in voice, musical theatre, strings, spoken word and choral disciplines, provided a diverse festival program. Scholarship night was another highlight and provided an opportunity to recognize the achievements of our performers while celebrating music and the arts with their families and the wider community.

The committee has already begun planning for the next Assiniboia & District Music Festival, scheduled for March 14–20, 2027, with an entry deadline of February 7, 2027.
The Assiniboia & District Music Festival sincerely thanks our performers, families, teachers, volunteers, adjudicator, audience members, donors, sponsors, local businesses and community organizations. Their continued

generosity and commitment allow the festival to provide meaningful performance and educational opportunities within our rural community. We look forward to continuing this tradition and welcoming performers and families back for another successful festival in 2027.

Respectfully submitted, Raegan Rasmussen



Battlefords Music Festival
April 20 to 26, 2026

This year's Festival ran from April 20-25. We had three adjudicators: Sofia Mycyk, Melissa Wood and Ryan Purchase. There were 259 entries.

Sam Hasse, Kaylin Smith, Eli Morin, Gretta Wheeler, Hayden Chen, Sophie Francais, Lizzie Whelan, Rubeen Yi and Nathaniel Negad qualified to proceed to Provincial Finals in Saskatoon.

The Awards Gala was held on April 28. Thank you to Lakeland Veterinary Clinic for sponsoring 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, Joan Bunce, Cecilia and Murray Burton, Donna and Roy Challis, Charbin Seed Farm, Dr. Russel Butler Dentistry, Dream Realty, Dynamic Appraisals, 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 Loenhdorf, Richardson Pioneer, Matrix Law Group, Austin Saddlery Ltd., Yolanda S. Van Wachem, Hugh McPhail, June Newsham Memorial, Veronica Materi, Skytech Equipment, Vantage Professional Accountants, Outback RV and Service, and Meridian Surveys.

Biggar & District Music Festival
March 8 to 14, 2026

Biggar and District Music Festival was held March 8-14, with March 14 serving as our Performers' Concert. This year we were pleased to livestream the concert, allowing audience members who are not normally able to attend in person to take part in the evening. This year marked our 98th annual music festival and was very well attended. Our festival included musical theatre sessions on the first day, two days of piano, two half-days of instrumental, and two days of vocal. There were a total of 264 entries across all four disciplines. Four Rose Bowls were presented: **Eliana Bakanec** in piano, **Larissa Raddysh** in vocal, **Reid Silvernagle** in musical theatre, and **Reid Silvernagle** in instrumental. Provincial participation for the musical theatre discipline included **Larissa Raddysh, Caledonia Donahue, Reid Silvernagle** and **Malia Hadden.** Provincial qualifiers for vocal were **Larissa Raddysh, Reid Silvernagle and Malia Hadden.** Provincial qualifiers for piano were **Eliana Bakanec, Mariah Bakanec** and **Brieann Singer.**

We welcomed three adjudicators: Cole Knutson for instrumental, Audrey Falk Janzen for piano, and Garry Gable for vocal and musical theatre. We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to each adjudicator for the encouragement, guidance, and advice they provided to our festival participants.

Thank you as to all our scholarship supporters, award donors, and patrons. Our committee held a festive indoor carol festival in the community in early December, where we received a great deal of community support.

This year, we introduced a new scholarship and award structure designed to be more streamlined, with the goal of ensuring that awards are distributed evenly and fairly across disciplines, relative to participation within each category. This new structure was extremely well received. We also invested substantially in new trophy and plaque hardware and implemented new options for sponsors and donors to remain included, recognized, and meaningfully connected to the festival and its awards program.

On behalf of the Biggar Music Festival Association, I would like to thank our many volunteers, whose time and dedication ensured that everything ran smoothly throughout the festival. The 98th Biggar & District Music Festival was a success, and we are already gearing up to celebrate our 100th festival in less than two years. Stay tuned!

Submitted by Janelle Carr, President

Borderland Music Festival (Coronach)

March 29 to 31, 2026

The Borderland Music Festival was held at the Coronach Alliance Church, starting on Sunday evening with piano performances. Monday morning and early afternoon saw many school classes ranging from Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 6 performing choral speech. The school classes always bring such excitement, as all the performers look forward to performing the pieces they have been practicing over the past months. Monday afternoon began with vocal performances that continued until the end of the festival on Tuesday afternoon. There was a wonderful range of vocal performances with recital pieces, folk songs, vocal solo and great costumes and acting during the musical theatre portion of the festival.

Our adjudicator was Sarah Clark Gregory, who adjudicated all performances over three days of the festival. She was very encouraging to all of the entrants, giving praise as well as working one on one with performers, and sharing expert advice for continued improvement.

Borderland Music Festival was pleased to present 49 awards with $1,525 awarded in scholarships. This was made possible thanks to our wonderful sponsors who encourage music in our community by sponsoring our music festival every year! Awards were presented at our Festival of the Stars on Tuesday evening. It was a wonderful time of celebrating all the performers, hearing some of their pieces and recognizing their efforts over months and years. There was a wonderful attendance of 850 people over the course of the whole festival.

The festival hosted a Christmas program this year to help raise money for the festival season. The Christmas concert, along with the generous donation from our sponsors, allowed us to raise money for the next year of festival. The many volunteers also ran a smooth festival, with 10 volunteers putting in 310 volunteer hours! Our committee members this year were Kalissa Regier, Kaylan Fisher, Shelly Rousseau, Marilyn Remoue, Tori Knudson, and Angelika Budd. Thank you to all of our committee members, volunteers, sponsors and entrants for the wonderful festival, we look forward to next year.

Respectfully submitted, Angelika Budd

Carnduff & District Music Festival

NO FESTIVAL IN 2026

The Carnduff & District Music and Arts Festival was to be held March 8-11, 2026. We had a plan in place to host at two venues this year – the Carnduff Legion and Oxbow Prairie Horizon School. In January, we decided due to low volunteer levels that hosting a festival would be an impossible feat and we had to let SMFA know our decision.

While we did not host an adjudicated festival this year, we did want to promote music education and growth. On February 28, we hosted a Local Legends Concert, a chance for those who had been practicing festival pieces to showcase their talents. We had 40 performers with 75 pieces in piano, vocal, oratory, guitar, and band instruments. We charged no entry fee for participation. Every youth that performed received a $50 award to use toward their music education. We had four lucky recipients who performed more than once receive an additional $50 toward their music education (random draw).

Keeping with the theme of supporting our youth, we gave $1500 in bursaries for music camp which was split among those that applied after performing at the concert. We also sponsored $1000 towards the band program workshop and plan to spend $1000-$1500 on a piano workshop and masterclasses in the fall.

We want to thank all our sponsors and patrons for their continued support in making Carnduff & District Music & Arts Festival a success. We also want to thank the volunteers for their time on the board and making the concert a success.

65 Years of Festivals

Central Saskatchewan Music and Speech Arts Festival (Davidson)

March 23 to 24, 2026

Our festival was held on March 23 and 24 this year. We celebrated our 65th Music Festival in Davidson.

We were fortunate to have Alicia Vopni-Summach as our adjudicator for both days. She adjudicated piano, voice, strings, guitar and spoken word. It was an excellent experience for all involved – students, parents, teachers and festival committee. Thank you, Alicia.

We were pleased to have 137 entries in the festival this year, down slightly from last year. All participants performed with enthusiasm and dedication, making this a very successful year. The Grand Finale was held March 25 with a large audience in attendance. Scholarships and trophies were awarded at this time.

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



Estevan & District Music Festival

March 15 to 26, 2026

The 62nd Annual Estevan and District Music Festival was held from March 15 – 26 at the following venues: Trinity Lutheran Church, St. Paul's United Church, Estevan Comprehensive School, Midale Central School, Spruce Ridge School, Pleasantdale School and St. Mary's School.

We had 385 entries in total, which included 81 entries in voice, musical theatre and spoken word; 60 entries in band, ensembles, brass, percussion and woodwind; 41 entries in strings and guitar; and 203 entries in piano.

Our adjudicators were Gail Fry from Regina for spoken word, voice and musical theatre; Nick Fanner from Saskatoon for bands and instrumental; Kerry Duwors from Brandon for strings and guitar; and Lynette Sawatsky from Saskatoon for piano.

The district winners who qualified to represent our festival at the Provincial Competition in June in Saskatoon were: **Rachel Duncan** (brass), **Grace Hall** (classical voice and piano), **Sofia Erana-Schmegelsky** (musical theatre), and **Celine Gueco**, **Hudsyn Hozjan**, **Paris Irwin**, **Peyton Irwin**, **Kensie Aspinall**, **Kirkman Rennalls** and **Sofie Morrow** (all in piano). **Grace Hall** qualified for the Canada West competition in Edmonton for classical voice.

The festival award ceremonies were held on Sunday, March 29. Our festival awarded approximately $9000 in award money to our winners. The prestigious Murray GM Multi-Discipline award this year was won by **Rachel Duncan**. The runner-up Multi-Discipline Dwight Thompson Memorial Award sponsored by Hall Funeral Services was awarded to **Sarah Kimball**.

Thank you to the sponsors, contributors to our scholarships and our Friends of the Festival from Estevan and the surrounding area for their generous and continuing support of music education of our local students.

SASK LOTTERIES

Eston Music Festival

April 20 to 22, 2026

The Eston Music Festival was held April 20-22. Our entries were 118, 19 fewer than in 2025. We had 6 spoken word entries, 33 piano, 12 voice and 6 musical theatre.

Carol McFadden was our adjudicator for all three days. She was very good with the competitors and held mini workshops with them. Her rapport with the students was enjoyed by all. **Alexander Harbicht** and **Lilah Loewen** advanced to Provincial Finals in piano. **Eva Jackson** and **Julia Tunall** qualified in spoken word.

We hosted the annual Carol Festival in December, which never fails to get us in the Christmas spirit!

Our festival has awesome community support, starting with our scholarship donors. Sacred Heart Catholic Church again opened their doors to us for all festival sessions. The Eston Full Gospel Church hosted our final concert.

Thank you to the teachers and their students who enter our festival. We couldn't have one without you!

"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 14 to 17, 2026

The 26th Gravelbourg & District Bilingual Music Festival was held from April 14-17. Participants and spectators alike were privileged to enjoy the lively and enriching adjudications of Dr. Tina Alexander-Luna for voice, spoken word and musical theatre, as well as Anna Marie Bekolay for piano and violin. A total of 130 entries from 35 competitors were received, marking a slight but encouraging increase of approximately 8% over the previous year.

The annual concert, the "Gravelbourg Grammies", was held the weekend following the festival and featured 28 delightful reprise performances selected by the adjudicators. It is thanks to the generous donations of many local individuals, businesses and organizations that the Gravelbourg & District Bilingual Music Festival was able to award nearly $2,700 in scholarships across five disciplines. Six of the festival participants also advanced to the provincial level of competition in Saskatoon. Those eligible also received a total of $1000 in "Provincial Bursaries", a new initiative established by the festival to assist competitors and their families with rising travel costs.

Unfortunately, it is not only travel costs that are rising. Despite the tremendous support from local donors and the revenues generated over the course of the festival, Gravelbourg & District Bilingual Music Festival will be increasing their fundraising efforts over the remainder of 2026 and beyond. A recent summertime cooler raffle proved to be quite successful and further events are currently in the works. Strengthening the festival's financial position ensures the organization's resilience and ability to adapt to the changing needs of the community.

Our local music festival is ultimately made possible through the dedication of the teachers, students and their families keeping the performing arts alive in our community. Our generous hosts at the Church of Christ ensure us a welcoming facility to gather, to plan, and to celebrate the achievements of the festival participants. Each and every one of our festival donors makes a big difference through their support of rural performers in this pursuit of passion and skill development. Our incredible volunteers continue to amaze us every year, helping the small but mighty committee keep everything running smoothly.

The Gravelbourg & District Bilingual Music Festival also welcomed a few new faces to the committee this year – Sarah Rouffiange and Jobi Magdalena Nichol. Under the guidance of their well-practiced team, these two are well on their way to learning the processes of the organization but more membership is still needed in order to fill all of the required roles. A balance of innovation and mentorship is key to a strong succession plan, and we are incredibly fortunate to have longstanding committee members Yvonne Sutherland, Michelle Blohm and Lorna Bell building the foundations that will carry this festival into the future.

As we look ahead to 2027, we look forward to sustaining and growing festival entries and attendance; developing more educational opportunities such as workshops for local performers; and to finding other unique ways we can collaborate with other local services and organizations to connect the community through the arts.

Submitted by Jobi Magdalena Nichol, President

Humboldt Music Festival

March 16 to 24, 2026

Humboldt Music Festival held its 89th festival from March 16-24. Entries totaled 299 in the disciplines of piano, strings, band, voice, 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 Audrey Watson (piano), Garry Gable (voice, musical theatre and spoken word), and Jennifer Tenford (band, instruments and strings).

Our final concert was held on the evening of March 29 at Westminster United Church and was very well received and attended by the community. There were 51 scholarship recipients, and approximately $2,400 was awarded in scholarships. The venue was packed, and we needed to set out additional seating to accommodate everyone. This is the second consecutive year for such a large audience. 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.

We look forward to next year's festival with encouragement that we will continue to be a sustaining festival.

Submitted by April Pray, Festival Coordinator

Kindersley & District Music Festival

March 9 to 18, 2026

Our 2026 Music Festival ran from March 9-18. We hosted 17 competitive sessions over 7 days all in one venue, except for the school band which was held at KCS. Over 171 competitors were registered, including the band. In total, we had 263 registrations (down from 281 last year).

Our first adjudicator was Sharon Rodney, for junior and senior piano. We scheduled in a new way, doing all of each 'type' of music in a single session (baroque, sonatina, etc). Reactions were mixed, as parents and children were required to be at the venue more often than when scheduled by ages. We had a full 4 days of piano, with 10 sessions overall. **Dominic Bosch**, **Angela Bosch**, **Leif Bews** and **Maui Constantino** all advanced to Provincial Finals, and **Stein Dostal** qualified in three classes.

Chelsea Mahan adjudicated speech arts, voice and musical theatre sessions, also held at St. Paul's. We only had two sessions, with time for a workshop session at the end of the vocal/musical theatre afternoon. **Orianna Gonzalez**, advanced to Provincials in 4 classes in voice and musical theatre. **Angela Bosch** qualified in one spoken word class, and **Dominic Bosch** qualified in two spoken word classes.

Our second week saw Cole Knutson adjudicating instrumental sessions at St. Paul's United Church. We held 5 sessions, 2 of instrumental, one of percussion and one of strings, with a 5th session including voice by one student and the KCS Band. Woodwind players **Angela Bosch**, **Rayna Kiss** and **Kaitlyn Herner** advanced to Provincials, as did brass player **Serenity Malcolm**. **Moira Padberg** qualified in two percussion classes.

We were very pleased to continue with our "Adjudicator's Invitational Stars of the Festival"

concert. Our last session was on Tuesday afternoon, and 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 their pieces, that would perform in the concert. We gave out 52 awards and our adjudicators followed the KDMF suggested number restrictions and put together a program of 25 pieces across all the disciplines. All scholarships winners were also encouraged to attend, and we handed out $3,365 in awards, $1,725 of which was donated by local sponsors.

A number of our sponsors from last year that we lost due to the postal strike returned this year. We held a silver collection at the door for all our sessions, including the Stars Concert, and sold professionally printed programs for $5 each. Our Christmas Carol Festival was unfortunately cancelled in December due to a lack of participants. We have started making plans on how to develop this event again for 2026. We are also applying for a community initiative grant (KCIP) from our town.

One of the highlights for our 2026 Festival was an increase in community volunteers coming out to work at the secretary and coordinator tables. We made a decision to not use parents as secretaries at our last AGM, which restricted a pool of our volunteers, but a total of 16 people, seven who were new this year, from outside the committee volunteered, some taking several sessions. We hosted a training session during venue setup for anyone who wanted to attend. 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 "Improvement is about doing something better. Innovation is about doing something new." We always reflect back on our year to see ways we have grown, ways we can improve and look for ways we can innovate. As our community of participants grows and changes, so does the way we run our Festival. This year, we continued to have a mixture of printed programs and a QR code to our online one, but some had trouble accessing it. We did go back to charging for the program and having them professionally printed. Our scheduling choices had a mix of positives and negatives. Our Adjudicator Choice Concert is a success, and we will continue with that. Our online registration program had the most success we've ever had, with very few helpdesk tickets sent, and only one person doing paper forms, as they were away during online registration. Accepting e-transfers continues to be a success. As we grow, we will look to improving our advertising in the community to draw in more of an audience. We look forward to continuing to Make Music Matter in Kindersley as we head into our 64th 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 District Festivals!





Kipling & District Music Festival

March 10 to 13, 2026

Our 70th Music Festival was held the week of March 9 with Cherith Alexander adjudicating all disciplines: predominantly piano with a nice spread of all other disciplines except choir and organ. A fantastic festival with minimal cancellations and this includes the final concert! Our festival demonstrated a strong community spirit with many attendees, a packed gymnasium at band night, many volunteers, lunches served, donated snacks and drinks at every coffee break. Great camaraderie amongst kids and parents encouraging one another and an atmosphere of fun. Posters were on the church wall and door entrances entered by any who wanted to enter the KDMF poster contest. A comment from our adjudicator: "We don't see this in the large city festivals! Here, kids arrive with two parents, grandparents and aunts and uncles and often neighbours, to watch and support! And…the BEST food I have EVER had!" Our strong Filipino community has raised the bar from sandwiches to savory empanadas that flew off the plates! Every entrant's family is asked to donate food or time as an adjudicator assistant/door guardian, and this is how our festival keeps being awesome!

Our 70th year was celebrated with cake at the final concert; 73 locally sponsored awards were given out with just over $3,600 awarded. There were 46 entrants and 163 entries. One pianist qualified to advance to Provincial Finals. Honoured at our final concert were people who volunteered or were involved over 50 years at our festival!

Kipling & District Music Festival is the only festival in the province of Saskatchewan that does not charge an entry fee to its entrants. We have a strong business community spirit that donates to our festival so we can continue to do this. We have steadily seen an increase of entries from the low of 70 entries post-Covid. We encourage a positive learning and encouraging environment.

Submitted by Caroline Puffalt, President



La Ronge & District Music Festival

March 16 to 18, 2026

The 38th Annual La Ronge and Area Music Festival was held from March 16-18. We had 126 performances by 62 participants. Disciplines represented included: classical piano, piano duet, arranged piano and student-arranged piano, orchestral piano, string solo, string duet, guitar, voice solo, voice duet, and musical theatre. We were very pleased to welcome more duet numbers into our festival this year, including family piano duets, student piano duet, teacher/student violin duet and student vocal duets. Our adjudicator was Stephanie Nhan. We are grateful for the enthusiasm and insight she brought to encourage participants in their musical endeavours. The dedication, commitment, knowledge and experience she brought to our festival is much appreciated. We hired an accompanist, Michele Hupaelo, to drive up from Saskatoon and accompany the musicians at our festival. She did an amazing job, and we were so grateful to have her.

Our Outstanding Performances Concert on March 19 was very well attended. This concert ran well and included the presentation of 38 scholarships and awards. Total value of the scholarships was $3,320. We felt very blessed by the support from the community and the encouragement given to our young musicians at this concert. We are pleased to report that one of our performers was able to move on to the provincial level. **Alina Mack** was our district winner who participated in violin and piano at the SMFA Provincial Finals Competition at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. We hope to continue sending musicians to

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



Lafleche & District Music Festival

March 22 to 27, 2026

2026 was another great year for the Lafleche & District Music Festival with a total of 39 participants. Our adjudicators were Karen Frandsen who adjudicated 25 spoken word entries, 46 musical theatre entries and 37 voice entries, and Janet Gieck who adjudicated 53 piano entries and 3 string entries. The LDMF had a total of 164 entries. Thank you, ladies, for your wisdom, feedback and encouragement given to each participant to help them grow.

Our Final Concert was Friday, March 27 which we also celebrated as our 60th year. We invited our past president, David Sproule, to share a few memories and laughs from past festivals, which included a memory from the very first Lafleche & District Music Festival. We enjoyed seeing past board members and participants come to celebrate this night with us.

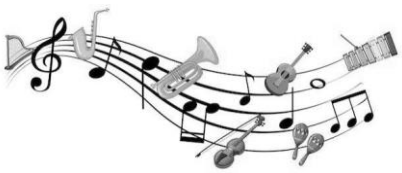
A total of 55 scholarships were presented that evening. This year Lafleche & District Music Festival had five district winners: **Anya Willis**, **Celina Pritchard**, **Marissa Girardin**, **Willow Lawson** and **Chloé Massé**. Congratulations to all of our participants; your hard work and determination greatly paid off and we enjoyed every performance!

On Saturday, March 28 we hosted our annual Lafleche Credit Union Musical Showcase featuring eight excellent performers chosen by the adjudicators to compete. We welcomed Janet Geick and Carol Marit to vote for our Showcase winner. The 2026 Showcase winner this year was **Marissa Girardin**. Congratulations, Marissa!

Fundraising efforts during the music festival this year included a raffle for four gift baskets and a beautiful quilted runner donated by a member of the community. Baskets were filled with various items donated by businesses and members of the community and purchased from local businesses as well.

We are thankful for the ongoing support and generosity from our community members who have gone above and beyond by volunteering hours of help where needed. Over 30 members of the community contributed over 1,450 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 fostering the love of music and the arts in our community again next year at our 61st Music Festival, April 11-17, 2027. Music is for Life!

Submitted by Amy Myers, President



Lanigan & District Music Festival
April 20 to 29, 2026

With 251 entries, talent was on full display at the 49th annual Lanigan and District Music Festival. Held at the Christian Fellowship Church in Lanigan and spanning over two weeks (April 20-29), the final concert occurred April 30, highlighting a number of performances from the festival.

The adjudicator for voice, musical theatre, and speech this year was Melissa Wood, for piano was Laurel Teichroeb, and for strings was Christina Bakanec. 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 **Morgan Fowler**, **Noah Vigoren**, **Mallory Tweidt**, **Zoe Puerto**, **Jenevieve Melin**, **Molly Evans**, **Jordyn Govan**, **Cade MacMillan**, **Jayden Bartel**, **Hunter Fitzsimmons**, **Claire Bergermann** and **Jay Sumalapao** qualified to compete in the SMFA Provincial Finals.

The Festival revenue for 2026 was $10,086 and expenses were $12,099 for a loss of $2,013. Fundraising comes from donations and session/concert attendance fees. AGM was held on June 3, 2026.

Festival committee members for 2026 included Michelle Foster and Kaylyn Bartel as well as executive members Nata Kline, Amber Yaskiw, Heidi Craig, and Angel Liebrecht.

60 Years of Festivals

Last Mountain & District Music Festival (Strasbourg)
April 13 to 15, 2026

The LMDMF was held in Strasbourg April 13 to 15 at St. John Lutheran Church. Our band and choir disciplines were held at the William Derby School Gym. Our sessions were well attended giving valuable support to our young musicians.

Most of our solo participants were in the piano discipline. We had 30 participants in piano, 5 voice participants, 31 participants in band, 10 in choir, 3 in spoken word and 6 in rhythm ensemble. We are so pleased that there were 14 first time participants in our festival this year. There is promise that our festival will continue on even though we are small in number.

We were pleased to have Gillian Rice from Canora as our adjudicator this year. Gillian was an absolute delight. She had very positive comments for our musicians and made them feel comfortable and relaxed – as relaxed as one can be in a competition!

The BIG news is that we celebrated our 60th Anniversary this year!! We had a display table up with pictures of previous participants, a grand display of programs over the past years which showed the progression of quality of our programs! We had travelling plaques displaying previous winners in each of the categories and some old banners that were kept over the years. Our tables were adorned with "60th" center pieces and posters were up on the walls. It was fun to go through the photo album and see how many faces from long ago you still recognized!

We had 2 applicants for our Graduating Student Scholarship, **Aaliyah Rustia** and **Brianna Yung**. Both girls were deserving so we split the $200 award.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Danielson



Lloydminster Kiwanis Music Festival

April 13 to 23, 2026

2026 was another successful year for Kiwanis Lloydminster & District Music Festival, with a total of 456 entries.

Our adjudicators were: Alyssa Woolhether who saw 154 entries in choral, voice, musical theatre and spoken word in 9 sessions over 4 days. Glen Gillis adjudicated 57 entries in woodwind, brass, percussion, band/ensemble, strings and guitar. There were 9 sessions over 4 days. Han Ding heard 101 senior piano entries over 3 days in 7 sessions. Claire Seibold had 144 junior piano entries over 8 sessions in 4 days. Approximately 1,550 people came to watch the performances.

It is very encouraging to see that just over 10% of our entrants this year were participating in music festival for the first time. Hopefully that is an indication of further increases in our entries over time Our Final Concert was Monday, April 27 with 20 performances and 87 awards presented.

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

Kayla Andres - Piano (3) and Woodwind (1)
Tess Andres - Piano (2) and Woodwind (2)
Devin Chahley - Musical Theatre (2)
Brynn Edwards - Musical Theatre (2)
Addison Elliott - Musical Theatre (1)
Rowan Ford - Voice (2)
Mattea Gabrielson - Musical Theatre (4) and Spoken Word (1)
Lola Hickman - Musical Theatre (1), Spoken Word (2) and Canada West Speech Arts
Ruby Hickman - Musical Theatre (5) and Canada West Musical Theatre
Chloe Jones - Voice (1)
Julia Krenz - Piano (2)
Dana Pham - Piano (1)
Torie Pham - Piano (2)
Grace Siemens - Piano (1)
Natalie Simons - Musical Theatre (1) and Canada West Musical Theatre
Kadence Trachuk - Voice (1), Musical Theatre (5), Canada West Musical Theatre
Valerie Rollheiser - Spoken Word (2), Woodwind (1) and Canada West Woodwind

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 (Indian Head)

April 12 to 16, 2026

Mainline Music Festival successfully held a five-day event at the Indian Head Memorial Hall. Sharon Rodney of Martensville adjudicated all disciplines.

Total entries in 2026 were 196, which was a substantial increase since last year, and approaches our usual entries from the pre-2020 era! We were delighted to have three youth choirs participate this year; two travelling from Dr. Isman Elementary in Wolseley, and a third that is based in the community of Indian Head. Most award winners made a return to the stage for the Festival Finale on April 22, where over $3,500 in prizes were awarded. Mainline sent seven representatives to the Provincial competition: **Brynn Ager** (musical theatre), **Eden Arkinstall** (voice), **Jasper Beliveau** (voice and musical theatre), **Joni Lamb** (musical theatre), **Natalie Malo** (voice), **Julia Miles** (voice, musical theatre, and spoken word), and **Nathan Wilhelm** (piano). **Julia Miles** (spoken word) represented Saskatchewan at the Canada West Performing Arts Festival in Edmonton in July 2026.

Mainline ends the 2026 festival season with a financial surplus, thanks to a new strategy for soliciting donations where we had local committee members pursuing donations in each of the hub communities that participates in our festival. Combined with a revitalized system for identifying financial and in-kind supporters, and generous support from the Community Lotteries Grants, we were able to double our financial awards, and generously take care of our adjudicator and volunteers.

We are optimistically carrying a full and dedicated board of directors into 2027. A desperate plea in the fall of 2025 laid bare the truth – without volunteers, this event simply cannot run. Our communities stepped up to the challenge, and we were able to fill all of the long-empty executive positions, appoint many members-at-large to the committee, and relied on a willing volunteer base for the week of festival, despite yet another Saskatchewan snowstorm on the final day of competition. Mainline Music Festival will return to Wolseley in 2027, which will take place at the historic Opera House.



Maple Creek & District Music Festival

April 12 to 14, 2026

This year's festival saw twenty competitors perform 64 entries and included 17 solo competitors and three ensembles. We were delighted by Anastasia Winterhalt as our adjudicator for voice and Hannah Marple as adjudicator for piano. Unfortunately, we did not have any school band entries and ensembles were fewer than in previous years.

Our awards concert was held on the evening of April 17, with 16 performers and ensembles. Two competitors were recommended to the Provincial Competition: **Amara Weiss** (voice, musical theatre), and **Allegra Sifert** (voice). Twenty-four scholarships and awards were presented to 14 individuals and two ensembles, a total amount of $1,375. Aside from the festival competition, the committee provided financial support for **Emme Phillips** to attend the Saskatchewan Music Educators Conference as a participant in the Honour Choir.

Fundraising in 2026 was accomplished by an annual letter to donors, advertising space in the program, the Communities Grant and entry fees.

Our AGM was held on June 22, with seven committee members in attendance. The scholarship list was updated to better match the age divisions in the current syllabus. Included in discussion was the topic of school ensembles. A few years ago the festival committee hosted an information social for local school teachers, which was followed by a noticeable increase in participation from the elementary school. It was resolved to make the information night a regular event. Also discussed was the distribution of a school teachers' information package drafted by the committee, and making the 2027 entry deadline accommodating to the school term.

SASK LOTTERIES

Meadow Lake & District Music Festival

April 19 to 24, 2026

Another successful festival is in the books!

We are proud to say that, this year, our festival grew. It was not a huge growth, but it was significant. This happily included the return of one youth choir and one choral speech entry. Hopefully this is the beginning of a resurgence in these areas.

Thank you to our wonderful adjudicators – Stacey Mortenson-Spokes (band and strings) and Sharon Rodney (piano and voice). They gave all our participants excellent adjudications which both praised their accomplishments and encouraged further growth.

The festival began on Sunday evening with strings. Although small in number, we are very happy to have them as part of the festival. Stacey was kept busy on Monday and Tuesday with school bands during the day and band instruments and community band in the late afternoon and evening.

Piano began on Monday afternoon. Sharon was kept hopping with 7 piano sessions, 3 voice sessions, and 1 session that included spoken word, voice and piano.

The weather during festival week was a very mixed bag. It began pleasantly and, thankfully, all band sessions were completed before the snow storm hit. Although weather conditions were not pleasant, everyone was able to perform, with only one entrant delayed due to road conditions. The only person impacted greatly by the weather was Sharon who stayed an extra night before heading home.

For the first time, we changed our Awards Celebration from an evening performance to Sunday afternoon. This was well received by our audience who enjoyed a wonderful program showcasing some of the award winners and representing all disciplines. We are very thankful for the wonderful monetary support from loyal donors that allows us to reward our talented musicians. According to custom, we celebrated these youngsters' accomplishments with fellowship over ice cream sundaes.

Melfort Music Festival

March 16 to 26, 2026

This year, Melfort held their 98th annual Melfort Music Festival! We had six days of festival with 232 entries from 98 participants in the following disciplines – piano (123), strings (45), band (10), voice (24), musical theatre (25), and spoken word (5). Thank you to the parents/guardians as well as the 15 teachers who supported and encouraged their students to take part.

Melfort's fantastic adjudicators this year were: Christina Bakanec - strings; Peggy L'Hoir –

piano & spoken word; Anastasia Winterhalt – musical theatre & voice; Gene Aulinger – band.

Six piano performers advanced to Provincial Finals: **Helena Chester**, **Kendra Johnson**, **Ellah Moenga**, **Natalia Stephaniuk**, **Jennifer Summach** and **Miloslava Vasilenko.**

On the evening of Thursday, March 26, we held our *Sefton Memorial Competition* followed by our *Highlight's & Awards Program*. This year, we had two piano competitors in the Sefton Memorial Competition: **Natalia Stephaniuk** and **Jennifer Summach**. Our local judges were Rose Arbogast, Kirsten Dinsdale and Tracey Hedin. 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 23 amazing musicians who performed solos, duets and trio selections chosen by our adjudicators. Following the Highlight's Program, we handed out 51 Awards and Scholarships which totalled $2915!

We had another quilt raffle fundraiser this year. Thanks, once again, to Allison Rogers who graciously donated her talent and time in making a music themed quilt for the raffle.

<u>The Overall Winners for 2026</u> were:
Best Band performance – **North East Community Band**
Best Piano Performance – **Abigail Summach**
Best String Performer – **Erika Moenga**
Best Vocal Performer – **Trinity Chester**

Congratulations to **Natalia Stephaniuk**, winner of the $300 Sefton Memorial Competition.

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

Committee members for 2026 included Jodi Allen-Corbett, Dawne Glanville, Rachelle Heavin, Pam Kellington, Gina McAvoy, Janice Mindiuk, Mavis Peters, Katherine Stoll, Victoria Riley, and Tena Vanden Boomen.

Moose Jaw Kinsmen Music and Spoken Word Festival

March 31 & April 14 to 24, 2026

The Moose Jaw Music Festival started on March 31 with choirs and ended April 26.

We began on March 31 with choir classes with our fabulous adjudicator, Dianne Gryba The choirs appreciated her wisdom and kind nature.

Due to venue ability, we held band, woodwind, brass and percussion sessions the week before the general festival. This worked well, and we anticipate using this format in coming years. We enjoyed and respected the knowledge and enthusiasm of adjudicator Tom Hearn.

Voice and musical theatre disciplines ran from April 18-24 adjudicated by Sarah Hall from Brandon. Sarah's expertise and her warmth and exceptional energy made for a fantastic week! Musical theatre continues to be the largest component of our festival, with growth in entries every year. We were also pleased to see an increase in voice entries.

We were delighted to welcome Janet Gieck from Pambrun for piano, organ and string classes. We appreciate her willingness to adjudicate these three disciplines. Janet was very knowledgeable and encouraging to our mainly young participants.

We had multiple competitors qualify to compete at Provincial Finals. Congratulations to **Natalie Warren** and **Asher Brown** who were awarded first place in two classes each in musical theatre, **Izzy J. Adams** for 1st place in 28

& under Musical Theatre and **Rundle Ryba** for 2nd place in 28 & under Musical Theatre.

Congratulations as well to **Ruth Lamb** who represented Saskatchewan and Moose Jaw at the Canada West Performing Arts Festival in the 13 & under Musical Theatre Class in Edmonton in July.

In total, we awarded nearly $9,000 in scholarships — an achievement made possible through the generosity of our donors. We also have new patrons, and we are grateful for their contribution. A special thanks to the Kinsmen Club of Moose Jaw for their generous sustaining donation. We are now known as Moose Jaw Kinsmen Music and Spoken Word Festival.

The 2026 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 23 to 26, 2026

The Moosomin & District Music Festival was held March 23 to 26; piano on March 23-24 and voice, spoken word and musical theatre on March 25-26. Both adjudicators received a fruit basket to welcome them to our festival. There were 197 entries this year. These students were taught by 23 different teachers and represented 5 communities.

The piano discipline was held at the Baptist Church with Corinne Groff as adjudicator. Corinne was lovely to work with and very supportive of all students. She effectively communicated well with students her own passion for piano as well as sharing her appreciation for the work they did in preparing for festival. Sandra Poole was our Festival Chairperson. There were 97 entries, which included seven duets and two 6 & under participants. 6 & under participants received medals in lieu of a mark. Audience was approximately 287 over the five sessions.

Voice, spoken word and music theatre was held at Bethel United Church with Laurien Gibson as adjudicator. Entries were: voice – 16, musical theatre – 26 (including a children's chorus), and spoken word - 21 (including 10 classrooms). Kendra Parrish was Festival Chairperson. Laurien took time to work with students which 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 afternoon, March 28 at Bethel United Church with Kendra Parrish as emcee. A new scholarship was given in memory of former local musicians, Marilyn & Lyman Hill. Students recommended to Provincials were: Piano - **Anna Lynnes**; Vocal and Musical Theatre - **Olivia Brooks**, **Kane Dodds**, and **Phoeme Mactal**. We wish them all a wonderful experience.

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:
Kendra Parrish (president/program)
Melissa Lynnes (treasurer)
Alice Abrahamson (corresponding secretary)
Tegan Matichuk & Sherrie Meredith (entries)
Rosanne Kelly/
Sandra Poole (program/patrons)
Andrea Brooks (volunteers)

Attending the SMFA Annual General Meeting via ZOOM were Kendra Parrish, Rosanne Kelly, Sandra Poole and Alice Abrahamson.

Respectfully submitted, Alice Abrahamson



Nipawin Music Festival

March 9 to 12, 2026

This year marked the 85th anniversary of the Nipawin Music Festival. There were 267 entries by 78 competitors.

All registrations were received online through the Nipawin Music Festival Association website. The programs were also online and 20 printed copies were made and sold at Rexall Drugstore. Posters were made and hung up around town as well as advertised on the Nipawin Music Festival Facebook page. Pictures and video clips(reels) were posted on the NMFA Facebook page. Pianos were tuned by Scott Brinklow of Tisdale.

Sessions were held at the Nipawin United Church, Nipawin Alliance Church and Wagner School. Our adjudicators were Jenn Voth for piano, Michelle Rivers for vocal, musical theatre and choral speaking and Andrea Hedlund for strings and guitar. They stayed at the Nipawin Motor Inn. All adjudicators did a good job and would be welcomed back.

The final concert was held on Wed, March 18 at LP Miller School's Multi Purpose Room, with 15 performances as well as awards. The performers and award winners are chosen by the adjudicators. $4,800 was given to award recipients, thanks to the generous donors who invest in the music festival because they see the value of music education in our community. Family Bakery donuts were available to everyone in attendance at the end of the program, provided by NMFA.

Submitted by Jamie Hildebrandt, President





Outlook & District Music Festival

March 16 to 19, 2026

The Outlook & District Festival of Music took place March 16-19 and concluded with a well-rounded selection of the week's performances (as chosen by the adjudicators) at the festival finale on March 22 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. We had 1,040 attendees throughout the week who were treated to a wide variety of performances taking place at 4 different venues: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute (LCBI), Outlook High School and Outlook Elementary School. We are very grateful to our community partners for the use of these facilities and their participation in promoting the performing arts.

The 2026 festival had a total of 148 entries, with 352 participants (including adults, children and groups). We had a wonderful diversity of performances, including piano, keyboard

ensembles, musical theater, voice, spoken word (including poetry, prose, public speaking and sacred reading), strings, flute, saxophone, Outlook High School Band (Grade 6-11), the LCBI Jazz Band and Chamber and Concert Choirs, Choral Speech (Grades 1, 4 and 6) and School Chorus (Outlook Elementary School Choir). 21 teachers entered their students in the festival, and we extend our thanks to them and the many accompanists who supported our performers in preparing for the festival.

Keyboard ensembles were new classes this year. These classes are intended for students in group piano lessons, with possible varying ages and experience levels. The pieces may have varying levels of difficulty with students performing the part of the piece that is suitable to their level. These ensembles were a great way to ease new students into the festival competition experience by performing as a small group.

We were pleased to welcome two very accomplished adjudicators to Outlook. Morgan Layton was in the community for the entirety of the festival, adjudicating piano, keyboard ensembles, musical theater, voice, choirs and choral speech. Cole Knutson joined the festival on March 19 to adjudicate the Outlook High School Bands, the LCBI jazz band and flute and saxophone solos. We were fortunate to have both with us to share their knowledge, constructive criticism and encouragement to our performers. Cole, an ambassador for Creative Kids Saskatchewan, encouraged all students to think about careers in music, commenting *"Music can be the vehicle that allows you to see the world!"*. He touched on some of the places music has taken him, including England, Germany and Greece.

61 participants received scholarships this year, which totalled $4,050. We are so grateful for the support of local businesses, organizations, churches and individuals who made donations towards the scholarship fund and general operations of the festival. Their generosity fosters the continued musical, vocal and performing journeys of our participants, and contributes to the cultural enrichment of our community.

Congratulations are extended to our participants who qualified for Provincials: **Isabella Theoret** (musical theatre and spoken word, **Jonah Turton** spoken word), **Nicholas Turton** (musical theater) and the **LCBI Concert Choir and Chamber Choir** (choral). We wish them the best of luck!

Our festival committee members are Krystal LeBlanc, Melissa Theoret, Cathy McPhail, Justin Turton, Karla Gjesdal, Amber Turton, Conny Behenna and Janna Ylioja.

Outlook has been celebrating the arts through the Music Festival for 45 years, and it is evident that it is an event enjoyed by many in our community. It allows for the continued growth of our participants in their musical and performing journeys, and we hope to see it continue to flourish in the years to come.

Submitted by Amber Turton,
Social Media/Promotions

Parkland Music Festival

(Preeceville/Sturgis)
April 20 to 23, 2026

Our festival in Parkland is shared between Canora, and Preeceville-Sturgis with separate committees in each community hosting in alternate years. The 2026 festival was organized and held in Preeceville and Sturgis. Our committee met 4 times (May, September, January and March) for formal meetings. The Scholarship/Donor Committee spent many hours on their specific tasks, and some general work bees were held to do a variety of tasks such as marking sheets and certificates, and facility set up, take down and cleaning. As well,

individual committee members took on the many tasks such as communications and advertising, program development, program production, hospitality baskets, organizing piano tuning, adjudicator accommodation arrangements, and volunteer organization.

We are pleased to report that our entries are up to 148 this year in comparison to 111 when we hosted 2 years ago. Our festival was held April 20-23 with the final concert on Sunday afternoon, April 26. The voice, spoken word, and musical theatre were scheduled for most of Monday morning followed by piano for the remainder of the morning session and then two more piano sessions Monday and two piano sessions on Tuesday. They were held in the Trinity United Church in Preeceville where we are fortunate to enjoy the use of the grand piano. The band and instrumental portion started Wednesday in the Sturgis Composite School gymnasium with 5 school band entries followed by percussion solos and ensembles. Guitar, woodwind and brass solos and ensembles were held over two sessions on Thursday in the Grace United Church in Sturgis.

We were pleased that two classrooms from the Preeceville School took part in the spoken word discipline in Preeceville, and in Sturgis the Grade 2/3 class came as guests in the afternoon to see the brass solo and ensemble entries perform and be adjudicated. The cookies and juice coffee breaks are a special hit with the classrooms but are appreciated by all participants as they get to visit with others who are involved in the arts, forming friendships with children with similar interests.

We enjoyed and appreciated both our adjudicators. Our piano adjudicator this year was Cherith Alexander from Weyburn who adjudicated voice, spoken word, musical theatre and piano. Her expertise and approach to the participants was appreciated by teachers and parents and our committee, and the children responded so well to her. Our band adjudicator was Nick Fanner of Saskatoon. He was so accommodating with the bussing challenges of having school bands coming from an hour away. His picturesque descriptions of sound production were so helpful and the mini workshops with the bands that came as part of each band adjudication were great. The portions of the pieces he worked on with the students blossomed as they replayed them after his teaching.

We are so thankful for the community in which we function. Our venues give us priority for our festival dates. The financial support from churches, community organizations, municipal bodies, businesses and individuals is always generous. We have wonderful volunteers with 54 people helping during the week of festival.

The final concert is always one of the great rewards for our volunteer hours. Again this year we integrated the performances with the presentation of awards. There were 18 performances with 140 in attendance at the concert. It is a lot of work to prepare but it runs smoothly and is enjoyable for all. The festival as a whole was well received with many positive comments from teachers and families.

At our follow up meeting in May our "north" Preeceville-Sturgis committee met with members of the "south" Canora committee to explore ways we can be helpful to each other as Canora faces some facility and volunteer challenges in their plans for next year's festival.

Potashville Music Festival
(Churchbridge)
March 9 to 11, 2026

The 56th Annual Potashville Music Festival was held in Churchbridge from March 9-11 with 102 entries. We would like to thank our adjudicators, Laureen Kells (piano, voice, spoken word) and Nick Fanner (band, guitar, strings) for the encouragement, knowledge and expertise they shared with our performers, and for being so easy to work with.

Our festival is financially supported by donations from individuals and businesses in our festival area which includes Churchbridge, Langenburg, Esterhazy, Spy Hill, Gerald and Stockholm. Special thanks to Churchbridge Town Council for the use of the Town Hall for most of our sessions at no cost, as well as Churchbridge Public School and Esterhazy High School for hosting the full band sessions. The donated venues along with grants from Nutrien, The Family and Friends Foundation and SaskTel, helped us to run our festival with only a small deficit this year.

The Final Concert was held on Thursday, March 12 with performances from many of the award recipients and, of course, the presentation of the awards. We gave 24 awards totalling $3,230. We are pleased to note that the following competitors advanced to Provincial Finals: **Esterhazy High School Choir**, **Anthony Glitz** (saxophone) and **Arthur Glitz** (clarinet) of Churchbridge. Arthur advanced to the Canada West Performing Arts Festival in July.

The Churchbridge Festival Committee has been comprised of the same members for quite a few festivals so we run quite efficiently as everyone is very familiar with their duties. Thank you to the committee for their hard work and dedication! Representatives from Langenburg and Esterhazy attend meetings to help keep the continuity between each town's hosting years and to be a contact in their communities. Lynette Kaminski and Shannon McIntyre attended the SMFA conference, where we received some good reminders as well as new ideas. We put one of those ideas into action - taking the adjudicator to our bands. We had two schools host so only a few bands had to be bussed, but both of our directors found this to be much easier and beneficial to the groups, as our adjudicator had more time to work with each band after their performances. Hopefully this is how we continue in future festivals.

Thank you to SMFA for their support and especially Nancy for answering all of our questions (even though most of those answers are already in the syllabus!). Hosting the festival is always much easier when you know that help is only an email away. Good luck to the Esterhazy committee who will host in March of 2027.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon McIntyre, President
Potashville Music Festival @ Churchbridge

SASK LOTTERIES

Prairie Sunset Music Festival
(Luseland)
April 13 to 17, 2026

Our Festival of Stars was held Friday, April 17 with thirty-one performances and was enjoyed by a large audience.

Our adjudicators were Lynette Sawatsky (piano), Gaye-Lynn Kern (spoken word), Chelsea Mahan (voice) and Drusilla Waltz (instrumental). We had a total of 183 entries from 61 participants not including school groups and bands).

Advancing to Provincial Finals:
Eliana Bakanec – strings; Canada West piano; four piano classes
Liné Linde – Canada West speech, musical theatre and classical voice; four spoken word; six musical theatre and voice classes; one strings solo
Brooke Bruce – three musical theatre classes; three voice classes; three piano classes
Mariah Bakanec – Canada West strings; two strings classes; two piano classes
Ali Klotz – two piano classes
Laynee Thompson – two musical theatre classes

We are very proud and excited that so many provincial recommendations came out of our festival – even more than last year! Liné continued on to Canada West representing PSMF in classical voice and speech, and Mariah represented PSMF in strings.

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 again this year as our students are primarily cello and guitar. The adjudicator was able to pass on helpful tips to the students. Provost Public School (Alberta) entered several school band classes, and their teacher was very enthusiastic for the opportunity to perform.

Our festival had revenue of $12,922 and expenses of $13,634 for a loss of $711. We are expecting a grant from Luseland Rec Board for $500. We have agreed to pay partial registration fees totalling $625 for Liné Linde and Eliana Bakanec for their Canada West entries.

One committee member attended the SMFA Fall Conference.

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 2 to 29, 2026

March 2 & 3 – Instrumentals at Messiah Lutheran Church: Brent Pittman from Saskatoon provided excellent adjudication and feedback to the young performers. There were 44 woodwind entries, 31 brass entries and 4 percussion entries.

March 5 & 6 – Piano at Messiah Lutheran Church: Audrey Janzen from Rosthern provided helpful adjudication and also spotted a few issues in the draft program so we adjusted some classes for one entrant. 30 scholarships were awarded, as the adjudicator chose to split some of the awards due to age and experience level of the winning pieces. $2 250 worth of scholarship money was awarded. We had 77 entries with 1 Canada West entry.

March 13 – Piano Awards Concert at Messiah Lutheran Church: 63 persons attended the Concert. 30 scholarships were awarded, as the adjudicator chose to split some of the awards due to age and experience level of the winning pieces. 2 Entrants qualified for Provincials.

March 14 – Instrumental and Band Awards Concert at Messiah Lutheran Church: 142 persons were in attendance. 41 Scholarships were awarded.

March 25 to 27 – Voice at Messiah Lutheran Church: Garry Gable from Saskatoon provided adjudication for our 9 Choral, 30 voice and 35 Musical Theatre entries.

March 29 – Voice Awards Concert at Messiah Lutheran Church: 120 people were in attendance. 29 Scholarships were awarded. 6 Choirs and 6 Entrants qualified for Provincials.

In total we awarded 94 Scholarships totalling $8,850.00. Being able to have one major venue decreased costs of piano tuning.

We had over a total 2,434 people attend the Festival, including competitors. The success of school music programming was visible in the number of choirs and bands that participated from not only within Prince Albert but some of the outlying communities. The dedication of the school and private music teachers needs to be applauded as they instill the *Joy of Music* in our youth and keep music festivals alive and flourishing.

Our Board consisted of 14 volunteers with several new members this year and we are losing several members due to moves, maternity leaves and other commitments. As with other volunteer organizations, it is a struggle to find people who are willing to commit some time to the furtherance of music opportunities. The music teachers in the school systems and private teachers are usually the "supply pool" but they are also the busiest people!

The following choirs and soloists qualified to compete at Provincial Finals: **École Vickers Choir**; **Prince Albert Children's Choir**; **St. Mary's High School Choir**; **Carlton Comprehensive High School Choir**; **Resonate**; **Big Noise**; **Oliver Hunter -Providenti**; **Greyson de Padua**; **Aowyn Thiessen**; **Adrianna Kowalski**; **Cohen Cantin**; **Aberdeen Roos**; **Sara Veith**; **Tori Korczak.**

Eric Bews attended the SMFA conference on our behalf.

We weren't able to expand our Scholarship or major donor base this year but hope to in the upcoming year. PAMFA looks forward to working on fund raising as well as increasing our Social media presence in the upcoming year. We appreciate our Patrons & our regular advertisers for their on going support. Based on some outstanding accounts payable, we anticipate being in a deficit so fundraising will be a major priority in the coming year.

Submitted by Fran Atkinson, Festival Coordinator

Qu'Appelle Valley Festival (Fort Qu'Appelle)

April 30 to May 2, 2026

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 3 days with 74 entries and 149 entrants. On Thursday, April 30, we hosted the band and choir entries. The adjudicator, Jennifer Tenford, travelled to Fort Qu'Appelle Community Elementary School and Lipton School and heard 2 choir entries and 6 band entries.

On Friday, May 1, we hosted the string entries at Valley Alliance Church. We had 12 solo entries and one ensemble. Kim De Laforest was the adjudicator. Performances took place in the afternoon and Kim hosted a workshop for all

string entrants in the evening. The feedback from the workshop was positive and the entrants were excited to learn 3 new songs.

Piano and spoken word classes were held on Saturday, May 2 at St. Andrew's United Church. We had 53 piano entries and 1 spoken word entry. Janis Smith adjudicated.

$1,505 in scholarships were awarded across all disciplines, more than double what was awarded last year. **Jayden Wang** and **Ayumi Sinclair** were recommended for provincials in multiple classes. We held our awards concert on Sunday, May 3, and 85 people attended (an increase from 2025). Everyone in attendance agreed it was an enjoyable concert.

Fundraising efforts were focused on applying for grants. Thanks to the following sponsors: Beta Sigma Phi and Prairie Coop. Our expenses were close to $4175 and our revenue was near $2400.

Submitted by Jillian Andrychuk, Chairperson

Quill Plains Music Festival

(Kelvington)
April 19 to 23, 2026

This year's festival was a great success. We had 229 entrants with a total of 251 entries (several large groups included). We had 1 choir, 23 voice, 16 musical theatre, 39 spoken word, 132 piano, 13 strings, 11 guitar, 11 woodwinds and 5 band entries. Our adjudicators were Nicole Wilton (piano), Spencer McKnight (vocal, musical theatre, spoken word), Scott McKnight (guitar/strings) and Brent Pittman (band) and they were all fantastic.

The total number of donors on our list this year was 53. We are extremely grateful to have such wonderful local support; these donors are too lengthy to name but include Sask Orchestras for $200 in strings scholarships. These contributions amounted to $5,410 in donations, and $1,950 to be rolled over to 2027 scholarships. We are very grateful for the continued support from all of our donors, as well as the new supporters who contributed to us this year.

Our musical theatre evening on Wednesday April 22 and final concert on Friday April 24 were both so well attended that we are looking at larger venues for next year. We awarded our scholarships and had 15 of the most entertaining performers come back for the final concert. Participants who qualified for provincials include **Elizabeth Ruetz** (vocal), **Jasmine Bolt** (spoken word & voice), **Giada Melnychuk** (voice), and the **Kelvington School Glee Club**. Jasmine went on to win a provincial scholarship in spoken word.

Approximately 50 volunteers worked as assistants, door workers and coffee attendants. Aside from a few weather-related scheduling issues we are happy with this year's festival and hope all of our participants had a fantastic experience. Our committee members were Kyra Schultz (entry/correspondence secretary and chairperson), Jelaine Donald (adjudicator liason), Michelle Hrynkiw (treasurer), Rayleen Ericson (recording secretary), Jessica Welder (volunteer coordinator), Lindzay Irving (member at large), Val Wilton, Martine Romanus and Raelyn Michayluk (scholarships and decorations).



Regina Music Festival

April 23 to May 3, 2026

Our Festival Sponsor is the G. Murray and Edna Lloyd Foundation, administered by the Saskatchewan Community Foundation. We are so grateful for this continuing support as our naming sponsor.

The festival was again held at the Conservatory of Performing Arts at the College Avenue Campus of the University of Regina. We are thankful for the venue sponsorship we receive from the University of Regina. The venue is accessible and provides a lovely setting with quality equipment and facilities. Our choral classes were again held at Christ Lutheran Church and organ classes were at St. Paul's Anglican Church.

Allison Luff was our production manager again this year and she ran a smooth, well-organized festival. Registrations were up by 10% from the previous year and yet there was adequate time scheduled for the classes and adjudications. Allison managed our marketing as well, updating the "Growth through Performance" website, posting on social media and procuring excellent videos of the final performances.

We were able to obtain sponsorships for all of our disciplines and our final competitions. This, along with support from sustainers and donors, allowed us to run our festival without incurring a deficit. We offered advertising to local businesses, and this helped supply juice and cookie snacks at many of the sessions. We did not have a specific fundraiser this year, however we will consider this for next year, possibly to increase our adjudicator budget.

This year we are especially pleased to announce the Rosemary Oddie Community Fund. This is possible due to a significant endowment by the Oddie family, and the fund will be accepting contributions by other community partners as we go forward. This fund will help promote the festival to the community and through an application process, help support students with the registration process or travel to provincial competitions. There will be no financial boundaries to participation in our festival!

Our adjudicators this year were Amy Boyes and Heather Godden Waldner for piano, Erin Bardua and Chelsea Mahan for voice, Paul Suchan for choral and organ, Nova Wong for strings, Renée Brad for musical theater and spoken word, Glen Gillis for brass, winds and percussion. We are grateful for the knowledgeable and appropriate comments throughout. We have returned to paper adjudication and certificates, which were available immediately after the adjudications. This was well received by the entrants. We supplied a feedback request to teachers and received valuable feedback. While this was positive overall, we have developed an adjudicator request committee to more accurately reflect our needs as we go forward, and we will plan to increase our adjudicator budget to allow out of province adjudicators more regularly.

We were able to award 154 scholarships with a value of approximately $27,000. We have had many notes of thanks from the recipients. We continue to review the scholarships that are not awarded and those that might be better directed.

Our final competitions were again held in the magnificent Darke Hall. The intermediate level is sponsored by MLT-Aikins and our senior level by the Lions Club. We were able to promote 2 participants for each discipline and all contributed to two lovely concerts. It is a great opportunity for these students to perform

on a big stage. The Fleming Award was won by **Alejandro Gahite** and the Cornish Award was won by **Yi Gao**.

Our festival is blessed with so many wonderful volunteers. Thank you to Susan Nurse and Leslie Beck for coordinating and recruiting so expertly.

Of course we could not function without the Board! Thank you to Katherine Bergman who took over as interim president for me in the fall. Thanks also for all her work over the years on Scholarships. Congratulations on her role on the SMFA Board. Thank you also to Heather Gosselin for her work on donor scholarships and to Gord Kerfoot for his excellent work as Adjudicator Liaison for so many years. Thanks to all remaining Board members who will carry on next year. You are so appreciated.

We are encouraged and look forward to next year.

Submitted by Joanne Hillis, President

Rosetown & District Music Festival

March 16 to 20, 2026

The Rosetown Music Festival hosted their 97th festival from March 16-26. The festival runs efficiently and smoothly due to a small committee who donate countless hours of their valuable time.

Entries increased from 221 in 2025 to 257 this year. Spoken word entries increased from 8 to 59, the direct result of Eston Music Festival's president Brenda Ormsby going to Rosetown's elementary school to encourage and coach the students. It was a wonderful addition to our festival and enjoyed by the entire community. This is a great example of the difference one person can make! Thanks Brenda.

The biggest challenge in 2026 was moving the Rosetown Music Festival's grand piano to a new location. All piano and voice classes took place at St. Andrew's Anglican/Trinity Lutheran Church. Spoken word and musical theatre classes were held at Walter Aseltine School and the Final Concert took place at the Rosetown Alliance Church. Adjudicators Jhena Dela Cruz (piano) and Anna Marie Bekolay (voice, strings, spoken word and instrumental) were very accommodating as we adjusted to our new venue. We thank them for their expertise, enthusiasm and the encouragement they shared with our young musicians.

The Final Awards Concert on March 26 awarded over $4,500 along with many beautiful trophies and plaques to the performers. The Most Promising Trophy winners were: **Giovanni Rinaldi** - piano, **Kensie Cowan** - instrumental, **Iain St. John** - voice and **Madison Rawson** - spoken word. Eleven students qualified to represent the Rosetown Music Festival at Provincials.

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.

This November, the Rosetown Music Festival will celebrate the 25th anniversary of purchasing our cherished Yamaha Grand piano. We will commemorate at the West Central Registered Music Teachers' Young Artist Concert featuring Paulina Salisbury on November 1.

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 volunteerism in the community. The Ledding Family provide the accommodations for all the adjudicators during the entire festival. Our volunteers are the heart of this festival and we are so thankful for their continued commitment and dedication.

Respectfully submitted, Claire Seibold, President



Sand Hills Music Festival (Leader)

April 26 to 28, 2026

We are pleased to present the final report for the 35th Annual Sand Hills Music Festival, held from April 26–28. The festival continued to showcase and celebrate the talent of performers from across our region. This year, 170 entrants participated in the festival, presenting a total of 155 entries across a diverse range of disciplines, including choral, voice, musical theatre, spoken word, piano, strings, guitar (acoustic and electric), and percussion.

A highlight of the 2026 festival was the strong representation of performers pursuing opportunities beyond the local level. Eight participants entered Provincial Music Festival classes, and all eight qualified to advance to Provincial Finals, reflecting the high calibre of performances and the dedication of participants and instructors. Spoken word remains an important component of the festival, with all Grades 1–6 classrooms participating in choral speech classes. Their involvement continues to foster confidence, communication skills, and an appreciation for the performing arts among young students.

Sherry Sproule served as the festival adjudicator and provided thoughtful, encouraging, and constructive feedback throughout the event. Her positive approach and expertise helped create a supportive and inspiring learning environment for all performers.

The festival provides a valuable opportunity to observe the continued growth and development of performers throughout our region. The increasing confidence, skill, and musical maturity displayed by participants highlight the strengthening of performing arts education in our communities and point to a promising future for emerging talent in the area.

The festival continues its long-standing tradition thanks to the dedication of volunteers and the generous support of community members, sponsors, and donors. Organizing and executing the festival, along with year-round planning and preparation, required more than 400 volunteer hours, demonstrating the remarkable commitment of those who work behind the scenes to ensure the festival's success.

Thanks to the generosity of local businesses, organizations, and individual donors, the festival awarded 47 awards, including Scholarships, Adjudicator's Honourable Mentions, and Entrance Awards. A total of $3,595 was distributed to participants in recognition of their achievements and potential. These awards are only possible because of the continued commitment of our sponsors and donors to supporting performing arts development and fostering the growth of young artists within our community.

The Grand Concert once again provided performers with an opportunity to share their accomplishments in a celebratory setting while bringing families, friends, and community members together to recognize the hard work and achievements of festival participants.

The Sand Hills Music Festival strives not only to recognize excellence but also to encourage lifelong involvement in the performing arts and foster artistic growth among participants of all ages and abilities. The continued enthusiasm of performers, teachers, volunteers, and supporters demonstrates the important role the festival plays in our community. As we reflect on the success of the 2026 Sand Hills Music Festival, we are excited about the future and look forward to supporting the next generation of musicians, performers, and artists in our community and surrounding area.

Sask Valley Music Festival (Rosthern)
March 17 to 25, 2026

We had 258 entries at our annual festival which took place in Rosthern March 17 – 25. Rosthern Junior College was the location for band and instrumental participants on March 17. Jennifer Tenford was our adjudicator for the day, and she was able to conduct a band workshop after adjudicating the band in the morning. It was fantastic to see the engagement from the students during the workshop. Instrumental classes occurred in the afternoon which included cello, violin, French horn and classical guitar.

Sarah Clark Gregory was our adjudicator for piano classes from March 18 – 20 at St. Odilon Roman Catholic Church. The students responded well to Sarah and we believe she enjoyed sharing her knowledge and talents with them.

Voice and spoken word classes were adjudicated by Tina Alexander-Luna and located at St. Odilon Roman Catholic Church and Station Arts Centre from March 22 – 25. Tina was kept busy with musical theatre, choirs, voice solos, duets and trios, choral speech and spoken word.

We were proud to have 22 performances qualify for Provincial Finals in Saskatoon. Our final concert on March 27 was a wonderful celebration of the success of our festival with performances by a variety of participants. Trophies and scholarships were presented, and there were draws for participant and audience door prizes. 47 scholarships totaling $4,060 were made possible by our donors to whom we give thanks for their generosity. **Mia Gillingham** won our Vocal Rose Bowl, and our Piano Rose Bowl was awarded to **Clara Loewen**.

We acknowledge the generosity of our local businesses and individuals who donate to support our expenses each year. We have a very diligent committee with various skills, including financial, computer, visually artistic, music teachers and adjudicators which contributes to the success and enjoyment of our festival. At the final concert we celebrated with flowers, cards and a short history of two of our committee members (Sanne Gillingham and Audrey Watson) who resigned this year. Linda Swab and Shannon Cholin attended the 2025 SMFA Conference in Saskatoon. A big thank you goes out to the teachers for their hard work in preparing students, parents who encourage their children, our volunteers that helped with every aspect of the festival and all the people who came to listen to these artists perform.

Saskatoon Music Festival
March 31 to April 1, April 12 to May 3, 2026

The 2026 Saskatoon Music Festival was a well-attended and well-executed event! This year everything took place within a tight 34-day timeframe. We started with choirs on March 31 which wrapped up on April 1. Anastasia Winterhalt (SK) stepped up at the last minute to fill in when our original adjudicator had to cancel due to a family emergency, and Anastasia did an excellent job with our groups. This year, 4 of our 11 groups were choral speech groups, which is the first time in many years we've had choral speech in the festival!

We took a break over Easter week but started up again on April 12 with Kiwanis Musical Theatre. Gail Hakala (ON) joined us for this seven-day event, which concluded on April 18. We had 268 entries in musical theatre this year. The Kiwanis Club of Saskatoon, in an effort spearheaded by Terry Ross, once again sponsored this entire week, coordinating and paying for things such as building rental and piano tuning, and providing all of the volunteers for the week. We can never thank them enough for everything they do for our musical theatre program!

The following week we held our Bands Festival. Dawn McLeak Belyk (SK) and Mark Tse (SK) adjudicated elementary bands at Elim Church, while Gareth Jones (AB) drove around the city to hear our high school bands in their own schools. Gareth also worked at Elim for our two Jazz evenings. This year we had 106 bands in the festival, which is the highest our entries have been since 2018! Koryn Graham from St John's Music once again operated a free instrument repair table on site at Elim Church for the entire week, which gave students a place to run if something happened to their instrument. We're grateful to the support of St John's Music not only in providing this repair table, but also in lending us many percussion instruments and sponsoring some of the winners' plaques that are awarded after the festival.

Our general festival was held from April 26 to May 3 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 6 adjudicators join us this week: Ryan Purchase (ON; brass, woodwind, percussion – 93 entries), Christianne Rushton (NS; voice – 263 entries, and spoken word – 2 entries), Daniel Tselyakov (MB; senior piano – 701 registrations in piano), Younkyung Rhea Kim (SK; intermediate piano), Peggy L'Hoir (SK; junior piano), and Leanne Zacharias (MB; strings/guitar – 133 registrations).

Our adjudicators worked for a total of 58 days over our festival month. Our committee of 14 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 79 volunteers give at least 1200 hours of their time – and this number is doubtless too low of an estimate.

This year we were able to award $24,135 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 3 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 $1,500 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 2025, Meaghan Dormuth (President), Karen White (Past President) and Mariel Unger (Coordinator) attended the Zoom meeting. 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 19 to 21, 2026

The Spiritwood and District Music Festival was held April 19 to 21. This was the first year that performances were scheduled on Sunday. Parents were appreciative of not having to take time off work to attend the event. An added feature at the festival was the display of art from local community artists and students from 2 school art classes.

Nancy Loper was the adjudicator for all days and did a superb job of judging and providing many positive comments to the performers.

There were 101 entries in total: 8 choral, 8 voice, 3 musical theatre, 17 spoken word and 64 piano. A highlight of the festival was the increased interest in the spoken word category as well as 7 duets and one trio. The outstanding performer of the festival was **Raleigh Davies** who performed in multiple class entries. The awards ceremony was held on April 21 with 21 performances.

The festival expenses were $4150 with revenue of $4,857. The committee received $1,895 from many generous donors. Earlier in the year the committee was fortunate to receive a community grant of $1,500 which will help with the financial situation in to the future. Fundraising revenue was $132.00. The committee is grateful for the volunteers who assisted at the festival as well as the financial donors who represent businesses, individuals and local service clubs.

Carolyn Voss attended the SMFA Annual meeting.



Swift Current Music Festival

March 29 to April 2, 2026

The Swift Current Music Festival was held from March 29 to April 2, with 137 entries in 9 disciplines. Piano was adjudicated by Janis Smith, voice and musical theater by Gaye-Lynn Kern and band and instrumental by Brent Pittman. We also had Ron de Jager adjudicate our Rosebowl Competition at our Gala evening.

District winners were **Prairie Spirit Chamber Singers**, **SCCHS Chamber Singers**, **Aja Thibault**, **Alexandra Easton**, **Ashlyn Wagner**, and **Clare Meachem**. Our committee consisted of Rachael Eliason, Laura Thibault, Darria Potapova, Theresa Soper, Tami Wall, and LiMin Liam.

Revenues for the year totalled $12,861 and operating expenses were $10,791 for a net profit of $730. Our fundraising was headed by Tami Wall, and we were well supported by donations from local businesses and organizations. Thanks to our many sponsors including Regier Honda, Décor Complete, Service Master, Living Sky Casino, Flying W Consulting Ltd., ACT Swift Current, Anchor Dental Group, Anderson & Company, Argue Law, Edith and Neil Gibbings, Fabro Enterprises, Kae Waters, Kiwanis Swift Current, Lone Tree Wealth Advisory Group, Mercator Financial, Nuwest Interiors, Pioneer Co-op, Dr. Ron and Wanda Knox, Sask Lotteries, Plewis Auto Group, Stark and Marsh, Holliday Vision Care and Wall Family Music. We couldn't put on the festival without these local sponsors. We are also grateful to SaskTel for their broader sponsorship.

Our Gala and Awards night was well attended and featured the Rosebowl Competition, which was won by cellist **Karsten Wiebe**.

We appreciate the community support for our festival and look forward to 2027.



Twin Rivers Music Festival

(Dalmeny & Martensville)

March 19 to 27, 2026

Festival 2026 was a milestone year for us as we celebrated our 25th year! We are so grateful to those who had the vision and foresight to push forward towards hosting a music festival in our community!

We celebrated with a fabulous cover on our program and included some names of past performers as well as where their music has taken them through the years. Our final program also honored our anniversary in several meaningful ways including several $25 scholarships to honor this milestone.

Our 2026 festival accepted 357 registrations performed by 143 participants. We distributed $4,355 in scholarships to many grateful and talented musicians. One change implemented was separating the 12 year olds to remain in the junior division and 13 year olds to move into seniors. We managed the provincial divisions as well although it took some effort.

One other notable change was how our fundraiser set up a new promotion selling items purchased from Temu and sold at only $5 each. Christmas and festival gave us good returns.

Our Festival Committee continues to pull their weight individually and as a team. This has made my job so much easier through the years. I am grateful to each for their support and hard work. We are looking for a co-leader for the coming year.

Submitted by Doreen Benson, President



Unity Music Festival

April 20 to 23, 2026

2026 will be a year forever to be remembered by our Music Festival – we celebrated our 100th Anniversary!!

But first, as usual we held our Annual Carol Festival – if our community isn't in the Christmas spirit before attending, they definitely are afterwards! Fifteen community members and current music students provided great selections of music including a choir, solos, duets in voice and piano and choral speech.

April 18 was our day to celebrate! We had our 100th Anniversary Gala with sixteen performers made up of past festival participants and local musicians, followed by a supper. A couple of ladies from times past shared some of the history of our festival - one of them dressed for the part! We had special 100th Anniversary decorations for the Gala and Festival. We provided a 100th Anniversary bag with the anniversary logo to participants, teachers, secretaries, and past committee members. Those wishing could purchase an anniversary T-shirt also with the logo and so the memory goes on.

This was the forerunner of our annual music festival held April 20-23 with our Festival Finale (name changed as part of our 100th Anniversary) on Sunday, April 23. We had a total of 133 entries in the festival with adjudicators Louella Friesen (voice, musical theatre, schools and spoken word) and Chantelle de Coninck Smith (piano, violin and guitar). We highly recommend these ladies - they were so helpful

and encouraging to our students. Chantelle was able to complete her duties as adjudicator just in time to get home before the snowstorm. However, thanks to the storm, the winners of the trophies had to wait for their plaque to be engraved! Having an April festival doesn't solve all weather problems! A unique performer at our Festival was an 89-year-old former RCMP Sergeant who asked if he could sing The Holy City – a cappella. He did famously!

Lyla Reiche was our Most Outstanding Piano Performer and **Aimee Vold** was our Most Outstanding Vocal/Music Theatre Performer. **Eden Fawell**, **Clara Reiche**, **Lyla Reiche**, **Aimee Vold**, **Karlin Vold** and **Mayla Williams** all advanced to Provincial Finals. At Provincials, **Clara Reiche** was the winner of the Lolin Enterprises Spoken Word Poetry Scholarship for 13 years & under. She also represented Saskatchewan at the Canada West Performing Arts Festival in Speech Arts and Drama, 13 years & under.

Yvonne Wiesner was recognized as our Volunteer of the Year. We are so thankful for the many volunteers, teachers, participants and sponsors that helped us in 2026 and over the last 100 years. Unity has many talented individuals and we want to do our part to promote those talents.

Vanguard & District Music Festival

March 2, 2026

This year we once again held the majority of our festival at the Vanguard Health Centre. We were thankful that the Vanguard Community School hosted us for an hour during our band and woodwind performances.

Our festival was held on March 2. We had entries in piano, vocal, musical theatre, woodwinds, and speech (entries dropped from 80 in 2025 to 52 in 2026). Our adjudicator was Cherith Alexander 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.

At our Awards Night (March 4), we presented awards and listened to some wonderful performances. The Puckett Memorial Scholarship was awarded to **Kenna McComish** as an acknowledgement of her outstanding performances this year.

With the state of our finances we will soon be forced to decide how long the festival will continue. The dynamics in our community have changed. The desire to support and be involved in the festival has dropped dramatically both financially and in attendance. We are struggling more often with our need for volunteers to keep the festival running in its current format. Our festival piano has also declined in its playability and we cannot afford to replace it with a piano of better quality.

We are thankful for our sponsors and volunteers (Missy McComish, 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)
Danielle Johnston (Corresponding Secretary)
Karen Reddekopp (Entry Secretary)
Greg Shwaga (Treasurer)

Watrous & District Music Festival

April 21 & 22, 2026

The Watrous & District 54th Music Festival was held April 21-22. This year the general adjudicator was Lori Potter. There were 81 entries and 169 entrants. Entries were received in mainly two disciplines: 11 spoken word and 51 piano; also 2 choral, 6 voice, 6 band/ensemble and 5 musical theatre. The solo entry fee was held at $20. All but one of the 169 entrants were ages 19 & under. 10 participants identified as newcomers to Canada within the past five years or Indigenous. Eleven teachers entered students in the festival.

The festival hired one adjudicator for two days and held one workshop. Thirteen scholarships were awarded totaling $900. The festival committee is comprised of seven members. There were 21 volunteers in total, contributing an estimated 184.5 hours of time. Total audience attendance across sessions was 345. Andrea Fossen and Kelly Stein attended the SMFA Fall Conference, as well as the Zoom AGM along with Rhonda Hardy. **Chloe Federspiel** from Stalwart represented Watrous Festival at Provincial Finals with her original poem.

A memorial page continues to give a brief background of our memorial awards. The Festival is growing surely but steadily.
This year's quote: *"Music is one of the greatest healers of life."* - Smoky Robinson

Submitted by Kelly Stein

Weyburn Rotary Music Festival

March 9 to 19, 2026

This was Weyburn's 68th year for Music Festival. The piano portion was March 9-12 and our adjudicator was Nancy Nowosad. Voice was held March 15-17 with Alyssa Woolhether as the adjudicator, and band was March 18-19 with Mark Ward as adjudicator.

Piano entries this year totalled 147. Entries for vocal came to 77 and band had 44 entries, making a grand total of 268 entries.

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

Felicia Deal, Benjamin Sawatzky, **Judah Sawatzy**, **Sydnee Thiessen**, **Alexandra Jose**, **Lydia Sawatzky** and **Heidi Penner** advanced to Provincial Finals in piano. In voice, **Alexandra Jose**, **Keira Mahnke and Ryan Hansen** advanced to Provincials, and **Christopher Borth** qualified in band instrumental.

Submitted by Brenda Milatz





Yorkton Music Festival

March 9 to 20, 2026

The 2026 Yorkton Music Festival (100th Anniversary) was held from March 9 to March 20 with a Hi-Lights concert March 22. We had a total of 346 entries perform in choral, voice, musical theatre, spoken word, band, strings and piano sessions. (63 band, 199 piano, 84 voice, choral and spoken word).

Thanks to all our adjudicators including: Stewart Smith (band and strings), Kathleen Lohrenz Gable (piano), Judith Oatway (voice, musical theatre, spoken word, and choral).

Congratulations to our District Winners who advanced to Provincial Finals: **SHHS Choir** (choral), **SHHS Chamber Choir** (choral), **Treyton Popowich** (voice), **Tess-journey Brezinski** (voice), **Minjeong Kim** (strings), **Kira Eagles** (musical theatre), **Ava Breitkreuz** (piano), **Evia McDowell** (piano), **Janelle Gotengco** (piano), **Jack Gotengco** (piano), **Eleni Nielsen** (piano & musical theatre).

We held our Yorkton Music Festival Hi-Lights concert and Awards ceremony at St. Andrew's United Church on March 22. 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. 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



Member Festival	2026 Entries	2025 Entries	2024 Entries	2023 Entries	2022 Entries	Solo Fees	Num. Adj	Total Awards	Vol. #'s	Vol. Hours	Audience
Assiniboia	115	128	147	138	99	$20	1	$3,150	11	138	390
Battlefords	259	307	355	358	233	$20	3	$8,725	14	450	794
Biggar	212	264	203	211	193	$15	3	$3,350	35	275	805
Borderland	76	83	81	68	87	$15	1	$1,525	8	310	846
Carnduff	0	121	0	0	0	$0	0	$2,000	16	100	96
Central Sask	137	146	132	104	96	$5	1	$1,825	14	300	634
Estevan	385	437	483	409	277	$20	4	$9,850	46	900	1,475
Eston	118	137	117	103	0	$15	1	$2,175	22	300	365
Gravelbourg	130	102	138	127	146	$12	2	$3,800	19	823	523
Humboldt	299	311	267	268	212	$18	3	$2,200	22	300	900
Kindersley	265	281	272	278	195	$15	3	$3,365	17	251	748
Kipling	163	141	101	69	0	$0	1	$3,630	72	475	765
La Ronge	126	121	115	132	124	$15	1	$3,320	14	340	501
Lafleche	164	129	174	220	133	$15	2	$4,325	26	1450	400
Lanigan	251	230	232	252	229	$12	3	$2,720	26	375	703
Last Mountain	102	113	90	85	0	$15	1	$1,800	21	340	555
Lloydminster	456	452	542	531	387	$18	4	$8,585	89	700	1550
Mainline	196	131	112	147	123	$20	1	$3,526	37	1000	1100
Maple Creek	67	94	110	89	61	$11	2	$1,375	14	300	200
Meadow Lake	202	166	166	166	110	$15	2	$2,417	30	400	1,800
Melfort	231	215	184	254	87	$15	4	$2,915	27	440	600
Moose Jaw	385	415	311	324	306	$20	4	$5,020	28	600	975
Moosomin	205	181	147	161	151	$10	2	$2,380	20	225	845
Nipawin	267	226	214	211	0	$16	3	$4,800	20	300	598
Outlook	148	211	150	145	0	$15	2	$4,050	20	300	1230
Parkland	148	80	111	64	0	$15	2	$1,990	54	850	706
Potashville	102	109	78	41	25	$12	2	$3,230	13	550	116
Prairie Sunset	194	151	198	160	109	$15	4	$3,255	32	334	1329
Prince Albert	250	258	272	174	85	$20	4	$8,850	35	1,040	2,434
Qu'Appelle Valley	74	53	65	49	24	$15	3	$1,505	5	125	318
Quill Plains	253	349	263	230	213	$12	4	$3,510	60	650	965
Regina	859	807	842	745	741	$34	8	$27,901	65	1,700	2,018
Rosetown	257	221	254	236	192	$15	2	$4,525	18	320	1,603
Sand Hills	155	105	70	59	37	$15	1	$3,595	27	405	475
Sask Valley	258	223	236	168	137	$15	3	$4,060	24	1,000	1,664
Saskatoon	1,577	1,713	1,669	1,699	1,271	$36	11	$24,135	79	1,299	5,067
Spiritwood	101	103	68	83	0	$15	1	$1,350	15	650	656
Swift Current	139	184	148	141	90	$15	4	$4,650	40	600	364
Twin Rivers	356	349	319	334	215	$15	3	$4,355	22	680	1,098
Unity	133	153	161	153	121	$15	2	$3,260	35	766	890
Vanguard	52	80	80	67	0	$10	1	$1,315	7	150	278
Watrous	79	57	64	35	0	$20	1	$2,425	25	310	245
Weyburn	268	295	294	237	153	$15	3	$7,075	52	280	300
Yorkton	346	317	334	270	258	$20	3	$5,375	46	627	1,708
Total	**10560**	**10749**	**10,369**	**9,795**	**6,920**		**116**	**$209,189**	**1322**	**23728**	**41632**


Saskatchewan
Music Festival
Association
Performing Arts Competitions
Celebrate the Joy
SMFA Provincial Finals
June 4 to 7, 2026
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon
SaskTel
www.smfa.ca
SASK LOTTERIES

Provincial Finals Report

From Thursday to Sunday, over 700 performances by winners from 37 of 43 District Music Festivals across Saskatchewan were heard. Choral entries were adjudicated by recording and were announced prior to the weekend competitions.

The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA), now in its 119th year, presented the annual Provincial Finals Competitions and the Provincial Level of Canada West Competition at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon from June 4 to 7, 2026. Adjudicators for the competitions were: **Senior Voice:** Monica Huisman, MB; **Senior Musical Theatre:** Maura Sharkey-Pryma (AB); **Junior Voice/Musical Theatre:** Gwenna Fairchild-Taylor (ON); **Piano:** Younggun Kim, ON; **Strings:** Minna Rose Chung (MB); **Brass/Woodwind/Percussion:** Wendy Zander, MB; **Spoken Word:** Arlene Irwin, AB; **Choral:** Andrea Ciona, AB.

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 Edmonton in July.

CELEBRATE THE JOY OF YOUTH PERFORMANCE
SaskTel
SASK LOTTERIES

The following were declared Provincial Winners and Runners-Up:

Class 1 **Saskatchewan Choral Federation Choral - $500**.....RJC Singers (Sask Valley)
Class 2 **Kiwanis Club of Regina-Wascana Inc. Gallagher Mem. Choral - $500**.....
..... Campbell Collegiate Chamber Choir (Regina)
Class 87 **Sask Choral Federation School Choral Music - $500**..... Sylvia Fedoruk Grade 4/5 Choir (Saskatoon)
Class 3 **Spoken Word Shakespeare (28 & under) - $300** ..... not awarded
Class 4 **L. I. Bryson Memorial Spoken Word Concert Group (28 & under) - $300** ..... not awarded
Class 5 **Doris Bircham Memorial Spoken Word Concert Group (17 & u) - $300**.....Isabella Theoret (Outlook)
Class 6 **Alfredo S. Uy Memorial Spoken Word Poetry/Prose (17 & u) - $300** ..... Madison Rawson (Rosetown)
Class 7 **Challis Spoken Word Poetry (15 & under) - $200**..... Mattea Gabrielson (Lloydminster)
Class 8 **Spoken Word Prose (15 & under) - $200** ..... not awarded
Class 9 **Lolin Enterprises Spoken Word Poetry (13 & under) - $200**..... Clara Reiche (Unity)
Class 10 **Lolin Enterprises Spoken Word Prose (13 & under) - $200**..... Jasmine Bolt (Quill Plains)
Class 11 **Goodfellow Memorial Voice Oratorio (28 & under) - $300**..... Max Eyre-Wilkins (Saskatoon)
Class 12 **Goodfellow Memorial Voice Operatic (28 & under) - $300**..... Paulina Salisbury (Saskatoon)
Class 13 **Goodfellow Memorial Voice French Art Song (28 & under) - $300**..... Keara Van Olst (Saskatoon)
Class 14 **Henri Loiselle Memorial Vocal Concert Group (28 & under) - $300**..... Paulina Salisbury (Saskatoon)
Class 15 **Karen Frandsen Voice Canadian/Saskatchewan Music (28 & under) - $300**..... not awarded
Class 16 **Goodfellow Memorial Voice Recital (28 & under) - $300**..... Paulina Salisbury (Saskatoon)
Class 17 **Emma Johnson Voice Concert Group (22 & under) - $300**..... Sydney Kelln (Saskatoon)
Class 18 **Heather Laxdal Memorial Voice Recital (22 & under) - $300**..... Sydney Kelln (Saskatoon)
Class 19 **Heather Laxdal Memorial Voice Lieder (28 & under) - $150**..... Keara Van Olst (Saskatoon)
Class 19 **Whelan Memorial Piano Lieder (28 & under) - $150**.....Avery Guo (Saskatoon)
Class 20 **Regina Music Festival Voice Concert Group (17 & under) - $300**.....Sadie Gryba (Saskatoon)
Class 21 **A. L.'s Music Voice Folk Song/Ballad (17 & under) - $300** .....Sadie Gryba (Saskatoon)
Class 22 **Blanche Squires Voice Canadian/SK Music (17 & under) - $300**..... Keira Mahnke (Weyburn)

Class 23	**Covey Voice Recital Class (17 & under) - $300**	Keira Mahnke (Weyburn)
Class 24	**Music for Young Children Voice Folk Song/Ballad (15 & under) - $200**	Vesper Stevenson (Saskatoon)
Class 25	**Marilyn Whitehead Voice Recital (15 & under) - $200**	Kaia Pas (Saskatoon)
Class 26	**MYC Voice Folk Song/Ballad (13 & under) - $200**	Kadence Trachuk (Lloydminster)
Class 27	**Dianne Gryba Voice Recital (13 & under) - $200**	Liné Linde (Prairie Sunset)
	Joanne Messer Senior Voice (28 years & under) Scholarship - $800	**Paulina Salisbury (Saskatoon)**
Class 28	**Regan Grant Memorial MT Ballad Classic/Modern (28 & under) - $300**	Alexander Klassen (Saskatoon)
Class 28	Runner-up - $150	John Cody (Saskatoon)
Class 29	**Ursan Family MT Ballad Contemporary (28 & under) - $300**	Max Eyre-Wilkins (Saskatoon)
Class 29	Runner-up - $150	Rundle Ryba (Moose Jaw)
Class 30	**Katja Meszaros Memorial MT Up-tempo Classic/Modern (28 & under) - $500**	Max Eyre-Wilkins (Saskatoon)
Class 30	Runner-up - $150	Forrest Hiebert (Saskatoon)
Class 31	**Margaret Caldwell Memorial MT Up-tempo Contemporary (28 & under) - $300**	Max Eyre-Wilkins (Saskatoon)
Class 31	Runner-up - $150	Izzy Adams (Moose Jaw)
Class 32	**Hughton Family MT Ballad Classic/Modern (17 & under) - $300**	Asher Brown (Moose Jaw)
Class 32	Runner-up - $150	Sadie Gryba (Saskatoon)
Class 33	**Live Fully Productions MT Ballad Contemporary (17 & under) - $300**	Natalie Warren (Moose Jaw)
Class 33	Runner-up - $150	Simon Craig (Regina)
Class 34	**Sandra Ryba Mem. MT Up-tempo Classic/Modern (17 & under) - $300**	Asher Brown (Moose Jaw)
Class 34	Runner-up - $150	Jordan Roy (Saskatoon)
Class 35	**Hughton Family MT Up-tempo Contemporary (17 & under) - $300**	Natalie Warren (Moose Jaw)
Class 35	Runner-up - $150	Sadie Gryba (Saskatoon)
Class 36	**Center Stage Studios MT Ballad Classic/Modern (15 & under) - $200**	Reid Silvernagle (Biggar)
Class 36	Runner-up - $100	Ruby Hickman (Lloydminster)
Class 37	**Center Stage Studios MT Ballad Contemporary (15 & under) - $200**	Heidi van der Merwe (Regina)
Class 37	Runner-up - $100	Jake Loshack (Saskatoon)
Class 38	**Strutt & Seibold Mem. MT Up-tempo Classic/Modern (15 & under) - $200**	Jake Loshack (Saskatoon)
Class 38	Runner-up - $100	London Wiebe (Saskatoon)
Class 39	**Center Stage Studios MT Up-tempo Contemp. (15 & under) - $200**	London Wiebe (Saskatoon)
Class 39	Runner-up - $100	Jake Loshack (Saskatoon)
Class 40	**Krista Brost MT Ballad Classic/Modern (13 & under) - $200**	Elsie Lapointe (Saskatoon)
Class 40	Runner-up - $100	Iylah Brown (Regina)
Class 41	**Doris Covey Lazecki Memorial MT Ballad Cont. (13 & under) - $200**	Kadence Trachuk (Lloydminster)
Class 41	Runner-up - $100	Alice Han (Saskatoon)
Class 42	**Rosetown Festival MT Up-tempo Classic/Modern (13 & u) - $200**	Isabel Neovard (Regina)
Class 42	Runner-up - $100	Kadence Trachuk (Lloydminster)
Class 43	**Center Stage Studios MT Up-tempo Contemp. (13 & under) - $200**	Elsie Lapointe (Saskatoon)
Class 43	Runner-up - $100	Kadence Trachuk (Lloydminster)
Class 44	**Arlene Stuart Memorial Piano Bach (28 & under) - $300**	Xavier Russell-MacLean (Regina)
Class 45	**SMFA Adjudicating Excellence Piano Sonata (28 & under) - $300**	Esther Zhu (Saskatoon)
Class 46	**SRMTA Piano Romantic Music (28 & under) - $300**	April Shi (Saskatoon)
Class 47	**Blanche Squires Piano French Music (28 & under) - $300**	Felicia Deal (Weyburn)
Class 48	**M. Junice Headley Memorial Piano Concerto (28 & under) - $300**	April Shi (Saskatoon)
Class 49	**Helen Davidson Memorial Piano 20th/21st Century (28 & under) - $300**	Esther Zhu (Saskatoon)
Class 50	**Kathleen Keple Piano Cdn/SK Music (28 & under) - $300**	April Shi (Saskatoon)

Class 51 **Toppings Family Piano Bach (17 & under) - $300**..... Michael Xia (Regina)
Class 52 **MacKinnon Family Piano Sonata (17 & under) - $300**.....Andrew Liu (Regina)
Class 53 **England & Ferguson Memorial Piano Romantic (17 & under) - $300**.....Boaman Liu(Saskatoon)
Class 54 **Perspective Festival Piano French Music (17 & under) - $300**.....Andrew Liu (Regina)
Class 55 **Verna Veikle Memorial Piano Concerto (17 & under) - $300**.....Boaman Liu (Saskatoon)
Class 56 **Piano 20th/21st Century (17 & under) - $300**.....Andrew Liu (Regina)
Class 57 **Hancock Piano Canadian/SK Music (17 & under) - $300** .....Boaman Liu (Saskatoon)
Class 58 **Dr. Thomas Yu Piano Recital (15 & under) - $200** .....Chen Ni Liang (Saskatoon)
Class 59 **Borderland Festival Piano Canadian/SK Music (15 & under) - $200** .....Byeolha Seo (Gravelbourg)
Class 60 **Dianne Gryba Piano Recital (13 & under) - $200**.....Judy Zhu (Regina)
Class 61 **Kathleen Keple Piano Canadian/SK Music (13 & under) - $200**.....Clara Zhang (Saskatoon)
Class 62 **Anna Klassen Piano Conservatory (Grade 9/10) - $300**.....Chen Ni Liang (Saskatoon)
Class 63 **Anna Klassen Piano Conservatory (Grade 8) - $300** .....Gloria Zhou (Saskatoon)
Class 64 **Anna Klassen Piano Conservatory (Grade 6) - $200** .....Margot Osicki (Regina)
Garth Beckett/Gustin House Senior Piano Scholarship - $1,500..... **April Shi (Saskatoon)**
Sister Boyle Piano (17 years & under) Scholarship - $1,500 .....**Boaman Liu (Saskatoon)**
Class 65 **Fred S. Mendel Memorial Strings Concerto & Sonata (28 & under) - $300** .....Zihan Xu (Regina)
Class 66 **Mrs. Clare K. Mendel Memorial Strings Recital (28 & under) - $300** ..... Denys Karnaukh (Saskatoon)
Class 67 **Johanna Mitchell Memorial Strings Concerto & Sonata (17 & under) - $300**.... Tully Shantz (Saskatoon)
Class 68 **Robert C. Mitchell Memorial Strings Recital (17 & under) - $300**.....Mehtab Bath (Saskatoon)
Class 69 **Blanche Squires Strings Concerto & Sonata (15 & under) - $200**..... Caleb Samuel (Saskatoon)
Class 70 **Regina Music Festival Strings Recital (15 & under) - $200**..... Alejandro Gahite (Regina)
Class 71 **Strings Concerto & Sonata (13 & under) - $200** ..... Sage Grey (Saskatoon)
Class 72 **Lolin Enterprises Strings Recital (13 & under) - $200** ..... Aiden Seok Wang (Regina)
Class 73 **Classical Guitar Recital (28 & under) - $300**.....not awarded
Class 74 **Classical Guitar Concerto (28 & under) - $300** .....not awarded
Class 75 **Stein Farms Ltd. Classical Guitar Recital (17 & under) - $300** .....not awarded
Class 76 **Classical Guitar Concerto (17 & under) Scholarship - $300**.....not awarded
Class 77 **Sandra Senga Woodwind Concerto & Sonata (28 & under) - $300** .....Abigail Bowles (Saskatoon)
Class 78 **Saskatchewan Band Association Woodwind Recital (28 & under) - $300**....Gabby Atkinson (Saskatoon)
Class 79 **Sandra Senga Woodwind Concerto & Sonata (17 & under) - $300**..... Maia Essien (Regina)
Class 80 **Brost Family Woodwind Recital (17 & under) - $300** ..... Yi Gao (Regina)
Class 81 **Brass Concerto & Sonata (28 & under) - $300**.....Dongxu Zhang (Saskatoon)
Class 82 **Saskatchewan Band Association Brass Recital (28 & under) - $300**.....Mathis Chu (Regina)
Class 83 **Sandra Senga Brass Concerto & Sonata (17 & under) - $300**.....Christopher Karjala (Saskatoon)
Class 84 **Brass Recital (17 & under) - $300** .....Daniel Karjala (Saskatoon)
Class 85 **Percussion Concerto & Sonata (28 & under) - $300**.....not awarded
Class 86 **Saskatchewan Band Association Percussion Recital (28 & under) - $300** .....not awarded
Class 87 **Percussion Concerto & Sonata (17 & under) - $300** ..... Kayella Robertson (Saskatoon)
Class 88 **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 Edmonton, AB July 24 & 25. The following competitors were chosen to advance to Canada West:

Canada West Classical Voice (13 years & under) ..... Grace Hall (Estevan)
Canada West Classical Voice (13 years & under) ..... Alice Han (Saskatoon)
Canada West Classical Voice (13 years & under) ..... Palmer Tastad (Saskatoon)
Canada West Classical Voice (17 years & under) ..... Mia Gillingham (Sask Valley)
Canada West Classical Voice (17 years & under) ..... Sadie Gryba (Saskatoon)
Canada West Classical Voice (17 years & under) ..... Keira Mahnke (Weyburn)
Canada West Classical Voice (22 years & under) ..... Annelise Balzer (Saskatoon)
Canada West Classical Voice (22 years & under) ..... Max Eyre-Wilkins (Saskatoon)
Canada West Piano (13 years & under) ..... Boacus Liu (Saskatoon)
Canada West Piano (13 years & under) ..... Nathan Wilhelm (Mainline)
Canada West Piano (13 years & under) ..... Judy Zhu (Regina)
Canada West Piano (17 years & under) ..... Boaman Liu (Saskatoon)
Canada West Piano (17 years & under) ..... Byeolha Seo (Assiniboia)
Canada West Piano (17 years & under) ..... April Shi (Saskatoon)
Canada West Strings (13 years & under) ..... Mariah Bakanec (Prairie Sunset)
Canada West Strings (13 years & under) ..... Sage Grey (Saskatoon)
Canada West Strings (17 years & under) ..... Mehtab Bath (Saskatoon)
Canada West Strings (17 years & under) ..... Vesper Stevenson (Saskatoon)
Canada West Woodwind (17 years & under) ..... Maia Essien (Regina)
Canada West Woodwind (17 years & under) ..... Arthur Glitz (Potashville)
Canada West Woodwind (17 years & under) ..... Valerie Rollheiser (Lloydminster)
Canada West Brass (17 years & under) ..... Daniel Karjala (Saskatoon)
Canada West Brass (22 years & under) ..... Mathis Chu (Regina)
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) ..... Jullia Miles (Mainline)
Canada West Musical Theatre (13 years & under) ..... Rachel Glines (Twin Rivers)
Canada West Musical Theatre (13 years & under) ..... Elsie Lapointe (Saskatoon)
Canada West Musical Theatre (13 years & under) ..... Kadence Trachuk (Lloydminster)
Canada West Musical Theatre (17 years & under) ..... Mia Gillingham (Sask Valley)
Canada West Musical Theatre (17 years & under) ..... Sadie Gryba (Saskatoon)
Canada West Musical Theatre (17 years & under) ..... Jake Loshack (Saskatoon)
Canada West Musical Theatre (22 years & under) ..... Max Eyre-Wilkins (Saskatoon)
Canada West Musical Theatre (22 years & under) ..... Jocelyn Heroux (Regina)
Canada West Musical Theatre (22 years & under) ..... Alara Lutz (Saskatoon)
Canada West Community/School Choral (16 years & under) ..... Luther College High School Treble Choir (Regina)
Canada West Community/School Choral (20 years & under) ..... Cantate Senior Choir (Regina)



*Left: **April Shi** accepts the Garth Beckett/Gustin House Senior Piano Scholarship from Dr. Gregory Schulte.*
*Top right: Adjudicator Younggun Kim presents the Sister Boyle piano scholarship to **Boaman Liu**.*
*Bottom right: **Paulina Salisbury** accepts the Joanne Messer Senior Vocal Scholarship from adjudicator Monica Huisman.*



SMFA Scholarship Donors & Supporters

Anna Klassen Endowment • Arlene Lafrentz • Battleford Community Foundation (M. Junice Headly Memorial) • Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival • Bonnie Nicholson • Borderland Music Festival • Camille & Charles Mitchell • Carol Donhauser • Center Stage Studios (Kathryn Edwards) • Claire & Richard Seibold • Darrell & Kelly Stein • Dianne Gryba • Dr. Thomas Yu • Edna Covey • Elisabeth Foucault/Live Fully Productions • Estevan Music Festival • Goodfellow Memorial Trust • Glen & Nancy Gardner • Gustin House/L. J. Fournier Family • Hancock Memorial Trust • Heather Macnab • Joanne Messer • Jordie Hughton/Hughton Family • Joy McFarlane-Burton • Karen Frandsen • Kathleen Keple • Kathy & Gary Gable (Outstanding Adjudicator Award) • Kiwanis Club of Regina – Wascana • KLM Ventures • Krista Brost • Lafleche Music Festival • Lolin Enterprises • Margaret Hatton • Marilyn Whitehead • Marshall Whelan • Marusia Kobrynsky & Donald MacKinnon • Meadow Lake Music Festival • Meaghan Dormuth • Melissa & Dennis Ong • Melissa Morgan • Moose Jaw Music Festival (in memory of Sandra Ryba) • Music for Young Children Inc. • Nancy and Richard Toppings • Order of the Eastern Star (SK) • Regina Music Festival • Rosetown Music Festival • Ross Ulmer & Karen Ast • Sandra Senga • Saskatchewan Band Association • Saskatchewan Choral Federation • Saskatchewan Music Educators Assoc. • Saskatchewan Orchestral Assoc. Bursary • Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers' Assoc. • Saskatoon Music Festival (in memory of Margaret Caldwell) • South Saskatchewan Community Foundation (Helen Davidson Memorial) • Tracy & Curtis Loucks • Theresa Brost • Verna Veikle Family Trust • W. Craig Ferguson • Gordon Wallis Trust

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Canada West Performing Arts Festival

The 5th annual Canada West Performing Arts Festival (CWPAF) was held July 24 & 25, 2026, at Grant MacEwan University in Edmonton. This competition features competitors recommended from the provincial festivals of British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

134 live performances were heard in all disciplines. 20 choral entries were submitted by recording. Seven adjudicators evaluated and, worked with the performers inEdmonton: Edwin Gnandt (piano), Elizabeth MacDonald (voice), Lynn Kuo (chamber/strings), Patrick Roux (guitar), Michele Jacot (woodwinds/brass), Dawn Sadoway (musical theatre) and Mike Stack (speech arts). The choral competition was held virtually and adjudicated by Joel Tranquilla.

The following participants placed at the 2026 competition:

	Winner	2nd Place
Classical Voice (13 & under)	**Liné Linde (SK)**	Zuri Ayuno (AB)
	3rd place: Klara Marchin (AB)	
Classical Voice (17 & under)	**Sadie Gryba (SK)**	Kai Yee Li (BC)
	*3rd place: **Keira Mahnke (SK)***	
Classical Voice (22 & under)	Grayson MacKenzie (AB)	Joel van den Berg (AB)
	*3rd place: Faith Kippenhuck (AB), **Max Eyre-Wilkins (SK)***	
Piano (13 & under)	Ian Quon (AB)	Leah Sun (AB)
	*3rd place: **Boacus Liu (SK)**, Emmanuel Fraser (AB)*	
Piano (17 & under)	Ethan Wang (BC)	Xueqing Li (AB), **Boaman Liu (SK)**
	3rd place: Oscar Hanqi Zhang (AB)	
Piano (22 & under)	**Esther Zhu (SK)**	Miriam Monet (AB)
	3rd place: Charmaine Leung (BC)	
Strings (13 & under)	Adrian Zhang (BC)	Dongping Zhang (AB)
	*3rd place: Christopher Snodgrass (BC), **Sage Grey (SK)***	
Strings (17 & under)	Ryan Huang (AB)	Anthony Yue (AB)
	3rd place: Chloe Kam (BC)	
Strings (22 & under)	Matthew Craig (AB)	Isidora Uhlman (BC)
	3rd place: Sofijia Dimitrijevic (BC)	
Musical Theatre (13 & under)	**Kadence Trachuk (SK)**	Zuri Ayuno (AB)
	3rd place: Perla De Leon (BC), Trudy Hughes (AB)	
Musical Theatre (17 & under)	Alex MacIsaac (BC)	Keegan McLaren (AB)
	3rd place: Jaeger Yee (BC)	
Musical Theatre (22 & under)	Charlotte Gocher (BC)	Tula Sarsons (AB)
	*3rd place: **Max Eyre-Wilkins (SK)**, Ethan Anderson (AB)*	
Speech Arts (13 & under)	India Penafiel (AB)	**Clara Reiche (SK)**
	3rd place: Andrea Mao (BC)	
Speech Arts (17 & under)	Aidan Tang (BC)	McKenna Fanning (AB)
	3rd place: Noa Paster (BC)	
Speech Arts (22 & under)	Victoria Sun (BC)	Kaline Tan (AB)
	3rd place: Erica Rogers (BC), Trevor Brossel (BC)	

	Winner	2nd Place
Classical Guitar (13 & under)	Alice Huo (BC).....	Ian Li (AB)
	3rd place: Emily Ma (AB)	
Classical Guitar (17 & under)	Ken Ma (AB).....	Kevin Chang (AB)
	3rd place: Sarah Bujana Arismendi (AB)	
Woodwinds (17 & under)	Yishan (Natalia) Xia (BC)	**Maia Essien (SK)**
	3rd place: Sabrina Feng (BC), Anya Delafield (AB)	
Woodwinds (22 & under)	Tazzio Zhang (BC)	Elliott Mendoza Yu (BC)
	*3rd place: **Abigail Bowles (SK)***	
Brass (17 & under).....	**Daniel Karjala (SK)**	Aliya Guay (AB)
	3rd place: Aydan Modi (BC), Cairo Haq (BC)	
Brass (22 & under).....	**Mathis Chu (SK)**	
Chamber (17 & under).....	Pi Trio (BC).....	Liryew Trio (AB)
Choir (13 & under).....	St. Thomas More Collegiate Grade 8 Choir (BC)	
	2nd place: **Sylvia Fedoruk Grade 4/5 Choir (SK)**	
	3rd place: Aurora Choir (AB), Whispering Ridge School Choir (AB)	
Choir (16 & under).....	ECSD All City Junior High School Choir (AB)	
	2nd place: **Luther College High School Treble Choir (SK)**	
	3rd place: Peace Region Girls Choir – Viva Div. (AB),	
	St. Thomas More Collegiate Jr. Concert Choir (BC)	
Choir (20 & under).....	St. Thomas More Collegiate Chamber Singers (BC)	
	2nd place: Lord Byng Senior Chamber Choir (BC)	
	3rd place: Archbishop MacDonald Sr. Chamber Choir (AB)	
	Parkview Adventist Academy Concert Choir	

The 2027 Canada West Performing Arts Festival will be held July 22-24 in Victoria, BC.



Saskatchewan award winners Esther Zhu, Sadie Gryba, Kadence Trachuk, Liné Linde and Daniel Karjala all performed at the Performers Showcase.



Canada West Performing Arts Festival

July 22 - 24, 2027
Victoria, British Columbia

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

AMFA 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, Vice-President (vacant) and Executive Director Carol Donhauser.

Last year the Association 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 comparative figures on the statement of operations are the for the 13 months ended on August 31, 2025.

The detailed audit can be found following my report.

- Statement of Financial Position (Page 80) reports on the total assets, liabilities and net assets of the Association. In 2025 there was a prepaid for insurance. During the 2026 fiscal year the Association changed its policy period to only cover the period when members are holding their festival so there is no prepaid expense in 2026. Assets held in trust have increased due to increase in the market value of investments. The funds in trust relate to the Hafford Music Festival and the Redvers Music Festival. These funds will be held for 5 years. If the Festival restarts within this time the money will be returned, if not it will be brought into the Association's income. Total assets for the August 31, 2026 year are $775,851 total liabilities are $78,505 and the net assets are $697,346.
- The Statement of Operations (Page 81) reflects the revenue and expenditures from the day to day activities of the Association (detailed schedules can be seen at the end of the report). The statement of operations reflects the revenue and expenditures from the day-to-day activities of the Association. Revenue has decreased slightly from the prior period mainly due to the hosting of the Canada West Performing Arts Festival in 2025 but that was off set in 2025 with the increase in the market value of the investments which is shown as the unrealized income. Total expenses have decreased from the prior period. The major reason for this decrease is that the Association hosted the Canada West Performing Arts Festival in 2025. Another reason is that the comparative figures are for 13 months versus the normal 12. The insurance costs have increased again this year.
- Statement of Changes in Net Assets (Page 82) shows the changes during the year for the various categories of net assets. The statement of changes in net assets shows the changes during the year for the various categories of net assets. The 2026 unrestricted net assets column indicates that after recognizing a -$9,589 deficit in the previous year, adjustments to restricted net assets of -$41,698, adjustments to capital assets and transfers from our Trust account of $14,759 leaves us at a deficit of -$36,519.

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.

SMFA Trust investment portfolio is managed by Leander Dueck of Beyond Wealth in Regina. Leander reports that the rate of return during this fiscal period ending Aug 31 2026 was 15.90%. The primary objective of the SMFA portfolio continues to be reducing volatility while maintaining a strong focus on long-term growth. The portfolio is comprised of approximately 23%

Canadian Equity, 29% U.S. Equity, 17% International Equity, and 31% Fixed Income and Cash. The portfolio remains broadly diversified across multiple asset classes and geographic regions. This diversification is intended to reduce volatility and improve consistency of returns over full market and economic cycles, rather than focusing solely on short-term performance over any single calendar 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.

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, Jeri Ryba, Interim Finance Chair



Audited Financial Statement

SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AUGUST 31, 2026

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, 2026 and the statements of operations, statement of changes in net assets and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In my opinion, except for the effects, if any, of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Saskatchewan Music Festival Association as at August 31, 2026 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

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

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

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

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

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

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

audit. I also:

• Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

• Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.

• Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

• Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.

• Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

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

Marcia Herback

Regina, Saskatchewan
November 12, 2026

Marcia Herback
CPA, CA

SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT AUGUST 31, 2026
(with comparative figures for 2025)

	2026	2025
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash (Note 3)	$ 29,098	$ 40,257
Cash segregated for future expenditures	714	556
Investment	-	953
Investment segregated for future expenditures	87,030	10,578
Accounts receivable	8,398	14,139
Inventory	4,490	6,455
Prepaid expenses	-	7,787
	129,730	80,725
Tangible capital assets (Note 4)	4,134	4,593
Assets held in trust (Note 5)	614,113	539,164
Investments segregated for future expenditures (Note 6)	27,874	98,934
	$ 775,851	$ 723,416
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	$ 54,617	$ 68,412
Deferred revenue (Note 7)	900	1,326
	55,517	69,738
Long-term liabilities		
Funds held in trust (Note 8)	22,988	9,433
	78,505	79,171
NET ASSETS		
Net assets invested in capital assets	4,134	4,593
Net assets designated for future expenditures	115,618	110,068
Restricted net assets	614,113	539,164
Unrestricted net assets	(36,519)	(9,580)
	697,346	644,245
	$ 775,851	$ 723,416

See accompanying notes

Approved on Behalf of the Board

Dianne Ryba Director

Jerri Ryba Director

SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2026
(with comparative figures for the period of August 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025)

	2026	2025
Revenue		
Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund	$ 175,000	$ 175,000
Self-generated revenue (Schedule 1)	240,051	249,803
	415,051	424,803
Expenditures		
Administration (Schedule 2)	190,847	202,224
Amortization	459	558
Corporate (Schedule 3)	33,224	23,797
Program (Schedule 4)	103,679	159,995
Public relations (Schedule 5)	3,772	7,704
Travel and meeting (Schedule 6)	29,969	20,117
Loss on disposal of obsolete equipment	-	1,529
	361,950	415,924
Excess of revenue over expenditures	$ 53,101	$ 8,879

See accompanying notes

SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2026
(with comparative figures for the period of August 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025)

	Invested in Tangible Capital Assets	Designated for Future Expenditures	Restricted Net Assets	Unrestricted Net Assets	2026	2025
Net Assets						
Balance, beginning of year	$ 4,593	110,068	539,164	(9,580)	$ 644,245	$ 635,366
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	-	5,550	89,249	(41,698)	53,101	8,879
Amortization of capital assets	(459)	-	-	459	-	-
Transfers (Note 9)	-	-	(14,300)	14,300	-	-
Balance, end of year	$ 4,134	115,618	614,113	(36,519)	$ 697,346	$ 644,245

SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2026
(with comparative figures for the period of August 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025)

	2026	2025
Operating activities		
Excess of revenues over expenditures unrestricted net assets	$ 53,101	$ 8,879
Items not involving an outlay (receipt) of cash		
Amortization	459	558
Loss on disposal of equipment	-	1,529
	53,560	10,966
Net change in non-cash operating working capital balances:		
Investment	953	1,981
Investment segregated for future expenditures	(76,452)	(2,176)
Accounts receivable	5,741	7,549
Inventory	1,965	2,135
Prepaid expenses	7,787	(1,473)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(13,795)	6,972
Deferred revenue	(426)	(2,108)
Funds held in trust	13,555	9,433
Cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(7,112)	33,279
Investing activities		
Change in investments segregated for future expenditures	71,060	(3,412)
Change in assets held in trust	(74,949)	(32,442)
Additions to tangible capital assets	-	(325)
Cash used in investing activities	(3,889)	(36,179)
Decrease in cash	(11,001)	(2,900)
Cash position, beginning of year	40,813	43,713
Cash position, end of year	$ 29,812	$ 40,813
Cash consists of:		
Cash	$ 29,098	$ 40,257
Cash segregated for future expenditures	714	556
	$ 29,812	$ 40,813

See accompanying notes

SASKATCHEWAN MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AUGUST 31, 2026

1. **Status and nature of activities**

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

2. **Summary of significant accounting policies**

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

Inventory

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

Tangible capital assets

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

Equipment	10 %
Furniture and fixtures	10 %
Leaseholds	25 months

Full amortization is recorded in the year of purchase.

Revenue recognition

The Association follows the deferral method of accounting.

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

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

Unrestricted donations are recognized as revenue in the period received.

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

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

Financial instruments

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

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

2. Summary of significant accounting policies cont'd

Management estimates

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

3. Cash

	2026	2025
Anna Klassen scholarship	$ 32,799	$ 32,579
Betty Tydeman scholarship	314	314
Frances England scholarship	600	900
Ken Lee scholarship	1,000	2,000
Mossie Hancock scholarship	1,100	1,400
Ross Ulmer scholarship	2,750	3,250
Verna Veikle scholarship	1,671	1,971
Bouvier scholarship	-	1,200
Helen Davidson scholarship	200	500
Amount lent to Bank account - general	(30,000)	-
Scholarship savings unallocated interest	4,728	4,113
Total scholarship savings account	15,162	48,227
Bank account - general	11,459	(13,525)
Bank account - travel lottery	85	85
Undeposited cash	252	-
PayPal	2,140	5,470
Total cash	$ 29,098	$ 40,257

4. Tangible capital assets

	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	2026 Net Book Value	2025 Net Book Value
Equipment	$ 8,397	4,563	$ 3,834	$ 4,259
Furniture and fixtures	1,329	1,029	300	334
	$ 9,726	5,592	$ 4,134	$ 4,593

5. Assets held in trust

	2026	2025
Canada Life investment portfolio	$ 595,289	$ 519,424
BCE Inc. (576 shares)	18,824	19,740
Total investment	$ 614,113	$ 539,164

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.

6. Investments

Investments consist of the following term deposit:
- $27,874 - 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.

	2026	2025
Scholarships	$ 900	$ 700
Over-paid accounts receivable	-	626
	$ 900	$ 1,326

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 $14,300 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 2025 fiscal 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, 2026:

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 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 2025.

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 2025.

13. Comparative figures

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

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(with comparative figures for the period of August 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025)

	2026	2025
Self-generated revenue		**Schedule 1**
Affiliation fees	$ 43,690	$ 43,953
Concerto revenue	-	809
Conference	7,359	4,048
Corporate sponsorships	9,000	12,000
Festival unit stationary	1,790	2,544
Fundraising and donations	1,259	1,852
Grants	3,500	-
Insurance	360	-
Investment income - restricted	17,869	13,244
Investment income (loss) - unrealized - restricted	78,748	40,462
Interest - future expenditures	5,550	5,763
Canada West Performing Arts Festival	-	58,857
Opera competition	1,200	-
Provincial finals	40,505	38,268
Provincial scholarships	27,950	26,550
Syllabus and directory	1,271	1,453
	$ 240,051	$ 249,803

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	2026	2025
Administration expenditures		**Schedule 2**
Bad debts	$ 2,173	$ -
Bookkeeping	1,479	2,543
Expired GST rebates	(1,019)	2,746
Miscellaneous	178	805
Postage	602	1,342
Rent	2,637	3,032
Salaries and benefits	183,902	190,899
Telephone	895	857
	$ 190,847	$ 202,224
Corporate expenditures		**Schedule 3**
Audit	$ 6,836	$ 4,666
Bank charges	1,378	851
Insurance	17,082	13,432
Investment management fees - restricted	7,368	4,765
Membership	560	83
	$ 33,224	$ 23,797
Program expenditures		**Schedule 4**
Adjudicators training/Canada West	$ 108	$ 345
Concerto competition	-	4,619
Festival unit supplies	4,980	4,034
Hosting Canada West Performing Arts Festival	10,000	67,918
Opera competition	11,038	4,320
Program enhancement	-	450
Provincial finals expense	35,214	39,817
Provincial finals scholarship	28,300	24,800
Provincial office supplies	12,140	11,752
Speech arts	927	125
Syllabus/directory	972	1,815
	$ 103,679	$ 159,995
Public relations expenditures		**Schedule 5**
Advertising	$ 3,772	$ 6,320
Promotional video	-	1,384
	$ 3,772	$ 7,704

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	2026	2025
Travel and meeting expenditures		**Schedule 6**
SMFA conference charges	$ 9,957	$ 6,952
SMFA directors travel	7,540	8,979
Festival visiting	-	68
Executive directors travel	2,413	3,184
Canada West travel	10,059	934
	$ 29,969	$ 20,117

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