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Saskatchewan singer wins first at National Music Festival

The campus of St. Francis Xavier University, in Antigonish, NS was the host of the 2011 National Music Festival from August 11 to 13. Over sixty musicians ranging in age 14 to 28 years, representing each of Canada's ten provinces, competed for awards in nine different categories: piano, strings, voice, woodwinds, brass, guitar, percussion, chamber and choral. Saskatoon soprano, **Danika Lorèn**, took home first place in voice receiving a cash award in the amount of \$1,500. Other Saskatoon musicians placing at this competition include **Gerard Weber** (Woodwinds) second place and **Lisa Pattison** (Percussion) received third place. Pianist, **Meagan Milatz** of Weyburn also placed third. **Juventus Concert Choir** of Regina, **Directed by Diana Woolrich** placed second in the JFK English Choral Award. Gerard Weber also received the Best Joy in Performing Award. The Grand Award Winner of \$5,000 went to Blake Pouliot, violinist from Ontario.

The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association would like to thank the sponsorship we have received from our scholarship donors, corporate sponsors (**PotashCorp**, **SaskTel**, and **SaskEnergy**) as well as the ongoing funding from **Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust for Sport, Culture & Recreation**, **Saskatchewan Arts Board & SaskCulture Inc.**

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“To promote excellence in music and speech arts by providing performance and educational opportunities through competitive music festivals in the Province of Saskatchewan.”