

# Regina Musicians Association FORTE

Fall 2014

Got news? Share it with  
all our RMA members...  
[rma.446@sasktel.net](mailto:rma.446@sasktel.net)

**Next General Meeting:**  
**SUNDAY, Dec. 14**  
**1:30 PM**  
**Victoria Club**  
**1300 Victoria Avenue**

## **New Members:**

Daniel Kenyon, Nathaniel Hilts, Colton Crawford, Scott Pringle, Ian Cameron, Christopher Sleightholm

## **Reinstated:**

Michael Fry

## **Suspended:**

Echo Fettes, Paul Gutheil, Eoin Hickey-Cameron, Carl R. Johnson, Cheney John Lambert, Tyler Hal Lindsay, Carter N. Powley, Scott Peters, Brennan J. Ross, Amanda L. Scandrett, Curtis Scheschuk, Justin Sheppard, Mike Allan Thievin, Bryce Wiles

If you have paid your dues and your name is on this list in error, please contact the office immediately

## **Expelled:**

Sheila Deck, Kory Gibbs, Ken Hamm, Michel Lalonde

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## President's Message

With summer behind us and winter fast approaching, it's a good time to bask in the success of some of the members of the RMA over the past few months and to start making plans for the New Year. 2015 will mark our 103rd year of operation, representing the professional musicians of the southern half of Saskatchewan.

First off, I would like to congratulate the Saskatoon Musicians Association, local 553, on their 100th birthday. Our two locals have enjoyed a great relationship and plan to continue, in partnership, our quest to make working conditions and pay scales better for everyone who enriches the lives of others through their talents as musicians and entertainers.

Congratulations to RMA member [Jess Moskaluke](#) on her multiple wins at the Canadian Country Music Awards, held in September in Edmonton. Jess has done some recording at B-Rad studios in Regina, owned and operated by RMA member [Brad Prosko](#), so the tradition of musicians helping musicians continues. Also very proud of [Eli Barsi](#), who, among other awards, was presented with the Wrangler Award for Outstanding Western Composition in Oklahoma. RMA member [Donny Parenteau](#) is nominated in the Country Recording of the Year category in the [Native American Music Awards](#) (follow the link to vote for him) to be presented in New York State in November.

RMA bands who toured the states this year on P2s obtained through the CFM included [Royal Red Brigade](#), [Flood the Stone](#), [Keiffer and the Curiosity Club](#), [The Midnight Roses](#), [the Western Senators](#), [The Tex Pistols](#), and [Fred and Sheila Pelletier](#).

Some members have taken advantage of the Sound Recording Special Payments Fund, including the [Tex Pistols](#), [the Western Senators](#), and [Scott Heatcoat](#).

Numerous members are now collecting their pensions and many of us are contributing to the pension fund on every gig and recording session. The Musicians Pension Fund of Canada is by far the best pension deal anywhere. As a matter of fact, one of our members recently got involved and his banker, after checking out the MPF site online, phoned to see if he could contribute...and he's not even a musician. He can't. Ya gotta be a musician!

The Canadian Conference was held in Ottawa this summer and I attended, along with the office manager. The event was very well organized by Robin Moir and her team at the Ottawa-Gatineau local. I would like to bring the convention to Saskatchewan in the near future...perhaps in 2017. Ottawa-Gatineau is a large local, with a staff of 5, so we would have to rely heavily on volunteers, but it would certainly raise the profile of our federation and that of Saskatchewan musicians in general.

Please forward any pertinent information on you or your band or orchestra for publication in the Forte. - Brian Sklar

# Member Matters

Fall 2014

## Canadian Conference

This year's Canadian Conference was held in Ottawa from August 8th-10th. The event, organized this year by the Ottawa-Gatineau Local 180, AFM, and headed up by Robin Moir, was the best I have attended in my time as President of Local 446.

My one coner is the short time spent in round table sessions, discussing issues such as member recruitment and retention, succession, promotion and publicity, a general exchange of ideas to inform all locals of what's working and what might need a little work.

I have contacted Marg Conway, the Confernce point of contact, with my concerns and will be sending a letter, requesting that more time be allotted to such discussions next year in Windsor.

The succession issue was briefly discussed in panel. We need more young people on our boards. We also need working boards. Everyone has to be involved in the day-to-day operations of our locals if we are to succeed. This is an issue in most locals across the country.

Some of our locals are growing, including the Niagara local 298, which it seems signs new members every week. The music business has suffered in the recent past in the Niagara region and musicians are fed up and are organizing to get a better deal for all of their members.

Locals such as 547 (Calgary) have a robust and involved membership, and as a result, players in their jurisdiction are enjoying fairly good working conditions and steady employment. I am hoping to be able to spend some time in discussions, picking up pointers at next year's conference.

The sooner musicians in Regina and Southern Saskatchewan, and everywhere, for that matter, stop playing for tips...the better. Art should be valued, artists should be paid and respected...but it is up to us to demand that respect.

**"The ocean scares me."**

**- Brian Wilson**

**"I'm the one that's got to die  
when it's time for me to die, so let  
me live my life the way I want to."**

**- Jimi Hendrix**

## Check out and support our members:

[Jack Semple](#)

[Midnight Roses](#)

[Indigo Joseph](#)

[Regina Symphony](#)

[Rah Rah](#)

[True Jive Pluckers](#)

[Touchwood Studios](#)

[Donny Parenteau](#)

[B-Rad Studios](#)

[Eli Barsi](#)

[Western Senators](#)

[Jeffery Straker](#)

[Tex Pistols](#)

[Bob Evans](#)

[The Pelletiers](#)

[Brian Sklar](#)

[South Saskatchewan Youth Orchestra](#)

[The Dead South](#)

[JJ Voss](#)

[Royal Red Brigade](#)

[The Jam Space Lemberg](#)

[Flood the Stone](#)

[Blake Berglund](#)

[Jess Moskaluke](#)

[The Daae Family](#)

[Whiteboy Slim](#)

## Eli Barsi

*Award Winning Cowgirl*



RMA member, singer, songwriter, musician, recording artist, entertainer and yodeler Eli Barsi's variant music style combines the sounds of Western Roots, Country, Bluegrass, Gospel and Folk. Eli was born in Canada and raised a farm girl on the prairies of south eastern Saskatchewan. She grew up learning to make her own entertainment with music, farm work and riding horseback. Self-taught vocals, guitar, & 5 string banjo, along with a great stage presence and an infectious smile have contributed to her long lasting career. This seasoned artist recently released her 13th CD **Portrait of a Cowgirl**, which has already garnered several accolades.

The title song gained Eli a prestigious Wrangler Award in the USA for **Best Western Composition**. She also received 2 honors in her home province for **Roots Artist** and **Roots Album of the Year**.

As an independent artist, Eli's achievements include radio charting singles, CMT videos and numerous awards on both sides of the border. She honed her songwriting skills while living in Nashville and credits her life experiences and her faith for song inspiration. Eli is also a professional host on and off camera, with a couple of made for television travel shows in the works for the near future.

Eli is currently planning her 6th annual Hometown Christmas Show, to be held at the Kennedy Community Hall at 7 pm on December 5th and 6th, with special guest, Ireland's own Stephen McGuire. Tickets are \$20 and are available now on Eli's site: [www.elibarsi.com](http://www.elibarsi.com)

"Musicians don't retire;  
they stop when there's  
no more music in  
them."

- Louis Armstrong

### For Sale:

Three keyboard cases, two hard-sided and lined and one soft-sided, with wheels (Gator), all in excellent condition. Formerly used to transport Roland RD 600 and RD 700 keys. \$50 each. Call 306-531-2200

## Indigo Joseph

cross-Canada tour...



RMA members and award winners [Indigo Joseph](#) are just completing a nationwide tour in support of their new album "Collage." The tour, which saw the band perform in venues from Vancouver to Moncton, ends in Winnipeg on November 15 at the Cavern.

"That's nice, kid, but can you play a tune?"

- Guitar master, the late **Big George Moody** to a young Eddie Van Halen wannabe in a music store

# More Members Matters

## Contact the RMA Office...

The RMA office is open Monday to Friday, from 1 pm to 5 pm. On occasion, the manager may not be in the office due to illness or having to be out of the office on federation business. For instance, during the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour convention, the president and office manager host an information and promotion table in the reception area. This year, the convention takes place at Queensbury from October 29 to 31. We are engaged in letting all unions know who we are and what we do, and are encouraging all unions to make sure and call us first when they require entertainment. So please always call before you come to the office.

It is very important for all members to make sure to inform the office when you release recordings, win awards, launch tours, sign management deals...anything of importance in your careers as musicians and entertainers. We want to brag about our members in every edition of the Forte, but in order to do that, we need the information. So please make sure and keep us in the loop on all issues of importance to you and your group(s).

Please also inform us if you move, change phone numbers, change e-mail addresses, or any other pertinent information which should be in your file for contact purposes. We make every effort to contact members whose dues are in arrears, or who might be the right fit for an event when a prospective buyer calls the office, looking for entertainment. If we don't have your correct contact information, we can't do our job.

In all issues of the Forte we will publish contact information for our working bands and individual entertainers. If you have a group, or are available as a single performer for conventions, fairs, rodeos, or any other event, we need to know. We will make sure that your information is added to the list. We will also make the list available to any prospective buyers.

**See you on Sunday  
December 14th  
1:30 PM  
Victoria Club  
1300 Victoria Ave.**

## Pelletiers winter tour...



RMA members Freddie and Sheila Pelletier are preparing for their 13th winter performing in RV and golf resorts in south Texas, Arizona and California from January to the end of March. "When we went visiting friends at a resort in Arizona fourteen years ago, we would have never imagined we'd be touring down there this many years later", Sheila says. "We really lucked into a good thing!"

They had no idea these venues even existed but soon found out almost every resort is looking for entertainment. "Our target audience is an age 55 + crowd. That's the kind of music we play, for the most part, and who we are most comfortable entertaining." Sheila states. She also adds that this crowd has certain expectations. You can't just pound out tune after tune and think they're going to dig it. You need to interact with them and most of all, make them laugh! "Because we play so much down there (50 shows in three months to be exact), we're able to try out new material, new jokes and get a show down so it's engaging at all times, she says. Or so we hope!"

It hasn't been an easy market to be in. Sheila, who books the show, spends hours on promotion and is always looking for new venues. "We're fortunate that there are a lot of venues that book us every year," Sheila says. She also adds that there are a lot more acts wanting to work in these venues compared to when they first started, which makes competition pretty fierce. "January to March is off season for the Branson acts and lots of them migrate to Texas looking for work. When we started you didn't see the big names in the resorts, either. Now some of the bigger resorts or chains are using agencies and booking acts like Tanya Tucker, Mel Tillis, and the Platters. How do you compete with that?" she laughs.

They're thankful to the folks that come out to see them and say they never take them for granted. "They're awfully good to us and are a demographic still buying CDs. You get to play to appreciative audiences almost every night and get out of the cold. What more could you want?"

The Pelletier's thank the RMA and the AFM for their assistance in applying for their P2 work permit each year. The Freddie and Sheila Show 2015 winter tour schedule is posted on their new website at [freddiepelletier.com](http://freddiepelletier.com).