

Provincial Honour Groups

February 3, 2010

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of Saskatchewan Music Educators Association and the Honour Group Committee, I invite you to encourage students to participate in the 2010 Provincial Honour Band, Choir and Orchestra projects. It is my pleasure this year to welcome Clinton Marshall and Scott Leithead as the band and choir directors. Under their direction, we are certain that participation in the 2010 Honour Groups will be a memorable and rewarding experience for everyone involved.

SMEA has a mission; and that is to promote the development of high standards of music and music education. The honour group committee's commitment towards musical excellence supports this goal. With your assistance, we offer an opportunity to expand the musical horizons of the province's young musicians. You play a very important part in the enjoyment and positive experience available to your students. All students who will be in grades 9-12 in the fall of 2010 are eligible to audition. Specific details concerning SmartMusic registration and audition procedures are available within this edition of Notz. You will also receive details for this special project by way of email. We encourage you to share this information with your students.

I would like to acknowledge Nick Fanner and Tracy Oddan for their time and commitment to this valuable project. Graeme Steen's (HGRegistrar) expertise is greatly appreciated as he shares past history and vision for the future. Our committee's aim is to provide an outstanding music experience that will enhance and support your program.

Thank-you for your continued support of these musical endeavours. Keep in mind that your feedback, questions, concerns, and ideas are very important to us. I wish everyone the best of success with upcoming festivals, tours and performances.

Sincerely,
Lenora Bells





Provincial Honour Groups 2010

To all BAND DIRECTORS,
CHOIR DIRECTORS &
PRIVATE MUSIC TEACHERS,

Greetings!

I would like to thank everyone who supported the 2009 Provincial Honour Groups by encouraging students to audition. We are confident that the fun and learning of those fantastic ensembles will continue with the 2010 Saskatchewan Honour Groups. With your participation 2010 will be a very memorable and rewarding experience for all involved. We are pleased to announce the 2010 Honour Band will be under the direction of **Clinton Marshall** and the 2010 Honour Choir will be under the direction of **Scott Leithead**. Please see the attached sheets of biographies of each.

We are hoping to make the 2010 process of auditions easier by providing SmartMusic technology, free of charge, to all students interested in auditioning. SmartMusic will allow an auditionee to practice and record his/her Honour Group audition on MP3 and email it. To provide this technology to students we are asking directors to register all students interested in auditioning by completing the attached form listed **SmartMusic REGISTRATION FORM** and submit it by March 1. Please note completion of this form is NOT AN AUDITION. Each of the students registered by March 1 will receive a SmartMusic subscription to record their audition. Those students then need to submit an audition by April. 15. If the applicant's audition is successful and he/she is named part of the group, he/she will be able to practice, with accompaniment, most (if not all) of the pieces chosen by the conductor for performance, using the SmartMusic technology.

A SmartMusic subscription is not the *only* method of audition. Any student/parent or private teacher can send in an audition on cassette, CD, or MP3 by the audition deadline of April 15. Students can audition for both choir and band, but have to choose which one they would like to be in should they be successful in both ensembles. Successful auditionee's will then be connected to SmartMusic to enable them to rehearse, with accompaniment, the pieces chosen by the conductor for performance. Please find all audition forms and info attached.

If you have students that do not have internet access to use SmartMusic please list the band/choir director's email on the **SmartMusic REGISTRATION FORM**. Directors will be provided with a free SmartMusic subscription on their school computer for those students to use to record their audition. If this is not an option and there is no way a student will have computer access, students will audition by cassette, CD, or MP3 and successful auditionee's will receive copies of the pieces chosen by the conductor for performance through the mail.

Please contact Graeme Steen (HG Registrar: SMEAHonour@sasktel.net) with any questions or concerns you may have about this new process of registration.

We look forward to hearing the Honour Groups and watching Clinton Marshall and Scott Leithead work with the ensembles in the fall.

With warm regards
Lenora Bells
SMEAHG10 Chairperson



Celebrating 53 Years of Excellence in Ensemble

SMEA Provincial Honour Group Conductors for 2010



Clinton Marshall

Clinton Marshall is active as a clinician, adjudicator, and guest conductor. He has made frequent visits to conferences and teacher training sessions. Last school year, he presented professional growth sessions to music teachers in Regina, Saskatchewan and at the Tempo Music Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba. His mixture of humor and practical suggestions has served to inform and support the efforts of music teachers across the United States and Canada. Mr. Marshall has directed numerous regional honor bands, including the Maryland All State Band and the Mid-East Festival Honor Band at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. For nineteen years, he conducted the concert band at the Maryland Center for the Arts, a program for Maryland's gifted and talented students. This past summer, he served as the guest conductor for the High School Youth Band and Wind Ensemble at the International Music Camp at the Peace Gardens. Clinton Marshall is the former Coordinator of Music for the Baltimore County Public School System. In this capacity, he supervised the instrumental and vocal music programs in over 160 schools.

The goal of the Provincial Honour Groups Project is to foster even higher standards of artistic achievement, and musical development among young musicians.

It is designed to provide an opportunity for young players from ALL communities in the province to work in concert with their peers in this unique and affordable manner. 2010 is the 37th consecutive year of the program. The SMC concludes with a final concert of the 2010 groups (in Saskatoon this year).

Make sure to check the Honour Groups website for active materials for 2010.



Scott Leithead



Mr. Leithead is the founder and artistic director of Edmonton's Kokopelli Choir Association and the T.I.M.E. Vocal Jazz Association. His choirs have traveled to Africa, Asia and Europe and have participated in such renowned choral events as Podium, the Association of Canadian Choral Conductors Conference; the International Society of Music Educators Conference; the International Association of Jazz Education Conference; the American Choral Directors Association Conference; Festival 500; and the Stratford Music Festival.

Scott has passion for music from southern Africa and he has been hired to work with choirs in South Africa and Namibia on numerous occasions. Scott is currently on sabbatical leave for a year and traveling throughout southern Africa.

He has been invited to direct honour concert and jazz choirs in 6 provinces and 1 state as well as the National Youth Choir of St. Lucia. In addition, he was a guest presenter at the 2005 Festival 500 International Choral Festival in St. John's Newfoundland and he was resident guest conductor of the 2006 Juvenata! Festival of Choirs in Nova Scotia. Scott is the Chairman of Choral Music for the Canadian Rocky Mountain Music Festival.

Scott is the recipient of the Syncrude Award for Innovative Artistic Direction at the Edmonton Mayor's Awards for Business and the Arts. He is also the recipient of the Con Spirito Award presented by the Alberta Choral Federation.

musiceducationonline.org/smea/honour.html

SmartMusic meets the Provincial Honour Groups in 2010. Welcome to the future.

The Honour Groups Program for 2010 is offering a preseason incentive to register top band and choir students for a free SmartMusic Student subscription should they be able to use it (do they have a computer? are the students/families using email? etc).

We are “enabling” a larger “audition pool” for Honour groups with SmartMusic where we can, because there is much promise in the system, and for most teachers, time spent supporting extra practice for auditions should be lessened. So for most it’s a time-saver.

There are several very concise videos on SmartMusic which answer lots of common questions about it. We suggest you watch them to see the many features of the system.

START-UP VIDEOS:

<http://www.smartmusic.com/Support/QuickStart.aspx>

Students will be able to experiment with SmartMusic features and libraries to practice lots of different material. Multi student families need only one subscription. Since recording an MP3 audition is a requirement of the Honour Groups Project... (although we can still accommodate cassettes and CD’s), SmartMusic empowerment should allow most of the registered audition pool to respond. Recording and auditioning/emailing features are built in to SmartMusic so it’s easy for the student/teacher.

Teachers and Directors should be quite liberal with their SmartMusic registrations and consider signing up all students who have emerging and evident skills in grades 9, 10, and 11 (in this school year).

Do not register grade 12 students (this year’s grade) because they will graduate before November 2010.

We are hoping to reach approximately twice as many students as the Program has ever dealt with in years, and with less paperwork for teachers.

With students and teachers more “online” than before, many forms can be simplified and redundancy of form filling reduced.

SMEA regrets that some signatures are required from parents and

teacher so we have some forms to be mailed. Students will be guided in how and when to do so. Teachers should be very excited about the future possibilities of a SmartMusic enabled Provincial Honour Group program.

Here’s a review

SmartMusic 2010 Review:

SmartMusic has come a long way since its humble (and occasionally buggy) beginnings so many years ago. The newest version of SmartMusic Studio (**SmartMusic 2010**) is an exponential leap forward in convenience, not just from the early versions, but even from the more recent version 10.2. MakeMusic has finally taken many of the requests of teachers and fixed most of the major annoyances that once made SmartMusic a labor of love to use. SmartMusic 2010 is far more user friendly and some of the improvements they have made to the user interface are game changers in terms of convenience and ease of use for classroom based music teachers.

The Best New Features of SmartMusic 2010

The first thing a user of previous SmartMusic versions will notice is the improved SmartMusic 2010 user interface. When starting SmartMusic the user is taken to a search menu where you can select from various types of music or simply type in the title or composer of the song you are looking for. Instead of the search being done locally, the new version of SmartMusic does its search over the Internet, communicating directly with the SmartMusic servers so that as soon as new music is added it will be available for a subscriber to use. When a title is selected the user can read notes on the composer or on the composition before they begin the download. Downloading songs such as concert band arrangements is vastly improved in SmartMusic 2010, as a user can choose to open a single part or have the system download the entire selection (with all of the various instrumental parts) in the background. One click gets the entire set of instruments rather than having to select each one individually.

Also a great improvement in this area is the downloading of method books themselves. Most of the time downloads are conducted in the background, but say for example you want to open a new lesson book to try a few lines. In the past you had to wait for the entire book to download before you could use any of it. Now you are able to open a lesson book and begin

playing almost immediately. The book downloads the needed files chronologically, so you can play line 1 while line 2-200 is downloading in the background. Downloading files in general also seems to be vastly improved in terms of speed and reliability.

The only down sides to these new improvements is the fact that 2010 now essentially requires an always on Internet connection, even on computers that are kept in practice rooms. While this is more and more common, older buildings still have problems running wires or doing Wi-Fi access to allow these SmartMusic machines to connect to the server. The improvements however greatly outweigh the inconvenience of having to find a way to get dedicated Internet access to the individual student workstations.

Improved Playlists and Tools

Also greatly improved in SmartMusic 2010 is the playlist feature. Creating multiple playlists of songs or even individual lines from lesson books is made very easy. Click the plus sign to add a new list, then right click any song in the library to add it to that list. Other nice features include a built in recording device inside the metronome window to allow a student to record their practice even when not using an actual SmartMusic song. The Recently Played tab in the interface brings up a complete listing of everything you have played over the last several sessions, and even includes individual line numbers from lesson books making it easy to hop around from song to song without having to do searches or navigate the menus.

SmartMusic Grade Book Improvements

For those that use SmartMusic to give assignments the entry of new assignments into the grade book is greatly simplified, and they have removed the need for a teacher to confirm a student's enrollment before they can access their assignments. One thing that still is lacking that I do wish they would add is a way for students without email addresses to use the system, or for teachers to set up a class roster to have the students take their playing tests at school without having to sign up for an account at all.

SmartMusic registration of students should be based upon their musical skills, and brings with it a certain amount of expectation that participation in HG2010 would be attempted, starting with the audition (which needs to be in by April 15th).

As a guideline, teachers promoting honour groups to students register as many top students as would find themselves able to participate and otherwise available for November 4-6, 2010 and who have a computer at home (almost all HG students last year were online), or the Director has a band-room computer.

A limited number of free student subscriptions is available

at present. The registration list may be prioritized based on date received, student age, etc. All auditions are done by a double jury. Students who have made an audition attempt but fail to place, can retain SmartMusic for the rest of the 2009/2010 school year. If still eligible they can audition for 2011 program using the same subscription.

SMEA level of support:

The Honour Groups Program does not support computers that cannot meet the SmartMusic suggested platform. Most newer computers *can surf the web, view video and record sound* (with a mic). Newer operating systems and newer computers always have an advantage.

Computers that can operate SmartMusic 2010 are:

Windows® XP

Pentium® 4 or Athlon® 64 class processor or higher*

512 MB RAM

DirectX® 9 or later compatible sound card

Windows Vista®

Pentium® 4 or Athlon® 64 class processor or higher*

1 GB RAM

Windows Vista 32-bit edition (64-bit compatible)

Windows® Experience Index Processor Subscore of 4.5 or higher

DirectX® 10 or later compatible sound card**

Macintosh® OS 10.4 (Tiger)

867 MHz G4 processor or higher PPC or Mac-Intel*

512 MB RAM

Minimum OS 10.4.11

Macintosh® OS 10.5 (Leopard)

2 GHz Intel Core Duo processor or higher*

1 GB RAM

All Systems (Windows XP/Vista, Mac OS 10.4 or 10.5)

Internet access required for full usability.

1GB available disk space

CD or DVD-ROM drive

Microphone

Headphones or speakers

Minimum monitor resolution of 1024x768

One available USB port for the optional foot pedal

* Band, voice, and orchestral audio accompaniments may require a faster processor. Other PCs running Windows XP (including those with Intel® Celeron or AMD® Athlon processors) and other Macintosh computers may work depending on software and hardware configurations.

** DirectX 10 can be downloaded from <http://www.microsoft.com/directx>

As a test, students who can surf the web and watch video/play MP3's etc would normally have no trouble.

choose one option below as most appropriate for the student...

Student is online at home? watching you-tube? downloading MP3's

If so these students are most likely to have the least technical problems. SmartMusic2010 has seen many many installations, so it's easy for students to do.

Music Room: This Student (and others) could have SmartMusic access in music room?

In cases where the director chooses, the student subscription might be best used in the practice room, where a student subscription could be a portal to Honour Groups Repertoire support in 2010. A portal also provides easy email and MP3's for auditions for students until April 15th.

Student/Family has no computer? nor any music room access?

These cases where there is no personal or school computer should still be brought to our attention, because there are some repertoire supports that can still be done on CD just with a disc player such as repertoire recordings. They can send their audition on cassette or CD.

*Technical support for SmartMusic is not directly provided by SMEA, support for SmartMusic is provided by MakeMusic and SmartMusic assets and staff.

** Visit Makemusic.com to an overview of SmartMusic.

***Subscriptions will last at the discretion of SMEA Honour Groups

****Paid subscriptions that are not being used can and will be reallocated.

*****Students may have to purchase an appropriate microphone for home use.



2010 PROVINCIAL HONOUR GROUPS

SMARTMUSIC REGISTRATION FORM

DIRECTORS and PRIVATE teachers can register students performing at top levels before March 1st and receive a SmartMusic "student" subscription for every registered student chosen from your list - see below. Pre-registered students will audition (using SmartMusic) by the deadline as before. *Teachers may find a practice room more feasible for their smartmusic "student" (first time) subscription and can indicate that choice.* Top performing students with *no* computer facilities available should be registered too. If successful, they will receive repertoire practice support elements on CD (SmartMusic is a distinct advantage. Auditions still accepted on CD for 2010 too, for students with no digital recording access.)

Student Name _____ Male Female Age

Student Mailing address _____

City/Town _____ Postal Code _____

Home Telephone _____ Grade (Sept 2010) _____

Student/email _____

Honour Groups now uses email for most communications with participants and Parents. It is very important to have a FAMILY email because of confidentiality measures.

FAMILY PARENT email _____

 **Important in 2010!**

print clearly

Parent/Guardian name _____

Student is online, can be connected to SmartMusic (Students/family email info is very important)

Student is only online in music room, (Director 's email is important in these cases)

Student is offline (mail address and phone are important)

Excellent backgrounder videos on SmartMusic can be found
<http://www.smartmusic.com/Support/QuickStart.aspx>

INSTRUMENT:

VOICE: soprano alto baritone bass

yrs playing in bands:

yrs singing in choir:

YOU MAY REGISTER THIS STUDENT FOR BOTH CHOIR AND BAND.

Teacher Information Required: (The following info **must be completed** in full at least once)

Teacher's Name: _____ School Name: _____

Teacher's Signature.....Teachers email:.....

 Important in 2010! print clearly

SmartMusic registration deadline is March 1st. Students are required to audition by April 15th, 2010.

Students receive a **student subscription to SmartMusic** if chosen in this SmartMusic registration list. Top band students and top choir students are expected to be the sample base for Honour Groups 2010. Audition phases for Honour Groups will follow approximately the same format as previous years. Subscriptions are limited. Students who happen to find themselves *not registered by March 1* can **still audition by sending in the usual form, fee and MP3 by the deadline**. Registered students and students linked through an adequately equipped band room computer, can use *SmartMusic* to help record and submit their audition(s). Students who do not pass the audition, can keep the SmartMusic subscription for the balance of this school year. Students registered should be prepared to audition and follow through with subsequent participation in the scheduled program Nov 4-6, 2010. An audition fee of \$10 does apply, and parent awareness needs to be indicated. (Independent of SMEA) Billets for SMEAHG 2010 may be available on a limited basis at a future date. Thankyou for this key information about your most talented students in 2009/2010. A mailgroup for teachers will be used this year. Please make sure we can contact you. Include contact info once per batch if sending multiple recommendations.

Mail to: SMEA Provincial Honour Groups 2010, c/o SMEA Registrar, 815 7th Street East, Saskatoon SK S7H 0Y3

Photocopy as needed.

2010 PROVINCIAL HONOUR GROUPS

CHOIR/BAND AUDITION APPLICATION DEADLINE APRIL 15th 2010

Audition requirements are stipulated and supported on our website. For your convenience, audition requirements are included on the following page of this publication or on the website.

Students on orchestral stringed instruments who wish to audition for the 2010 SOA

Saskatchewan Honour Orchestra should request audition information and material from www.saskorchestras.com.

Student Name _____ Male Female Age

Student Mailing address _____

City/Town _____ Postal Code _____

Home Telephone _____ Grade (Sept2010) _____

Student/family email _____  Important in 2010!

Parent/Guardian name _____  Important in 2010!

Audition for: [] Band \$10 [] Choir \$10

Please ensure that **payment is attached to this application** for EACH MP3/TAPE/CD submitted. Submit a separate form, tape/CD (if not MP3) and cheque with **each** application, (or within 24hours of Email submission). **DO NOT SEND CASH**, send Cheques: "SMEA Honour Groups", Box 519 Cudworth SK S0K 1B0. MP3 auditions should be sent to SMEAHonour@sasktel.net. Email auditions still need this form authorized and complete. Email auditions should include the student's name and instrument in the body of the email as well as the MP3 attachment.

INSTRUMENT: _____ VOICE: [] soprano [] alto [] baritone [] bass

yrs playing in bands: [] yrs singing in choir: []

YOU MAY APPLY FOR BOTH CHOIR AND BAND. HOWEVER APPLICANTS CAN PERFORM IN **ONLY ONE GROUP**. THEREFORE PLEASE INDICATE YOUR FIRST CHOICE IF YOU ARE SUCCESSFUL ON MULTIPLE AUDITIONS: [] Band [] Choir

Teacher Info Required: (The following information **must be completed** in full for at least once per year)

Teacher's Name: _____ SchoolName: _____

Teacher's Signature _____

Recommend for financial assistance. Applies to \$150 participation fee only. \$10 Audition fee applies to all students and MUST be included. No CASH in mail please. You will be contacted by the HG Chairperson regarding this recommendation.

*In accordance with the Federal government's **Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act**, the Saskatchewan Music Educators Association respects the rights of an individual to the protection of their personal information.*

The information requested on the application form for the SMEA Honour Groups is required to register for the Honour Groups. The information will be used by SMEA to communicate directly with the applicant with respect to the Honour Group Program. Applicant's names and addresses may be shared with the Department of Music at the University of Saskatchewan, University of Regina, University of Brandon and the International Music Camp. This is for distribution of institutional information from these music organizations. Collected information will be kept at SMEA for a period of only eighteen months.

I give consent to the SMEA to share my name and address with the Department of Music at the Universities of Saskatchewan, Regina, and Brandon and with the International Music Camp for the express purpose of the distribution of institutional information from these organizations.

GUARDIAN/PARENT Signature Date

Student Signature

Photocopy as needed.