

January 28th, 2010 Message from the Chair

Greetings from the Sunshine Coast Festival of the Performing Arts!
Mark your calendars –

Festival 2010 is April 19 to May 07
The Highlights Concert is May 16

Monday, February 01 is the entry deadline for Festival 2010.

Festival 2010 information, including the new Syllabus, registration and SCFPA Society memberships forms are posted in a format for easy downloading and printing on the website at www.coastfestival.com. Syllabus 2010 is available at Festival distribution outlets: Sew Much More! (Upper Gibsons), MeloMANIA (Roberts Creek); Talewind Books (Sechelt), Miss Sunny's Hair Boutique (Madeira Park). Session schedules for each discipline will be posted on the website and distributed to by email to teachers, studios and performers. The complete Festival 2010 Program will be available in outlets by early April.

Please contact the respective Discipline Chair by email with any questions about Festival 2010 entries: **(replace the 'at' with the @ sign)**

Piano Anne Bourns wjsa@dccom

Strings Kathleen Hovey khovey@telus.net

Folk Instrumental Serena Eades serenaeades@hotmail.com

Percussion Woodwinds Brass TBA

Electronic & Acoustic Luci Herder luci1@telus.net

Vocal Shelley Dillon d.dillon@dccnet.com

Choral Joy McLeod dacapo@pacificcoast.net

Dance Tara MacLeod tmacleod@dccnet.com

Talented Coast performers welcome enthusiastic audiences at all events. Bring your friends and family along to enjoy the weekday sessions and Sunday afternoon concerts. Admission to all Festival 2010 events is by donation. Performance sessions in this annual celebration of music and dance will take place in various Coast locations weekdays Monday, April 19 to Friday, May 07.

The provisional schedule on the website will be finalized after entries are processed.

Exceptional Festival 2010 performances will be showcased in two Sunday afternoon concerts:

Piano Encore Concert 2:00 pm Sunday, April 25 at the Sunshine Coast Arts Centre

Festival Highlights Concert is 2:00 pm Sunday, May 16 at Raven's Cry Theatre.

The longest running Festival on the Coast, the original Music Festival was established in 1973 to provide local students and amateur musicians with guidance from experienced professional adjudicators, following the successful Kiwanis Festival model. Festival now includes dance sessions as well as seven music disciplines. There are now categories for Adults (19 and over) as well as Youth; most awards are designated for performers 18 years of age and under.

A non-profit organization with charitable status, the SCFPA Society encourages community supporters to become members each year. At the November 2009 Annual General Meeting, Society members welcomed members who were continuing on the 2009-2010 Board of Directors under the leadership of President Norma Mercer. Since the meeting we have completed the Board with the addition of Peggy Malcolm who will lead the fund raising and Jan Adaskin as Vice President.

SCFPA Society relies on membership fees, as well as contributions from individuals, local businesses and organizations to fund this volunteer-run annual Festival. All donations are gratefully received, charitable tax receipts are provided.

Festival 2009 involved three weeks of festivities and over 900 Coast performers. The awards program encourages ongoing development of promising performers. Last year outstanding individuals and groups received over \$6,000 in cash awards and scholarships. Festival awards have assisted many talented young performers to pursue post-secondary education.

This year, we will be reporting items of interest from the Board Meetings and continue to keep you apprised of news regarding the festival.

If there are any questions concerning the above message, please contact Norma Mercer at either nmercera@dccnet.com or 604 740 9838.