



# Saskatchewan Orchestral Association, Inc.

## NEWSLETTER

Celebrating 30 years of support for orchestral music in Saskatchewan 1985 – 2015

Inside this issue:		<b>President's Message December 2015</b> By Curtis Scheschuk	
President's Message	1	<p>How time flies. All of a sudden it is the end of December and we are wrapping up another successful year. Thanks to everyone who has donated their time to making the last few months full of music and joy!! It is no doubt that our holiday musical celebrations will be an appropriate send off to another great year.</p> <p>Once again this year, the SOA received a large number of applications through our grants program. It is inspiring to see the dedication and passion throughout all of our member groups through their volunteers and participants. It is evident that creativity and ingenuity fueled all of the recent grant applications. Congratulations on this continued progress as we move forward into 2016.</p> <p>This fall, we participated in another successful Saskatchewan Music Conference. The coming together of music professionals from around the province to share ideas on how to make music a central part of all our lives is always humbling. Thanks to all the clinicians for their presentations and workshops. I would like to extend a special thanks to the SOA award recipients. This year's SOA award recipients are: Distinguished Service to the Orchestral Community Award – Dr. Howard Leyton-Brown and Orchestra Development Award – Alan Denike. They have both dedicated their lives building our orchestral community. Thank you!</p> <p>This time of year is always full of change and this year is no different. I would like to extend a HUGE thank you to our Executive Director, Tara Dawn Solheim, for all her hard work. Tara will be moving on at the end of December to pursue a new opportunity with Sage Hill Writing Experience. Shortly after Tara joined the SOA, I accepted the position as President. From the beginning of my tenure to the present, I have had her support and always knew that the SOA office was in good hands. I thank her for playing such a pivotal role in all the success the SOA has had in the last few years. We could not have done it without your hard work. All the best, Tara.</p> <p>I wish you all a happy music-filled holiday!!</p>	
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**SOA acknowledges the generous support of:**



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## Saskatchewan Orchestral Association 30th Anniversary Celebrations

2015 marks the SOA's 30th Anniversary! Founded in 1985, the organization celebrates 30 years of support for orchestral music in Saskatchewan in 2015. Many thanks to the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation and SaskCulture for the support it has been providing to the Saskatchewan Orchestral Association and all of its member groups for 30 years!

In October, the SOA had the opportunity to celebrate its anniversary at a Regina Symphony Orchestra Masterworks concert. Prior to the concert, students from the RSO's Inner City Strings Program played a pre-concert. The SOA provided a grant for the RSO's Inner City Strings Program in 2015. SOA Board Member and RSO violinist, Karley Parovsky, joined the students in playing at the pre-concert. Thank you to the RSO for joining in celebrating our anniversary!

Throughout 2015, SOA has been encouraging member organizations to display the SOA banner at their concerts in order to celebrate support for orchestras across the province.

The Regina Mandolin Orchestra recently sent photos of the SOA banner up at their December concert, Notes Before Christmas. Thank you very much for displaying the banner and for sending the wonderful photos of your concert!

The SOA would like to continue with this tradition next year. When you have a concert coming up, please contact to SOA office to arrange for a banner at 306-546-3050 or [info@saskorchestras.com](mailto:info@saskorchestras.com). Thanks!



## 2016 SOA International Saito Conducting Workshop

The 2016 Saskatchewan Orchestral Association's International Saito Conducting Workshop with Wayne Toews will be held in Saskatoon from July 16 to 23. Generous bursaries are available for Saskatchewan musicians. **Details and application forms are posted at <http://conductorschool.com/SOA.html>**

*"The workshop is still one of the greatest life changing moments in my career!" - Dr. Scott MacLennan*

*"I had the most amazing time this week at the International Saito Conducting Workshop! I learned SO much that I will continue to use everyday in my conducting life. I'm so grateful to Wayne Toews Sensei for his high degree of expertise and warm supportive approach to teaching. He is a true Maestro!" - Dr. Dominic Gregorio*

*"This workshop was a life-changing experience. The combination of a clear, concise methodology and sequential pedagogy coupled with a vocabulary of gestures make the Saito method superior. Mr. Toews is a gifted musician and teacher and the entire experience was incredible." -- Dr. Philip Baldwin*

**For more information contact Wayne Toews via [admin@conductorschool.com](mailto:admin@conductorschool.com)**

# Friendly FOLK

Artistic Directors – Yvonne Redant and Kathy Hubich



Friendly FOLK continues to grow in the number of musicians in our band, our instrumentation, the number of gigs we present, and our skills in providing top notch entertainment for the folks in the Regina and surrounding communities. Our repertoire continues to expand.

In this first half of our **5th** season, we have already performed a record number of gigs for the folks in the Regina community. We have added some new audiences to our portfolio including a number of church functions, the Scottish Masons, and of course, our ever supportive senior's homes and retirement residences. We will be playing again for the special needs adults at the Cosmopolitan learning centre before Christmas.

Friendly FOLK thanks Martin Collegiate for our rehearsal space and the SOA for their generous support.



**SAVE the DATE - Friendly FOLK concert – Sunday April 10, 2016 – 2 p.m.**

Regina Public Library film theatre – 2311 - 12th Ave – Everyone is welcome.

## How parents can enrich their child's music education, Part 6 by Wayne Toews

### Gifts

There's a special gift to a family that only a young musician can give: a recording of their playing. The process will take patience and practice. Of course the musician will want to produce the best possible recording. Any helpers who are recording the performance will need to be patient and allow multiple "takes" so that the product is something that will be valued as a family treasure. (Some think these repetitions are the best kind of focused practice.) The Christmas season is a perfect time to make many special recordings. Our family enjoys seeing the early video recordings of the cousins playing their Suzuki repertoire and Christmas carols.

On December 22<sup>nd</sup> we used to celebrate the birthday of a dear elderly lady who looked forward to hearing a wide variety songs. She often made special requests of my children. It was a challenge to prepare music for the event but always rewarding. What an incredible gift we give when we share our music, especially with the elderly. Her look of joy was our reward.

Musical items make ideal gifts. However, some items, such as instruments or bows, should not be purchased without consultation with a teacher and a trial by the player. For example, it is important that the player try several bows to find the best fit. The balance point of the bow must be at the ideal place for the player's arm. Similarly, an instrument that is the wrong size will provide more torture than joy. A generous gift might end up be less welcome than hoped.

Printed music, recordings and most accessories are good choices. Because they should be changed about once a year, new strings can be the perfect gift. Before purchasing strings check the tailpiece to determine if it requires a loop or ball end. There are many brands and models of strings. Some players like to mix brands. Some instruments respond better when strings with specific cores are used. The core is the basic material around which a fine metal wire is wound. Strings were originally made of gut. Later, the gut core was wrapped with metal wire, often silver. String companies have made advancements by producing cores of various metals and man-made products. These modern strings remain in tune longer especially when the temperature and humidity change. Thomastik Dominant strings are often the standard and are among the most reasonably priced, but the only way to find the best strings for your instrument is to research and experiment.

I encourage parents to celebrate the efforts of young musicians when they record and share their performances. Players take a significant risk that their efforts will be unappreciated or even ridiculed. It is important to avoid the disheartening experience of performing for an inattentive audience, with an out-of-tune piano or in a space where the temperature or noise makes performing difficult.

Those young musicians who are ready should be encouraged to create and share their own compositions, even very short ones.

May your homes be filled with music and bring joy as you celebrate and document the development of your young musicians.

*Wayne Toews taught music in Saskatoon's Public Schools for 32 years. He was Music Director of the Saskatoon Youth Orchestra for 25 years and led the orchestra to six successive national performance awards. He has adjudicated in provincial and national festivals. He celebrates his many students who have maintained an avocational involvement with music and many others who are sharing their gifts as professional musicians. He is a founding board member of the Saskatchewan Orchestral Association and chair of the Orchestra division of Musicfest Canada. Audio examples of his music for strings are posted at <http://conductorschool.com/Strings.html>*





REGINA  
MANDOLIN  
ORCHESTRA

## Regina Mandolin Orchestra Update

Respectfully submitted by Susan McLaughlin

It's been a busy season! Here are a few of the many highlights so far:

- It was very gratifying to learn that some of the people entering our Adult Mandolin Lesson Program this fall were inspired to do so after attending the public concerts given as part of the Classical Mandolin Society of America Convention in Regina in 2013.
- A total of 7 members of the R.M.O. attended the 29<sup>th</sup> convention of the Classical Mandolin Society of America in Austin Texas in October. By all accounts it was an enjoyable learning experience. Of particular note was the enthusiastic discussion in the 'Care & Feeding of a Mandolin Orchestra' workshop, which illustrated the growing interest in ensuring not just the survival, but the future growth & development of orchestras dedicated to the sound of the mandolin.
- Our Orchestra continues to grow, as we have welcomed several members directly into the group again this fall, in addition to a couple of new mandolin students who were 'fast-tracked' into the Mandolin 1 section. This growth is very positive, and has prompted a reevaluation of our stage seating requirements.
- We continue to offer a mandolin class to students at Mother Teresa Middle School. Molly Hegan teaches this class and confirms that the school is interested in having the class continue into 2016.
- We've done several informal play-outs this fall, and have booked more into 2016.
- Our annual Christmas Concert was on December 6<sup>th</sup>. The program was a blend of regular repertoire and seasonal music. Our format was varied, and featured some of our own members, including well-known gems 'My Way' and 'When I'm 64' sung by Gord Kennedy, a rocking interpretation of 'Jingle Bell Rock' by Brian Templeton, a mandolin solo in Sviridov's 'Romance' played by Susan McLaughlin, and a flute solo in 'The Lonely Shepherd' played by Jacquie Messer-Lepage. Rounding out the program was guest artist Danny Olliver, an up-and-coming young vocalist & guitar player. This concert was extremely well-received by the audience, and affirms that R.M.O.'s new direction is the right one.



- The leadership provided by Natalia Osypenko, our Music Director, continues to be warmly embraced by the entire orchestra, and her methodology has made our group much stronger.
- The Board has set a strategic planning meeting for early January 2016, after which they plan to bring forward suggestions & recommendations to the members.
- Our spring concert will be on Sunday May 1<sup>st</sup> @ 2:00 p.m. at Shumiatcher Theatre.

Applications now being accepted for the  
**18th NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE  
 ORCHESTRA ARTIST TRAINING  
 YOUNG ARTISTS PROGRAM**  
 June 6-25, 2016 in Ottawa, Canada

**Application deadline: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

- **Full financial support for senior-level Canadians**
- **Partial support for senior-level international and all Precollege-level students**

<http://nac-cna.ca/en/summermusicinstitute/youngartists/>

“After this intensive program, I strongly feel that my music has more imaginations than before and my fundamental techniques are also improved. I will never forget the things I learnt here and I will make full use of them [in] my performance.”

Chieri Tomii, violin, Young Artists Program Senior Level 2015

<b>June 6 – 25 juin 2016 OTTAWA</b>		Senior and Precollege levels	
STRINGS-WINDS-PIANO-VOICE   CORDES-VENTS-PIANO-CHANT		Niveaux supérieur et préuniversitaire	
Private Instruction Leçons particulières	Chamber Music Coaching Encadrement en musique de chambre	Masterclasses & Concerts Classes de maître et concerts	Career Mentoring Mentorat professionnel
<b>Deadline: Feb 8, 2016</b> <b>Date limite : 8 fév. 2016</b>		<b>nac-cna.ca/smi</b> <b>cna-nac.ca/iem</b>	

 Dover Quartet & Pavel Kolesnikov, Piano	 Cheng <sup>2</sup> Duo Cello & Piano	 <b>Cecilian CHAMBER SERIES</b> Bringing the World Stage to Regina  Sunday, October 18, 2015   4:00pm Dover Quartet & Pavel Kolesnikov  Saturday, November 21, 2015   7:30pm Cheng <sup>2</sup> Duo  Sunday, April 17, 2016   4:00pm Angela Cheng  Sunday, May 15, 2016   4:00pm James Ehnes with Andrew Armstrong, Violin & Piano with Andrew Armstrong, Piano
 Angela Cheng Piano	 James Ehnes with Andrew Armstrong Violin & Piano	
<b>2015-2016 Season</b>		

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ORDERS CAN ALSO BE PLACED BY CALLING 1-855-277-9469.

## 2016 Events Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
<u>2016</u>		
Jan 9	Tisdale and District Strings Concert	Tisdale
Jan 9	SYO Chamber Orchestra Concert	Saskatoon
Jan 16	Saskatoon Philharmonic Concert	Saskatoon
Mar 5	SSYO Spring Fête	Regina
Apr 10	Friendly Folk Public Concert	Regina
May 1	Regina Mandolin Orchestra Spring Concert	Regina
May 7	Saskatoon Philharmonic Concert	Saskatoon
June 12	SSYO Season Finale	Regina
June 6-25	NAC's Young Artist Program	Ottawa
July 16-23	SOA Saito Conducting Workshop	Saskatoon

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Next newsletter:

**February/ March 2016**

### SOA Board of Directors

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### THE SOA PROUDLY SUPPORTS ITS MEMBERS AND GROUPS

Battlefords Community Strings  
Concertino Regina Music Ensemble  
Conservatory of Performing Arts  
Friendly Folk  
Poltava Ensemble Orchestra  
Prairie Cello Institute  
Prince Albert Strings Orchestra  
Regina Community Orchestra  
Regina Mandolin Orchestra  
Regina Symphony Orchestra  
Saskatoon Fiddle Orchestra  
Saskatoon Philharmonic Orchestra  
Saskatoon Suzuki Strings Program  
Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra  
Saskatoon Youth Orchestra  
South Saskatchewan Youth Orchestra  
Swift Current Strings  
Tisdale and District Strings

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