



DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

A Message from the Head



Dean McNeill
Head, Department
of Music

It has been a difficult year for us all. Yet, despite the significant challenges of the global pandemic it has been a very productive year for many. In our department it has been a year grounded in determination, inspired hard work, and careful consideration for everyone's pandemic-related safety; and we have stayed the course with respect to our collective commitment to excellence in all things teaching and learning. I cannot thank our students, sessionals, staff and faculty enough for their collective and individual determination over this most unusual year. Their efforts moved us forward even as we navigated complicated lives due to Covid.

I also extend a very special thank you to our incredible college and university administrative leadership team, all of whom were very supportive of our department given that so much of what we do is so 'up close & hands on'. The Department of Music required a lot more care and attention this year and we received this support from our college. The fact that our department successfully offered in-person (1) applied lessons, (2) 3 performance-oriented classroom classes, (3) all our ensembles, and (4) 3rd & 4th year recitals (live streamed with no audience in the house) in term 2, with zero instances of Covid-19 transmissions, is a significant accomplishment that we should all be very proud of. I certain am.

Thank you College of Art & Science Administration team. Thank you University of Saskatchewan Pandemic Response Team. Thank you Department of Music, for all your hard work and commitment to moving us forward! In this newsletter you'll gain insight into some of the incredible things that took place in and around our department over the past academic year. What is harder to capture however are all the quiet & private moments of resilience, sacrifice, determination, frustration, creativity ... the list goes on and on ... as everyone involved in our department worked so very hard to accomplish even the most basic things during the pandemic. This year has taught me that where there is a will to succeed there is a way to succeed. I am so very proud of our departmental accomplishments large and small, and of all the people who contributed to the success and support of our students and programs. My hope is that everyone involved in our department this year will be able to take a few moments this spring to reflect upon what we have accomplished individually and collectively and feel a well-deserved sense of pride and relief that we made it through this most unusual year. There are many potential scenarios that could play out this spring, summer and fall in our community and on our campus in regard to CoVid-19. However, the possibility of offering almost all of our Dept. of Music lecture classes, ensembles and applied lessons in person next Fall is an exciting and very real proposition for us all to plan for! Onwards!



Dean McNeill,
Head, Department of Music

CONVOCATION Celebrations!

Congratulations to our Graduating Class of 2021! We are so very proud of you!

Heather Best, BMus Honors, Music Education
Jesse Koethler, BMus Honors, Music Education
Kennedy Kosheluk, BMus Honors, Performance
Justin Murray, BMus Honors, Music Education
Anika Sukkhu, BMus Honors, Music Education
Cameron Breiter, BMus, Music Education
Jayden Burrows, BMus, Performance
Tallissa Edwards, BMus, Individualized
Stephen Eremondi, BMus, Individualized
*Sophia James-Cavan, BMus, Individualized

Francis Mark, BMus, Individualized
*Elizabeth Reid, BMus, Individualized
Jacob Scheller, BMus, Music Education
Haillie Smith, BMus, Individualized
Cynthia Wilson, BMus Honors, Music Education
Emma Wood, BMus, Individualized
Fraser Krips, Certificate in Jazz
Rhett Schroeder, Certificate in Jazz
Mitch Bonokoski, Certificate in Jazz
Jesse Patterson, Certificate in Jazz



***Elizabeth Reid** (BSc Double Honours in Mathematics and Computer Science + BMus Individualized in Voice) is one of two Thesis Prize winners for MATH 402: Honours Thesis in Mathematics this year! Her thesis, *The Mathematics of Singing: An Analysis of Current Mathematical Models of the Singing Voice*, was written during 2020-2021 under the supervision of Dr. Steven Rayan (Math & Stats) and Dr. Jennifer Lang (Music). Her Thesis Prize is awarded in the Interdisciplinary category. Elizabeth has accepted an offer of admission for the MSc in Computer Science at UBC, to commence in Fall 2021.

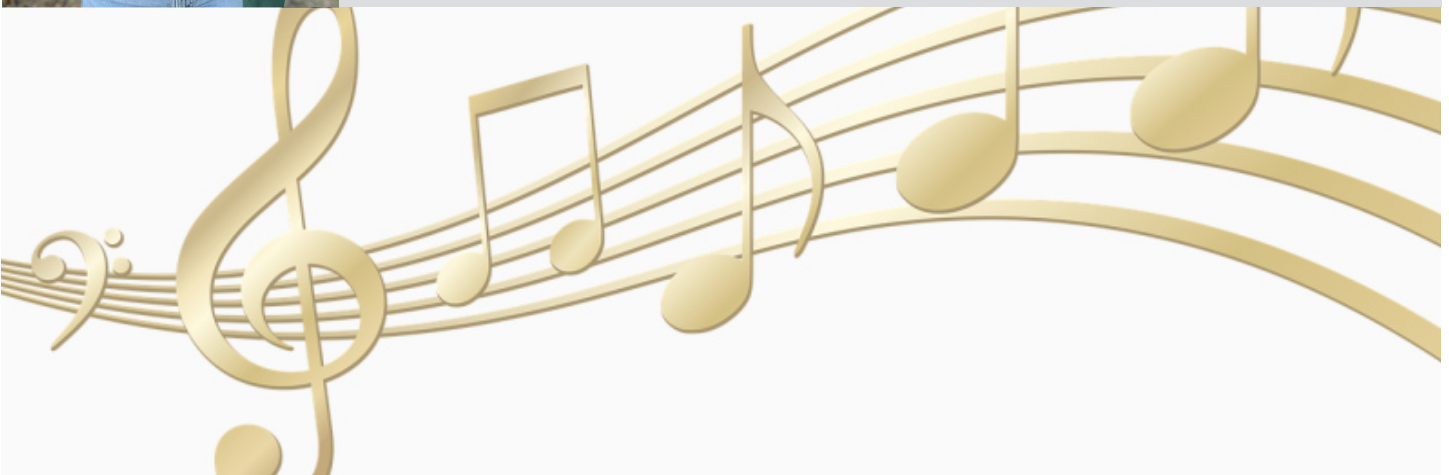
For more information on Elizabeth's journey at the U of S read the On Campus News story on her found at: [USask graduate values interdisciplinary research - News - University of Saskatchewan](#)



***Sophia James-Cavan** is a student co-organizer of the Music and Wellbeing conference the Department of Music is hosting in May. She is going into a Master of Music Therapy at Concordia University next year.

Sophia James-Cavan, will also receive a Bachelor of Music (individualized) degree during 2021 Spring Convocation.

To view more information: [Music's connection to wellness and wellbeing fascinates new USask graduate - News - Arts & Science - University of Saskatchewan](#)



Student Spotlights!



Kennedy Whitehead-Siba (B.Mus. Performance, Year 1) was accepted to the Summer/Spring interactive online program at Berklee for their course in music composition for film, TV, and video games with her piece “Circe’s Conquest.”

Congratulations to our U of S Department of Music students who did so well in the **Saskatoon Music Festival**.

Strings - Dr. Véronique Matthieu students:



Talant Kosmosbekov
1st place - Kinsmen
Club of Saskatoon
Strings Scholarship.



Drusilla Waltz
2nd place - Kinsmen
Club of Saskatoon and
Sheila Shinkewski
Memorial Strings.



Thayara Siqueria
2nd Runner-up -
Kinsmen Club of
Saskatoon.



Elise Parsonage
1st place - Kinsmen
Club of Saskatoon
Vocal Scholarship.
Student of Dr. Garry
Gable.



Kate Nachilobe
Runner-up – Ruth
M. Taylor Memorial
Voice Scholarship
Student of Janice
Paterson.

Voice

Jayden Burrows
2nd Runner-up –
Kinsmen Club of
Saskatoon & Sheila
Shinkewski Memorial
Voice.



Lauren Hope (photo)
and **Maria Gursky**
received prizes in their
classes as well!

*Each of these
students won
or placed in
many classes,
winning
other
scholarships
as well
during the
festival.*

Music Theatre

Jayden Burrows
1st place – Kinsmen
Club of Saskatoon
Music Theater
Scholarship
Student of Dr Garry
Gable

Saskatoon Music Festival...

A complete list of winners within the 2021 Saskatoon Music Festival can be viewed at:

<http://www.saskatoonmusicfestival.com/?fbclid=IwAR1IJnKEy4pAaQ-Yrz-sJ66SqPZHRcqN71SXw2DJ sL9t5DjxIL0Suv8vihQ>



Students in the Spring 2021 Jazz Capstone course produced & presented a series of 4 virtual concerts of original compositions and arrangements within their Reinventions concert series. Here is an excerpt from all 4 concerts:

<https://youtu.be/Dy8Z1hnG1E4>.



**Thank you to our
Recital Assistants for
helping live stream
all B.Mus. and M.Mus.
recitals this year:
Grant Alexander
Samuel Dmyterko
Talant Kosmosbekov
*Celestino de Pedro***



Congratulations to the large complement of Saskatchewan representatives in the 2021 **National Youth Orchestra**: Amos Friesen (cello), Vanessa Klassen (clarinet), Leo Laniece (bass), Glenda Lindgren (oboe), Zachary Senick (bassoon), Dru Waltz (violin).

Recent Alumni Accomplishments:



Find out more about her and her music at:
www.kskomorowski.com.

B.Mus. Ed / B. Ed. 2010 Grad **Kayleigh Skomorowski** released her second studio album “Stay Wild” in April. An earnest reflection on parenthood, youth, and the formative experiences of one’s past, it is a story of the many relationships in which we learn to know ourselves. During her studies Kayleigh released her first album under the name Kayleigh Smith, called “A Little Something for Everyone”. Kayleigh completed her Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction with a focus in music education at Acadia University (NS) under the guidance of Dale Lonis and Ardith Haley in the summer of 2019, and currently shares her love of music with the students of École St Mary High School in Prince Albert where she has taught band, choir, jazz band and general music since 2010. She continues to be musically involved in her parish with her husband and two sons.



Ukrainian Art Song on a Starlit Night

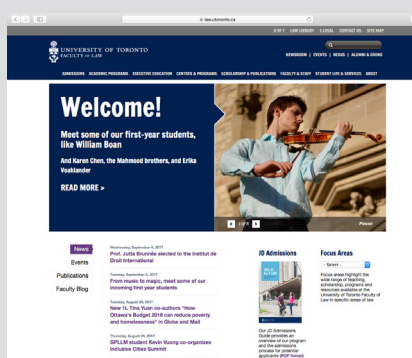
Українська мистецька пісня в зоряну ніч

Kateryna Khartova, soprano
Sofia Mycyk, piano

4K HD Concert Film
May 8 at 7:30PM



B.Mus. Honours 2016 Grad **Kateryna Khartova** performed a Saskatoon Opera concert titled “Ukrainian Art Song on a Starlit Night” in January 2021. She was part of the Ukrainian Art Song Project (UASP) in Toronto during her Artist Diploma studies at the Glenn Gould School of Music, and has also had numerous other operatic roles, including Eleanor in Bohuslav Martinů’s *Les larmes du couteau* conducted by Peter Tiefenbach and directed by Anna Theodosakis, and Pamina in Mozart’s *Die Zauberflöte* directed by Joel Ivany and conducted by Nathan Brock.



B.Mus. Honours 2017 Grad **William Boan** is now studying Law at the University of Toronto, an example of one of the many career paths for which music provides an excellent basis. <https://www.law.utoronto.ca/news/music-magic-meet-some-of-our-incoming-first-year-students>

B.Mus. 2020 Grad **Jillian McLeod** had her article “Louis Jullien: A Visionary of Nineteenth-Century Conducting” published in *USURJ: University of Saskatchewan Undergraduate Research Journal*. Read her article here: <https://usurj.journals.usask.ca/>



DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES



Music & Wellbeing Virtual Conference:

The online Music and Wellbeing Conference, organized by **Dr. Jennifer Lang**, was scheduled for May 28-29, 2021 and was intended to unite researchers, community partners, educators, university students, and health-care providers to explore and examine music and health intersections, and to facilitate knowledge mobilization of music's role and relevance in our lives during the best of times and worst of times. Our current climate of mental and physical uncertainty and unrest strongly suggests the need for communities of practice to gather with a focus on non-pharmacological and caring interventions for mental, emotion, social, and physical wellbeing. The understanding of the role of non-pharmacological solutions in health is paramount to sustaining positive cognitive, psychological, and physiological wellbeing in every age and stage of one's life and through fluctuating uncertainty of local and global socio-cultural situational factors.

Information from the schedule and the keynote speaker Dr. Daniel Levitin can be found at this link: <https://conferences.usask.ca/musicwellbeing2021/>



Keynote speaker:
Dr. Daniel Levitin

There were several local community presenters (music therapists, music educators) as well as international speakers (from Spain, West Indies, U.S) presenting papers. We had a few alumni presenting and even some of our own undergraduate students presented, as they are connected to faculty research. Topics included music and dementia, empathy, street choirs, improvisation pedagogy, self-care practices, music and mental health with Canadian soldiers and more. Our featured speakers included:

*Dr. Daniel Levitin who is an award-winning neuroscientist, musician, and best-selling author. His research encompasses music, the brain, health, productivity, and creativity. Levitin has published more than 300 articles, in journals including Science, Nature, PNAS, The New Yorker, The Atlantic, and The Wall Street Journal. His research has been featured over 1900 times in the popular press. He is the author of four New York Times bestselling books: This Is Your Brain On Music, The World in Six Songs, The Organized Mind, and Successful Aging, as well as the international bestseller A Field Guide to Lies.

*Jacob Faithful who provided introductory sessions both days on Indigenous perspectives in music and wellbeing. Jacob is the leader of Young Spirit, a Grammy-nominated drumming group that sings in Plains Cree and has members throughout the Western U.S. and Canada.

To view the conference program visit: <https://www.flipsnack.com/musicandwellbeing/music-wellbeing-program-with-links/full-view.html>

The Department of Music is grateful for the funding received by the **University Conference Fund**, the **Office of the Vice-President Research, Media Allocation**, and the **Saskatchewan Music Educators Association**.

Faculty Spotlights:



Dr. Amanda Lalonde contributed a chapter, “The Wilderness at Home: Woods-Romanticism in Fanny Hensel’s Eichendorff Songs,” to the recently published book *The Songs of Fanny Hensel* (Oxford University Press, 2021). This past semester, she enjoyed the lively conversations in her seminar course Music and the Supernatural.



For the past two years, **Dr. Amanda Lalonde** has been collaborating with student performers and researchers to continue what the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra started: rediscovering the music of Heinz Moehn. With the SSO, and Department of Music students Jayden Burrows, Connor Elias, Angela Gjurichanin, Kennedy Kosheluk, Hannah Lissel-DeCorby, Kate Nachilobe, Nicole Tremblay, Shawn Vereschagin, and Cynthia Wilson, Dr. Lalonde recently released the mini-documentary *Finding Heinz Moehn* about the rediscovery of the German twentieth-century composer’s music. Dr. Lalonde would like to thank Wayne Giesbrecht, Peter Downing, Terry Allington, and Al Ramsay in Media Production for making the technical aspects such a delight and all the students involved for their hard work. You can view the documentary [here](#) and listen to the full audio recordings [here](#).



University of Saskatchewan Violin Professor & David L. Kaplan Chair in Music **Dr. Véronique Mathieu** released a CD entitled *Cortège* which has been nominated for Classical Artist/Ensemble of the Year within the 2021 Western Canadian Music Awards.

Congratulations Dr. Mathieu!

For more information visit:

<https://breakoutwest.ca/awards/music-awards>





U of S Department of Music Dr. David Kaplan Strings Chair **Dr. Véronique Mathieu** has recently been awarded a significant SSHRC Insight Grant designed to research and develop a set of twelve violin etudes in collaboration with twelve internationally established composers that will address contemporary repertoire. Congratulations Dr. Mathieu! We look forward to hearing this new music in years to come! Dr. Mathieu will be featured as a soloist with the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra in a performance of the Lark Ascending by Vaughan Williams on May 15, 2021 with Maria Fuller at the podium.



Dr. Glen Gillis' main research this year has been commissioning and composing works for saxophone, to be included in his upcoming album SaxSpectrum 3 (completion June 2021). Details of the music will be forthcoming in the next newsletter. A special thank you to sound engineer Wayne Giesbrecht at U of S Media Productions who has worked with Glen Gillis on this project for over a year.

RiME2021

April 6 - April 9
Virtual

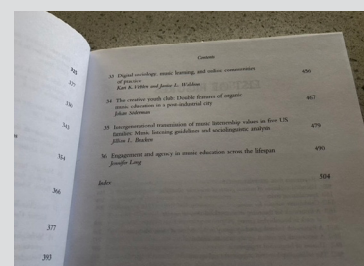
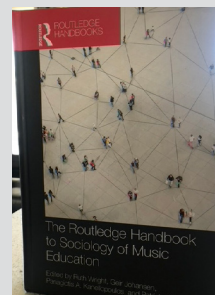
Speaking at
63 The Huron Carol: exploring a Canadian carol in the context of music education

University of Saskatchewan

Designed by Whova

Jennifer Lang

Dr. Jennifer Lang has published a chapter titled “Engagement and Agency in Music Education Across The Lifespan” in the Routledge Handbook to Sociology of Music Education edited by Ruth Wright, Geir Johansen, Panagiotis A. Kanellopoulos and Patrick Schmidt. On April 7, 2021 she presented at the Research in Music Education conference on her work with the Greystone Singers, Dr. Jeanette Gallant, and Dr. Kevin Lewis exploring the context of the Huron Carol.



Dean McNeill was twice a featured soloist with the Saskatoon Symphony during their 2020-2021 season performing Tussen Tankar in December 2020 and Tartini's Concerto in D in February of 2021. To view many past 2020-2021 SSO concerts visit <https://saskatoonsymphony.org/> and log into the Digital Concert Stream. Here is Dean's brief pre-concert virtual chat describing the Tartini Concerto: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R79F6_Z0NNo.

Dean's other professional activities during the 2020-2021 academic year included (1) co-presenting at the U of S Music & Wellbeing virtual conference Recovering From Neck Injuries Induced By Playing A Wind Instrument Incorrectly with U of A Otolaryngologist & Head and Neck Surgeon Dr. Jeffrey Harris, (2) presenting What Part Of Jazz Improvisation Can We Participate In Whist In Social Isolation? at the Manitoba Music Conference, (3) co-presenting with U of R Music Head Dr. David Dick A Life Within Music After School at the 2020 virtual Saskatchewan Music Conference, (4) presenting Improvising Your Way Through Covid at the Fort Richmond Collegiate (Winnipeg) virtual jazz guest artist series, (5) performing in 2 U of S Dept. of Music Faculty & Friends virtual concerts, (6) serving as an External Reviewer for a Canadian University music program, and (7) participating in a series of virtual recording projects that included:

1) *Inside Voices Dean McNeill / Richard Carnegie duo:*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=si4ctJoXMB8&t=766s>

2) *SSO Holiday Thank You video series:*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gOqGcxyDKdY>

3) *CFCR Community Radio 6-part mini-series Adversity Meets Resilience 2.0-Moving Forward with award winning Saskatchewan historian Dr. Bill Waiser* <https://billwaiser.com/> (scheduled to air in June 2021).



Ensemble News



This year the **Greystone Singers** under the direction of **Dr. Jennifer Lang** commissioned a piece by Rebecca Dale that served as a bookend to their March 2020 performance of her Materna Requiem with the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra right before the pandemic ended performances. Cloths of Heav'n will be featured as one of the pieces in our March Greystones mini-concert on June 6, in addition to a Side-by-Side project Hope Lingers On with local high school music students from Centennial Collegiate, Evan Hardy Collegiate, and Legacy Christian Academy. The Greystone Singers' Executive continued all of their traditional fundraisers including Holiday Carolling and Singing Valentines online to spread cheer to the community, including several senior centres.



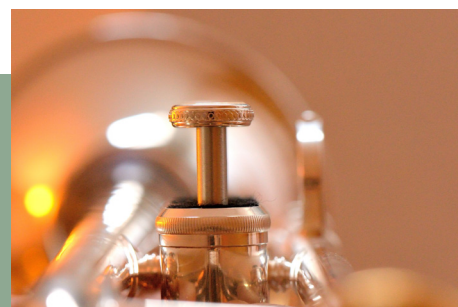
The **University and Community Chorus** took on a few fun projects this year including a virtual choir. For many singers, to say it was out of their comfort zone would be an understatement, and **Dr. Jennifer Lang** applauds them for their perseverance and courage to submit recordings. The Chorus hopes you enjoy their recording of *Nearly Insane* (Ysaye M. Barnwell): [University Chorus Website](#)



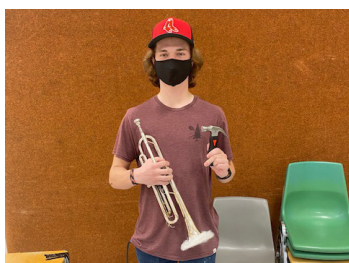
Concert Band

The **University of Saskatchewan Concert Band** under the direction of Glen Gillis met in term 1 online and term 2 both in-person and online. The ensemble rehearsed and recorded six pieces by Glen Gillis. These pieces were written specifically for the Concert Band and included *Galope España*, *Harvest Hymn*, *On the Breeze*, *Creature*, *Renewal*, and *Rollicking Jig*. A special thank you to sound engineer, Wayne Giesbrecht from Media Productions who compiled all 35 individual recordings for each of the 6 pieces. Here are three audio selections from this past school year: *Creature*, *Renewal* and *Galope España*.

NEW meeting time and date! Comprised of U of S students and community members alike and in its 60th season of presenting concerts in Saskatoon, the **U of S Concert Band** *will be meeting starting next fall on Tuesday evenings from 7:00-9:00 PM*. This new rehearsal day & time will provide increased flexibility for student schedules and opportunity for alumni and community players to make music together within this ensemble. For further information please contact Dr. Glen Gillis at glen.gillis@usask.ca or visit the *Concert Band website*.



The **U of S Jazz Ensemble** recorded their final concert for online distribution on April 5, 2021 after a term 1 semester of virtual learning and term 2 of social distanced ensemble performing. Soloists featured in the year end video included Grant Alexander (trumpet), Jesse Patterson (piano), Drew Fairs (guitar), Jessica Lipoth (trombone), Kate Nachilobe (vocals), Connor Denomy (tenor sax), Rhett Schroeder (bass), and Kai Finnestad (piano). The final concert video can be viewed here. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GOx1_0ttclU



During the 2021 Winter Term it was a welcome sight and sound to see and hear people making music together within the **U of S Wind Orchestra**, in the same room as well as participating remotely. Instead of a final concert, the ensemble engaged in a recording project performing 5 pieces over a four-day period, recording first live musicians together and then remote participants. The recording wizardry was the work of Wayne Giesbrecht, to whom they are eternally grateful. Thanks to all the USWO musicians for their commitment to excellence in this unusual semester. Recordings of the 5 pieces can be accessed [here](#).



Connecting to the Community During Covid:

Due to the pandemic, we converted our traditional Dept. of Music Open House into a virtual Open House, which then lead us to create virtual Self-Guided Open House tour, viewable [here](#).

EDST – Music Student Teaching: The Covid-19 situation has been a challenge that we have collectively risen to. We want to thank the co-op teachers who have accommodated us so graciously. Without their help the music education students would have missed a key component to their degree and practical experience. Students were primarily placed in Saskatoon (Public, Catholic and Private School Divisions) but some were placed in cities from which the students resided, namely Lloydminster, Prince Albert, and Yorkton.

To supplement the EDST experience, five professional music educators provided online workshops from May 3-7. These clinicians included: 1) Retired and Free-lance Music/Band Teacher, **Nick Fanner** (*Fundamentally Flawed*); 2) Band/Orff/World Drumming/Arts Ed Teacher, **Richard Dubé** (*Engaging Your Older Students in Active Music Making; Indigenous Style Flute and World Music Drumming; Tips and Tricks for Effective Classroom Management*), 3) Associate Professor in Music Education, University of Western Ontario, **Cathy Benedict** (*Music and Social Justice: A Guide for Elementary Educators*); 4) Band/Arts Ed Teacher, **Michael Kurpjuweit** (*Ukuleles and Technology – Teaching in 2021*); 5) Choir/Vocal Jazz/Musical Theatre/Orchestra Teacher, **Cynthia Peyson Wahl** (*High School Choir IRL*).

National Youth Band of Canada 2020-2021 YouTube playlist:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL2x8OmP-aVXUN5GBr8MFD9iP8YoiMWyJv>

USMES Professional Development Series: The University of Saskatchewan Music Educators' Society organized a professional development day for Music Education students. Two sessions were given by Kayleigh Skomorowski and Ian Krips.

Kayleigh Skomorowski – February 27, 2021:

Boys don't choose music ensemble participation when entering high school out of fear their masculinity and sexuality will be questioned. This research aims to prove that despite these obstacles and because of them boys have much to gain through participation in music programs in high school. Music provides a vehicle through which masculinity can be deconstructed and redefined therefore facilitating self-actualization.

Ian Krips – February 27, 2021:

I'm a member of the STF! Now what? This session provided an overview of the programs and services available to new teachers, including governance, contracts, labour supports, and professional supports.

High School Select Wind Orchestra:

The 18th annual HSSWO convened virtually this year, directed by co-conductors Dr. Glen Gillis and Dr. Darrin Oehlerking. This event involved over 60 high school students representing 23 schools from around the Province. The USHSSWO activities started in January where students participated in clinics by professional musicians/teachers from Saskatoon. Students also had the opportunity to meet and dialogue with the composers on Zoom - Paul Suchan and Cait Nishimura. One of the four pieces that the students received was a new commissioned work by alum Paul Suchan. Titled a *(H)armlessly (S)ensible and (S)incere (W)alk (O)utside*, the piece was tailored for the HSSWO Ensemble. The other pieces included: *Jenny* - Nick Myers (words by Ryan Kerr) arranged by Spencer Krips (U of S Music Dept graduate), *Into the Blue* by Cait Nishimura, and *Galope España* by Glen Gillis.

A special thank you to sound engineer, Wayne Giesbrecht from Media Productions who compiled all 60+ individual recordings for each of the 4 pieces, and worked with Glen Gillis to mix the final product.

Attached is the link of the four pieces performed by the 2021 USHSSWO: [1st Virtual Recording Project](#).

Saskatoon Youth Orchestra:

For the SYO full orchestra senior ensemble (ages 14-24), auditions are to be recorded and submitted by Friday, June 25, 2021. All audition music and requirements can be found at www.syo.ca/join. For more information contact Paul at info@syo.ca or Richard at conductor@syo.ca.

2022 Dept. of Music Auditions:

Dates:

February 5, 2022

(early bird Scholarship Audition date!)

March 19, 2022

April 19, 2022

Audition Viewings will be:

in person and virtual

A) *in person live auditions*

B) *in real time virtual auditions*

C) *pre recorded auditions submitted to the department.*

PROGRAM UPDATES:

New Master of Music in Music Education degrees

The University of Saskatchewan Department of Music is pleased to announce a **new graduate degree** entitled **Master of Music in Music Education** and a **new M.Mus. Performance** degree in **Conducting**.

The **Master of Music in Music Education** degree will focus on the development of specific music educational philosophy and skill at the graduate level in a choice of Course-Based and Thesis-based streams. Students in the Course-Based stream will take 30 credit units including a 3-credit Capstone course (EMUS 911.3); students in the Thesis-Based stream will take 15 credit units plus a major thesis (EMUS 994).

The **Master of Music in Performance (Conducting)** is a project-based program consisting of 24 credit units and is designed to allow students to focus on repertoire, technique and leadership in a wind band or choral setting. Students will receive regular conducting lessons and have ample podium time with Department ensembles to hone and improve their skills. Large and small ensemble conducting will be available as part of the overall experience.

Any questions regarding these two new degrees can be sent to:

Dr. Jennifer Lang (Chair of Music Education, jennifer.lang@usask.ca, (306) 966-6812)

Dr. Glen Gillis (glen.gillis@usask.ca, (306) 966-8356)

Dr. Darrin Oehlerking (darrin.oehlerking@usask.ca, (306) 966-1370)

Allison Fairbairn (Admissions Coordinator, allison.fairbairn@usask.ca)

Student / Faculty projects:

B.Mus. Major **Andrea Johnson** has created a wonderful arrangement of Moses Hogan's *Abide With Me*: <https://youtu.be/6nhvIEwcLnw>

The North American Saxophone Alliance Region 9 (Western Canada) Virtual Conference took place at the University of Calgary, March 18-20, 2021. **Glen Gillis** is the NASA Region 9 director and was pleased to have Jeremy Brown, saxophone teacher/artist from the U of Calgary, to host the 1st virtual Region 9 Conference. Over the course of 2 1/2 days there were over 80 presentations of performances, masterclasses, and lectures.

Glen Gillis was one of the guest artists and performed with James Cunningham (Florida Atlantic University) on the opening night. The video presentation also involved Wayne Giesbrecht (Media Productions at the U of S), and the trio's presentation included a prepared video of four selections, a live lecture component and a Q & A. Here is one of the video performances called *Asteroid Belt*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0bh6K59bXJI>

Two U of S saxophone students were selected and involved in the NASA Region 9 Conference. 4th-year student **Ricardo Martins** performed the 4-movement *Shu Gath Manna* with electronic backtrack (Steven Galante) and 3rd-year student **Justin Filion** performed *Diversion* (Bernhard Heiden) in an interactive masterclass. Both saxophone students performed and represented the U of S Department of Music very well!

The *Saskatoon Jazz Orchestra* and artistic director **Dean McNeill** have put together a new initiative to allow young musicians to “play along” with the large jazz ensemble music of Saskatchewan composers. The materials are available [here](#). McNeill & the SJO are also working on a synesthesia-focused performance project in collaboration with SK-based composers Paul Suchan & Silas Friesen and U of S Art Professor Allyson Glenn.

Alumni Projects & Activities:



After completing his Master of Music in 2020, **Aaron Bueckert** has been creating multi-track instrumental videos for his YouTube channel. He has arranged music from popular artists and classical works, but the bulk of his arranging is of music from video games. His largest work, entitled **[God Shattering Star](#)**, was recently released and includes guest appearances from many other musicians, including a sizeable contingent of University of Saskatchewan students, alumni, and instructors.



Aurora Voce, the community choir of Greystone Alumni conducted by **Dr. Jennifer Lang**, released a virtual performance of Andrew Kesler’s arrangement of Joni Mitchell’s *River* for the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra which was debuted over the holidays. More recently, Aurora Voce filmed a music advocacy piece “Choral Night in Canada” to share the message that “as we find our way back to our rehearsal spaces and performance venues, please support our choirs and music education programs in their efforts to thrive once again.” To view these videos please visit their website: www.auroravoce.com.



The **Gerard Weber Group**, comprised of alumni Gerard Weber, Paul Suchan, Emmett Fortosky, Silas Friesen, and Luke Bainbridge, produced a quarantine recording of their version of Hiroshi Suzuki’s **[Romance](#)**.



In addition to creating music videos for the 2021 National Youth Band, school ensembles across the United States, and the SF Virtual Jazz Orchestra, 2017 BMus grad **Silas Friesen** recently collaborated with UBC colleagues to record the whole of Eric Ewazen’s *Symphony in Brass*, to be premiered through the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra’s 2021 **[Day of Music](#)**.

2020-2021 Fine Arts Research Lecture Series in Music:

FARLS is the Department of Music annual public lecture series which includes faculty as well as guest lecturers. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020–2021 FARLS lectures were presented online via Zoom.

2020 – 2021 FARLS events included:



“Do Rules Help or Hinder Originality?”
- **David Braid**, Sept. 16 2020



“Confidence, Motivation, and Self-Talk Management for Musicians” - **Carolyn Christie & Allison Miller**, Sept. 30, 2020



“*The Being Lost Project*”
- Tom Allen & Friends, Oct. 7, 2020

“*The Huron Carol: The Construction of a Canadian Cultural Icon*”
- Jeanette Gallant, Oct. 16, 2020

“*Analysis as Ethics: Experimenting with Music Loving*”
- Vivian Luong, Oct. 28, 2020



“*Beyond the Seas*” – **Leah Dorion** (Metis Visual Artist), **Ingrid Stölzel** (Composer) & **Veronique Mathieu** (Violin), Nov. 18, 2020

Listen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yTJUw-p7leA>

“*From Saskatoon To Hollywood*” - Satnam Ramgotra, Jan. 27, 2021 (included percussion masterclass)

“*Operatic Misfittings, or Misfitting Opera*” - Dr. Colleen Renihan, March 10, 2021

Links to 2020-2021 Faculty and Friends Concert Descriptions:

- 1) *Faculty and Friends October 2020 Virtual Concert - (Program of music for trumpet, violin, voice, bass and piano):* https://artsandscience.usask.ca/news/articles/5589/Faculty_and_Friends_Virtual_Concert
- 2) *Ingrid Stölzel and Leah Dorion: Fine Arts Research Lecture in Music:* https://artsandscience.usask.ca/news/articles/5541/Ingrid_St_lzel_and_Leah_Dorion_Fine_Arts_Research_Lecture_in
- 3) *Duo Gillis Cunningham (DGC) in the production of their 2020 album release, Sonic Eclipse:* https://artsandscience.usask.ca/news/articles/5591/Faculty_and_Friends_Virtual_Concert
- 4) *Faculty and Friends December 2020 Virtual Concert - (French hornist Arlene Shiplett and pianist Jaya Hoy perform Allemande by Henry Purcell). / Garry and Kathleen Gable perform a beloved three-song cycle of Lieder set to poetry of Michelangelo Buonarroti by Austrian, Hugo Wolf, and then individual songs of Tom Lehrer, Cecil Dougherty and Vincent Youmans).* https://artsandscience.usask.ca/news/articles/5593/Faculty_and_Friends_Virtual_Concert
- 5) *Faculty and Friends Virtual Concert: Exploring Harmoniemusik:* https://artsandscience.usask.ca/news/articles/5913/Faculty_and_Friends_Virtual_Concert_Exploring_Harmoniemusik

Happy 90th Birthday Department of Music!

Margaret Wilson was our first U of S music student graduating with a bachelor's degree in music in 1931.

Arthur Collingwood was the Department of Music Head and the very 1st Conductor of the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra. Check out our website in September for more news on how we will be celebrating this welcomed milestone! Here's to the next 90 years!

A Musical Donation!

Our department is very fortunate to have recently received a significant donation of solo and chamber winds music from SK-based (retired) music educator **Dave Munshaw** and his wife **Rita**. Dave graduated from Dickinson State College (BSc in music), the University of Regina (B.Ed.) and Minot State College (Master's), and his first teaching job was in Shaunavon in 1977. Dave then taught for the next 36 years in Gull Lake SK where he directed the music, choir, and band programs. Dave still enjoys playing his trumpet and substitute teaching.

These well-cared-for musical scores and individual parts (see photo) cover a wide range of musical styles and ability levels. They will be of significant use and value to our music students for generations to come!

We look forward to exploring this repertoire Thank you, Dave and Rita!



New Scholarship Opportunity from Saskatchewan Band Association:

We have a new scholarship in our province! The Saskatchewan Band Association's *Greg McLean Memorial Scholarship*. Congratulations to the very first recipient, **Rhett Schroeder**! This scholarship is intended for Music Ed students who are in, or preparing for their 4 month internship (which includes a band focus) within 12 months of the application deadline. Students can access the application form here:

[Greg McLean Memorial Scholarship.](#)



In addition to **Rhett Schroeder's** Saskatchewan Band Association's *Greg McLean Memorial Scholarship*; the SBA is pleased to provide him with a **complimentary** Associate level membership for the rest of 2021.



Have a wonderful summer, and we hope to see you within the community!

DoM 2021 Spring Newsletter Designed by:
Office Coordinator, Ms. Rohanna Wheatley

Photo by: **Maury Yee**

