

Newsletter: Spring 2023 Issue

# DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC



UNIVERSITY OF  
SASKATCHEWAN

*“Come here, go anywhere”*

# A Message from the Head

Welcome to our University of Saskatchewan Department of Music (DoM) Spring 2023 newsletter!

A lot has taken place since our Fall 2023 DoM newsletter. As you will see in this edition of our departmental newsletter our ensembles have been very busy with performances, tours, music commissions, community collaborations, and, with guest artists working with our students. Our music faculty and sessionals alike have been very active with their own research, scholarly and artistic work. We have had some great guest speakers visit our campus via our Fine Arts Research Lecture Series and through other avenues such as the university's Role Model Speaker's Fund. Perhaps most importantly our wonderful undergraduate and graduate music students have been hard at work in classes & private lessons, in music ensembles and through working on their own research and artistic projects in inspiring, impactful and important ways.....Our campus has returned fully to in-person activities in exciting and inspiring ways this semester with great things currently being planned for the 2023-2024 academic year. Please visit our departmental web site for our 2023-2024 *At-A-Glance* summary of activities.

We have created 2 new fully online service courses MUS 102.3 *Fundamentals of Music II Concepts and Practices* and MUS 112 *History of Country Music* which will be offered for the first time within the upcoming academic year and our new M.Mus. degree in Music Education saw its first cohort of students complete their degree requirements this Spring.

On January 1, 2023 our colleague Dr. Darrin Oehlerking was officially appointed as Arts and Science Associate Dean of Undergraduate Student Affairs for a 5 year term and as a result we are pleased to announce the 3 year term appointment of Dr. Mark Tse <https://www.marktse.com/>. Dr. Tse will join our department this Fall to cover many of our instrumental music education and conducting courses. Congratulations Dr. Oehlerking on this appointment and welcome Dr Tse.

Our long-time award-winning voice faculty member Dr. Garry Gable announced his

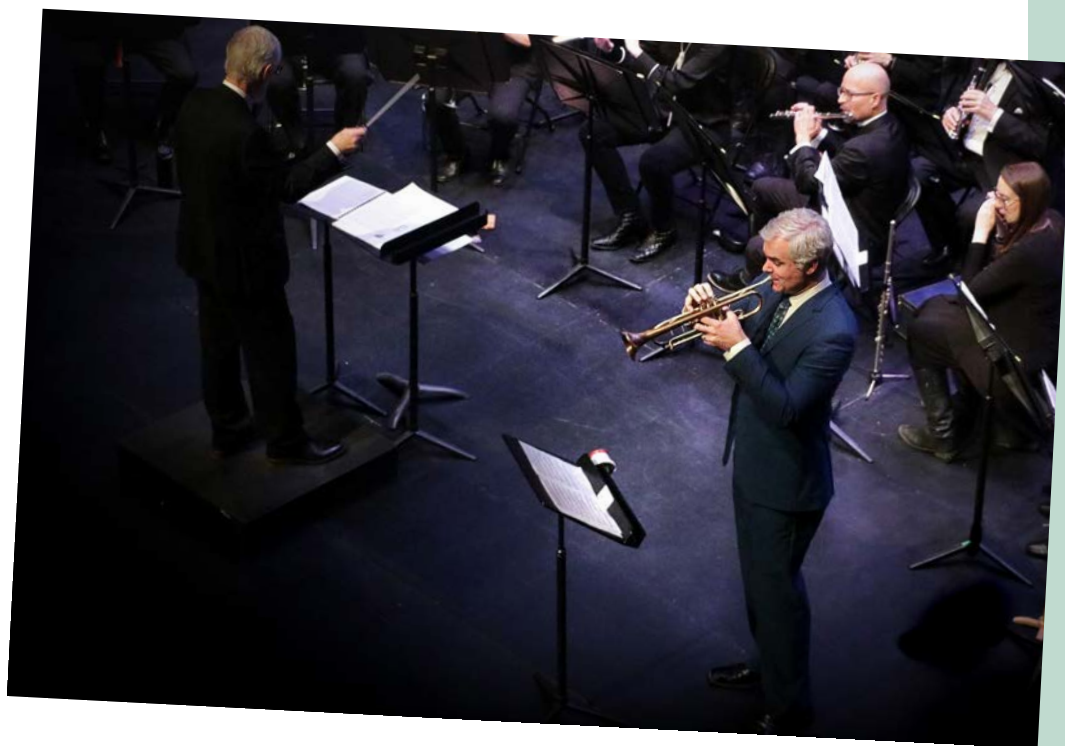
retirement this Spring after a lifetime of dedicated service to our department. Dr. Gable plans to remain active in our community after his official retirement from the University of Saskatchewan this June. If you wish to touch base with Dr. Gable in person please note that he will be singing a tune with our department's *Play It Forward* event on October 13, 2023. Come for the music and stay for the reception!

Spring convocation is always an exciting time for our music undergraduate and graduate students alike who convoked in May of 2023. I am certain I speak for the entire department in congratulating these freshly minted alumni and their families on this major life accomplishment. We wish you the very best as you embark on your next life and musical journeys.

On a related graduation note congratulations B.Mus. & B.Sc. (math) alumni Graeme Dyck on his accomplishment this Spring being recognized as the first student ever to win both the top Fine Arts and Science awards <https://news.usask.ca/articles/colleges/2023/arts-and-science-graduate-makes-usask-history.php>.

Dept. of Music Office Coordinator Kieran Foss will be pursuing a Ph.D. in Musicology at Columbia University and we are delighted to be welcoming USASK B.Mus. alumni Kendra Harder as our incoming Office Coordinator. Thank you most sincerely Kieran for all your incredible hard work, insights and dedicated service to our department over these past few years.

In curricular revision news the Department of Music underwent an extensive curricular renewal process this Spring which included a review of our entire curriculum with thoughtful feedback from expert external reviewers. Our departmental faculty look forward to responding to these reviewer's recommendations next



Fall so that we can continue to adapt our degree offerings to meet the aspirational needs of the 21-century student.

In organizational structural news the university and college's plan to merge the departments of Music, Drama and Art & Art History has taken some major steps forward this Spring. This plan has been in the works for the past 2 academic years. Fine arts faculty have had multiple opportunities to provide input and this college/university initiative has stayed consistent with its original inception. In April 2023 students were invited to provide feedback. In May 2023 the finalized merger proposal was presented to Arts & Science Faculty and in June of 2023 this merger proposal was approved by USASK University Council. Although there are still a few procedural steps required to make this merger plan official, including the naming of the new fine arts school, it is appropriate at this time to say that this merger initiative is now confirmed with a defined activation date being July 1, 2024.

The purpose of this merger proposal is to “ensure that the organizational structure of the Fine and Performing Arts at the University of Saskatchewan facilitates collaboration, maintains disciplinary identity and distinctiveness while promoting research, scholarly and artistic (RSAW) interactions, provides effective voice for these disciplines within the University and College, and ensures financial sustainability of the Fine and Performing Arts, enabling them to thrive.” <https://governance.usask.ca/documents/council/agenda/2022-2023/june-2023/4.1-2023-06-15-ppc-rfd-arts-science-amalgamation.pdf>. The complete fine arts merger proposal document can be viewed at this same www link.

I'll close with a note of heartfelt thanks and very best wishes to my hard-working faculty colleagues and administrative colleagues, to our incredible students, to our wonderful alumni old and new, and, to all the friends and patrons of the USASK Department of Music. Thank you for all your incredible work and support during these busy, exciting, dynamic and challenging times.

My very best wishes to you all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dean McNeill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dean McNeill,  
Head, USASK Department of Music



# Spring Convocation

Congratulations to our Department of Music Spring 2023 Graduating Class!

Grant Alexander	BMUS HON EMUS
Connor Elias	BMUS HON EMUS
Graeme Dyck	BMUS HON
Lauren Hope	BMUS HON
Mohammad Jafari	BMUS HON
Jude Leschyshyn	BMUS HON
Graeme Dyck	Jazz Certificate
Jude Leschyshyn	Jazz Certificate
Jesse Patterson	Jazz Certificate
Ricardo Martins	MMUS Performance (saxophone)
Danielle Strong	MMUS EMUS
Sara Seligosky Castro	MMUS EMUS
Alexandra Wrigley	MMUS EMUS

## Student Spotlight

Congratulations to several of our music students who were recognized by the College of Arts and Science's Pinning Ceremonies. On March 6th three of our 3rd-Year Music students were recognized: Samuel Boyd, Samuel Dmyterko, and Rochelle Wright. On March 9th the Dean's Honour List recognized three more of our music students: Hanna Hashi, Rachel Snider, and Mohammad Jafari.

Thank you to our Department of Music recital assistants for 2022-23: Morgan Layton, Hanna Hashi, Rachel Snider, Grant Alexander, Trinity Fusick, Celestino de Pedro, and Thomas Vaquer.

# Student Spotlight cont.

Graeme Dyck received the Arthur Collingwood Prize for the top Department of Music BMus graduate, the Earl of Bessborough Prize in Science, the University of Saskatchewan Film Society Prize, and the Haslam Medal. Graeme also received an Honours Degree in Mathematics and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics 2023 *Thesis Prize - Interdisciplinary*. His Math supervisor, Dr. Steven Rayan remarked, “Graeme’s thesis was titled *Algebra, Music, and Interpretation*. In this highly creative and original work, developed over a period of 10 months from July 2022 to March 2023, he coaxes musical meaning out of advanced structures in parts of mathematics known as abstract algebra and category theory. He applies a deep understanding of these structures in an impressive way to jazz lead sheets, in order to quantify their similarities and departures from one another. While I was his mentor in this project --- and it was a great pleasure to guide him and interact with his ways of thinking --- I will also say that he was highly independent and self-driven.” Graeme Dyck is a composer, thinker, and musician born in Saskatoon. Along with completing a degree in music and mathematics, he received a certificate in jazz. He has also had artistic and scholarly material commissioned and

published. Graeme’s work in words and sounds aims to move past disciplinary boundaries and explore strange corners of human experience through research and creative practice. Graeme is the first graduate in our university’s history to win the top prize in both the sciences and the fine arts. Congratulations, Graeme! Please see: [https://artsandscience.usask.ca/news/articles/8562/Arts\\_and\\_Science\\_graduate\\_makes\\_USask\\_history](https://artsandscience.usask.ca/news/articles/8562/Arts_and_Science_graduate_makes_USask_history)



Graeme also won first place in the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers’ Associations (CFMTA) National Essay Contest (Undergraduate Division) for his paper “Continuing Cage: Ambient Music as Listener Indeterminacy.” This paper was a part of Dr. Lalonde’s seminar class assignment last fall. Please visit: <https://www.cfmta.org/en/cfmta-national-essay-competition/>

Ricardo Martins (MMus 2023) premiered his original work “Carnaval” for alto saxophone and electro-acoustics at the North American Saxophone Alliance Regional Conference last February at the University of Alberta.

The National Youth Band of Canada (May 8-13) took place in Saskatchewan involving several students from the Wind Orchestra: Sam Dmyterko (3rd yr. music), Hanna Hashi (2nd yr. Music), Jonathan Tait (2nd yr. music), Samuel Boyd (2nd yr. Music), Rochelle Wright (2nd yr. Music), Daly Haas (2nd yr. Music), Tyrell Hardlotte (1st yr. Music), and Celestino de Pedro (2nd yr. Music). Non-music majors include Andrew Pittman (3rd yr. College of A & S), Max Hiske (2nd yr. College of Arts and Science), and Fyin Oyedeji (1st yr. College of Arts and Science).

Connor Elias continued with his success as he placed first in the Saskatchewan Music Festival Provincials for Senior Piano and first in Canada West for solo piano 22 years and under category. In addition, at Canada West, Connor Elias (piano), Drusilla Waltz (violin), and Samuel Dmyterko won first place for Chamber music. Connor Elias looks forward to teaching his wonderful piano students this summer, as well as participating in various music festivals. Next year he will be continuing his education at the College of Education. Connor will continue studying piano with Bonnie Nicholson next year and collaborate with his friends in the department.

The winner of the 2023 Concerto Competition was Greystone Singer Alum/ Aurora Voce student member Alice Li (Piano), accompanied by her teacher, Dr. Sofia Mycyk (USASK sessional), while fourth year student, Connor Elias placed second.

To culminate the Saskatoon Music Festival, the 56th Annual Kinsmen Competition took place in the evening of May 6th in Quance Theatre. In the Instrumental Category congratulations to Hanna Hashi (2nd yr. Music) who was awarded first place, and runner up was awarded to Sam Dmyterko (3rd yr. music). To view a complete list of the schedule of the 2023 Saskatoon Music Festival please visit: <http://saskatoonmusicfestival.com/files/documents/e8156543-b5df-41c3-b492-66d0c6b68a43.pdf>

Grant Alexander will be going into the college of education and excited about his new challenge yet will miss many of my favourite classmates and professors.

USask Sessional Dr. Sofia Mycyk taught Musicianship II this past term to an enthusiastic first-year class.



# Student Accolades at the Provincial Music Festival in Regina

Elise Parsonage (B Mus/Mus Ed 2022) received the Goodfellow Memorial Vocal Grade A (28 years & under) Scholarship and the Goodfellow Memorial Vocal Opera/Operatic (28 years & under) Scholarship

Emma Gillingham (1st yr. Music) received the Goodfellow Memorial Vocal Oratorio (28 years & under) Scholarship and the L.I. Bryson Memorial Spoken Word Concert Group (28 & under) Scholarship

Connor Elias\* (B Mus/Mus Ed 2023) received the Arlene Stuart Memorial Piano Bach (28 years & under) Scholarship, the MYCSTA Piano French Music (28 years & under) Scholarship, the Piano Canadian/Saskatchewan Music (28 years & under) Scholarship, and the Anna Klassen Endowment Fund CW/Excellence Piano (22 years & under) 1st place

Hanna Hashi\* (2nd yr. Music) received the Saskatchewan Band Association Brass (28 & under) Scholarship, the Blanche Squires Bronze Award & Trophy, and the Ross Ulmer & Karen Ast CW/Excellence Brass (22 years & under) 1st place

\*Participants in the Canada West Excellence Classes competed at the Provincial Level for the opportunity to represent Saskatchewan at the Canada West Performing Arts Festival in Edmonton, AB, July 21 & 22.

## Alumni News



Arthur Boan (B Mus 2016), a violin major also studied voice with Chris Kelly, and then Garry and Kathy Gable in Saskatoon, before going to England to obtain an MA in Music Theater from Guildford School of Acting. Arthur has worked in theater actively as an in-house or touring performer since going to England, first in graduate school and up to, and now, after the pandemic. Cast in the new ensemble production currently playing in the Wyndham Theater on Charing Cross Rd - London. West End production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's

"Oklahoma!" [https://www.londontheatre.co.uk/theatre-](https://www.londontheatre.co.uk/theatre-news/news/oklahoma-sets-full-west-end-cast-at-wyndhams-theatre)

[news/news/oklahoma-sets-full-west-end-cast-at-wyndhams-theatre](https://www.londontheatre.co.uk/theatre-news/news/oklahoma-sets-full-west-end-cast-at-wyndhams-theatre)

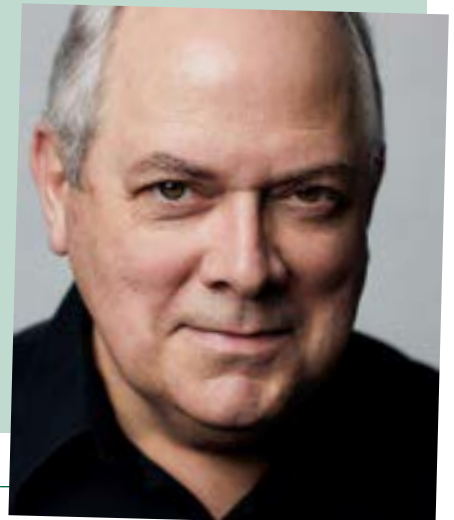


# Faculty Spotlights

After 29 years of service of teaching, Dr. Garry Gable will be retiring July 1, 2023. We greatly thank Garry for his on-going work and successes in the Department of Music, university, and community. There will be a reception in Dr. Gable's honour on Friday October 13, 2023, after the semester start-up concert, *Play It Forward*. Stay tuned!

Dr. Garry Gable has been with the University of Saskatchewan, Department of Music since 1994 in his capacity as Associate Professor (Voice). He is responsible for private vocal instruction and the providing of courses in vocal literature, vocal pedagogy, diction for singers, and is director of the Music Theatre Ensemble. The winner of the 2011 Provost's Teaching Award for the Division of the Humanities and Fine Arts, Dr Gable was strongly dedicated to providing the best possible vocal instruction to his students, with the goal of assuring that U of S students are competitive with students from any other undergraduate program. Dr Gable is sought out as a master teacher and clinician for the voice - and is recognized for his ability to get his students to sing naturally, no matter what the style of music. Students of singing at the U of S have gone on to the best graduate and other professional training programs in Canada and abroad, are regular winners in local and national competitions, and have gained success as performers in opera and other venues. In 2018, Garry, and his wife, collaborative pianist and vocal coach

Kathleen Lohrenz Gable were invited to join the faculty of Bel Canto in Tuscany, an opera training and development program offered each summer in Greve-in-Chianti, Italy. Garry has performed widely in Canada and the United States and abroad. He is Adjunct Faculty with The Tianjin Conservatory of Music (Tianjin, China), the Wuhan Conservatory of Music, (Wuhan, China), and Minzu University in Lanzhou, China. He has performed with such groups as the Canadian Opera Company, Toledo Opera, the Charlottetown Festival, CBC Radio and TV, symphonies in Kitchener-Waterloo, Victoria, Windsor, Saskatoon, and Regina, Kelowna, and elsewhere. An active recitalist, Garry performs with his wife, Kathleen Lohrenz Gable. Their programs are always varied to include the breadth of classical music from Art and Folksong, to opera and oratorio, and Broadway. They have performed in Canada, the USA, Europe, and China. Garry possesses a rich bass-baritone singing voice capable of a wide range of styles, and in as many as 15 languages, from opera to Broadway and including a bit of jazz. Garry is also known for his versatile speaking instrument - and has ventured even into character voices and cartoon voices. On the



stage, Garry is recognized for the strength of his characterizations from comic to dramatic roles. Dr Gable maintains regular associations with a variety of groups pertinent to his work, ranging from Actors Equity and Actra, The National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS), the Canadian Registered Music Teachers Association, The Canadian Music Centre, and others. These affiliations help reinforce research areas that include Canadian Art Song, developing ongoing studies into improving communication between student and teacher in the pedagogical setting, developing better ways of creating and understanding pedagogical terms of reference for singers interested in 'cross-over' work, and establishing creative alliances that reach national and international borders. His commitment to music and song as a tool for cultural understanding and improved international relations has resulted in recital programs sung in multiple languages - beyond European traditions into areas of the far east, and Central and South America at the moment. The song is a mirror of a culture or society - by embracing the variety of languages he does, Dr Gable hopes that tolerance and comprehension for a different social group can be found by appreciating their music and culture. Further, songs (and music generally) are a means of proving our own identity as individuals in a complex and multi-layered society. Singers who are capable of reaching beyond the classical tradition to include popular, folk, modern, and theatrical idioms are better ambassadors for music, and are better interpreters of and for our broader culture. A full interview with Garry can be found [HERE](#).

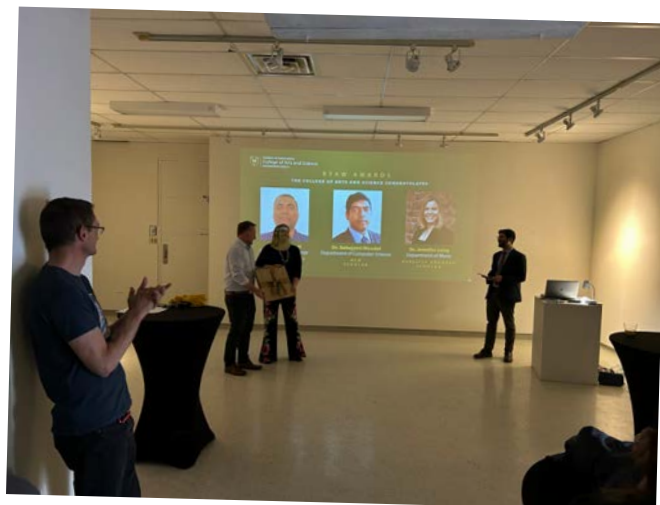
This year, Dr. Amanda Lalonde presented papers on Josephine Lang's songs at the American Musicological Society conference in New Orleans and on the 19th-century pianist and composer Delphine von Schauroth at the Women at the Piano conference in Irvine, California. She is also contributing a chapter on Clara Schumann's involvement in the cultural life of Frankfurt and Baden-Baden (a German spa town) to *Clara and Robert Schumann in Context*, which will be released by Cambridge University Press. She is beginning new research on the composer Julie Baroni-Cavalcabò, who was a student (and possibly the illegitimate daughter) of Mozart's son, Franz Xaver Mozart.

Professor Dean McNeill gave a world premiere of a new work for solo trumpet and wind ensemble entitled *Clarino* by Dr Greg Yasinitsky and a new arrangement entitled *First Light Brings New Beginnings* by Dr. Allan Gilliland orchestrated for solo trumpet and wind ensemble, premiered by the Edmonton Winds. In June, Professor McNeill was involved with other members from Regina performing in the Windscape Brass Quintet. Supported by a Saskatchewan Arts Board Grant the quintet performed in four Saskatoon high schools. They also presented a formal evening concert at the U of S Convocation Hall on June 14th.



The U of S has created a new signature area in Health and Wellness last Fall led by Dr. Jennifer Lang. <https://vpresearch.usask.ca/documents/initiatives/signature-areas/usask-selects-three-new-signature-areas-of-research.php> Dr. Lang was appointed co-lead of the pillar located within this signature area entitled Music, Arts and Wellbeing <https://news.usask.ca/articles/research/2023/new-connections-advance-health-and-wellness-at-usask.php>

Dr. Jennifer Lang's research surrounding intergenerational choirs with students and senior singers explores the intersections of music education and music and wellbeing. In this area she has created a new course delivered for the first time in winter 2022 and successfully pitched Music, Arts, and Wellbeing to be included as a pillar in University of Saskatchewan's new Signature Area of Health and Wellness. For more information about signature areas: [https://vpresearch.usask.ca/news/2022/usask-selects-three-new-signature-areas-of-research.php?utm\\_source=paws&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=dd\\_2022february](https://vpresearch.usask.ca/news/2022/usask-selects-three-new-signature-areas-of-research.php?utm_source=paws&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=dd_2022february)



Jennifer was also recognized for the University of Saskatchewan RSAW Publicly Engaged Scholarship Award in a ceremony on May 4th. Please Visit: [https://artsandscience.usask.ca/news/articles/8489/Faculty\\_excellence\\_in\\_research\\_scholarly\\_artistic\\_work\\_recog](https://artsandscience.usask.ca/news/articles/8489/Faculty_excellence_in_research_scholarly_artistic_work_recog)

*Discovering the Amatis*, a Concert Series organized by Dr. Mathieu (Associate Professor of Violin and the David L. Kaplan Chair in Music) highlighted four concerts this academic year: September 11 – Robert Uchida and Rafael Hockman, October 23 – The Crossroute String Quartet, February 5 – Duo Conceryante of Nancy Dahn and Timothy Steeves, and April 23 – Robert Koenig, Véronique Mathieu, and friends. Please visit: [https://artsandscience.usask.ca/news/articles/7806/Discovering\\_the\\_Amatis\\_Concert\\_Series](https://artsandscience.usask.ca/news/articles/7806/Discovering_the_Amatis_Concert_Series)

Dr. Mathieu also organized the 2023 *USask String Fest* that took place April 21-23 in Quance Theatre and Convocation Hall. The festival began with a lecture recital by graduate student, Wagner Barbosa, and Sofia Mycyk on piano. On Saturday, Joel MacDonald (newly appointed principal cellist of the SSO) provided a guest masterclass followed by a chamber music reading session with internationally acclaimed pianist Robert Koenig. The event culminated on Sunday with the Amati Concert Series featuring Robert Koenig, Dr. Véronique Mathieu, and friends.

A noon hour Amati concert at the Diefenbaker Centre last January was featured by Radio-Canada: [https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1951860/concert-violon-amati-saskatoon-diefenbaker-universite-saskatchewan-veronique-mathieu?fbclid=IwAR3L6WbpmS-rcmInQW8W\\_SfehoVnCR-PobyfoxwB1I-XGSfgNKDiM5lHbjs](https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1951860/concert-violon-amati-saskatoon-diefenbaker-universite-saskatchewan-veronique-mathieu?fbclid=IwAR3L6WbpmS-rcmInQW8W_SfehoVnCR-PobyfoxwB1I-XGSfgNKDiM5lHbjs)

Dr. Véronique Mathieu has received several community grants for the last two years from the Saskatchewan Arts Board to organize four concerts per year at the public library.

Dr. Greg Marion presented the last of five Fine Arts Research Lecture Series in Music on March 23rd in Quance Theatre. His topic, *Inside the String Quartets of Murray Adaskin*.

Professor Kathleen Solose continued to have a busy schedule in term 2 with the Elixir Ensemble. On March 11th at Emmanuel Church the ensemble trio of piano, violin, and cello presented music by Brahms, and Barvinsky – one of Ukraine's best loved composers. Their second concert on April 30th was a tribute to wonderful works by women composers - Schumann, Tailleferre and Carmen Braden.

Dr. Glen Gillis provided clinics this spring and adjudicated at five band/music festivals, composed new works for the U of S Concert Band, and organized student teaching. In January, he performed an original work with Dr. James Cunningham at the USask 2023 TEDx <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1ZivFooGaA> Glen also performed at the North American Saxophone Alliance (NASA) Regional Conference in February at the University of Alberta and also the NASA Biennial Conference in March at the University of Southern Mississippi.

## Sessional Spotlights

Congratulations to our Sessional lecturer, Paul Suchan (B Mus/Mus Ed 2007), as one of this year's recipients for the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union Teaching Excellent Award!

Please visit: [https://artsandscience.usask.ca/news/articles/8410/College\\_of\\_Arts\\_and\\_Science\\_advisor\\_teachers\\_students\\_win\\_US](https://artsandscience.usask.ca/news/articles/8410/College_of_Arts_and_Science_advisor_teachers_students_win_US)



# Faculty and Alumni Spotlight

In a ceremony on January 25th Naomi Suchan (B Mus 2007), Darren Miller (B Mus 2005), and Professor Dean McNeill were each awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal for their outstanding contributions to our community by The Honourable Russ Mirasty, 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>



# Staff Spotlights

The Department of Music has benefited in multiple ways of Kieran Foss' dedication and administrative work as Office Co-ordinator. Our sincere thanks and best wishes to Kieran as he continues his musical journey. Kieran will be leaving the University of Saskatchewan in July to pursue his PhD in historical musicology at Columbia University in the City of New York. Kieran has been awarded a SSHRC doctoral fellowship to fund his doctoral research into the use of gendered language in late-Medieval English commentaries on devotional music. At Columbia, Kieran will be studying with musicologist and medievalist, Dr. Susan Boynton.



We welcome our new Department of Music Office Coordinator, Kendra Harder (she/her). Kendra has spent the last five years making a name for herself as a composer. She has worked with Montreal-based ensemble Musique 3 Femmes, New York opera lab Fresh Squeezed Opera, and is a present participant of the Canadian Art Song Project Mentorship Program. In the 2022-23 year, she served on the Canadian League of Composers as a councillor on the Equity and Advocacy committees acting as co-head-chair of the latter. She also has a strong sense of community music and has



worked with Strata Music Festival, Saskatoon Summer Players, and the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra. Kendra has worked for the Saskatoon Public Library in multiple roles since 2011, where she has honed her organizational and public service skills, and fueled her passions for books, community, and the Dewey Decimal system. Before Kendra entered the field of music, she worked in administrative rolls, most significantly with the City of Saskatoon working in the Revenue Sector for municipal bylaws. Kendra is thrilled to start working with the Department of Music, helping students and faculty in an administrative capacity. Kendra holds a Bachelor of Music from the University of Saskatchewan (B.Mus. '18), and a double diploma from Saskatoon Business College in Records Information Analysis (RIA '12) and Business Office Specialist (BOS '12).

# Choral Spotlights

Congratulations to Kylen Rioux (4th Yr. Music Ed) who was selected by the Saskatchewan Choral Federation for the 2023 University of Saskatchewan Choral Leadership Award for leadership and contributions to the choral community.

*uSing uSask* Festival organized by Dr. Jennifer Lang, featured clinician Dr. Adam Con from the University of Victoria and approximately 375 singers from the following participating choirs: Greystone Singers, University Chorus, St. Mary High School, Bethlehem Catholic High School, E.D. Feehan Catholic High School, Rosthern Junior College, Legacy Christian Academy, Marion Graham Collegiate, Evan Hardy Collegiate, Yorkton Regional High School.

## 2022-2023 Fine Arts Research Lecture Series in Music

The Fine Arts Research Lecture Series in Music is the Department of Music annual public lecture series which includes faculty as well as guest lecturers. This past term there were two presenters, Andrew Balfour on February 9th and Dr. Greg Marion on March 23rd. Next academic year will include: Darrin Miller, Meagan Milatz, Sofia Mycyk, Shah Sadikov, Hussein Janmohamed (dates TBD). For full details about the FARLS events, including Zoom links for remote presentations, please visit: <https://artsandscience.usask.ca/music/news/farls.php>

# Ensemble News

The Wind Orchestra under the direction of Dr. Darrin Oehlerking presented their spring semester concert *Colours* at Centennial Collegiate Theatre on March 17th. The concert provided a colourful performance of wind band music, celebrating the serious, contemplative, and downright ridiculous aspects of music featuring pieces by Cichy, Copland, Grainger, Suchan, Whitacre, and others. Please visit: <https://artsandscience.usask.ca/music/ensembles/wind.php#UpcomingPerformance>



The Greystone Singers and Aurora Voce under the direction of Dr. Jennifer Lang performed with the Saskatoon Symphony on the February 25th *Nordic Light* concert. The Greystone Singers and the University Chorus (under the direction of James Hawn) later presented *Elemental Forces* at

their annual spring concert on March 26th at Knox United Church. The Please visit: <https://artsandscience.usask.ca/music/ensembles/greystone.php>

On March 3-4, the Greystone Singers and Jazz Ensemble did a mini-SK tour.

Music Theatre directed by Dr. Garry Gable and Music Director Kathy Gable presented two evening *Life Lessons* concerts of Broadway music selections on March 11th and 12th in Quance Theatre. Please visit: <https://artsandscience.usask.ca/music/ensembles/music.php>

The USask Chamber Ensemble under the leadership of Dr. Véronique Mathieu presented their semester end concert on March 31st at 12:30 pm in Quance Theatre. Please visit: <https://artsandscience.usask.ca/music/ensembles/chamber.php>

The U of S Concert Band in its 61st season and under the direction of Dr. Glen Gillis met this year on Tuesday evenings from 7:00-9:00 PM. Term 2 concert *A Musical Journey from Traditional to New* concert took place in Quance Theatre on March 28th featuring a variety of band repertoire spanning over 100 years. Please visit: <https://artsandscience.usask.ca/music/ensembles/concert.php>



The U of S Jazz Ensemble had a busy second term starting with a performance at the January 28th *Winterruption Festival* at the Broadway Theatre. On February 4th the Jazz Ensemble teaming up with the Stone Frigate Big Band and the Saskatoon Youth Jazz Orchestra performed at their annual Big Band Masquerade Dance at the Manhattan Ballroom to coincide with the High School Select Wind Orchestra weekend. The U of S Jazz Ensemble premiered multiple new works and presented *Collaborative Connections* in Jazz on March 24th. Guest artists included Tara Davidson, saxophone (10-time Juno-nominated composer/performer), Dr. Vanessa Klassen, clarinet (premiere performance of “Middle of Somewhere” by Paul Suchan in memory of Vanessa’s mentor from Kindersley, SK, Steve Mealey), and Adam Streisel, trumpet (B Mus/Mus Ed 2011, music educator, free-lance musician). Please visit: <https://artsandscience.usask.ca/music/ensembles/jazz.php>



The season finale of the USask Symphony Orchestra: *A Concert Filled with Joy and Exuberance* took place on April 5th in Quance Theatre under the direction of Shah Sadikov. Music included Mendelssohn’s Octet, coupled with Respighi’s Ancient Airs and Dances, and Dvorak’s String Serenade. Please visit: <https://artsandscience.usask.ca/music/ensembles/symphony-orchestra.php>

The Saxophone Quartet and Saxophone Ensemble under the direction of Dr. Glen Gillis presented their term 2 recital on January 30th at 12:30 pm in Quance Theatre. In concert was also the debut of the Alumni Saxophone Quartet comprised of Troy Linsley (baritone), Gerard Weber (tenor), Ricardo Martins (alto) and Glen Gillis (soprano).

# Connecting to the Community

The *Saskatoon Jazz Orchestra* had a very productive 2022-2023 season entitled *In The Company Of Swing!* by a few measures. First and foremost a lot of great music was created and performed in Saskatchewan for Saskatchewan by the SJO. As well the *Saskatoon Jazz Orchestra* will be awarded the Saskatchewan Jazz Festival's 2023 *Special Recognition Award* at the festival this Summer in recognition of the SJO's ongoing activities to increase the cultural capital of the city and province in the jazz realm specifically. For more information on this award please visit: <https://www.saskjazz.com/about/awards/#:~:text=Every%20year%20the%20Festival%20acknowledges,community%20in%20Saskatchewan%20and%20beyond>

The SJO's season began with an interdisciplinary collaboration involving 6 poets entitled ***Poetics of Jazz***. The concert teamed up composers \*Colin Grant, \*Silas Friesen, \*Spencer Krips, Dean McNeill, and Amanda Tosoff with poets Michael Bradford, Glenda Fu, Amanda Tosoff, SK Student Poet Laureate Lauren Klassen, and past SK Poet Laureate Glenn Sorestad (\* USASK B.Mus. & Jazz Certificate grads). This concert was also the Western Canadian premier of Andrew Rathbun's *Atwood Suites* being original compositions inspired by the poetry of Margaret Atwood. Other SJO concert highlights included *Rhapsody In Blue* featuring Jens Lindemann (solo trumpet) and Michelle Aalders (solo piano) and *Pictures At An Exhibition Reimagined* by composer Fred Stride. For a complete synopsis of the SJOs 2022-2023 season visit: [saskatoonjazzorchestra.com](http://saskatoonjazzorchestra.com).





Andrew Rathbun Masterclass: Spoke last fall to MFA in Creative Writing cohort due to his collaborative work with Margaret Atwood.

Shirantha Beddage Masterclass (Indo Canadian pro jazz musician and Humber University faculty member): Spoke to Jazz Materials class. McNeill accessed USASK A&S Role Model Speaker Fund based on Beddage being a professional Indo Canadian jazz musician.



Jens Lindemann Masterclass (UCLA Music Prof., Juno Award Winner, Member of Order of Canada, multiple honorary doctorates) spoke to USask brass players and community members.

Tara Davidson Masterclass: guest saxophonist and composer presented a jazz workshop at the U of S for students and community members.



The 3rd Klarinet Kerfuffle, organized by the active Saskatoon clarinet community took place on March 25th in Quance Theatre and featured guest soloist and clinician, Michelle Anderson, founder of Clarinet Mentors. The full day involving beginner to well-experienced clarinet performers and enthusiasts provided workshops and solo and chamber performances. The event culminated with a concert by the Saskatoon Concert Band and guest artist Michelle Anderson.







The 20th Annual U of S High School Select Wind Orchestra took place on February 3-5th under the direction of Dr. Glen Gillis. This event involved 112 high school students representing 23 schools from around the province. The event also featured 3rd year music student, Samuel Dmyterko, conducting his original composition *The Elements*.

The USask Saxophone Workshop organized by Dr. Glen Gillis took place on Saturday January 7th in Quance Theatre. The workshop was open to saxophonists of all ages with a minimum of one year of experience. The day culminated with all saxophone attendees performing with the U of S Saxophone Ensemble.



The Alumni Saxophone Quartet comprised of Troy Linsley (baritone), Gerard Weber (tenor), Ricardo Martins (alto) and Glen Gillis (soprano) performed at four Saskatoon high schools in May: Holy Cross High School, Walter Murray Collegiate, Evan Hardy Collegiate, and St. Joseph High School.

The 2023 Strata Festival of New Music organized by USask Sessional Paul Suchan provided a workshop opportunity for young and emerging composers with internationally recognized composer, Carmen Braden from Yellowknife, NWT. Her music has been described as “unique and genre-defying.” The June 1-4 festival also highlighted masterclasses, socials, and four main concerts.

The Saskatoon Youth Orchestra and Saskatoon Strings once again had a busy year and will be gearing up for the summer and next season. The SYO and the Saskatoon Strings are still accepting applications from new players. Please visit [www.syo.ca](http://www.syo.ca) under the ‘Join’ tab for audition music or contact Paul Sinkewicz at [info@syo.ca](mailto:info@syo.ca) for more information. The SYO senior ensemble is a full orchestra for players aged 14-24, and the Saskatoon Strings is an ensemble for players aged 10-18. Both groups rehearse on Sunday evenings in the



Department of Music at USask and hold several concerts throughout the year. As well the Saskatoon Youth Orchestra Inc. is pleased to announce that it will hold its second annual SYO Alumni & Friends Summer Orchestra concert on Aug. 5, 2023. Conducted by SYO Music Director Richard Carnegie, this all-star orchestra is a chance for past and current players, as well as friends of the SYO, to connect or reconnect, through their love of music. Rehearsals will go Sunday, July 30 and Friday, August 4 from 7-9 pm in Quance Theatre in the Education Building at University of Saskatchewan. The dress rehearsal and evening concert will go Saturday, August 5 (times TBD). Repertoire will include Beethoven - Finale from Symphony No. 5, Bizet - L'Arlesienne Suite No. 2, Ridout - Fall Fair, and Mozart - Abduction from the Seraglio Overture. And for those who may have forgotten to keep practicing, you can still take part! There will be an Alumni & Friends Social on Saturday, August 5 in the Education Students Lounge, with music, refreshments, and delicious snacks. Please contact Paul at [info@syo.ca](mailto:info@syo.ca) for more information.

French Baroque Concert May 19th: This spring, the Department of Music was invited to present a concert as part of a conference put on by the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultural Studies! The theme of the conference was “Spectacular and Contemplation in the Arts in the French 17th Century,” a theme very much infused into the concert’s repertoire. Organized by the department’s office coordinator, Kieran Foss, the concert featured repertoire by Jean-Baptiste Lully, Élizabeth-Claude Jacquet De la Guerre, Marin Marais, and Michel Pignolet de Montéclair. Joining Kieran on stage were USASK alumni Chelsea Jensen and Joel MacDonald, graduate student Wagner Barbosa, oboe instructor Erin Brophey, and Professor Kathleen Solose. The concert was very well received by the conference attendees and organizers and made for a wonderful final performance of the 2022-23 academic year! Please visit: <https://youtu.be/PlMPZbXfwMU>



Student Teaching in Music (EDST): We want to thank all the Co-op teachers who accommodated us so graciously in hosting a student music teacher in May. 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, but some were placed in the cities from Kindersley and Prince Albert. To supplement the EDST experience, the students were observed by Janet Weaver, Dawn McLean Belyk, and Glen Gillis.

# Program Updates

MMus enrollments for the 2023-24 academic year continue to be active for the MMus (Musicology, Theory/Composition), MMus Performance (conducting, instrument specific) and the MMusEd degrees (course-based and thesis-based options). For further information concerning all MMus programs, please visit: <https://artsandscience.usask.ca/music/graduates/index.php#NewDegreePrograms> or contact Dr. Jennifer Lang (Grad Chair) or Allison Fairbairn (Admissions Coordinator, [allison.fairbairn@usask.ca](mailto:allison.fairbairn@usask.ca)).

## Open House!

### Department of Music Open House

The Department of Music Open House took place October 15th providing 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.



Upcoming Open House Events:

In-Person Undergraduate Open House: October 13, 2023

Virtual Undergraduate Open House: December 3, 2023

### Department of Music Graduate Open House

The 2nd Grad Open House took place on March 12th providing current and potential graduate students a multitude of information about the Department of Music. The afternoon ceremony recognized our graduate students and culminated in a wine and cheese reception.

Next Graduate Open House: November 19, 2023

# Scholarship Ceremony

The Annual Department of Music Scholarship Ceremony took place on February 12th honouring the student recipients and their Donors.



## Scholarship Info

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>

## Audition Dates

December 2, 2023 (early bird Scholarship Audition date)

February 3, 2024 (early bird Scholarship Audition date)

March 9, 2024

April 6, 2024

For further information please visit:

<https://artsandscience.usask.ca/music/undergraduate/audition.php>



'At a Glance' – for all Department of Music events this 2023-24 school year please visit: <https://artsandscience.usask.ca/music/news/events.php>



Text and photo compilation by Glen Gillis  
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