

The Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra and the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals Sign a Memorandum of Understanding

On June 12, 2017 Mark Turner, Executive Director of the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra (SSO), and Joy McFarlane-Burton, President of the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals (FCMF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

The advancement of young, emerging Canadian Classical artists is paramount to the endeavours of both the SSO and the FCMF; the FCMF has a long history of nourishing young talent through its country-spanning festival system and its National Music Festival, while the SSO has a passion for celebrating Canadian talent and growing and encouraging the next generation of Canadian artists.

For the 2017 National Music Festival, the SSO and the FCMF are partnering to present a prize that is the first of its kind for this competition. Competitions will take place in Ottawa August 10th and 11th on the campus of the University of Ottawa. First place winners in each discipline compete for the Grand Award on Saturday evening, August 12th. The overall first Place winner of the Grand Award Competition shall win a performance with the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra in an upcoming season as a featured Guest Artist.

Details of the Prize:

- The winner of the Grand award shall be presented by the SSO in an upcoming season.
- The SSO will dialogue with the emerging artist to determine repertoire for the performance as to best fit the artist, orchestra, and concert; the winning repertoire is not necessarily what will be chosen for the performance.
- The SSO will assist the emerging artist to develop a media kit, including appropriate biographies and other materials as needed, as well as working with the artist to prepare for media interviews and other publicity surrounding the performance.
- The performance should take place in 2018-2019 Season, depending on the availability of the artist/orchestra; if a suitable date for all parties cannot be found in 2018-2019, they will find a performance date in the following season.

Performance Value:

- The in-kind value of the performance is \$3600.00; this includes in-kind value of the performance fee, flights to and from the performance, ground transportation, hotel accommodation for the duration of engagement, and time developing media/marketing with the artist.

These organizations acknowledge the uniqueness of this partnership which strives to raise the awareness and career development of an exceptional emerging Canadian artist. The two organizations are national leaders in showcasing the incredible work of young classical musicians in our country.

While this MOU stands for the Grand Award winner of the 2017 FCMF Grand Awards Competition, both organizations acknowledge that this collaboration could be of great benefit in the future. The SSO has featured such FCMF finalists including Godwin Friesen, Bryan Allen, Danika Loren, Spencer McKnight, William Boan, Gerard Weber, Nikki Chooi, Jan Lisiecki, and many more.