

Fall 2022 Issue

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Newsletter



"Come here, go anywhere"

A Message from the Head

Although Covid is still hanging around, I and many others I am certain have been very thankful for how 'normal' this fall semester has felt at the University of Saskatchewan relative to the last 2.5 academic years. It has been wonderful to see and hear such great music once again being made and discussed in our classrooms, practice rooms, and rehearsal & concert spaces, all in inspiring and uplifting kinds of ways. There have been some great moments of learning enlightenment, knowledge acquisition, and wonderful artistic musical expression & growth moments as well.

I wanted to take the briefest of moments here to say a heartfelt thank you to all in our department for all their steadfast hard work this term and for all their many & varied contributions and accomplishments since the publication of our last newsletter.

As you will see within this edition of our Department of Music newsletter, the Summer and Fall of 2022 was a return to a full slate of academically-based music activities, concerts, recitals and our many & varied outreach events.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter which is a wonderful synopsis of 2022 and preview of what is to come in 2023!

Very best wishes,

Dean McNeill

Dean McNeill
Head, Department of Music.



Fall Convocation

Congratulations to our Department of Music Fall 2022 Graduating Class!

Sydney Davis - BMus MusEd 2022

Student Spotlight



Congratulations to soprano, Elise Parsonage (4th year BMus MusEd), winner of the Senior Voice – Classical, 24 and under at the Canada West Music Performing Arts Festival Competition last July. Elise, a student of Dr Garry Gable, was assisted by Kathy Gable on the piano. Chosen first from a class of seven other accomplished competitors from Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia, Elise was lauded for her accomplishments in language, style, characterization, and presentation of the works by Strauss, Mozart, Tiefenbach, and Delibes.

The 2022 National Youth Band of Canada hosted in Toronto last May involved six USASK students: Hanna Hashi, trumpet; Jonathan Tait, bassoon; Sam Dmyterko, French horn; Celestino de Pedro, clarinet; Andrew Pittman, euphonium; and Landon Arnold, bass clarinet. This year, the ensemble was directed by Dr. Darrin Oehlerking, Interim Associate Dean Student Affairs.



Alumni News

Dr. Jason Caslor (BMus MusEd 2000), Associate Professor and Director of Bands at Arizona State University's School of Music, Dance and Theatre, was awarded the 2022 International Band Award by the Canadian Band Association. Dr. Caslor, nominated by the Saskatchewan Band Association was only the sixth recipient of the award since 1991. Please visit: <https://bit.ly/3zCsYhn>

Dr. Jared Tehse (BMus 2014) is currently on faculty in the School of Music at Texas Tech University as a Lecturer of Collaborative Piano. He has performed and collaborated throughout Canada, Europe, and the United States, and has been the recipient of many scholarships and awards. His past teachers include Michael McMahon and Andrew Campbell. Jared obtained his Associate Diploma Royal Conservatory of Toronto in Piano Performance with First Class Honors with Distinction in 2013 and his Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance with a Minor in Jazz Studies with Honors and Great Distinction from the University of Saskatchewan in 2014. He has performed with the Collaborative Piano Institute, Toronto Summer Music Festival, Opera NUOVA, Orford Arts Centre Piano Master Classes, Music Fest Perugia, University of Saskatchewan Jazz Ensemble, Greystone Singers, Université

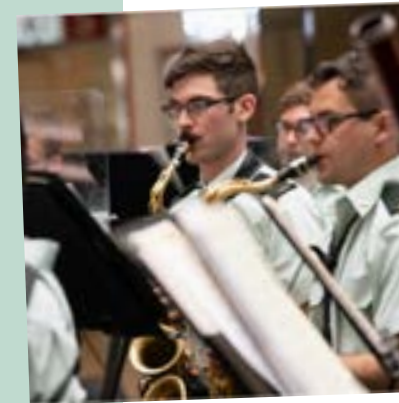
de Montréal Jazz Ensemble and McGill University's Song Interpretation Ensembles. Jared has been a répétiteur for Opera McGill and the Music Theatre and Opera program at Arizona State University. Jared received his Master of Music in Collaborative Piano Performance in 2017 from McGill University. He has freelanced and worked at the University of Toronto, Glenn Gould School and several other ensembles in Toronto, Ontario. Jared received his Doctor of Musical Arts in Collaborative Piano Performance from Arizona State University in 2022.

Humboldt music teacher Erika Rybinski (BMus MusEd 2015, MMus 2020) was highlighted in the following article for raising thousands for local charities: <https://thestarphoenix.com/life/bridges/no-ordinary-bake-sale-humboldt-teacher-erika-rybinski-raises-thousands-for-local-charities>

Berlin Janzen (BA 2015) was a featured soloist with the Saskatoon Concert Band at the Broadway Theatre on November 5th. She performed the North American premiere of David Penadés-Fasanar's



Concerto for Oboe and Wind Band and *Gabriel's Oboe* from the film *The Mission*, composed by Ennio Morricone.



Brendan Catalano (BMus 2016) is a saxophonist and librarian with the Royal Canadian Artillery Band based out of the Edmonton Garrison in Alberta. Brendan studied at USASK under the tutelage of

Dr. Glen Gillis and in 2018 he completed a Masters at the University of Florida with Dr. Jonathan Helton while instructing undergraduate saxophone performance students. Brendan then joined the Kings Own Calgary Regiment Band where he performed and taught saxophone and theory in cadet music programs. He successfully auditioned for the Royal Canadian Artillery band in 2022 where he now leads the saxophone quartet, "Quaternary Duty".

Congratulations to Anika Sukkhu (BMus MusEd 2021) as a recipient for the 2022 University of Saskatchewan Choral Leadership Award. We thank Anika for her leadership and contributions to the choral community and we look forward to watching her choral and music education career unfold in the future.

Congratulations to Spencer Krips (BMus MusEd 2019) who was recently nominated by the 2022 Saskatchewan Music Awards in the categories of Experimental or

Contemporary Artist of the Year and Instrumental Artist of the Year.

Tiess McKenzie (BMus MusEd 2018) was a part of this year's *Sounds Like Audio Festival* with the group show called "Future Collective" curated and led by DJ Olive on October 22nd at the Paved Arts gallery. There was a diverse array of works, from interactive audio and video pieces to live performances (including a spectacular dunking of a ceramic basketball). Tiess created an interactive audio installation called "I am a trombone" using an old trombone, a microphone, a pickup mute, a bluetooth speaker, a pair of headphones, and some custom software using the program Max/MSP. Audience members could talk into the microphone and hear trombone sounds "singing along" to them in the headphones, matching whatever pitch they spoke or sang into the microphone. One could hear all of the sounds in the room being harmonized by trombone sounds when not speaking. Sometimes the trombone would start to hum due to a feedback loop between the bluetooth speaker

hidden in the straight mute and the pickup mute hidden in the white plastic pipes. Please visit www.tiessmckenzie.ca



Faculty Spotlights

Congratulations to Professor and Departmental Head Dean McNeill who was recently awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal for his outstanding contributions to our community. Dean will receive this honourable award later in January at a ceremony in Saskatoon, hosted by the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan. “The Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal (Saskatchewan) is being created to celebrate the 70th anniversary year of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II’s Accession to the Throne, which began on February 6, 2022. The medal is a tangible way for the province of Saskatchewan to honour Her Majesty for her service to Canada. A total of 7,000 medals will be awarded at ceremonies held throughout the province during the Platinum Jubilee year. The medal program will be the focus of the Government of Saskatchewan’s Jubilee year commemorations. Her Majesty The Queen approved the design of the medal

in May 2022. Permission has been sought from the Office of the Governor General of Canada to have this medal included in the Order of Precedence with the other commemorative medals of the Canadian Honours System.” Please visit: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/heritage-honours-and-awards/queen-elizabeth-ii-platinum-jubilee-medal>

Professor McNeill also had a busy fall having performed in several of Saskatoon-based concerts this Fall including Elim Christmas (TCU Place), Saskatoon Children’s Choir (Knox Church), Saskatoon Chamber Singers (Knox Church), Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra (TCU Place) and at Edmonton’s jazz club the *Yardbird Suite*. Dean was also presented remarks at the MacEwan University’s room naming ceremony honouring the late Dr. Tommy Banks O.C.



Congratulations to Dr. Jennifer Lang for a busy fall sabbatical term with her various research projects and professional practice. Jennifer will return to her regular duties in January, teaching music education courses, directing the Greystone Singers, and involvement in administrative responsibilities. One of her new roles will be Grad Chair for the Department of Music – all related questions about the music graduate programs can be directed to her.

During Jennifer’s sabbatical she attended the World Choral Expo in Portugal from September 1-10 and reported on the activities of the choirs and Singing Network presentations in Choral Canada’s *Anacrusis* journal. In October she was invited as one of 40 delegates in Canada to attend the Coalition of Music Education National Summit on Policy and Advocacy. The in-person *National Music Education Policy Summit* took place October 14-16 and brought together representatives from various sectors for a series of working sessions where a strategic plan for action and a multi-pronged national advocacy agenda were discussed. Delegates represented education, community music-making, industry, and health and well-being, and in smaller working groups they addressed targeted issues, shared information, and engaged in dialogue focused on challenges and opportunities in four distinct areas that are shaping the national music education ecosystem today: Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility; Health and Well-being; Music Impact in Community and Society Today; and Reimagining and Innovating Professional Practice.

Dr. Lang hosted the annual *uSing uSask* Choral Festival at the University of Saskatchewan on October 27-29th. As well, Jennifer adjudicated at the Manitoba *ChoralFest* in Winnipeg from November 14-19th.

All sessions will take place in Convocation Hall, and are free and open to the public. Come out and support live music!

Thursday, October 27th	Friday, October 28th	Saturday, October 29th
2:30pm – Greystone Singers Catherine Klopoushak	8:30am – E.D. Feehan Catholic High School David Snell	10:00am – University Chorus James Hawn
4:30pm – St. Mary High School, Prince Albert Julie Abbs	9:30am – Rosthern Junior College Kayleigh Skomrowski	11:00am – Yorkton Regional High School Adelle Sawatzky
5:30pm – Bethlehem Catholic High School Danielle Strong	10:30am – Legacy Christian Academy Jordan Kornelsen	
	1:00pm – Marion Graham Collegiate Deborah Flynn	
	2:00pm – Evan Hardy Collegiate Stacey Mortenson-Spokes	

For more information, contact Dr. Jennifer Lang, Festival Organizer
jennifer.lang@usask.ca

uSing uSask | 2022 Choral Festival

A non-competitive festival designed to celebrate the successes of choirs and inspire them with feedback to challenge them to greater musical heights.

Featuring guest clinician Dr. Adam Con
University of Victoria



In 2024, Dr. Lang will guest conduct Elaine Hagenberg’s *Illuminare* with the New England Symphonic Ensemble at Carnegie Hall, celebrating MidAmerica Production’s 41st season. Congratulations Jennifer!

Professor Kathleen Solose, Artistic Director and pianist of The Elixir Ensemble was awarded a Saskatchewan Arts Board Grant of \$7,400 to present a three-concert series in 2023, all to be held at Emmanuel Anglican Church, 609 Dufferin Avenue, Saskatoon. The trio includes Oxana Ossiptchouk, violin, Peter Hedlin, cello, and Kathleen Solose, piano. Please visit: www.elixirensemble.com

Concert 1: Principal cellist of the Orquestra Filarmônica de Minas Gerais in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, and Philip Hansen teams up with pianist Kathleen Solose for a dynamic concert of Brazilian music and some traditional favourites on Friday, January 20, 2023 at 7:30 pm. <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/421840575517>

Concert 2: An inspiring trio by Vasily Barvinsky, one of Ukraine's most important composers, and the heart-warming melodies of Brahms Trio in B major on Sunday, March 12, 2023, at 2:30 pm. <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/421869602337>

Concert 3: Wonderful works by women composers - Schumann, Tailleferre and Carmen Braden, on Sunday, April 30, 2023, at 2:30 pm. <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/421871247257>



Dr. Véronique Mathieu presented her *Reflections and Visions for Renewing the David L. Kaplan Chair of Music* on September 16th in Quance Theatre. Shortly after that, the College of Arts and Science officially announced the renewal of the Kaplan Chair position for the next five years. Congratulations to Véronique on this renewal/reappointment news.

Dr. Darrin Oehlerking, Interim Associate Dean Student Affairs filled in at the last moment and conducted the 2022 Saskatchewan Honour Band during the Saskatchewan Music Conference Weekend, November 5th at Lakeview Church. The ensemble, open to grade 9-12 high school students and selected by audition, performed music by Brian Balmages, Karl King, and Lindsay Stetner.



Dr. Glen Gillis was guest lecturer at Florida Atlantic University's *Music at Noon Series*, presenting "The Inclusion of Saxophone Extended Techniques in Electro-Acoustic Music" on September 30th. The next day he collaborated with three FAU faculty members (Dr. Courtney Jones, trumpet, Kuo-Pei Cheng-Lin, piano, and Dr. James Cunningham, didgeridoo) in a Faculty Recital. Glen Gillis will again team up with James Cunningham (Duo Gillis Cunningham) at two upcoming saxophone conferences held at the University of Alberta and Mississippi State University in the spring. As well they were selected to perform at the next TEDxUniversity of Saskatchewan Event set for January 22, 2023. There Dr. Gillis (alto saxophone) and Dr. Cunningham (didgeridoo) will perform an original work *Canis Lupus* to illustrate an acoustic "coming together" and provide an inspirational message of "being what the world needs" while metaphorically addressing broader issues of separation and reconciliation on a global basis.

Staff Spotlights

The Department of Music Online courses will expand from two to four. Two new online courses will include: MUS 102 (2nd level theory course, a sequel to MUS 101) developed by Alex Loewen (BMus 2010) and MUS 112 (A History of Country Music) developed by Allison Fairbairn (BMus 2003). Both online courses will be available to university students in the coming months.

Sessional Spotlights

Congratulations to USASK Sessional Flute Instructor/Principal Flutist of the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra Allison Miller, for a stellar performance of the world premiere performance of *Up To Her Waist In Lupins*, composed by *Christos Hatzis*. The work was commissioned to commemorate Randi Nelson, long-time member of the SSO and sessional in our music department. For more information please visit: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/saskatoon-symphony-orchestra-honours-late-flutist-with-commissioned-music-piece-1.6587974>.

Congratulations to USASK Sessional Paul Suchan (B Mus MusEd 2007), recognized this fall as one of ten teachers to be nominated for a Teaching Excellence Award by the USASK Students' Union for this academic year.

2022-2023

Fine Arts Research Lecture Series in Music

This year's Fine Arts Research Lecture Series in Music features five presentations in Quance Theatre with a variety of guests, including our own Dr. Marion, on September 23, October 14, November 23, February 9, and March 23. For full details about the current and past FARLS events, please visit: <https://artsandscience.usask.ca/music/news/farls.php>

Ensemble News

The Music Theatre Ensemble presented their fall production, called "Sisterhood" on Nov 2nd at 12:30 in Quance Theatre. Directed and created by Director, Garry Gable, and Music Director, Kathy Gable, the well-received show revealed female characters from opera or Broadway who seek out their own for support (for good or bad), or choose to stand on their own, in a sort of 'Sisterhood'. Scenes from Mozart's "Le Nozze di Figaro", Bizet's "Carmen", Rodger's "Cinderella", Purcell's "Dido and Aeneas", and Otto Nicolai's "The Merry Wives of Windsor" were featured in the work.



From back to front:
Kathy Gable, Garry Gable, Lauren Hope, Elise Parsonage, Sanjana Brijlall, Hannah Salen, Lynda Millette, Emma Gillingham.

Next semester, the Music Theatre Ensemble is planning a program focusing on *Lessons of Love and Life*, created by Garry Gable. Using material from many genres of Broadway musicals we draw out the various teachings offered in the selected group, solo, and duets scenes. Shows will be March 11 and 12, 7:30 pm in Quance Theatre in the Education Building.



The University of Saskatchewan Jazz Ensemble had a busy fall performing a collaboration concert with the Greystone Singers, Music Theatre Ensemble, Saxophone Quartet, and Chamber Ensemble and working on several compositions by 10-time Juno Award nominated composer Tara Davidson. This fall half of the USASK Jazz Ensemble collaborated with half of the U of R Jazz Ensemble and presented a joint noon-hour performance at the 2022 Saskatchewan Music Conference.





The Jazz Ensemble ended the semester performing to a sold-out audience at the *Bassment* jazz club featuring Canadian baritone saxophonist Shirantha Beddage. Professor Beddage's participation was made possible in part through the support of the USASK College of Arts & Science Role Model Speaker Fund.

Term 2 USASK Jazz Ensemble activities include (1) Broadway Theatre Winteruption performance (January 28, 2023), (2) Manhattan Ballroom Big Band Dance (February 4, 2023), (3) SK tour in collaboration with the Greystone Singers (March 3-4, 2023), and (4) semester end concert in Quance Theatre featuring special guest artists Tara Davison (sax), Adam Streisel (Usask B.Mus.Ed 2011 grad) (trumpet), and Dr. Vanessa Klassen (clarinet). This concert will also feature as newly composed work by Usask B.Mus. grad/sessional instructor Paul Suchan. For more information visit: <https://artsandscience.usask.ca/music/ensembles/jazz.php>

The University of Saskatchewan Wind Orchestra under the direction of Dr. Darrin Oehlerking presented their *Dancing Through Time* concert on November 25th at Centennial Collegiate. The program included music by: Nishimura, Persichetti, Reed, Vaughan Williams, Woolfenden and two World Premieres by Lindsay Stetner – *Prairie River Fanfare* and *Two Métis Folk Songs*.



This fall semester the Greystone Singers, under the direction of Sessional Catherine Klopoushak, and the University Chorus, under the direction of James Hawn, presented *Light and Hope: Music to Uplift and Inspire* at Knox United Church on November 27th.

The USASK Chamber Ensemble under the leadership of Dr. Véronique Mathieu presented their *Duos and Trios* 12:30 pm concert on December 2nd in Quance Theatre.

The Concert Band under the direction of Dr. Glen Gillis presented their *Celebrating New and Traditional Music for Wind Band* on December 2nd, performing works by: Reed, Vaughan Williams, LaBarr, Yagisawa, Stevens, Ponchielli, and a premiere by Gillis called ~LAVA~.



The USASK Symphony Orchestra, under the leadership of Sessional Shah Sadikov, presented their fall concert on December 4th in Quance Theatre. Music included works by Mozart, Dvorak, and Bach. This ensemble provides students, faculty, staff, and off-campus community members with exciting opportunities to collaborate and perform. Please visit: <https://news.usask.ca/articles/colleges/2022/new-usask-symphony-orchestra-a-resounding-success.php>

Connecting to the Community

Discovering the 2022-23 *Amati Concert Series*: the Amati String Instruments curated by Dr. Véronique Mathieu (Associate Professor of Violin and the David L. Kaplan Chair in Music) will present a concert series featuring various musicians throughout the year on four concert dates: September 11, October 23, February 5, and April 23. Please visit: <https://leadershiptest.usask.ca/unit/amati.php#202223AmatiConcertSeries>



Professor Kathleen Solose recently interviewed two-time Grammy Award winner Christopher Tin as part of the 2023 *THREADS: Cultural Conversations* online conference which will take place on Jan 25-26, 2023. To view the conference trailer, you can register for free at <https://tinyurl.com/THREADS2023>. For Christopher Tin's and Kathleen Solose's bios in the Conference's Agenda please visit: <https://www.sods.sk.ca/events/threads-cultural-conversations/conferences/threads-2023>. Additional reference regarding the conference please visit: <https://canadianimmigrant.ca/news/thought-provoking-online-conference-returning-in-january-2023>

The Annual USASK High School Select Jazz Ensemble, led by Sessional Nick Fanner, took place on November 17-19th involving over 60 high school students from Saskatoon and the surrounding area. Guest clinician was Canadian baritone saxophonist, composer, and educator, Shirantha Beddag from Toronto.

The 17th summer concert of the North Saskatchewan Wind Symphony under the direction of Glen Gillis presented *Suite Celebration: Folk and New Music for Symphonic Band*, August 28th, 2022. Comprised of invited members from the Saskatoon and surrounding communities, the ensemble performed a variety of new and traditional music. The concert also featured guest conductor and MMus MusEd candidate Stacey Mortenson-Spokes. The concert was sponsored by the Department of Music and St John's Music.



The *Saskatoon Jazz Orchestra* under the artistic direction of Dean McNeill launched its 2022-2023 season on October 22 with a concert entitled the *Poetics of Jazz*. This concert featured works by *Colin Grant, Amanda Tossof, *Silas Friesen, Dean McNeill, *Spencer Krips, Andrew Rathbun and multi-Grammy Award winner Maria Schneider (*USASK B.Mus. & Jazz Certificate graduates). Repertoire included 4 world premieres by Department of Music alumni with the composers all working with the following poets to create the repertoire: SK Student Poet Laureate Lauren Klassen (music by Spencer Krips), Paddy O'Rourke Scholarship Recipient Glenda Wu (music by Colin Grant), past Saskatchewan Laureate Glen Sorstad O.C. (music by Dean McNeill), Ted Kooser (Maria Schneider), and Margarette Attwood (music by Andrew Rathbun). USASK Jazz Ensemble alumni vocalist Jillian Ramsey was featured with the majority of the ensemble comprised of U of S B.Mus. grads (plus current B.Mus. student Hanna Hashi), along with music faculty Glen Gillis and Dean McNeill. This concert was co-presented with the SaskTel Saskatchewan Jazz Festival, lived streamed through the Saskatoon Symphony's *Concert Stream* platform, and it featured guest artists David Laing (drums), Andrew Rathbun (sax/composer) and Mo Le fever (guitar). For information about the SJO's Winter & Spring 2023 concerts *Rhapsody in Blue* (featuring Jens Lindemann-trumpet & Michelle Aalders-piano), or *Pictures At An Exhibition* (featuring Fred Stride-arranger) please visit: <https://saskatoonjazzorchestra.com/>.

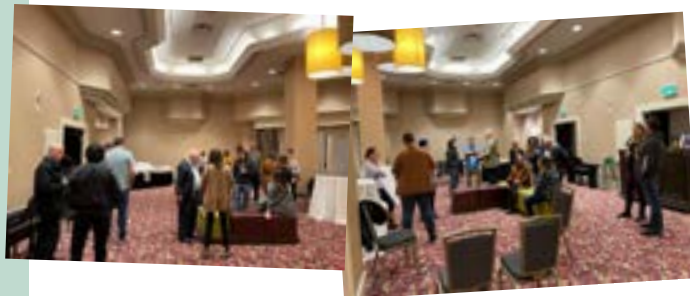
'At a Glance' – for all Department of Music events this 2022-23 school year please visit: <https://artsandscience.usask.ca/music/news/events.php>
Online streaming option to view ensemble concerts and student recitals live please log on (five minutes prior to start time) to: <https://www.twitch.tv/usdmraels>

Saskatchewan Music Conference



The Department of Music made its presence with a full display at the 2022 Saskatchewan Music Conference that was held at the Delta Hotel in Saskatoon, November 3-5, 2022.

The Department of Music also hosted an Alumni Reception on Friday evening, November 4th at SMC.



Department of Music Open House

The Department of Music hosted two fall open houses for high school student to visit. The in-person event took place on October 15th with a healthy number of attendees. The 2nd Open House was virtual and took place on December 4th. Both sessions were designed to provide high school students a multitude of information about the Department of Music, such as meeting faculty, receiving tips and tricks about navigating the admissions process, and learning about all the amazing opportunities the department has to offer.



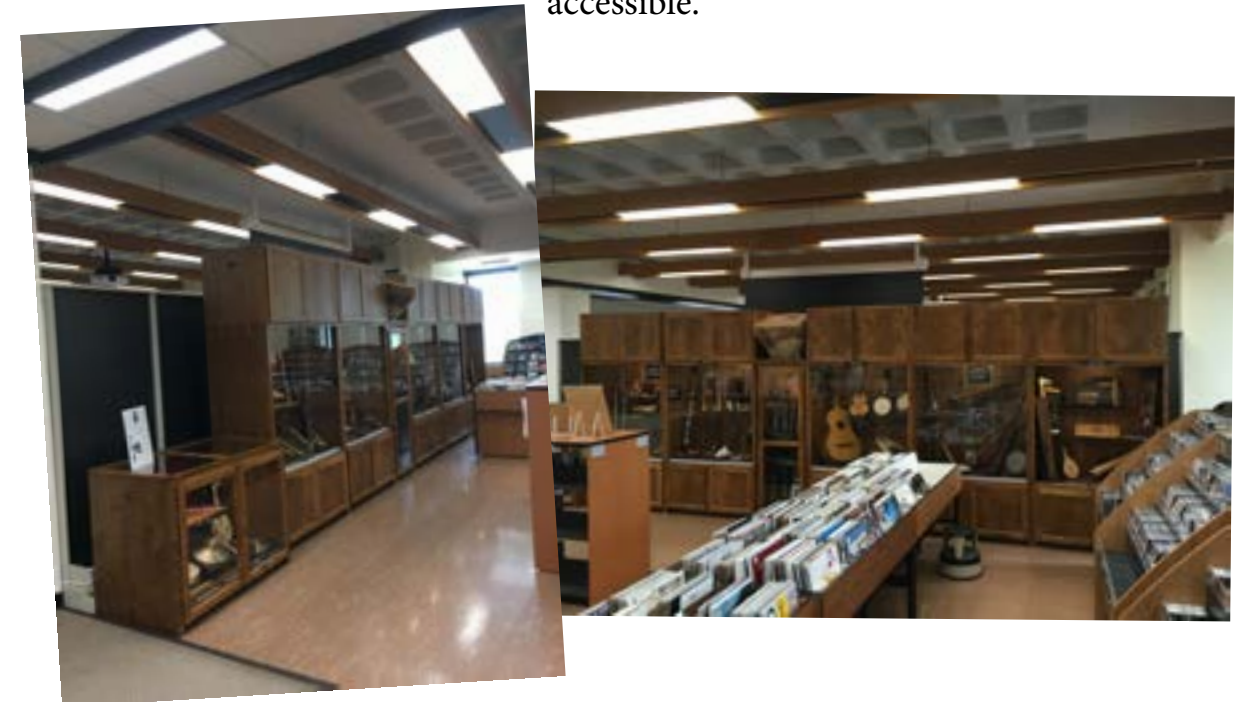
Graduate Student Spotlight



Ali Wrigley (BMusEd 2018, MMusEd candidate) and Lynelle Kratz (MMus Music Theory candidate), supervised by Drs. Jennifer Lang and Greg Marion respectively, displayed research posters at the 2022 Saskatchewan Music Conference. Ali Wrigley - *Informal Music Pedagogy for English Language Learners*. Lynelle Kratz - *Music as Propaganda: A Study of Popular Compositions from Winnipeg, Manitoba during the Great War (1914-1918)*.

David L. Kaplan Instrument Collection

The David L. Kaplan Instrument Collection update: a large number of this global instrument collection was relocated last summer from room 1038 in the Department of Music to the 2nd floor of the Education Library, making the display more visually accessible.



Department of Music Audition Dates

February 4, 2023 (early bird Scholarship Audition date)

March 11, 2023

April 8, 2023

For further information please visit: <https://artsandscience.usask.ca/music/undergraduate/audition.php>



Scholarship Information

Each year the Department of Music awards over \$100,000 in scholarships and bursaries and awarded based on audition results. Please visit: <https://artsandscience.usask.ca/music/undergraduate/awards.php>



*Compiled by Dr. Glen Gillis
and Amy Gerein*