

**Sweetwater Music Festival**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**March 14, 2019**  
**Report of the Education Committee**

The Education committee had a very ambitious year expanding our outreach into the schools and community throughout the year.

**School Workshops and Youth Orchestra support**

Our first initiative brought the excellent, well-respected and versatile violinist, Edwin Huizinga to Owen Sound. In late winter 2018, Edwin performed and assisted with the string program at Alexandra public school on an afternoon and followed by assisting in the evening with the newly-formed Youth Orchestra. The event was well covered by the Sun Times and was very much appreciated by the music teachers and students. We have another school visit planned for March 19, 2019 with Mark Fewer attending Alexandra school and an added clarinet clinician, Jana Starling visiting music classes at OSDSS and both clinicians then assisting the Youth Orchestra in the evening. It is our hope that these visits inspire and motivate the students to appreciate music as a lifelong pursuit.

A new initiative we called **Next Wave** was planned for June, 2018 to offer opportunities for senior music students to perform in public. Although every attempt made to reach university, college and high school music programs, few applications were submitted. After receiving feedback from various teachers and other performers, the committee concluded that the concept and application needed to be postponed and refined. Changes to the application procedure were made this past few months and the committee is hoping to present this event on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at Leith Church.

**Kiwanis Music Festival**

A string bass student from Georgian Bay Secondary School, Quinton ..... was awarded the prize from SWMF during the Kiwanis Music Festival. The private lesson with Joe Philips from Western University occurred this past fall at the school.

## **Sweetwater Music Festival Education Events**

### School Visits

This past year a new venture during the Festival was to offer the string quartet, Quatuor Despax to perform at the French school St. Dominique-Savio. The afternoon was very successful as the musicians conversed only in French and were very entertaining. The students and staff were very impressed with the afternoon and received several tickets to a Festival event. Currently there is no music teacher or program at the school however, Christine McLean from our committee has been working to offer some programming there.

In addition, Joe Phillips attended the string program at GBSS in Meaford for a master class. Patrick Delaney, the music teacher there expressed his gratitude for our involvement since he anticipates music programs being reduced with the construction of a new school in Meaford. We will continue to try to support his program there and school music programs elsewhere.

### Music for Munchkins

A “petting zoo” of instruments was made available for the small children for this Saturday morning session, after which Kati Gleiser presented a fun music program oriented for children. Following comments from last year Kati was asked to try to encourage more involvement and participation from the children and parents during their music session. Attendance continues to build for this event and there is room to develop this further.

### Classical Jam

Mark Fewer programmed Eine Kleine Nachtmusik for this afternoon and a number of local musicians participated. All enjoyed playing the familiar piece. Comments afterwards indicated that the participants appreciated having more Festival professionals sitting in the orchestra with them as has happened in other years and also more feedback from the professionals during the session for learning. Mark did remark that this day

during the Festival was particularly busy with Festival performances thus was limited in the time he or others could give to this session. The suggestions have been noted.

#### Luthier Exhibit

Again various local luthiers attended with various their instruments. The committee has suggested that we offer lunch to these exhibitors this year and insure that announcements of which SWMF performers are playing their instruments and when.

Planning for all aspects of events at this year's SWMF are in development.

#### **Access Music Fair**

This initiative is entirely new to the area and is intended to put those interested in music participation with others offering music programs (choirs, bands, orchestras, or teachers) or instruments. The event is scheduled for April 13<sup>th</sup> at Harmony Centre from 10-2 pm and is free of charge to exhibitors and attendees. We hope to have approximately 20-30 tables and at least 30 exhibitors. Some sponsorship from Long and McQuade is being sought. Paul Eichhorn is preparing media for promotion of the event and it is hoped that it will become an annual event.

The committee is small in numbers and we count on a few volunteers. However, I believe we are making a significant impact on the musical life of this and surrounding communities.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Mersich