

THE ENCORE

The Saskatoon Musicians' Association Newsletter  NOV. / DEC. 2014



Leslie Stanwyck, lead singer for Tucker Lane, debuted several songs from their upcoming release. Tucker Lane was one of seven Local 553 musical groups and artists featured at the 100th Anniversary Gala.

"Coming from someone like myself who has done many of those kinds of shows, it was a very well produced event. What I mean by that is, it had someone thinking about actually producing the event so that it went smoothly. Everyone knew where they had to be, and therefore the show stayed on time...Congratulations on the accomplishment," said Hodges, who has operated Crosstown Entertainment in Saskatoon for more than 35 years.

Hodges caught the music bug early. While still in high school in 1964 he began working for Witness Inc. (Kenny Shields) as a roadie. From there he went on to handle booking

(Continued on page 3)

The Saskatoon Musicians' Association's 100th Anniversary Gala turned out to be what will be considered in years to come, a watershed event in the history of Local 553.

positive reaction received by the audience, cast, and crew, the Oct. 23 Gala was a huge hit. Local 553 received kudos from Jim Hodges, a notable longtime music promoter from Saskatoon.

Judging from the overwhelmingly

"It was a very well produced event... Congratulations on the accomplishment." — Jim Hodges / Pres. Crosstown Entertainment

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Regular Rates
25% OFF
for LOCAL 553 MEMBERS

609 1ST AVE. N.



* must present valid Local 553 member card

Relax with friends over a meal, some refreshments and a great game!

LOCAL 553 Annual General Meeting

Sunday, January 25, - 1 p.m.
Great Western Brewery - Hospitality room
519 2nd Ave. North, Saskatoon

Topics to be Discussed:

- Minor changes to Pricelist
- Membership Retention Initiative
- Local 553 Referral Service



BE THERE!

*Refreshments & Pizza
to be served after
the meeting.*

For more information call 306-477-2506



The Encore is the official newsletter of the Saskatoon Musicians' Association. The SMA was established as a chartered member of the American Federation of Musicians in October 1910.

Saskatoon Musicians' Association

Chartered 1910

Tel. 306-477-2506

Email: afm553@sasktel.net

Office Hours: Mon. - Fri. 9 am -1 pm

Regular Member Annual Dues - \$145

Life Members Annual Dues - \$92.50

Semi-annual dues - \$77.50

President: Ross Nykiforuk

Vice President: Skip Kutz

Sgt.-at-Arms: Mike Sheridan

Executive Board: John Antoniuk, Simon Fanner

Secretary/Treasurer: Warren Rutherford



Pay Increase Secured for 2015 Jazz Festival Season

Executive board members President Ross Nykiforuk and Vice President Skip Kutz met with Jazz Festival Director Kevin Tobin on November 20, to discuss the new and improved scale for the upcoming year.

Local 553 members will be happy to know that the executive board were able to secure an increase in musical service fees of 6.025% for member musicians playing next year's Jazz festival.

The agreement calls for all Active Saskatoon Musicians' Association and Regina Musicians' Association members to receive a minimum payment as follows:

Leader - \$180.00 per engagement (max.2 hr. call)

Side person - \$125.00 per engagement (max.2 hour call)

* Note: You have to be a member in good standing to receive the *preferred rate* paid to AFM/CFM members. It is the band leader's responsibility to make sure ALL the band members dues are in good standing, or NONE of the band will be paid at the preferred rate. The deadline to apply for next year's festival is midnight January 5, 2015. Forward your completed applications to Kevin Tobin, Artistic Director/ Saskatchewan Jazz Festival #701-601 Spadina Cres.E., Saskatoon, SK S7K 3G8 or email kevin@saskjazz.com .

Jazz Festival Facts & Figures in 2014:

- Of the 83 Free Stage Shows, 53 were performed by AFM/CFM (Local 553) member or member orchestras.
- Of the \$43,000 paid to musicians performing at free stage events, AFM/CFM (Local 553) members received 69%.
- Of the 94 local shows programmed in 2014, 61 involved AFM/CFM (Local 553) member bands.
- Of the \$17,500 paid to bands playing ticket Jazz Festival events, 91% was paid to AFM/CFM (Local 553) members.

The Local 553 Executive board would like to welcome a new board member to their ranks. Mr. Lloyd Tomczak, a long-time member of the Local was appointed for a one-year term during the December 23 board meeting. Welcome aboard Lloyd!

COVER STORY continued



**"I think that all the folks at the Gala will want to come back next year."
— Jim Hodges**

(100th Anniversary Gala continued)
the entertainment for *the Red Lion*, the *Esquire Club* and *Foxy's*. During his lifetime in the business Hodges has produced shows including legendary blues artist *Muddy Waters*, *Colin James* and *Amos Garrett*. In his time he helped develop what has grown in Saskatchewan's marquee music festival—the Sasktel Jazz Festival. He was a driving force in

the establishment of the Sundog Arts Faire, and the Broadway Street Faire, just to name a few other of his musical endeavors.

This year's Gala, the event was special for a number of reasons. The variety of musical styles showcased, and virtuosity of musicianship seen on the stage was simply unmatched in musical variety shows produced in Saskatoon in recent memory. For those unable to attend, the 100th Anniversary Gala even contained a few surprises for the audience to enjoy.

Along with the seven musical acts as advertised on the playbill, there were some impromptu duets between the performers of the different groups.

Northern Pikes bassist Jay Semko, performing as

(Continued on page 4)

Local 553 Member NEWS

Krause readies new season of Timberline



Local 553's own **Larry Krause** will be back in the TV studios come January for a new season of the *Timberline Music Show*, seen on Shaw Cable 10. Krause is a longtime fixture in the Saskatchewan

country music and cowboy poetry scene, winning a SCWMA Roots Artist of the Year award in 2012, and the Gospel Album of the Year award in 2007 for "The Gate is Open." The 2015 shows represents the third season done by Krause and his band, Dave Sinclair (bass), **Gary Larson** (guitar). Last season's guests included **Donny Parenteau**, and **Blake Emmons**. Taping for the new season will begin on January 22. According to Krause, the show will maintain its country roots, with some new things to watch for this season.

"I have been able to put together an incredible group of performers, that do themselves, and the show proud."

Former Local 553 Secretary Dies at age 97.

Longtime Local 553 Secretary / Treasurer and popular piano man **Harry Smith** died at age 97 on November 25. Harry was a member of the notable Saskatoon orchestras of Don Keeler and Garnet Burt, and gained notice for his regular Saturday afternoon appearances on CFQC television's *Talent Time*. Among Harry's many career highlights include once accompanying **Bob Hope**.

(More Local 553 News Continued on page 6)

FINDING OUR
PRAIRIE
VOICE

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110 SASKATOON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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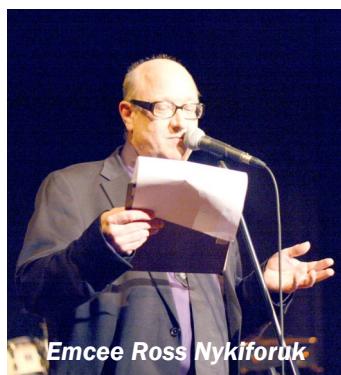


100 YEARS - 15 Music

(GALA continued from page 3)



a solo artist at the Gala, was joined by Leslie Stanwyck for a duet on his song *Only Sometimes*. It was Stanwyck who did the vocal session work on the CD with Semko on the CD, *Flora Vista* (2014) - Semko's latest recording.



The evening's Master of Ceremonies, none other than Local 553 President Ross Nykliforuk, too joined Semko in a duet, playing accordion on a rendition of Semko's emotional cross-border break-up song, *Before you leave Canada*.

Nykiforuk reported that the idea for the Gala was first entertained primarily as a

"I loved emceeing the show. It was a blast!"
— Ross Nykiforuk

fund-raiser for the Local, but as the board considered the possibilities and permutations of producing such an event, the idea of using the Gala as a platform to showcase the talent within the

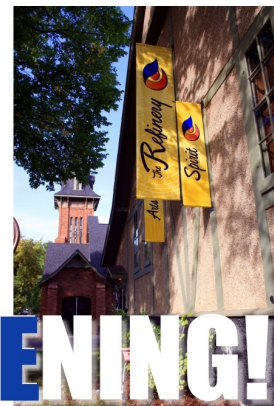
Local 553 membership came to the forefront as one of the driving reasons for the Gala.

Nykiforuk reported, "As a professional musician, the hardest part is getting people to hear your music. This Gala was a great opportunity for our musicians to do just that." The show also saw Nykiforuk read messages sent to Local 553 from notable members from past and present congratulating the Local on the anniversary.

The Sheepdogs, Codie Prevost, and Kenny Shields all sent messages which were read to the concert-goers, as was one very important message from AFM International Vice President from Canada, Alan Willaert.

The Joel Grundahl Trio opened the Gala with a lightning fast, jazz-influenced guitar-valanche that simply floored the local audience. After the trio's performance, event emcee Nykiforuk remarked, "Those songs have more chords than Canadian Tire."





icians - 7 Acts - ONE GREAT EVENING!



Alexis Normand, accompanied by Gent Laird on bass, treated the audience to songs in both official languages.

Bilingual vocal stylist **Alexis Normand** simply charmed the crowd, wooing them with some self-penned folk songs in French. Normand

is also a member of the highly popular vocal quartet, Rosie and the Riveters.

The silky smooth jazz sounds of **Crestwood**, were third up on the 100th Anniversary Gala. The duo sounded like they just arrived from a lounge in Las Vegas, if the year was 1955. The act is comprised of vocalist / jazz guitarist Steven Maier, and Gent Laird on bass.



Steven Maier (left), provided the silky smooth vocals in the Crestwood duo at the Gala. Gent Laird (bass).

Closing the first half was Saskatoon's own version of Victor Borga on the Refinery's Baldwin grand piano. **Jesse Brown**, owner and operator of the **Musicscool** music studio provided some comedy along with a taste of music from his Heartwork CD.



Jesse Brown's brand of comedy was as big a hit at the Gala, as his music.

In the second half of the Gala, Saskatoon Symphony concert master **Michael Swan**, as accompanied by pianist **Gillian Lyons**, reminded the Gala audience what makes the SSO such a fine orchestra. Swan is in his 32nd year as concert master of the SSO.



Concertmaster Michael Swan and Gillian Lyons wowed the Gala audience with their combined virtuosity.

Rounding out the evening was the roots group **Tucker Lane**

(Continued on page 7)

Local 553 Member NEWS

(Member News continued from page 3)



November was a great month in the career of Local 553 member **Karrnel Sawitsky** and his band **The Fretless**. The quartet had one of their songs "Hewlett's" performed on the Carillon (the bells in the Peace Tower of Canada's Parliament buildings) on Nov. 24 and on Nov. 30, the quartet was named the **Ensemble of the Year**

at the **Canadian Folk Music Awards**.

Their song Hewlett's, was from their self-titled album from 2014 which was nominated for Folk Album of the Year.

On Nov. 27 **Codie Prevost** and wife Ashley welcomed eight-pound baby girl Lyriq. It was the couple's first child. During the recent Saskatoon Crisis Nursery charity concert Prevost told the audience he sure had lost to learn about being a new dad. In January Prevost will be off for a one-month 15-date tour of Australia. Unfortunately the band won't be making the trip this time, Prevost said he will be using some musicians from "down under."



Lyn Besse McGuinness entered two songs in the 2014 UK Songwriting contest and had them make it to the semi-finals. Both titles are an international marriage of the arts. One song, *I'll Hang the Moon* was co-written via email with Ronnie Hedderwick, a Scot now living in Spain. Hedderwick composed the music, Besse- McGuinness contributing the lyrics. * * *

Attention LOCAL 553 Members:

SEND US YOUR NEWS & WE'LL ADD IT TO THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE ENCORE



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Email: info@musiciansrights.ca

Phone: 416-510-0279

(Toll Free): 1-855-510-0279



NEW MEMBERS

Close Talker, the indie rock quartet from Saskatoon joined Local 553 in October in advance of their concert tour in the USA.



The band were finalists in CBC's 2014 Searchlight competition for

Canada's Best New Artist. They subsequently received substantial airplay across the nation, with the single, **The West Was Won**, which spent seven weeks in the top 10 of CBC R3's chart.

The band is comprised of: *Will Quiring* (vocals/guitar), *Matt Kopperud* (guitar/vocals), *Jeremy Olson* (vocals/bass), and *Chris Morien* (vocals/drums). The group recently concluded an extensive coast-to-coast tour with back-to-back sell-outs at home at the Capitol Music Club on Dec. 12 and 13. Their latest CD **Flux** is available at their website: www.closetalker.ca or on iTunes.



Eighteen-year-old **Ellen Froese-Kooijenga**, joined the Local 553 in November.

Froese-Kooijenga also writes and performs as a solo artist and with the young folk/bluegrass trio **In with the Old**. The trio

have performed at the Northern Lights Bluegrass Festival and at Ness Creek. This spring they were heard on CBC Saskatoon's Morning show with Leisha Grebinski. Froese-Kooijenga, who hails from the Saskatoon area, entered the recording studio in early December for work on some original material. She will be performing with *In with Old* trio the at the Jazz Bassment on January 2, 2015.



(GALA continued from page 5)

featuring **Leslie Stanwyck** (lead vocals/guitar), **Johnny Sinclair** (bass/vocals), **Brent Carlin** (lead guitar), and **Wayne Pearson** (drums/vocals). The group closed the show with the world premiere of songs from their upcoming yet to be titled CD. Fans may already know Stanwyck and Sinclair as embers of top echelon recording acts **Universal Honey** and **Pursuit of Happiness**. The four-piece band's decades of combined experience really showed in their polished sound.

Gala Factoid

The 100th Anniversary Gala celebration was delayed several years because a series of legal actions leveled

against Local 553 in the 2000s left the bank account nearly drained. An increase in membership of more than 50 in 2014 allowed the 100th Anniversary the Gala to proceed. Local 553 was established in October of 1910.



Feeling Blue
all because you forgot to
RENEW ?

Dues expire on Dec 31 . . .

To avoid Local 553 reinstatement fees

Catch up by March 31, 2015

100TH ANNIVERSARY GALA CAST



Back Row left-to-right: Lloyd Tomczak, Brent Carlin, Wayne Pearson, Gent Laird, Alexis Normand, Johnny Sinclair, Jay Semko, Michael Swan. Front row left to right: Jesse Brown, Joel Grundahl, Leslie Stanwyck, Steven Maier, Ross Nykiforuk, Kyle Krysa

The 100th Anniversary Gala celebration was such a success, that another event will be held in October of 2015.

Watch for updates on the new Local 553 website coming online in the new year.



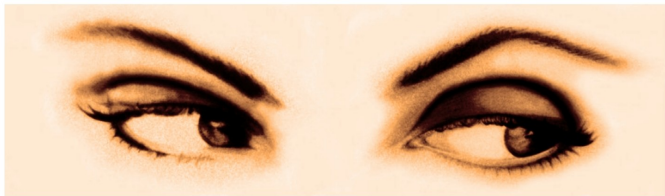
It's Time to FISH or CUT BAIT

Your Local needs more than your dues to operate. We need your support with many of our exciting new initiatives during the upcoming year.

GET INVOLVED!

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