

The Fall Newsletter 2018

With best wishes from the Executive of the Canadian Music Adjudicators' Association

As has been our tradition over the past few years, we are writing you this newsletter to keep you apprised of the executive's activities, as well as give you some updates on where we are heading.

Changes to the Executive

First, we would like to update everyone in the organization about the state of our executive. After many years of volunteer service, both Greg Butler and John Hansen have retired from the CMFAA Executive. On behalf of the organization, I would like to thank both gentlemen for their years of work and wisdom. In addition, long time President Mel Hurst has moved, like Barack Obama, into the "Past President" role, and I, Greg Caisley, have moved into the President position. Ireneus Zuk is continuing his work as Treasurer, and Stephen Runge has taken on responsibility for Membership.

Seeking New Executive Members

With the two retirements from our executive, we are looking for new members of our organization who might be interesting in joining our volunteer executive. As with all committees these days, we are looking to diversify our executive in terms of gender, principal instrument and geographic location. We are especially interested in people who have an interest in, and ability with social media and websites, and who share a national vision for the craft of adjudication, and how we might make further use of technology as we move forward. If you are interested (or have a recommendation), please email cmfaa.ca@gmail.com

Financial update for 2018

CMFAA Financial statement – October 31, 2018

Previous report at AEM, June 2018

Account balance \$11,632.10

Bank balance (May 2018)	\$ 11,632.10
<i>Expenditures</i> since then:	
AEM travel/accommodation	\$ 1,555.33
NMF Chamber prize	\$ 1,500.00
Duet challenge prize	\$ 500.00
FCMF Membership	\$ 100.00
Sheri – Registrar	\$ 750.00
Web administration	\$ 360.12
Bank charges (2.75 x 6)	\$ 16.50
Conference calls	\$ 16.16
<i>Total</i>	<u>\$ 4,798.11</u>
<i>Income</i> from Dues:	\$ 1,100.85
Current bank balance (October 31)	\$ 7,934.84
Uncashed (750 + 6.67)	
Actual balance	\$ 7,178.17

WINNER of the CMFAA Award for First Place in the Chamber Music category at the 2018 National Festival



The Fiearro String Quartet (SK), this year's recipient of our Prize of \$1500 in the Chamber Music category at the National Music Festival in 2018, Sackville NB.

Left to right: Eleanor Hector, Mieka Sonntag, Jonathan Craig Penner, and Mayson Sonntag

CMFAA Fall 2018 – Membership Update

Over the summer and fall of 2018, the CMFAA has welcomed 15 new members. These adjudicators are specialists in Piano, Strings, Woodwinds, Brass, Chamber Music, String Orchestra, Concert Band, Jazz Band, Voice, Opera, Musical Theatre, Choral, Church Music, Speech, and Composition. Our new members reside in BC, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Nova Scotia, and Washington State. Welcome to the CMFAA!

Membership Survey

As a member of the CMFAA, we would like to hear from you. As part of our evaluation of our support programs that we are offering the organization, we have prepared a very short anonymous survey. Please take a minute to fill it out.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/89LG733>

Advocacy on behalf of our membership

It has become clear to the executive that it is time to reconsider ways that we can make sure that our qualified adjudicators are being hired by festivals across Canada. It is of significant concern that we are anecdotally hearing that this is not always, or even usually, the case. After much conversation about possible steps forward, we addressed several key areas at our executive meeting in June 2018, which we hope will give clarity on how to move forward into 2019.

The executive started by reiterating the critical importance of the relationship it has with the FCMF. We have provided years of significant financial support to the National Festival. Since 2011, CMFAA has awarded scholarships and grants totaling approximately \$26,500. This includes travel grants for provincial finalists, and the First Place Award in the chamber music category of the National Festival. We have also been sponsoring the Duet Challenge to increase the chamber music component (especially in smaller festivals) across Canada.

In addition, the executive has been working side by side with many individual festivals across Canada to sort out various issues which have come up over the years. While they might seem like small points on a national scale, they are important, and are testament to our concern for, and dedication to, providing festivals in Canada with the most inspiring and educated adjudicators. To be clear, the CMFAA believes we must play a critical role in supporting the relationship between festival organizations across Canada, and the qualified adjudicators who are our membership. We believe the relationship between the FCMF and CMFAA is critical for the best advancement of the festival movement in Canada.

While the executive will continue to work hard to be proactive in the relationship between the festival movement and the professionals who adjudicate them, we have identified some areas of concern. We have heard that there are some festivals concerned about the qualifications and experience of some adjudicators available for their festivals, and still other festivals which do not use CMFAA's qualified adjudicators- or even consult our directory. Further, when the difficult task of "finding of adjudicators" can be reduced in complexity to "We always get the same adjudicator that... (insert other Festival here) gets" ... it does not allow new, incredibly qualified and under worked younger musicians an opportunity for work in Canada. We believe these are serious issues which need consideration from everyone in the festival movement.

The process of becoming a member of the CMFAA, while not extremely rigorous, does mean that our adjudicators are both well educated at the graduate university level, and have enough adjudicating experience to be able to have three festivals recommend their work to the national body. Our organization believes this is currently the best way for festivals to choose their adjudicators in Canada- and even now in the United States, and we would like to find ways to reduce the barriers between our member adjudicators and these festival organizations.

The Executive is also concerned about the larger educational issue all of this presents. For a long time, local music festivals have struggled with the issue of the importance of the arts in their communities, with the cuts that have been made to public institutions limiting access to critical festival classes like speech arts, drama and school classes. Everyone has made the point that together we need to build communities where the arts, creativity and local teachers are celebrated, where they are held up as examples of the power of art and music. Over generations, we have trained brilliant young people- many being products of the very music festival system we have endeavoured to maintain, some going on to great careers in the profession, and others becoming strong advocates in the communities they work in.

However, increasingly, young professional musicians have been marginalised: often they struggle to find work in festivals, as teachers at the college/ university level, and they are finding fewer performing opportunities. Did you know that the CMFAA currently has 200 members, and that about one half of them have joined the organization over the past 6 years? We have an amazing resource of talented, trained adjudicators available for our country and our goal is to ensure their skills are put to good use.

The CMFAA will work hard this coming year to make a better case to the festivals by employing the most educated adjudicators available in the country- our membership. It is not just that there is a lack of diversity in the adjudicators being employed, but that we are as a society lowering the expectations we all have for these former students who are now looking for employment, and for the young students they would have been inspiring at the local festivals. The executive firmly believes in the essential importance of maintaining educated, qualified and accountable adjudicators for the festivals across Canada, and strongly advocating for the importance of the Arts in all our communities at whatever age or level of achievement they have accomplished.

The coming year- changes ahead

To address these issues, the executive has decided to make immediate changes for the upcoming 2019 year: This past summer we initiated a series of polls to the music festival committees to try and see what was working between festival committees across Canada and the CMFAA, and areas in which we needed to do more. The festival committees across the country provided some really helpful feedback

As a result, the executive has decided to rework our financial contributions to the FCMF beginning in the 2019 year. We will no longer be sending substantial financial assistance to help the finalists of the Provincial Festivals travel to the national festival. As important as this assistance has been over the years, we wanted to find a new way to assist adjudicators and festivals to “get together”. Instead, in an effort to get our adjudicators working in smaller centers, we are creating a program to which music festivals may apply for travel assistance enabling a CMFAA adjudicator to visit their community. It is our hope that this Adjudicator Travel Assistance Program will help smaller communities feel more able increase the diversity of the adjudicators they use for festivals, as well as making sure that our members are getting this work.

Key features of the Adjudicator Travel Supplement Plan

1. The grant is only for supplementing the cost of travel for the adjudicator to a festival, and not to be used for fees or food allowance.
2. Festival committees are allowed one application per calendar year (for one adjudicator)
3. The CMFAA will have no influence or suggestion as to whom the festival hires as part of the application, other than the adjudicator being hired is a member in good standing of the CMFAA.
4. The maximum allowable application is for \$400. Please note that the amount of money available for this grant is capped by the CMFAA, and is available on a first come first served basis.
5. The adjudicator’s home address must be at least 750 kilometres away from the festival location.

We will continue to support the “Duet Challenge”. This initiative gives \$500 to the festival which has the highest proportion of duets verses solo entries in a given year. As well, we will continue

to underwrite the First Prize Award for the Chamber Music section of the National Festival. The Executive feels strongly that duet playing and chamber music playing are among the more important focuses of music festivals, as they engender collaboration, community, and can be a positive social opportunity for young musicians and their families.

The CMFAA executive looks forward to hearing from all parties on these issues as we move into 2019.

Important upcoming dates:

CMFAA dues are due by February 15, 2019. An invoice for 2019 dues will be emailed by the Registrar early in January 2019, along with a receipt for 2018 dues paid. The dues for 2019 are unchanged at \$50 CAD, and can be paid by Paypal (http://cmfaa.ca/?page_id=1160), or mailing a cheque (made payable to CMFAA) to the Registrar. (A late fee of \$10 applies after March 1, 2019.) Paying your dues on time allows us to plan on your behalf for 2019.

Every good wish for the coming year,

Dr. Greg Caisley, President
CMFAA

