



Alberta Music Festival Association

37 Beech Cres.

Olds, Alberta T4H 1L8

403-556-3038

E-Mail: wdurieux@gmail.com

Annual General Meeting

By ZOOM

October 23 & 24, 2020



2020 Local Member Festivals Alberta Music Festival Association

Airdrie Festival of Performing Arts
 Athabasca and District Music Festival Association
 Barrhead Rotary Music Festival
 Bow Valley Music Festival
 Brooks Music Festival Association
 Calgary Performing Arts Festival
 Camrose and District Music Festival
 Cardston & District Rotary Music & Speech Festival
 Cold Lake Music Festival
 Coronation Music Festival
 Crowsnest Pass Music Festival
 Drayton Valley Kin Club Performing Arts Festival
 Drumheller and District Music Festival
 Edmonton Kiwanis Music Festival
 Fort McMurray Oilsands Rotary Music Festival
 Fort Saskatchewan Music Festival
 Grande Prairie & District Music Festival
 Highwood Lions Music Festival
 Lac La Biche & District Music Festival
 Lacombe & District Music Festival Association
 Leduc Music Festival Association
 Lethbridge & District Music & Speech Arts Festival
 Medicine Hat Rotary Music Festival
 North Peace Performing Arts Music Festival
 Olds & District Kiwanis Music Festival
 Parkland Music Festival
 Provost Music Festival Association
 Red Deer Festival of the Performing Arts
 Sherwood Park Music Festival
 St. Albert Rotary Music Festival
 Stettler & District Music Festival
 Strathmore Performing Arts Festival
 Vermilion & District Music Festival Association
 Wetaskiwin Music Festival
 Whitecourt Rotary Music Festival
 Yellowknife Music Festival

Members of the 2020 Executive Committee

President
RJ Chambers

Vice President
Ashley Miller

Past President
Beth Cook

Treasurer
Bev Sweet

Directors
Janelle Orr
Dori Whyte
Heidi Baumbach

Fundraising and Public Relations
Dianne Johnstone

Provincial Administrator
Wendy Durieux



2020 AMFA President's Report

Welcome to the 2020 AMFA Conference and AGM!

This year has certainly had its challenges for AMFA! If you would have told me what was coming when I stepped into this role in October 2019, I am not sure what I would have said at that time. But, we have tried to view this unusual season as a season of opportunities and the Executive has done our best to approach this difficult time with positivity and new ideas.

In December 2019, the Executive made the difficult decision not to renew the contract for the Syllabus Coordinator in the coming season. As President of AMFA, I want to thank Kent Sutherland for his many years of dedicated service in that role. At the time of that decision, we certainly did not foresee the shutdowns of the Covid-19 pandemic but the cost savings of not having a Syllabus Coordinator in the coming year will help offset our expected deficit in the coming festival year.

In March 2020, many of us were caught by surprise by the quick movement of the Covid-19 epidemic and the public health measures resulting from this virus. This quickly led to the forced shutdown of many venues and events, including many of our Local Festivals, as well as the cancellation of the 2020 Alberta Provincial Festival.

But, as mentioned above, the Executive decided to approach this year as a year of opportunity. As the Executive had extra time on our hands due to the cancelled festival, we got to work! Here are some of the items we worked on:

- **Western Music and Speech Festival:** Wendy and I met multiple times with the President and Provincial Administrators of both Saskatchewan's and BC's provincial festivals to create a framework for a possible Western Canadian Festival (as all three Western provinces had recently withdrawn our memberships in the National Music Festival). These meetings were extremely productive and resulted in a framework that all three Presidents and Provincial Administrators agreed to present to our provincial AGMs for consideration.
- **Exploring Festival Software Options:** With Wendy's connection to a software developer, we were able to invest in a software solution for our Local Festival members.
- **Syllabus Overhaul:** The Executive had numerous meetings over the last few months to revise and re-develop the existing syllabus for Local Festivals as well as to create a comprehensive document regarding the Provincial Festival classes. The final result of this work was the culmination of hundreds of hours of work and includes input from every member of the Executive as well as a handful of active professional musicians in Alberta.
- **Exploration of Provincial Festival Venues:** With the proposed addition of Contemporary Vocal classes at the Provincial Festival, we began exploring alternate venue options as we are essentially at capacity at Alberta College. The Executive has identified and toured two other potential venues that could house the entire Provincial Festival and also allow the Provincial Festival to grow in future years. While we have not made any final decision about moving at this point in time, at least the options have been researched extensively.
- **Website Change:** After experiencing two web disruptions in the last year, we decided to use an entirely new web host and server. We have continued to add content and features to the new website and hope to have it finalized by January 2021. To date, most of the content Local Festivals will need is already available on the new website.
- **Virtual Programming:** Of course, we have had to adapt all of our operations to virtual formats since March. This has included multiple Executive meetings and, going forward, will include the AGM and the 2021 Provincial Festival. We have also done a fair bit of exploration into virtual options for running the Provincial Festival and tried to provide a number of options for Local Festivals as they also consider a shift to virtual programming for the coming festival year.

All in all, it has been a busy and productive year for the AMFA Executive! I want to thank the current Executive: Beth Cook, Ashley Miller, Dianne Johnstone, Bev Sweet, Janelle Orr, Dori Whyte, and Heidi Baumbach. And, I want to particularly thank Wendy Durieux for her excellent work this year as Provincial Administrator. Wendy has been a fountain of support to me and the Executive and has had some fantastic ideas for how to accomplish many of the issues we encountered this year (not to mention the fact that she just does LOTS of work).

Going forward into the 2021 festival season, we know that things will be different, and sometimes scary, for all of us. But, the Executive will be here to support our Local Festival members through all of these hard times and will continue working as hard as we can to make sure the Provincial Festival is as successful as possible – even in the midst of a global pandemic!

Sincerely,

RJ Chambers, President of AMFA

2020 AMFA VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR REPORT

As the 2020 Provincial Festival did not take place, there is not much to report.

Thank you to all the people who had already put their names forward to volunteer prior to the March 15 shut down of all schools, which moved a lot of our festivals for the 2020 festival year to postpone or cancel. Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted

Dori Whyte



2020 Fundraiser Report

Fundraising has been an exceptionally interesting time this past year! This report is to give you the status of what transpired last year before the pandemic and before the locals and AMFA decided to cancel the Provincial Festival. Letters had already gone out to renew scholarships before everything was cancelled. Organizations and private donations were given the option to either be reimbursed or carry it forward to 2021. As a result the Nickle Family Foundation's \$7,000 which was for scholarships was generously given to use for operating and \$500 from Harry & Martha Cohen Foundation given for venues was allowed to be used for operating. Of the money received for scholarships from private individuals or local festivals \$3,550 has been moved forward to this coming year and \$2,350 was sent back to those that did not want it moved forward. It was also mentioned by some of these donors that they were not sure if they will be able to continue in 2021.

Given the uncertainty of what will happen this coming year for locals, individuals and foundations it may be a challenging time to raise money for Provincials. Many of our local festivals do sponsor a prize and I think there decision to sponsor a prize will depend if they hold a festival and what their financial situation is.

Respectfully submitted
Dianne Johnstone




AMFA Scholarships & Trophies - 2020

Thank you to our 2020 sponsors. Though we were unable to hold a festival this year due to Covid-19, we want to thank you our sponsors for your generosity. You have made it possible for us to run again in 2021!

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

Nickle Family Foundation
Alberta Foundation for the Arts
MacEwan University

PATRON

AMFA Trust Fund

DONOR

Airdrie Rotary Festival of Performing Arts
Beth Cook
Coronation Music Festival
Crowsnest Pass Music Festival
Deon Erasmus Professional Corporation
Dilys Bourret
Drayton Valley Kin Club Performing Arts Festival
Georgette Brodeur
Harry & Martha Cohen Foundation
Medicine Hat Rotary Music Festival
Provost Music Festival
Rudy & Wendy Durieux
St. Albert Rotary Music Festival
Stettler & District Music Festival
Wayne Madden

FRIEND

Heather Bedford Clooney



AMFA Provincial Administrator Report

Respectfully submitted by Wendy Durieux – Provincial Administrator

GENERAL MEETINGS

1. October 25 & 26, 2019 - Conference & Annual General Meeting for the Alberta Music Festival
 - a. There were 33 out of 35 festivals were represented.

EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

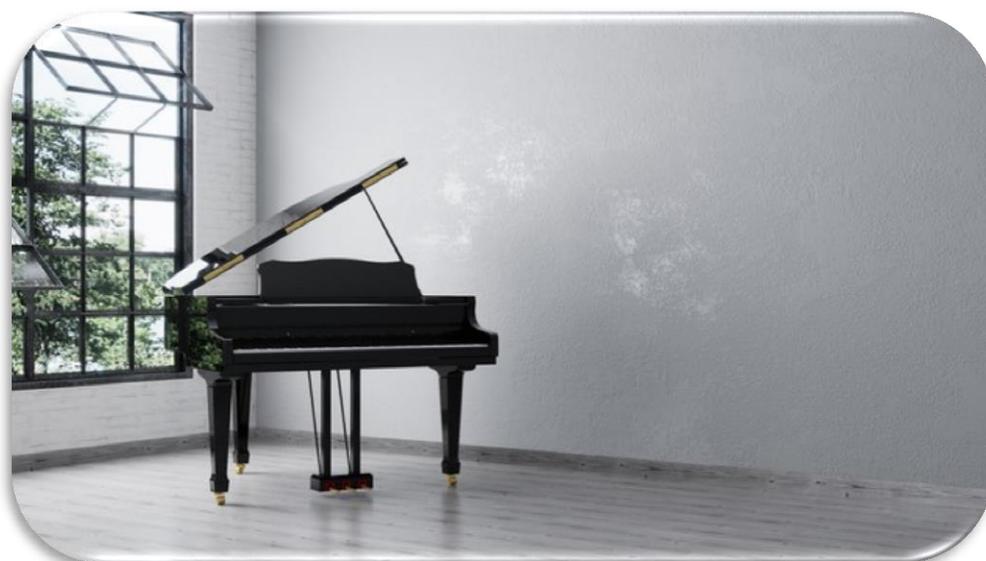
1. October 26, 2019
2. Dec. 1, 2019 – Teleconference
3. January 20, 2020 – in Edmonton
4. May 26, 2020 – Teleconference
5. June 1, 2020 – Teleconference
6. July 13, 2020 – Teleconference
7. August 10, 2020 – Teleconference
8. Sept. 1, 2020 – Teleconference

Alberta Provincial Festival

In the spring of 2020, due to Covid-19 shutdowns, it soon became apparent that we would not be able to host a 2020 Provincial Festival. It became necessary to cancel adjudicators, flights, hotels, venues, plaques, etc. This freed up some time to be able to concentrate on other parts of the festival. These projects are listed in the President's report provided by RJ Chambers.

As we plan for our 2021 Virtual Provincial Festival, I have been in contact with other Festivals that held Virtual Festivals last year. We have spent a considerable amount of time working through these thoughts and ideas and came to a conclusion that Alberta would need to host a Virtual Festival in 2021. Hopefully, the ideas we garnered will also help the local festivals in determining whether to host a live or a virtual festival. This is a hard decision and I believe that this festival should not be left too long. It is easier on your teachers and competitors if they know what to plan for.

It has been a very busy and productive year. I have enjoyed working on the executive of AMFA. RJ Chambers has done an awesome job of leading the executive to look at items in a new way. I would like to thank him and the Executive for all their work. AMFA benefits from their dedication. I am looking forward to our 2021 Virtual Provincial Festival.



IN MEMORIAM

This past year we have said goodbye to 2 men who were a great support to the Music Festival movement in Alberta; Larry Johnson and Jerry Lonsbury. Larry was President of AMFA from 2008 – 2011. Jerry was the Provincial Administrator from 2001 – 2011. Thank you for your years of service to AMFA.



Larry Johnson

March 30, 1943 – March 1, 2020

With great sadness we share the news that Larry Johnson (March 30, 1943 – March 1, 2020) passed away suddenly in the arms of his loving wife, on March 1st, 2020, at the age of 76 years.

He will be lovingly and forever remembered by Donna – his wife of 54 years, and his four daughters, Heather (Steven), Christie (Laura), Barbara (Mitch) and Teresa; 6 siblings: Pat (Norman), Morley (Joan), Kate (Jim), Marne (Tom), George (Liz), and Peggy (Neal); 12 grandchildren: Sophie, Émilie, Simon, Finn, Matthew, William, James, Clara, Elizabeth, Daniel, Charles, Philip; nieces and

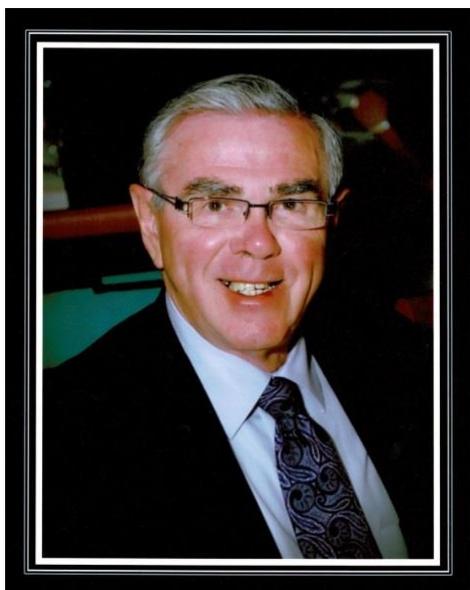
nephews as well as numerous relatives and countless friends. Larry was predeceased by his parents Helen (Perley) Johnson, Dr. Frank Johnson, and his granddaughter Clara Holte.

Larry was a lifelong educator, lived a life of service, and was a passionate supporter of music. He embraced life to its fullest, loved to laugh, loved and unfailingly supported his wife, daughters and grandchildren beyond measure, and fully supported and embraced their interests, passions, and causes. Having started his professional life as a physics and math teacher, he progressed through various levels of administration to become the Superintendent of the St. Albert Protestant School District from 1989 to 1996. A lifelong Rotarian, Larry was the Charter President of the St. Albert and Fort McMurray Rotary Clubs and District Governor of District 5370 from 2001 to 2002. Larry was an active member of every community he belonged to, serving as the Commanding Officer of his Air Cadet Squadron in Grande Prairie, President of the Alberta Music Festival Association and the St. Albert Rotary Music Festival, Chair and Treasurer of the board of Atsikana Pa Ulendo (APU) Malawi Education Foundation, and Chair of the board of Cantilon Choirs. Larry was an early adapter of computer programming and developed software programs to manage data for charity auctions and music festivals across Canada. He gave selflessly of his time, knowledge and energy to these endeavours, developing deep friendships along the way.

Larry's loved fishing, playing chess, playing bridge, singing and listening to choral music, woodworking, camping, and tinkering on the old Greyhound Bus that he converted into a family RV. Upon retirement, he, with the help of Donna and his girls, designed and built his own unusual home out in the country that could accommodate his converted Greyhound Bus, his large woodworking shop and Donna's garden.

Larry's passion for music, education and service will be honoured by way of donations towards his daughter Heather's choral music program, the Cantilon Choral Program, Edmonton, and his daughter Christie's school for girls, Atsikana Pa Ulendo School for girls in Malawi.

Larry will be remembered for his humanity, integrity, sense of humour, and keen intellect. If a man's life can be measured by how many loved him, there could have been no bigger life.



Jerry Richard William Lonsbury

October 25, 1940 ~ August 18, 2020 (age 79)

It is with immense heartache that we announce the sudden passing of Jerry Richard William Lonsbury of Blairmore, Alberta who succumbed to an aggressive illness on August 18, 2020 while receiving care at the Crowsnest Pass Health Care Centre. Jerry was blessed with 79 years of an amazing life.

Born on October 25, 1940 in Coleman, Alberta to parents William and Charlotte Lonsbury, Jerry was raised with an appreciation for family, faith, community, music and the merits of an education. He obtained his teaching degree and gained employment as an elementary teacher and eventually Principal of Horace Allan School. His compassionate and nurturing nature not only furthered him in his career but won the heart and

unconditional love of a beautiful and graceful young lady, Sheila May Clarke, who accepted his hand in holy matrimony on August 26, 1961. They were further blessed with a family whom he cherished and filled his heart with joy.

Jerry had many talents and interests with music being foremost. He was a talented musician who volunteered countless hours to the Crowsnest Music Festival, the Alberta Music Festival, the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals, and accepted the position of Conductor for the CNP Symphony Orchestra as well as played the organ in several churches including the Grace-Anglican United Church for 65 years. His passion and leadership in the musical community mentored many budding musicians and his kindness allowed them to grow in their love of music.

Jerry was dedicated to our community. He was a long-time member of the Lions' Club, Chairman of the 1984 Winter Games, and Town Councillor for the Crowsnest Pass. He also enjoyed traveling, reading, camping, gardening and those precious moments spent with his family.

We regret not having more time to share with such a wonderful man but our consolation lies in knowing that he is at peace where there is no sadness and tears but an eternal joy in the arms of our Lord and Saviour. He will be greatly missed and fondly remembered.

Left to mourn his passing and celebrate his life include his beloved wife, Sheila Lonsbury; his son, Scott (Karen); his grandchildren, Kirsten (Brent), Ian (Sheridin) and Shaun (Kayla); his brothers, Neil (Myra) and Glenn (Brenda); his son-in-law, Doug; his brother-in-law, Don; numerous nieces, nephews and extended family. He was predeceased by his parents, William and Charlotte Lonsbury; his daughter, Valarie; his sister, Maureen; and in-laws, Clarence, Edith and Douglas Clarke.

A private family memorial service will be held with dear friend, Rev. Nicky Keyworth officiating. A public Celebration honouring Jerry's life will be announced at a later date. Donations in memory may be directed towards the Grace Anglican United Church, the CNP Symphony Orchestra and the CNP Music Festival.

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

Nickle Family Foundation



ALBERTA COLLEGE
CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

PATRONS

AMFA Trust Fund

