



SASKATCHEWAN
BAND
ASSOCIATION

SUPPORTED BY:

Sask *Culture* | SASK LOTTERIES

*ANNUAL
REPORT*
2020

Our Objectives as per **the SBA Constitution are:**

1. To encourage the development and education of bands in the province of Saskatchewan.
2. To provide assistance for planned activities of the Saskatchewan Band Association.
3. To inform the people of Saskatchewan as to the value of bands in their schools, community and province.
4. To help raise the level of performance of bands in the province of Saskatchewan.
5. To help encourage the active participation of bands in their communities.

In keeping with our **Policy Governance Model... our Ends are:**

People and communities are culturally enriched and fulfilled by engagement with band music.

1. Individuals and communities are enhanced by the connections provided by bands.
2. Band encourages creativity and development of new music, reflecting the diversity of Saskatchewan communities.
3. Band is accessible to all.
4. Bands in Saskatchewan are committed to ongoing improvement.
 - i. Resources and opportunities exist throughout the province.

SBA Membership

Greater flexibility was added to SBA Membership in 2020, recognizing that band parents, community band musicians, concert attendees etc. as well as band directors might wish to show their support via membership. To provide added support and connection during the pandemic, musician members of SBA affiliated Community Bands were provided with complementary Affiliate level memberships for the year.

Membership Type	2020	2019	2018	2017
Individual - Professional	101	105	112	121
Individual – Associate (new in 2020)	617	n/a	n/a	n/a
Student**	n/a	4	15	29
Organization & Community Band	31	33	17	23
Corporate	3	3	4	6
Total:	752	145	148	179

** Student memberships specifically refers to university students. As of 2020 students can select either the Professional or Associate level membership.

Saskatchewan Lotteries Funding Proves Everyone WINS in 2020

The Saskatchewan Band Association is incredibly grateful for the security and support of the Saskatchewan Lottery Funding system.

While this funding is essential every year – the incredible impact of this support was VERY clear in 2020.

Quite frankly there is simply **NO initiative or program mentioned in this Annual Report** that could have happened without the funding support of the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund. Likewise, for our Band Festivals who had to cancel last minute while still incurring costs and our Community Bands who lost many traditional revenue sources – our ability to provide consistent and extra support has been invaluable.

Therefore, as we review the successes of 2020... and we had MANY successes, it is important to fully recognize the value and impact of Sask Lotteries funding in our band community, our families and our province in general.

The value, importance and reach of Lotteries funding simply cannot be overstated – and 2020 was living proof!

FUND E D B Y



Community Band Funding

We received and approved 15 Community Band funding applications. Based on submission information, our bands were set to provide another great year of service and outreach across the province. Due to COVID-19 any concerts or community events from about mid-March onward were largely cancelled. The following provides a snapshot of our community bands and their **original** plans for 2020.

Some Bands were able to arrange small ensemble groups to entertain at senior's homes or other unique situations but health restrictions and ongoing regulations changes made this an ongoing challenge.

Community Band Name	# Band Members	# Joined in Past 2 Years	# With the Band 10+ Years	0-18	19-29	30-54	55+	# Planned Public Concerts
Band City Band	17	2	15	0	0	3	14	30
Band-It's Association Inc	49	10	31	4	20	26	50	15
Lumsden Community Band	16	5	11	0	2	6	8	10
North Battleford City Kinsmen Band	79	40	16	39	4	23	34	10
Northeast Community Band	29	4	15	3	5	10	11	4
Prairie Winds Adult Community Band	93	24	45	1	28	33	31	8
Prince Albert Concert Band	33	8	7	7	4	20	2	4
Queen City Brass Band	32	7	20	3	4	18	7	3
Saskatchewan Roughrider Pep Band	44	6	14	2	8	20	14	75
Saskatoon Brass Band Inc	45	12	15	4	11	12	18	12
Saskatoon Community Bands Inc	131	48	50	0	13	59	59	5
Saskatoon Concert Band	80	30	43	0	18	30	32	7
Tisdale Lions' Community Band	26	8	10	7	4	5	10	4
Warman Community Band	32	10	7	11	1	15	5	5
Yorkton Community Concert Band	59	13	16	9	6	24	20	3

Special Project Funding

As with all 2020 programs, Special Projects were significantly impacted by COVID-19. Thankfully we did have a number of project submissions for early 2020, some of which were able to go ahead before the shutdown.

U of R Wind Ensemble & Jazz Band Winter Tour

The tour was a big success with the group focusing on smaller centres. The audiences, teachers and band students were extremely appreciative, remarking that they never get live music performances coming through their schools. The tour was harder work for the U of R students as they had to travel with more equipment than ever before as the schools being visited did not have much for percussion equipment or even music stands but everyone worked together to stay on schedule.

The bands performed at James Hamblin School in Qu'Appelle. All of students from the school were in attendance, including the band students, and a few community members. After the performance, the U of R band students lead the Qu'Appelle band students in sectionals. The U of R group performed at Robert Southey School in the afternoon. Again, all of the students from the school were in attendance, including the band students, along with a few community members. After the performance, the U of R band students again lead the Southey band students in sectionals. The band directors in both locations, Kendra Thiessen & Jesse Lindskog, told organizers that their students thoroughly enjoyed the performance and the sectionals.

Prairie Winds Community Band clinic

The band planned and hosted a developmental clinic in February. They also worked to ensure the clinician could be available to interested schools in the Regina area while in town. The Indian Head school bands were very pleased to benefit from this connected opportunity.

"The kids loved all the workshops and they and I both got a ton of exciting tips, hints, concepts and ideas for our repertoire. On behalf of our band program, our band parent association and myself, I would like to thank the SBA so much for making this opportunity possible for our students!"

U of R Honour Bands

The University of Regina Honour Band was held in February. Organizers had 31 high schools participate, received 157 applications and accepted 107 students.

Resonate

The in-person version of this event was approved for funding but was cancelled due to COVID-19. Organizers worked quickly and creatively to revise the initiative into an online delivery model.

The conference is designed for high school students with an additional day to provide professional development for teachers. The student conference offered students in grades 7 to 12 the opportunity to pursue music learning based on their personal interests. In the online setting, students chose sessions from 37 session options. Resonate 2020 had 109 students register from across Canada while the teacher professional development day drew 106 educators.

Communication

The online reality of 2020 placed greater pressure on our communications systems. The SBA worked very hard to ensure our members, partners and general band enthusiasts were kept up to date on programs, opportunities and advocacy messages specifically those related to health restrictions and international research.

The following provides a snapshot of our communication channels in 2020.

	2020	2019
Website Sessions/visits	21,180	15,447
Member & Contact event/promotion emails	18,224	3,164
eNews distribution totals	17,765	8,007
Social Media	24,873	24,052

SBA Special Initiative #1 **Online Band Support Video Series**

Organizationally we were well positioned to handle the unexpected reality of the pandemic. Due to our strategic planning work and our decision in the fall of 2019 to invest in online technology to increase our ability to support remote and rural programs, we were able to pivot and respond to the sudden changes and needs created by band program cancellations.

Our Online Education Team worked quickly starting about mid-March to discuss our potential to provide support. At a meeting on March 21, the decision was made to provide short videos to encourage and support ongoing instrument practice for all band musicians to ease the challenges of social isolation.

By April 1 we had:

- established the key elements of the SBA Clinician Bureau
- created, edited and posted the initial set of instruments specific videos
- initiated promotion of the resources to Band Directors and band students
- managed initial sign up access to the resources
- established a recording, editing and posting schedule for the entire series – with a goal of 36 videos, each approximately 15 min. in length
- ensured that the videos would be of value longer term, SBA can use and re-purpose the videos as needed for 2 years.

Establishing an SBA Clinician Bureau was also already in our strategic plans from the fall of 2019. The sudden demand resulted in a very rapid start-up of the Bureau and altered the initial plans for how the clinicians would be engaged, but again our pre-planning eased the work required for rapid start up. By June we had 43 dedicated and talented clinicians signed up as part of our new Clinician Bureau.

We focused on having Sask musicians help fellow Sask musicians. The SBA was very lucky to have had the support of many RSO and SSO musicians participate in the project and as part of our new Clinician Bureau. Everyone's willingness to just "make it work" was critical to the project's success. From having to establish new online platforms to providing suitable recording hardware to stepping up promotion efforts, the project was a huge undertaking enjoyed by everyone along the way.

Feedback from band directors, band parents and adult musicians on these resources was VERY positive.

"I just went through David Popoff's FLUTE (17 minutes 41 seconds) video and wow, I am so impressed! He is a terrific teacher, and I am a very motivated adult student ! ... I have never played flute as a teen or younger adult; it's brand new to me since I retired (sort of!) from being an ESL teacher (previous 6 years in elementary schools) in 2016 and wanted a new challenge [so I joined a community band]! It has been great! ... What a great first session I just went through! I can do it again and again, and it's filled with excellent and practical information for me right now! THANKS!!!"

The video series sparked media interest as a positive pandemic related story. The information was profiled by a number of media outlets with the Regina Leader Post interviewing our Clinician Bureau member, Tamsin Johnston and Global News in Saskatoon reaching out to a few of our students who had signed up for access to our online resources.

Overall, we had over 2,000 views of the videos and counting – with Saskatoon being the location that watched the videos the most!

SBA Special Initiative #2 **I LOVE BAND Video Contest**

This initiative had 2 main objectives. The first was to keep our band enthusiasts engaged and connected as the lockdown and school closures were extended. The second was to provide short, locally made, fun videos that band directors and even community bands could use to support their recruitment efforts.

We had 45 entries and awarded prizes for 3 youth and 2 adult submissions. The top youth prizes included online private lessons with SBA Clinician Bureau members.

“We just wanted to send a note of appreciation for the fabulous prize package Eli received with his I LOVE BAND video.

He was thrilled with all the gifts, but particularly with the lessons he received from Darcy Gingras and with the Long & McQuade gift cards, which he used to help purchase his new drum kit. His lessons are complete, but he enjoyed them so much, and learned so much, that he is continuing to take lessons from Darcy.

It is great fun to listen to him shake the house as he practices his drumming. Band continues to be Eli’s favorite class as he has transitioned to a new school for Grade 9 and is excited to now be part of the R&B group. Our youngest son has just started Grade 6 band at Balgonie Elementary School and is loving that as well.

So thanks again for the awesome gifts provided to Eli and to all of those students who reap the benefits of your work promoting band and music in our province.”

Our winning videos were shared by SaskCulture and at least one school division acknowledged their winning student submissions in a year end newsletter.



SBA Special Initiative #3 Summer Online Band Programs

During the 2nd quarter of 2020 we made the difficult decision to cancel all of our in-person Band Camps, including the Prairieland Jazz Camp. We immediately heard from Band Directors and parents expressing hope that there might be some level of band programming to keep everyone engaged and active for at least part of the summer.

A special thank you is owed to Julie Atter, Jennifer Tenford and Jan Michael Bourgeois who stepped up very quickly to help consider what might be possible as a viable online summer program.

Once the initial concept for the 3 programs: Composition, Performance and Recording & Production was envisioned, work began to secure the instructional support and develop the program administration systems necessary for success. Registration opened just before the end of June. The entire program plan was developed and ready for promotion in less than a month!

This was the first time that SBA summer programs had a mix of youth and adult participants. Adults joined the Performance program and participated seamlessly alongside the younger students.

Program	Total # of Participants	# Female	# Male	# FN/NC	# Comm
Recording & Production	27	11	14	1	6
Composition	21	10	11	1	6
Performance	41	25	16	3	9

Program Feedback:

“THANK YOU... for the superb teaching and ability to engage all musicians, regardless of age/ability... Excellent summer program offered! My flute playing has definitely improved and I love playing!”

“I think that Paul (Composition) took a complex process and broke it down into just enough simple steps to make it approachable and to allow me to succeed...”

“I learned so much about recording and editing! I can now put a piece together quite nicely and it was super duper fun!”

Supporting Online Transition for PMR

The SBA has been providing partnership support to the Saskatoon Brass Band for its successful Prairie Music Residency. This partnership has been increasing over time and in 2020 we were very pleased to provide the added support and resources needed to help transition PMR into an online event.

Details on the program were reported previously.

Participant Feedback:

“All the topics were very good. I especially liked the percussion, the tech discussions and the additions of the woodwind sections. The presentations were beyond my expectations and were just amazing.”

“I really enjoyed the variety and large number of speakers that were able to participate most likely because it was an online event this year.”

“Thanks you so much for hosting this event and making it a pleasurable experience. Your choice of presenters is to be commended – they were all well spoken, prepared and engaged in making this event successful. They were excellent role models as they are all so extremely talented and a great pleasure to listen to – all first class examples of how their instruments can sound!”

SBA Special Initiative #4 FREE Tune Up Tuesday Webinars & Master Classes

Our fall Tune Up Tuesday webinars kicked off with a VERY well received webinar by Dr. Mark Spede, co-chair of the International Performing Arts Aerosol Study. This timely and important session was attended by over 120 participants. Overall over 150 signed up to participate in the various sessions.

Tune Up Tuesday webinar special guests included:

Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser, Dean McNeill, Pete Meechan, Anya Pogorelova, Dominic Ghiglione, Gordon Gerrard, Mat James, Diane Ell and Jennifer McAllister

Brass, Woodwind and Percussion Master Classes were offered using Zoom breakout room. Overall, more than 60 musicians registered for the sessions.

Clinicians included:

Brass: Karen Donnelly, Arlene Shiplett, David Dick and Brent Longstaff

Woodwind: Catherine Wood, Tara Semple, Arlyse Quiring and Gerard Webber

Percussion: Chris Wallace & Darrell Bueckert

Tune-Up Tuesday
Special Guest

Dr. Mark Spede
National President, CBDNA
Director of Bands
Professor, Performing Arts
Clemson University

- Dr. Mark I. Spede is Co-chair of the International Performing Arts Aerosol Study
- Recipient of the Clemson University 2009 Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching and three Clemson University Board of Trustees Awards for Faculty Excellence
- He has served the College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA) in a number of capacities; he is currently national president.
- Professor of Music, Director of Bands, Director of Tiger Band, and Conductor of the Symphonic Band at Clemson University

FREE WEBINAR

Topic - International Performing Arts Aerosol Study

A number of performing arts organizations - including the Saskatchewan Band Association - have joined forces to commission a study on the effects of COVID-19 on the return to band programming and the rehearsal hall. It is important to understand what risks exist in performing arts classrooms and performance venues.

The SBA is very pleased to host a special webinar with Dr. Spede on Tuesday August 25 at 4pm. Dr. Spede will provide a brief background on the study; key research finding to date and discuss the various mitigation recommendations suitable for band programs.

Band directors, along with Community Band and band parent association leadership, will find Dr. Spede's session very informative and timely. We will endeavour to include as many in the session as possible, but space may be limited.

To be sure you have a spot - please register at...
<https://www.saskband.org/event-5950505>

For more information visit our website www.saskband.org

Saskatchewan Band Association logo

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SBA Special Initiative #5 **Provincial Virtual Holiday Band Concert**

Our Virtual Holiday Concert was a huge success! Despite COVID-19, the SBA wanted to provide our musicians AND regular concert attendees with a way to still enjoy a festive band tribute. We launched our plans for a Virtual Holiday Band Concert in October. We had more than 200 musicians of all ages sign up to participate.

Participants were provided with online access to music suitable to their playing ability as well as tips and trick for making a good recording. Effort was also made to have holiday music that reflected diverse backgrounds and traditions. The Provincial Concert was also used as a unique opportunity to award Larry Pearen with an SBA Lifetime Membership - our top Recognition Award.

We estimate that over 2,000 have viewed the concert and it was clear how much our band community really appreciated this opportunity to celebrate the season, say good riddance to a rough year and simply stay connected to one another.

The following are some comments SBA received after the launch:

“Wow amazing, what a concert what a great result. Thank you very much to all involved in making such a fun concert. Inspiring piece of work.”

“This virtual concert is absolutely incredible. What you have done in creating this has clearly been a work of joy for so many musicians in our province, and as both chair of the SBA and a participant, I am so incredibly grateful for the hours of planning, organization, craftsmanship, and “fine-tuning” that has went into every aspect of this video.”

“Thank you for all you do!! This was a wonderful concert. Our kids loved taking part!!”

Band *Advocacy*

In the spring of 2020 SBA joined a coalition of international organizations supporting the Performing Arts Aerosol study. The study was groundbreaking and led by research experts. While uncommon in research, the study released preliminary data along the way to provide support as programs prepared for re-opening in the fall.

As return to school plans began to emerge and school divisions were making a variety of decisions around band programs, SBA created a Back to Band Safely resource document based on the latest international research. The Back to Band document coincided with Dr. Mark Spede's presentation on the research. Invitations were sent to those in the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education as well as various school divisions and Arts Ed Consultants.

The variety of school board decisions around band programming left some areas of the province operating fairly close to a normal program while others were cancelled entirely. The SBA communicated with the Ministries of Health and Education to ensure they were informed of the research results – essentially band can be offered safely, even during the pandemic. We also worked with other music organizations to deliver the message.

Press releases on the research, the Back to Band recommendations and the fact that band could be offered safely were released. The SBA was interviewed about our advocacy efforts and message.

Throughout the pandemic, the SBA continued to ensure the latest research was publicly available and challenged to government on why the Re-Open Saskatchewan plan did not reflect the research available. Cancelled and restricted band programs in schools as well as restrictions on community band rehearsals have harmed band musicians of all ages.