



FROM THE DESK OF  
THE PRESIDENT

REGINA SYMPHONY  
ORCHESTRA REPORT

MEMBER NEWS

## NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday May 26, 7:00pm  
Serbian Club  
2775 Avonhurst Dr., Regina

# Forte

2020:1  
Regina Musicians' Association  
Local 446 of the  
Canadian Federation of Musicians



Hunter Brothers, from the artist's Facebook page

## HIGH NOTES

Congratulations to Saskatchewan's 2020 **JUNO Award** nominees! All of these wonderful artists are members of local 446:

- Breakthrough Group of the Year: **Hunter Brothers**
- Country Album of the Year: **Hunter Brothers, State of Mind**
- Alternative Album of the Year: **Foxwarren, Foxwarren**
- Traditional Roots Album of the Year: **The Dead South, Sugar & Joy**
- Album Artwork of the Year: **Terri Fidelak** (art director, designer and illustrator) and **Carey Shaw** (photographer) for **Belle Plaine: Malice, Mercy, Grief and Wrath**

The 49th annual JUNO Awards and JUNO Week 2020 will be hosted in Saskatoon, March 9-15, with the televised JUNO Awards taking place on Sunday, March 15 from SaskTel Centre and broadcast live on CBC TV, the CBC Gem streaming service, and via [cbcmusic.ca/junos](http://cbcmusic.ca/junos). It will also air as a live radio special on CBC Radio One, CBC Music, and the CBC Listen

app. Tickets to JUNO events are on sale now. You can find the full list of nominees at <https://junoawards.ca/2020-nominees/>.

Congratulations to local 446's **Western Canadian Music Award** nominees and winners. Award ceremonies took place October 3 and 5/2019 in Whitehorse, Yukon:

- **Jeffery Straker**, "*The Storm Orchestral*," winner, Visual Media Composer of the Year
- **Jack Semple**, nominee, Blues Artist of the Year
- **West of Mabou**, nominee, Instrumental Artist of the Year
- **Hunter Brothers**, nominee, Country Artist of the Year
- **Belle Plaine**, nominee, Roots Solo Artist of the Year
- **Foxwarren** was triple nominated for BreakOut Artist of the Year, Recording of the Year, and Rock Artist of the Year

Local 553's **The Sheepdogs** were nominated for Rock Artist of the Year, and **Rosie & the Riveters** for Roots Duo/Group of the Year.

Other Saskatchewan references: 3 Saskatchewan artists were nominated for Francophone Artist of the Year: **Ponteix, Shawn Jobin, and Vaero**. Saskatoon's **Shooting Guns** were up for Metal/Hard Music Artist of the Year. **LOA** and **Samurai Champs** were up for Urban Artist of the Year, and **Chris Morin** for Excellence in Visual Design. **Mario Lepage**, collaborating with Manitoba's Rayannah, brought home the award for Producer of the Year. **Jared Robinson**, "*Canadian Mental Health Association 100 Year Anniversary*," was nominee for Visual Media Composer of the Year.

For more information, visit [www.breakoutwest.ca](http://www.breakoutwest.ca).

Winners of the 2019 **Saskatchewan Music Awards**, handed out November 28 in Saskatoon, included several local 446 and 553 members. Congratulations to:

- **Hunter Brothers** and **Tenille Arts**, tied for Country Artist of the Year
- **Rumpus**, Electronic Artist of the Year
- **Kacy & Clayton** and **The Dead South**, tied for Roots/Folk Artist of the Year
- **Hunter Brothers** "Lost", Single of the Year
- **The Dead South** "Sugar & Joy", Album of the Year

The Best Saskatchewan Albums of 2019 countdown, a publicly voted poll that led to Album of the Year, also included the following 446 and 553 members:

- #2. **Amy Nelson** "Good Intentions"
- #4 **Hunter Brothers** "State of Mind"
- #6 **Kacy & Clayton** "Carrying On" and **Foxwarren** "Foxwarren" (tie)

For the full list, visit [www.saskatchewanmusicawards.ca](http://www.saskatchewanmusicawards.ca).

The **Saskatchewan Country Music Awards** will be taking place this year in Regina, April 17-19. Congratulations to all the SCMA nominees! We'd like to particularly recognize those from local 446:

- Fans Choice Entertainer of the Year: **Tenille Arts; Hunter Brothers; Amy Nelson**
- Female Artist: **Tenille Arts; Amy Nelson**
- Group/Duo of The Year: **Hunter Brothers**
- Single of The Year: "Lost," **Hunter Brothers**; "Save Some of That Whiskey," **Jess Moskaluke**; "Northern Lights,"

**Hunter Brothers**; "Mad Crazy Love," **Tenille Arts**

- Songwriter(s) of the Year: **JJ Voss** and Mike Plume, "Some People"; **Tenille Arts**, Alex Kline and Allison Veltz, "Somebody Like That"
- Album or EP of the Year: "State of Mind," **Hunter Brothers**; "Good Intentions," **Amy Nelson**
- Video of the Year: "Silver Lining," **Hunter Brothers** (Director: The Edde Brothers); "Some People," **JJ Voss** (Director: Joel Stewart and Pre-Historic Productions); "Somebody Like That," **Tenille Arts** (Directors: Stephen & Alexa Kinigopoulos)
- Interactive Artist or Group Of the Year: **Hunter Brothers; Tenille Arts; Amy Nelson**
- Roots Artist of the Year: **JJ Voss**
- Guitar Player of the Year: **JJ Hunter**
- Bass Player of the Year: **Luke Hunter**
- Drummer of the Year: **Dusty Hunter**
- Keyboard Player of the Year: **Amy Nelson**

For more information on the weekend, visit [www.scma.ca](http://www.scma.ca).

The **Per Sonatori Baroque Ensemble** brought in the Christmas Season with a beautiful unveiling of Christmas Goes Baroque, December 21. Their upcoming concerts are on March 7, "Hello, Mrs. Bach (Women in Baroque Music)" - a joint venture with **Dr. Barbara Reul** from Luther College, University of Regina. Dr. Ruel is an engaging presenter and has an uncanny way of taking an audience back in time to laugh and learn about the lives of these wonderful composers, performers, and muses. This concert welcomes back **Janelle Lucyk** (soprano) with newfound talent from Montreal, **Kerry Bursey** on lute. Then on April 24 will be "The Grand Tour." In baroque period gap years, young Aristocrats would spend time in search of art, culture and the roots of western civilization. Per Sonatori will travel back with guest Baroque violinist, **Elyssa Lefurgey-Smith**. For more information, [www.personatori.ca](http://www.personatori.ca).

**Richard Burdick's** newest CD is "*Horn Music of Silvio Coscia*." Silvio Coscia played principle horn for the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra from 1928-64, sharing principle duties with Gunther Schuller for 13 years. Besides playing horn, he also was a vocal coach to well-known artists such as Renata Tebaldi, Lily Pons, and Jerome Hines. The CD contains his works for horn quartet and horn duets. It can be found at <https://store.cdbaby.com/cd/richardoburdick26>.

**Eli Barsi** released her second book, *"Beneath the Prairie Sky,"* a children's book inspired by her song *"Prairie Skies."* This book joins Eli's successful book released earlier in 2019, *"Poems & Paintings from a Prairie Girl."* Eli continues to tour everywhere, with the November tour taking her across the border for shows in South Dakota, Virginia, D.C., Florida and wrapping up with a special performance at the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville. Eli returned to her annual Hometown Christmas tour, wrapping up in her hometown of Kipling on December 15 with special guest **Lisa Moen**. Eli takes her art on tour with her, and is busy painting commissions in between her travels. For upcoming shows and events in Canada and the U.S., visit [www.elibarsi.com](http://www.elibarsi.com).

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DJ Mag named **Danny Elder**, aka **Rumpus**, in their "12 emerging artists you need to hear" list for September 2019, offering "the latest and greatest DJs and producers rising to the top this month." The international magazine began in 1991 and is now a global multimedia brand, translated into ten languages every month, and has been awarded 'Best Music Magazine' at the International Dance Music Awards a record 17 times. They also produce the Top 100 DJs and Top 100 Clubs polls.

Bored with DJing in the traditional sense, Rumpus incorporates live drumming into his always high-energy sets. Fusing funk and bass house, his original productions feature deep, bouncy basslines and catchy vocals with the kick and snare you can't help but move to. With releases on *Sweat it Out!* and Westwood Recordings, including his newest extended play *"Drum Machine"*, his summer tour had him traveling coast-to-coast, from California's *Lightning In A Bottle* to New York's *Knitting Factory*, then heading to *Shambhala Music Festival* (where his set was named a "must-see" by *FreshMusicFreaks.com*) before rounding out at none other than *Black Rock City's Burning Man*. <https://itsrumpus.com>

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**The Dead South** have released new single *"Blue Trash"*. "Tangy banjo and back chop beats drive 'Blue Trash,' the third single from Sugar & Joy (Six Shooter). (It's) a playful acknowledgment that along our road from unsigned Canadian string set to Gold Certified, JUNO Award winning, Billboard charting band, there have been some who have taken issue with the 'prairie pickers' progressive style. 'Blue Trash' is about the importance of expressing our own musical hearts, on our own terms." Their *"Served Cold"* tour travelled across Canada and the U.S. in the fall right through January. In February, they move on to Ireland and the UK, followed by widespread European dates through May. [www.deadsouth.com](http://www.deadsouth.com)

Besides the award achievements noted, **Hunter Brothers** celebrated a #1 hit with "Lost", "the #1 spun Canadian song on country radio in 2019" and a Gold certification. They spent some time in January in Ixtapa, Mexico for "Boots on the Beach" and are busy lining up summer festival dates. [www.hunterbrothers.com](http://www.hunterbrothers.com)

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During the week of February 17-21, 2020, Stanley Mission SK will hold its first **Girls Rock Camp: Rock The North**. Working with the community of Stanley Mission (350 km north of Prince Albert), local 446 member **Eliza Doyle** has engaged in cultural conversations to determine how to best deliver camp programming from the perspective of the Woodland Cree in Stanley Mission. Elders & community mentors will be provided the capacity and training to guide/mentor the youth participants in programming that strengthens identity and self-esteem through cultural arts and specific identity-forming workshops. This will help also help rebuild intergenerational connectedness, bring the community together, and become an celebrated annual event. *Congratulations on an impactful initiative!*

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Regina country/roots singer/songwriter **JJ Voss** is proud to announce the upcoming release of his third album, *"Come Along With Me,"* on March 20/2020 followed by a Western Canadian tour. Inspired by songwriters such as Steve Earle, Jason Isbell, Johnny Cash and Jim Cuddy, Voss aims to make relevant music that addresses social issues, and takes a stand for what's right. He feels compelled to do something constructive with his voice and through his music. The title track was released on February 14/2020. The album was written by Voss with several co-writers and produced by award-winning musician/producer **Murray Pulver** (local 190). [www.jjvoss.com](http://www.jjvoss.com)

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**Stick Graft** (duo) was born from the fortuitous encounter of two Saskatchewan musicians: Chapman stick performer and composer **Brian Baggett** from Fort Qu'Appelle (originally from Houston, Texas), and Regina flutist, singer and songwriter **Marie-Véronique Bourque** (originally from Quebec City). This duo, formed in January 2019, offers a unique instrumental combination, as well as a style and sound that is off the beaten track. Mixing original compositions inspired by their wide musical experiences, Stick Graft invites you to a refreshing experience mixing jazz, rock, chanson française and experimental. [www.stickgraft.ca](http://www.stickgraft.ca)



## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Due to the fact that local 446 runs an extremely frugal operation, our financial situation is stable, books are balanced, and we look forward to a great 2020.

It is important to note that in 2019 there were a few one-time expenses, including some computer upgrades in preparation for the end of Windows 7 in January 2020. We also had to invest in several other pieces of equipment essential to our day-to-day operations. In all cases we made sure to shop and secure the best deal.

As already discussed at the last general meeting, I propose six meetings in 2020. We have already completed both our first executive and our first general meeting. I also want every board member to carry business cards and application forms at all times. If we are going to grow, we have to communicate with every musician we meet and talk about the advantages we enjoy as union musicians. We have to talk about Special Payments, MPTEF, instrument insurance, P2s, pension, and of course, the protection provided by the union against being stiffed by unscrupulous club owners, promoters and agents.

Now some good news...the MPTEF (Music Performance Trust Fund) has lots of money. They offered our local five fully paid performances at seniors' residences. From an email call, we had 35 interested performers. We then were offered 6 more paid performances, as some locals didn't use their entire quota. All performances have been completed, or will be, before April 30 (*see MPTEF note*).

It is important to note that any member can line up gigs at seniors homes, hospitals, schools, or community events and access funding from MPTEF. It is simply a matter of the member(s) making the contacts and setting their performance fee at or above scale, then having the office do the paperwork. Contracts must include 5% work dues (that's 5% of scale). The buyer will get 50% of scale, plus work dues, directly from the MPTEF.

The Musicians Pension Fund of Canada is in good shape, with about \$800 million in the fund and about 3000 people drawing. I have been collecting my pension for over four years and will continue to do so until I die, at which time, if my wife outlives me, she will get the entire amount until she dies. Seems to me that should be a major recruiting tool in an industry where most musicians have no pension.

Locally, we have received work dues from the Regina Folk Festival, which received over \$14K from the MPTEF in 2019. Our office processed the paperwork to get the funds for the festival, and the federation sent an observer to the festival to confirm the performances. Negotiations are ongoing for a multi-year agreement with the RFF.

The RSO has ratified a new contract with the players. There is a wage increase...something many orchestras are not able to achieve. Indeed, in many markets, players are either having their wages frozen or having to accept wage cuts. Congratulations to the bargaining committee for their hard work in getting this new deal. The committee includes Hyonsuk Kim, Miles Newman, Peter Sametz, Tamsin Johnston, Rudy Sternadel, and also to the now departed Executive Director, Tanya Derksen. Your president was present for the ratification vote, which was overwhelmingly in favour of acceptance.

Congratulations are in order to members who have achieved the status of 25 and 50-year membership in our organization. Many are no longer actively playing, but continue to support and promote union membership.

Special thanks to VP Kelly for her continued work in assembling the FORTE. It is important that all members submit information for inclusion in every issue...and on our Facebook page. Please also include photos relating to the subjects at hand.

The OCSM convention is coming to Regina in 2020. I am in contact with the organizer, who is on the board in Victoria BC, to explore the possibility of negotiating for both the OCSM 2020 convention and the Canadian Conference 2021 convention at the same time. This might present an opportunity to negotiate a better deal with one hotel for both events.

Thanks to all board members for your service over the past year. Now, let's get to work building our local in 2020!

*Brian Sklar, President*

## DECEMBER MEETING BRIEF

At our December general meeting, we were pleased to present 25-year-member certificates and pins to **Todd Lueck, Rudy Sternadel, and Dennis Fidor**. Recipients not in attendance were **Annette Campagne, Paul Campaign, Johnny Gasparic, Jason Plumb, and Jeff Looysen**. 50-year certificates and pins were presented to **Brian Sklar, Neil Ellis-Toddington, and Gary Dunitz**. Recipients not in attendance were **Daryl Gutheil, Richard Carson Steuart, and Freddie Pelletier**. Congrats and thank you to all!

Those who paid their dues on time over the past year were also entered to win one year's free dues. At the meeting drew this winner, congrats **Ty Hunter**.

Two new board members were elected: **Marshall Burns** and **Dennis Fidor**. President Sklar and the local thank **Gary Dunitz** on having completed four terms on the board.

## REGINA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA REPORT

The Regina Symphony's Triple-1 season is now well underway. That's 111 years of orchestral music making for the benefit of residents of Regina and district.

The RSO got off to a fine start in August with the annual *Symphony Under the Sky Festival* at the Motherwell Homestead, featuring special guests **Andrea Menard** and fiddler **Jordan Daniels**. Since, then four of our eight Masterworks concerts are in the books. Our opener in September featured music from the hit movie *Life of Pi*. MW2 showcased the strings and winds separately in the first half before joining with guest artist **Jonathan Crow** in a riveting performance of Brahms' *Violin Concerto*. The Masterworks season will wrap up in early May with a celebratory performance of Beethoven's famous *Ninth Symphony*.

The Pops series opened in October, and starred the multi-talented Polaris Prize winner **Jeremy Dutcher** performing work from his debut LP *Wolastoqiyik Lintuwakonawa*. In December, a packed house was treated to the RSO playing the film score to the popular movie *Home Alone*, which was simultaneously screened.

Of course, the ever-popular annual presentation of Handel's *Messiah* filled Knox Met in December. Meanwhile, the **Regina Symphony Chamber Players (RSCP)** - the RSO core of 12 full-time musicians - has had a full schedule since September, including three of the five sets of performances at Government House. The RSCP also performed dozens of school concerts in the fall, and members of the ensemble were featured in the RSO's November co-production of the opera *Missing*. The RSO is to be commended for its ongoing work in showing artistic and community leadership in public programming that speaks to issues of diversity and Reconciliation. In particular, diligent effort is undertaken in organizing auxiliary programming with a broad range of partners that connects guest artists with various community interests. These forms of engagement are vital to positioning the symphony orchestra as a cornerstone for constructive social change.

The RSO's Annual Meeting took place on August 29. Thanks to an outstanding legacy gift in 2018, the RSO is in a very healthy financial position. Disappointingly, several key corporate sponsorships have been lost, and the Board is examining ways to address the situation. There have been many changes in administrative staff at the RSO, including the recent departure of CEO **Tanya Derksen**, who accepted a senior position with the Philadelphia Orchestra. The Regina Symphony Orchestra

Players Association (RSOPA) congratulates her on this prestigious appointment, wishes her well, and thanks her for her service to the RSO and the citizens of Regina and district. The RSO appointed **Andrea Davison** as Interim Executive Director while the search for Tanya's permanent replacement takes place. In November, management and the RSOPA concluded negotiations for a new collective agreement 2019-2022 after 10 months of integrative bargaining. The RSOPA held its Annual Meeting in late November and elected the following to the Players Committee: Peter Sametz (Chair), Tamsin Johnston (OCSM Delegate), Miles Newman (Steward), Betty Stirr (Treasurer), Hyonsuk Kim (past-Chair), and Curtis Scheschuk (member-at-large). Many thanks to Rudy Sternadel, whose term of service concluded at that time.

As the Players Association's representative to the **Organization of Canadian Symphony Musicians (OCSM)** last year, I was pleased to attend the 2019 Conference in Hamilton August 12-16. The Conference included many sessions dedicated to musicians' wellness. Speakers and guests included **Dr. John Chong - Musicians Clinics of Canada**, **Dr. Heather Malyuk - Soundcheck Audiology**, **AFM President Ray Hair**, **SSD Director Rochelle Skolnick**, and **Orchestras Canada CEO Katherine Carleton**, among many others.

The OCSM Conference is an extremely valuable network within our industry, and I'm pleased to announce that I was elected to the National Executive as OCSM Treasurer at the Conference. Please note that the 2020 OCSM Conference will be taking place next August right here in Regina at the Hotel Sask.

*Peter Sametz, RSO Delegate  
Organization of Canadian Symphony Musicians*

## SUBMIT YOUR NEWS!

We invite members to submit news for the next issue of Forte, as well as for sharing on our Facebook page (remember to tag us, **@reginamusicians**). You can email it to [rma.446@sasktel.net](mailto:rma.446@sasktel.net) (remember to add us to your mailing lists - especially show announcements). Remember to add details such as who, what, why, when, where, and who, and include a high quality press photo if you have one!

## NEXT GENERAL MEETING OF THE RMA

Tuesday May 26, 7:00pm  
Serbian Club, 2775 Avonhurst Dr., Regina

## 50-YEAR MEMBER PROFILE: RICHARD CARSON STEUART



Visit our website ([www.regina-musicians.ca](http://www.regina-musicians.ca)) for a career retrospective on one of our 50-year members: **Richard Carson Steuart**.

Originally from Weyburn SK, Steuart is a renowned classical and jazz soloist with a career spanning more than 5 decades. He is the winner of two prestigious international Trumpet Competitions: the German - ARD, International Radio and Television Classical Music Competition (Munich) and the Swiss - STR "Con-

cours L'Exécution de Musique Genève"/International Radio and Television Music Competition (Geneva). He was also winner of the Bavarian Motor Works (BMW) Modern Music Festival Prize, among other competitions. This past July 2019, Steuart performed (for the third time) as Featured Concert Artist as well as Master Class Lecturer at the International Trumpet Guild / "ITG" Conference in Miami FL.

Since 2001 he has been on the Faculty of the Bavarian State University of Musical Arts (Hochschule fuer Musik) in Wuerzburg, as "Teacher for Special Musical Events." Steuart also tours internationally, performing and recording both historical and contemporary music for radio and television on both Period and Modern instruments, many of his own design and manufacture. He has performed for Prince Charles in the "Proms Concerts" in the Royal Albert Hall and with his Munich Brass Ensemble for such high profile events as the first G7/8 Conference, performing specific works, some newly written and some specially arranged for each of the heads of the free world. Steuart has performed and recorded well over 30 solo and chamber music CDs for his own German-based La Tromba Music Productions and continues to produce ensemble and solo albums.

He is the founder and musical director of the Munich Brass Ensemble, the Schedule Kammersolisten/German Chamber Soloists String Orchestra, and the European Baroque Soloists, and in 1999 he founded the Prince Bishop of Wuerzburg's Wind Ensemble, an 18-member Brass Ensemble, with which he performs music from the Renaissance to the modern idioms on historical as well as modern instruments.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

- **Kieran Smith**
- **Emma New**
- **Riley McLennan**
- **Jay Koller**

Important note: Any member may resign (*ie if you do not intend to renew your membership, are taking a break from performing, etc*) at any time, as long as that member's dues are up to date, and the member informs our office by electronic or traditional mail. That member can later resume his/her membership by paying a \$20 reinstatement fee, along with their one year's dues. This will avoid you being listed as suspended or expelled, and incurring the penalties that would be applied upon re-joining.

## SIGN UP FOR UNION SAVINGS!

We are thrilled to have expanded the CFM Discount Program to local 446 members and their families. In partnership with Union Savings, a not-for profit program, we join 70 fellow unions across Canada in this program. Discounts are offered in a range of products/services from credit cards, mortgages, home and auto insurance, clothing, car rentals, concerts and more! Some vendors include LG, Adidas, BMO, RBC, Park'N Fly, the ROM, 1800Flowers and Swarovski. Of particular interest to touring musicians and their families is the worldwide Travel Medical Insurance Program, which is comprehensive and affordable. \$138.99 annually provides coverage for a year worldwide and is applicable to as many single trips as you like, as long as each trip is 60 days or less.

- 1 Register online at <https://unionsavings.ca/register/>
- 2 Select Canadian Federation of Musicians, then select local 446 in the dropdown menu
- 3 After logging in, select the products/services of interest

For questions on your account, how the discounts work or on any of the products/services, contact Union Savings at 1-800-418-2290.

From now until June 30, they will be giving away prizes for their 30th Anniversary Sweepstakes, including a grand prize of \$10,000, monthly cash prizes of \$1000, electronics and gift cards. In order for local 446 members to participate you just need to register at [www.unionsavings.ca](http://www.unionsavings.ca). There's no cost. Members can also receive additional entries into the contest by referring fellow union members to the program.



## MPTF SUBMISSIONS

As we noted in the last Forte, the Music Performance Trust Fund has grown considerably, thanks to new income streams negotiated by the AFM with all providers of musical distribution. As a result, the MPTF has raised its share to 50% across the board.

The MPTF is a fund administered by the AFM, which co-funds performances in schools, hospitals, senior homes, street fairs...just about any place people don't have to pay an admission. All performances have to be 'open to anyone who wants to attend' and the co-funder must acknowledge the contribution by the MPTF. Signage is available from the fund. Members can contact seniors homes, medical facilities, or schools and apply to MPTF, which will pay 50% of scale.

We received interest from a good number of members for the MPTF's Musicfest program for seniors' homes. Our office contacted local seniors facilities, presented the list of interested performers and their musical styles, and proceeded to arrange their selected artists. Performances took place at:

- College Park 2, Regina - Dennis Ficor
- Qu'Appelle House - Peter Greif and Friends
- Santa Maria Nursing Home - Jim Gallagher & Trent Reschny
- Parkside Extendicare - Marie Veronique Bourque
- Melville Lutheran Nursing Home - Don Young and Friends
- Echo Lodge, Ft. Qu'Appelle - Brian Sklar and Friends
- The Bentley, Yorkton - Dennis Ficor and Friends

Please call the office for more information. Funding requests must be processed by our office, for individuals or groups. The MPTF provides an important subsidy to funders, while making sure that musicians are paid scale for their performance.

## THE PRAIRIE CELLO INSTITUTE CELEBRATES ITS 8TH YEAR

The Prairie Cello Institute continues to grow from strength to strength. Located in Regina SK, the PCI brings together motivated students for intensive study with accomplished artist-teachers who offer a diverse background of skills and experience. The PCI is positioned towards the last week of August in order to inspire and focus everyone for the new school year. Together we further our knowledge and expertise as cellists, expanding our expectations and developing our approach to the instrument.

This year's PCI initiated two significant advances for the program. Firstly, we moved to the new Regina Conservatory of Performing Arts premises on College Avenue. This being a dedicated music facility we were well catered for with suitably equipped studio space and various size rooms appropriate to our needs. Conservatory staff were most helpful and accommodating and the move was accomplished with minimal disruption to our operational tradition. In particular, our use of the new Conservatory Recital Hall was much appreciated and our staging of the final Student Showcase in this stunning new space, a great success.

Our second new initiative established the new position of Luthier-in-Residence. Master Luthier **Natanael Sasaki** arrived from Calgary and set up his workshop on site in the midst of the PCI space. Each student met with Mr. Sasaki to evaluate their instrument's condition and he was hugely busy all week with a variety of projects for students, faculty and those from the wider string community in the city. Everyone was more than happy with the results of Mr. Sasaki's expertise and we are discussing his return with the possibility of more visits during the year.

The mixture of resident and visiting faculty comprised visitors **Brian Yoon, Principal Cello of the Victoria Symphony**; **Scott McKnight**, key figure in the Saskatoon musical scene; and **Christine Bootland** of the **Medicine Hat Conservatory** and **University of Lethbridge**; as well as residents **Joel MacDonald, Cello Instructor at the Regina Conservatory** and myself, completing the cello faculty. **Jennifer Crawford** contributed sessions with piano for all students and each group undertook a variety of Practical Artistry projects with **Katie Gannon**.

For 2019, all students participated in a demanding schedule of individual lessons; masterclasses concentrating on a wide range of essential cello techniques; repertoire performance classes; small ensemble (Cello quartets and quintets); Cello orchestra; and sessions with piano. Theory was expanded into Practical Artistry involving a multi-session art project the results being displayed at the Student Showcase. The D'Addario string supply company were kind enough to supply pencils, stickers and sets of strings gratis.

The Faculty Concert on the Wednesday evening – CelloDrama! - was presented in the beautiful performance space of Westminster United Church on 13th Avenue. The concert was another great success with performances of works for solo cello by living composers Canadian Vincent Ho and American Anne Clyne (with added electronics!), as well as Italian Giovanni Sollima. Ensemble works included a Vivaldi *Concerto Grosso* for four cellos, Canadian David Raphael Scott's *After lines by Guillevis for Cello Trio* and Brian Yoon's own arrangement of Metallica's *Fade to Black* for five cellos. A special place was reserved on the program for departing student **Jonathan Craig Penner** who has been a stalwart of the cello scene in Regina since I arrived eight years ago. To celebrate his 'graduation' and move to the cello class at McGill University, Jonathan performed the *Prelude to the D major Bach Suite for Solo Cello* to a delightfully enthusiastic response.

At the Closing Concert on the final evening, everyone performed in cello ensembles large and small. **Catherine McLellan** and **Ilana van der Merwe** were accomplished soloists in Vivaldi's *Concerto for 2 Cellos* with cello orchestra accompaniment, and the concert ended with all students and faculty performing an arrangement of Atreyu's *Lose It together*.

Reaction from all parties: students, parents, and faculty, was overwhelmingly positive. It is clear that over the eight years of the Prairie Cello Institute, it has added an important component to the performance and education scene in the city.

*Submitted by Simon Fryer, Director, Prairie Cello Institute  
www.prairiecello.ca*

## ISABEL HOFFMAN BRUM RECEIVES ROBERT ANDERSON BURSARY

**Isabel Hoffmann Brum** was selected as the recipient of this year's youth development bursary, presented by the local on behalf of the **Prairie Fire Band** and the **Tex Pistols** in memory of steel guitar/guitar player **Robert Anderson**, who passed away on June 13, 2018. The bursary is presented at the beginning of each school year to a dedicated and talented young musician.

Brum was born in Porto Alegre, Brazil, in 2002. She became involved in music at an early age. With a passionate musical father, her influence started at home, and eventually she was led to cello. Isabel started her studies on cello at the Escola de Música Tio Zequinha (Uncle Zequinha Music School) with Monica Lima as her teacher in 2015. In 2016, she joined the Orquestra Universitária da ULBRA (Lutheran University of Brazil Orchestra), in which she performed a diverse number of pieces including the Christmas Oratorio by Bach and the Piano Concerto no.22 by Mozart.

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In 2018, Isabel participated in the 20<sup>th</sup> Encontro de Violoncelos RS (RS 20th Cello Gathering) in Porto Alegre; the event counted with Milene Jorge Aliverti as the director and one of the masterclass's teachers. Brum moved to Regina in 2019, and joined the South Saskatchewan Youth Orchestra in the fall. In addition to cello, Isabel plays guitar, drums, ukulele, and a traditional Brazilian instrument Cavaco. She also leads the worship one Sunday a month at New Beginnings Lutheran Church. Isabel is presently attending Regina Christian School, and, upon completion of grade 12 in June 2020, plans to continue her music education at the university.

### Regina Musicians Association

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