

Got news? Share it with
all our RMA members...
rma.446@sasktel.net

Next General Meeting:
SUNDAY, Dec. 20th
1:30 PM
Victoria Club
1300 Victoria Avenue

Congratulations!

RMA members came out on top in several categories in the Prairie Dog Best of Regina competition. Winners include:

Best solo act: Jeffery Straker;
runners up Megan Nash, Colter
Wall, and Keiffer McLean

Best band: the Dead South, runner
up Rah Rah

Best album: Vessels (Rah Rah)

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P: 306-352-1337
Cell: 306-531-2200
Web: www.reginamusicians.ca

HELP!

Our VP, **Lorena Kelly** and RMA member **Carmelle Preztlaw** are currently working on our new Website and on our Facebook page. We need to get the word out about the RMA and the CFM, who we are, what we do, and what we can offer to performers and people looking to hire professional entertainers.

The Web template is up already (www.reginamusicians.ca), but it needs to be populated. The idea is to have a simple, easy to navigate site where members and potential members can find information easily. It is also meant to be a resource...a place where members can access contract blanks, information on scales, insurance, pension information, anything pertinent to working musicians.

There is also a place for bands and single musicians to upload information on their acts. It will be up to members to do that and we will, of course, only be promoting RMA members.

We are making every effort to have buyers contact us first when looking for musical entertainment. When they do, they save a bundle on agency fees and they can be assured that they are hiring professionals. Many of our members are award-winning, internationally acclaimed performers. So why not hire the best?

The number of members seeking and obtaining P2s this year to perform stateside far exceeded the average in past years. More on P2s later in this issue.

I have agreed to run for one more term as your president. It is important to note that, as is the case in any organization, we need to plan for succession. Our by-laws clearly state that in order to run for an executive position, a person has had to have been on the board for at least two years. In order to run for a position on the board, a member has had to attend the majority of general meetings in the past 12 months. We only have three general meetings a year, so that is an easy target. These provisions are meant to insure that anyone seeking office understands how the RMA works, its aims and objectives, and duties of board members.

I urge members to consider joining our team by running for the board. I am aware that travelling musicians often have scheduling problems because of work commitments...I, as a full-time, working musician know that all too well. But we need a working board. Over the past two years, our numbers have grown and our office is now open five afternoons most weeks.

Please always call before coming to the office. We are sometimes out on federation business, but the cell is always on: 306-531-2200

Brian Sklar, President

Member Matters

Fall 2015

The P2 Situation

Anybody remember, back in 1988, when we were told that Free Trade would virtually eliminate the boundary between our country and the US? Well, that was partly true...it sure has disappeared for US performers. But not so for Canadians going south.

Until this summer, the waiting period for a P2 was pegged at 45 days...then it went to 60 days...then to 75 days. My band's P2 was filed 47 days before the deadline, but with the times increasing every couple of weeks, we were charged nearly two thousand bucks for "premium processing" to do two gigs stateside. An American band, under the same circumstances, could have crossed the border with no visa and could play in our country for up to 15 days without paying a penny. Our time stateside was 11 days. Jack Semple went through a similar situation and had to rely on a Congressional letter, which was questioned at the border...apparently, the border officials don't necessarily have to honour a letter from a Congressman...pretty scary.

Now, please be aware, this is not the Federation that is causing the expense and long wait times...it is the US Government Department of Homeland Security. When Senator Tommy Banks was still in Ottawa, he worked tirelessly to level the playing field for our musicians. With his retirement, we lost that advocate.

It is incumbent on all of us to press our MPs for answers on why we are being discriminated against. It is also incumbent upon us to press for reciprocity. No one is suggesting that we should slam the border shut, but surely, American musicians should have to jump through the same hoops that we do when going south.

When American entertainers can cross into our country, scoop huge fees...sometimes in excess of a million dollars for a performance, and pay nothing to our government or to the musicians whose jobs they are stealing, there is something radically wrong with the system. Americans protect their artists...time we did the same. Speak up.

We have office space for rent. Our tenant, the CCPA, moved out and we have a large, private office space available at a very reasonable rate. Call the office: 306-352-1337

Check out and support our members:

Jack Semple	Regina Symphony
Rah Rah	True Jive Pluckers
Touchwood Studios	Donny Parenteau
Eli Barsi	The Dead South
Western Senators	Jeffery Straker
Tex Pistols	Bob Evans
The Pelletiers	Brian Sklar
South Saskatchewan Youth Orchestra	
The Dead South	JJ Voss
Flood the Stone	Jess Moskaluke
The Daae Family	Whiteboy Slim
Library Voices	Colter Wall

If you are an RMA member and there is no link to your site here...please let us know and we will add it for future editions.

Member Matters

Fall 2015

Leaving Money on the Table?

Let's Talk Special Payments...Pension...

We are getting the word out about the Special Payments Fund and some of our members are taking advantage of this opportunity to supplement their playing and recording income. It is a pool of money, which labels contribute to, and which is distributed among musicians who play on recordings done on AFM contracts.

Several of our RMA members received their first cheques in August of this year and are now committed to doing all future recordings according to the AFM agreement. It's quite a rush to get a cheque in the mail around the first week of August...and those of us already benefitting from the fund are busy spreading the word among our musician friends. This is just one more reason to be a member of the AFM/CFM.

There are still many of our members leaving money on the table, when with just a little effort and a little bit of paperwork, they could be claiming this windfall. As one who joined in my teens and who didn't read the information, or make any effort to explore many of the paybacks available with my union membership, I am trying to make sure that I make as much information available as possible so that those coming into the fold don't make the same mistake. And no matter what your age, the Special Payments Fund can benefit you, big time.

Bottom line is, I have roughly the same amount of money in my Musicians Pension Fund as I have in my Saskatchewan Pension Fund and the payback is over ten times as much from our union fund. It is the best managed, most lucrative fund I have found anywhere and I want all of our members to take a look and invest in their future.

There is some paperwork involved, but it is fairly simple and we are here to help get you started. Contact the office for more information, come in and have a coffee and take a few minutes to get the details. You will be glad you did.

If you know of any potential new members or members who have been gone for a while and want to reconnect, please spread the word to do it through our office. The online option costs an additional 6% and if more than one band member join together the online option doesn't allow for waiving of the initiation fees...a saving of \$95 per member...

**Have you changed address...
phone number...
have a new visa/mc number?**

We do our best to keep up with any changes in the status of our members. But in order to do that, we need members to communicate with us when changes are made.

If your dues are in arrears and we e-mail a reminder to you, only to have the e-mail bounce back, you may end up on the suspended or expelled list, and your pension and other benefits may be in jeopardy.

We know that everyone has busy lives, but please try to keep us in the loop. We are here to work for you and with only one person in the office, it is pretty difficult to keep abreast of day-to-day changes if we are not made aware by the people making those changes.

Many members are now on auto-pay...we run your card and you get an immediate e-mail receipt, then get your paper receipt and card by mail...but your card has to be current in order to do the processing.

Thanks for your cooperation in this matter.