



Festival Focus

SMFA Provincial Office



Established in 1908

Winter 2010

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President's Message

Theresa E. Brost, President

For a century, SMFA has been offering programs and opportunities for aspiring young musicians at the District and Provincial level of competitions helping them to realize their dreams. We hope to continue providing these programs for another century.

Currently our District festival committees in forty-eight locations are working hard preparing for another season of music festival competitions and adjudications, forming great music festival memories for their competitors. Hundreds of volunteers will be recruited, busy setting the stage and preparing the venues for students to compete and hear other competitors perform so all can learn from the adjudications. Committee members are busy calling on local businesses, seeking scholarships and sponsorship to run their music festival for the upcoming year.

We will be going to Prince Albert for Provincial Finals and the provincial level of National Competitions June 4, 5, and 6. We look forward to an exciting weekend of competitions and the judges' selection of our representatives to the National Music Festival Competitions in Montreal, August 13 – 15.

Be sure to check the 2010 SMFA Directory on-line (www.smfa.ca) for information on Syllabus corrections, additions and changes.

SMFA appreciates and gratefully acknowledges our many corporate sponsors, patrons, and local businesses across the province for providing substantial financial support. Thank you to our funding agencies Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation, the Saskatchewan Arts Board, SaskCulture, and the Department of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport.

On behalf of the Board and Staff of the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association I wish each festival a successful year, every festival competitor an educational and enjoyable experience, and a healthy and prosperous 2010 to you and your families.



SMFA Fall Conference

The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association Board of Directors, Staff, and District Festival Delegates joined four other music organizations in the Saskatchewan Music Conference (SMC), held at the Travelodge Hotel, November 6 & 7, 2009 in Regina – a first in the 100 year history of SMFA in Saskatchewan.

SMFA delegates arrived dressed in blue and white supporting this year's theme of "Riding the Wave of Change". President Theresa Brost welcomed representatives from twenty-nine District Festivals. On Friday evening delegates were involved in an informal discussion regarding their festival addenda, then grouped according to the size of their festival for round table discussions on a variety of topics, and concluded the evening by joining the rest of the conference participants for the President's Reception. Background music was provided by Naomi Kwong.

Saturday morning delegates were welcomed with a syllabus workshop on "Our Personal Flotation Device" presented by Gloria Nickell SMFA Syllabus Chair, who pointed out changes in this three-year syllabus. Then conference delegates heard Peter Boonschaft speak "Through powerful stories from his varied experiences he reminded us what



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we **do** daily, as educators touch the people that we work with. And although we may not actually touch the stars we make a real difference in the lives of those individuals."

The five Volunteer Award recipients in attendance at our Luncheon were presented with a certificate and rose by Theresa Brost. They were: Cathy Richardson (Battlefords); Darlene Jones and Flora Tyler (Regina); Nola Holtvogt (Naicam); and Patricia Schultz (Twin Rivers).

One new director of SMFA was elected on Saturday at the Annual General Meeting. Darren Schwartz of Saskatoon Music Festival was elected to a three-year term. He joins President Theresa Brost (Macklin), 1st Vice-President Joy McFarlane-Burton (Saskatoon), 2nd Vice-President Karen MacCallum (Swift Current), Past President Gloria Nickell (Rosetown) and Directors Nancy Wilkins (Davidson), Nancy Toppings (Kipling), Eleanor Epp (Hafford), and Sandra Senga (Meadow Lake). Retiring director Karen Unger (Spalding) was thanked for her years of service on the Board. Ad Hoc Director Joanne Messer (Tisdale) was thanked for her time and Chairmanship of the 2009 National Music Festival event in Saskatoon.

Following each organization's AGM, delegates had the opportunity to hear Dean McNeill give a presentation on the "Hidden Message within Many Festival Adjudications", and a choice of other SMC sessions as well as the ones offered by SMFA: SMFA Executive Director Carol Donhauser gave a workshop on "Surfing the SMFA Website"; David Melax was available to help delegates with his Festival computer program. Throughout the conference many draws were made for wonderful door prizes. The conference ended with delegates attending the SMC Honour Groups Concert.



SMFA Concerto Competition

Karen MacCallum, 2nd Vice President

"The exercise of an extraordinary gift is the supremest pleasure in life." –Mark Twain

The grand pianos were positioned on the stage like two giant black butterflies prepared for flight. It truly was a Festival soaring experience for the audience as twelve competitors vied for a placing in the Saskatchewan Music Association's 28th Concerto Competition on November 14, 2009. Poinsettias decorated the setting at the Shumiatcher Theatre, T.C. Douglas Building, in Regina. The performances in violin, saxophone, trumpet, and piano were truly emotional adventures.

The panel of judges were Ms. Tannis Gibson, pianist, Tucson, Arizona; Ms. Marena Smith, violinist, Winnipeg, MB, and Maestro Victor Sawa, Regina Symphony Orchestra, Regina. We are grateful for their wonderful encouragement of these young performers. Gloria Nickell, SMFA Past President, as MC for the day's proceedings, interjected interesting historical aspects of the competition. This year's event was sponsored by the Lorne & Evelyn Johnson Foundation.

How long does it take to learn and memorize a Concerto? Anywhere from a year and a half to three years was the answer from competitors! Their determination and diligence is very evident and hours of practice are well appreciated.

Third place and \$500.00 was awarded to Helen Kashap, pianist from Saskatoon. She performed the *Piano Concerto no. 2 in A Major*, S. 125 by Franz Liszt, and was accompanied by Ben Cruchley. Second Place, receiving the \$750.00 award, was presented to Justin Min, pianist from Saskatoon, for his outstanding performance of *Concerto in e minor, Op. 11* by Frederic Chopin. He was accompanied by Bonnie Nicholson. The prestigious First Place Award and \$2,000.00 was won by Samuel Milner, violinist from Saskatoon. His accomplished performance of the *Violin Concerto in d minor, Op. 47* by Jean Sibelius, accompanied by Bonnie Nicholson, was deserving of this commendation. In winning this award, Milner will have the opportunity to be a featured soloist with the Regina Symphony Orchestra and the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra in their upcoming seasons.

To view photos, visit http://www.smfa.ca/photo_gallery/SMFA_photo_gallery.htm





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SCF Choir Camps 2010 – A Pause to Reflect

At their meeting on January 9, the Saskatchewan Choral Federation Board of Directors approved a motion to cancel the SCF Summer Choir Camp program in 2010.

Traditionally held at St. Peter's Abbey in Muenster, the camp has experienced a steady decline of campers from the late 1990's with more than 200 campers per summer to a total of 81 campers in 2009. Despite increased efforts to attract new campers and reduce costs, there has been a 10% decline in attendance each year for the past three years. The subsequent reduction in revenue, as fewer and fewer campers participate, has been absorbed by the Choral Federation to the point where organizational finances can no longer provide this subsidization.

In moving forward, the Board firmly believes there is a place in the busy Saskatchewan summer activity marketplace for choir camps. As part of the SCF's mandate to maximize the number of people of all ages who sing and to foster ever-higher standards of artistry among singers, choir camp is a valuable tool in attracting and developing life-long singers and future leaders.

The Board is committed to increasing choir camp's relevance in Saskatchewan's cultural landscape. The directive to management is to create a program that balances the strengths of the existing program – great site, wonderful clinicians and staff and fantastic learning opportunities – with the demands of today's busy family and have it ready for launch in the summer of 2011. Research on other models and feedback from campers, camp staff and camp supporters will be conducted this fall and developed into a new program offering for approval by the Board at their January 2011 meeting.

The SCF welcomes your suggestions and insights. Please contact Denise Gress, SCF Executive Director, to provide your comments and feedback at 1-877-524-6725 or gress@saskchoral.ca.



Festival Regulations to Note

1. The term "own choice" implies a work or portion of work(s) not exceeding the specified time limit. Where time limits are not indicated, **one movement shall be played**.
2. For test selections listed as sonata, sonatina or concerto **only one movement is to be performed**.
3. **Copying for a page turn is not allowed** and is an infringement of the law. Photocopies for page turning purposes will only be allowed when written permission is supplied by the holder of the copyright material. The **Frederick Harris Music Co.** Limited allows festival participants to photocopy **one page per selection** from their publications in order to facilitate a page turn.
4. Competitors are **not eligible to enter in more than one class bearing the same title** (e.g.: If you enter Class 2001 – Piano Solo, 18 years and under you cannot enter Class 2000 – Piano Solo, Senior, Open).
5. Entry fees listed in the Provincial Syllabus are the maximum fees per class. Please refer to the district festival page on the SMFA website or directory for local entry requirements and rates.
6. **Memory work is mandatory at the provincial level** with the exception of the pianist in the Lieder class.
7. **Choral recordings and music** submitted for provincial competition should contain **no reference to the name of the choir, its conductor or the festival** from which they have been sent.
8. In order to qualify for a **district scholarship/award** or to be **recommended as a District Winner**, each individual named on the entry form **must enter and compete in at least two classes in the same discipline**. This rule does not apply to the pianist in the lieder classes.





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Something Funny Happened at the Festival

Sandra Senga and Nancy Toppings, SMFA Directors

We all know that music festivals are notable events. Often the participants are coping with butterflies or perhaps even trepidation. However there have been times (in all festivals, I'm sure) that things happen to make us smile, indulge in a chuckle or perhaps even laugh out loud. The incidents do not necessarily involve participants, but are memorable nonetheless. We would like to share a few of those instances which have happened at two festivals in the province. If you have any nuggets from your festival that you care to share with the rest of us, please do.

A tiny, five-year old girl tiptoed to the piano for her festival debut. She wore a beautiful dress and shiny new shoes and her hair fell in ringlets from a giant pink bow. She played her piece, did a little curtsy and tiptoed back to her seat. The kindly adjudicator, sensing that the wee girl might be shy, approached her with a warm smile and a great deal of praise. Gently she asked, "Did you enjoy performing today?" The little girl stood up boldly and responded in a loud clear voice: "THAT was the very BEST I've ever played in my whole life!" The adjudicator laughed, winked to the audience and said, "Well! Sometimes we get lucky, don't we?"

This next story goes back quite a few years. Names have been changed to protect everyone!

Mrs. Smith arrived early to hear her daughter perform in the evening session. She sat several rows from the back of the church, leaving an empty seat next to her. Mrs. Jones arrived a few minutes later and just happened to be wearing a blouse identical to the one worn by Mrs. Smith. They also shared a very similar hair style. Mrs. Jones settled into a seat on the opposite side of the church. Mr. Jones rushed in just as the session was about to begin, quickly scanned the audience and slipped into the seat ---- beside Mrs. Smith. As the first performer finished and rose from the piano to take her bow, Mr. Jones applauded enthusiastically and leaned and whispered in his "wife's" ear. Suddenly realizing his error, Mr. Jones turned a deep shade of red and retreated quickly down the aisle, looking flustered. Mrs. Smith just looked confused.

There are two morals to this story:

1. Don't be the last person to arrive.
2. The best seats to see a show are sometimes in the back of the room.

Many years ago, members of community organizations were invited to open the evening sessions of the festival. This gentleman rose and began, "Our agitator for this evening is Doris Lazecki." He continued to talk about this agitator's qualifications. He finally asked the audience to "Please give our agitator a warm welcome."

While committee members were sitting at the back filled with a mixture of total embarrassment and barely controllable giggles, Doris sat at her table with a polite and gracious smile.

This incident also happened many years ago. At this particular evening session all four adjudicators were in attendance. Just before the last adjudications began the secretary announced that his committee had accepted a late entry. A very special trio mounted the stage. Sheila Shinkewski positioned herself at the piano, John Griffith lugged his tuba onstage and Vern Sanders joined them. They then gave the audience and the remaining adjudicator, Heather Bedford-Clooney (who of course was as astonished as the rest of us) an unforgettable rendition of O Lord it's Hard to be Humble!!! In her "adjudication" Heather admonished the trio for their choice of music for Festival, offered some "advice" and gave them a mark of 59.

This demonstrated to the audience that adjudicators enjoy a bit of high jinks once in a while (a side of them that we seldom get to know). Indeed music festival is a serious time for our students, but an occasional bit of levity offers a welcome relief.



A complete list of
2010 District Festival dates can be
found online at
www.smfa.ca



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Lisa Hornung honoured by University of Saskatchewan

North Battleford's Lisa Hornung was among those honoured as one of the past century's 100 Alumni of Influence by the University of Saskatchewan's College of Arts and Science. The gala luncheon, which took place October 2, 2009, was part of a celebration of a century of great people. In addition to touring as a soloist in the United States and Europe, Lisa is well-known as a teacher, adjudicator, clinician, choral coach, and Mom. She manages to balance a busy career as a musician and raising a family in North Battleford, a community "filled with extraordinarily talented people", she says, "not just in music, but in all the arts."

Ms Hornung is the Director of Summer School for the Solo Voice, a six-day intensive study for soloists, choristers, teachers, and accompanists, held in North Battleford each summer. She is vocal coach for the Cantilon Choral Program under the direction of Heather Johnson, an Alberta based program for all ages.

Lisa holds a B.Mus. in Voice Performance from the U of S and furthered her studies at the Institute of Vocal Arts in Chiari, Italy and at the University of Illinois with Richard Best. She recently completed a year of study with the support of the Saskatchewan Arts Board, enabling her to spend time travelling to work with Best as well as Metropolitan Opera diction coach Nico Castel, Professor Michael McMahon of McGill University, famed accompanist Dr. Bill Cooper of Texas and Dr. Everett McCorvey, Dr. Cliff Jackson and Professor Tedrin Lindsey, all of the opera faculty at the University of Kentucky.

Organizational Development Underway for Five Music PCOs

Saskatchewan's five music Provincial Cultural Organizations (PCOs) in music are looking into the possibility of a new organizational structure with the help of consultants Vic Huard and Dave Hedlund of Regina-based Vic Huard and Associates. The five PCOs, together with SaskCulture and the Saskatchewan Arts Board, hired the company this fall to kick-off their exploration into what the future may hold for each organization and how they can work together for the best outcome.

The work with Huard and Hedlund began in October 2009, and to date, the following activities have taken place.

Discussions have been held which were framed by initial meetings with the Executive Directors of the five PCOs, SaskCulture Funding Manager Jon-Paul Suwala, and Pat Rediger of Benchmark Public Relations, who is serving as a consultant for the five PCOs in this process.

Subsequent individual meetings have taken place with the five music PCOs. These discussions have focused on organizational concerns, including: programming and services; governance, role of volunteers; role of membership; and relationship with respective national organizations. The discussions also focused on areas of current and future collaboration of the five PCOs, such as the Saskatchewan Music Conference and advocacy.

Following the discussions, the five Executive Directors were requested to reflect on the opportunities and challenges of a possible future-state, including a possible amalgamation or federation model for all five PCOs.

Huard and Hedlund will now solicit input from stakeholders, including, but not limited to: representatives from Music PCO national organizations; representatives of other non-profit organizations that have transitioned from individual groups to merged and/or federation models; and informants from other provincial jurisdictions.

Consultants will also meet with the Boards of Directors of all music PCOs as appropriate and requested, and as time

An interim report is scheduled to be presented to the project committee in mid-February, 2010.

The province's five music PCOs are the Saskatchewan Band Association, Saskatchewan Choral Federation, Saskatchewan Music Educators Association, Saskatchewan Music Festival Association, and Saskatchewan Orchestral Association.

The above process stems from the encouragement of SaskCulture, who held a Funding Review and Eligibility process of the province's PCOs in 2004. Their goal was to ensure that all PCOs use their funds efficiently, without duplicating programs and services in the process. Following the review, SaskCulture asked the five music PCOs to review their own organizational structures to determine if more efficiencies and collaborative efforts could result in a stronger music community for the province.



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Provincial Cultural Organizations

SaskCulture primarily allocates lottery funds in the form of global grants to eligible Provincial Cultural Organizations (PCOs). There are currently 31 (PCOs) funded in the system, serving the areas of Arts, Heritage, Multiculturalism and Cultural Industries. Grants support the annual operations of the PCOs as well as approximately 500 associated groups - some provincial, some regional and some local, through project and member funding. These diverse cultural organizations are rooted in community involvement and volunteer effort. They support a tremendous cultural infrastructure that empowers Saskatchewan's cultural community to deliver a wide selection of cultural activities and services throughout the province. Annual grants to these organizations are adjudicated by the Cultural Advisory Committee, which is an elected group of 6 peers from the cultural community. A listing of Eligible SaskCulture PCOs can be viewed at http://www.saskculture.sk.ca/funding/provincial_cultural_organization.htm

From the Provincial Office

Carol Donhauser, Executive Director

Happy New Year to everyone! It seems like yesterday that we had our Fall Conference here in Regina. We have hit the ground running into the new year and the new century for the SMFA. Our first festival begins on February 28 in Prince Albert.

By now each festival committee should have received their supply orders including copies of the 2010 SMFA Directory. If you require additional copies of the Directory or Promotional Items, please contact us.

As you are aware, we are trying to make as much use as we can of the website to alleviate some of the administrative work involved in organizing the district festivals as well as provide information on entering festivals to teachers and competitors. Sandra has revamped the District Winner Charts and those are available on the website as well as the required advertisements for festival programs (e.g.: Lotteries logo, corporate sponsor ads, Federation ad etc). This will allow you to download the size (full page or half page) or format (jpeg or pdf) of file that you would like to use in your program and not have to spend hours downloading all of them in an e-mail message that is sent to you from our office.

Doris is working hard to hire those last few adjudicators' spots and as each festival is complete, Sandra will send out the Report Form confirming adjudicators to the festival committee, providing you with the adjudicator's contact information and biographies. Once the entry close date has come and gone for each festival and you have had a chance to look at your schedules, please notify us as soon as possible of any changes to your festival dates.

I am very pleased to announce that SaskEnergy and SaskTel have renewed their corporate sponsorship for the Provincial Final Competitions. We are very excited to have Prince Albert host this event on June 4 to 6, 2010.

I wish everyone a successful festival season. If Sandra and I can assist you in anyway, please don't hesitate to call the office toll free at 1-888-892-9929.

The assistance of the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation, Saskatchewan Arts Board and SaskCulture Inc. is gratefully acknowledged.



SMFA Provincial Finals

The 2010 Provincial Finals will be held in
Prince Albert, June 4 – 6.