

To: **Businesses and Industry of Fort Saskatchewan and Area**
Re: **Fort Saskatchewan Music Festival 2014 Fundraising Drive**

November 29, 2013

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Fort Saskatchewan Music Festival, which is planned and hosted by a non-profit, volunteer Association, is an annual event to help promote and foster achievements of youth in music and speech arts and to celebrate the musical achievements of student performers living within the Elk Island and Sturgeon School Divisions. Participants perform for an adjudication given by professional musicians in a workshop style that follows each performance group. Our 2013 Festival had performances from over 700 participants from the Fort and eleven surrounding communities.

We are in the process of planning our 54th annual Music Festival, to be held **March 3 - 12, 2014** with a Gala Concert being held on **March 16th**. If you should choose to support our festival, your donation would go directly to the cost of producing the Festival, which includes; the rental of facilities, adjudication fees, technicians, printing of programs, and some office costs. An example of our costs is the Shell Theatre at the Dow Centennial Centre, which costs approximate \$500 for a day's rental. This state of the art facility and sound system provides young musicians in piano, choral and band the staging needed for their musical presentations. Your financial contribution will enable us to provide them with this facility and help young musicians enjoy a memorable experience.

Your contribution will be gratefully appreciated and acknowledged. Our recognition levels for sponsors are as follows: Platinum - \$1000 or more, Gold - \$500 to \$999; Silver - \$101 to \$499, Friends of the Festival - \$100 or less. We recognize our contributors during the two week event by listing them in our Festival and Gala Concert programs and by placing large sign at the venues displaying supporters' names. Your name will also be placed on the Donor Page of our web site, if you should wish to do so. After the festival, a thank you and recognition advertisement is placed in our local newspapers. You also receive a tax deductible receipt with our thank you letter.

Some individuals and companies have chosen to sponsor a monetary award which is presented to students and groups who achieve top standings for their performance in their musical discipline. If you wish to set up such an award, please contact us to make arrangements.

The mandate of our committee is to provide; individual students and school groups performing in music disciplines such as, piano, choir, vocal, instrumental, band, handbells and speech arts, the opportunity to develop their music ability through adjudication by a professional musician.

This experience:

- Enhances musical skills, self confidence and performance abilities.
- Fosters positive life skills, due to the advance preparation and discipline required.

- Enhances camaraderie between children from different backgrounds by sharing common interests.
- Develops musical growth for our youth, to become adults with strong appreciation for music, who will give back to their communities the skills learned.
- Provides an opportunity to learn from a professional, academic musician.

Over the two week event we have an accumulated audience of nearly two thousand people. For many children the Festival is the much anticipated highlight of their musical year. The most entertaining performances and award winners participate in the Gala Concert, which culminates the Festival. Last year, twenty-four awards were presented to outstanding students in many disciplines. Students recommended by a Festival adjudicator may have the opportunity to go on to perform in the Provincial and possibly National Festivals.

Please consider becoming a supporter of our Festival with a donation, any amount would be greatly appreciated. Many children do not participate in sports events; the Music Festival provides youth the opportunity to participate in and share what they love most – music.

Please fill out the enclosed form and mail your cheque made payable to the **Fort Saskatchewan Music Festival Association** to:

Treasurer, Fort Saskatchewan Music Festival
C/O Melanie Smith-Doderai
9 Almond Bay
Fort Saskatchewan, AB
T8L 0A4

Email address: vioteacher@hotmail.com

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions please call us.

Sincerely,

David R. Spearing,
 Fundraising Co-ordinator
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 Fundraising Assistant
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Not-for-Profit Charitable # 118928696 RR0001

"Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything." — Plato