

Realize. It starts with you.

The University of Regina's Conservatory of Performing Arts is celebrating 100 years of providing musical instruction and entertainment.

To help mark this milestone, net proceeds from last weekend's President's Gala is going to support the Conservatory. The President's Gala was part of a bigger plan to revitalize the historic College Avenue Campus, which opened in 1911 as Regina College, the forerunner of today's University of Regina.

Just one year later, in 1912, the Conservatory of Music was created. During its century of building musical knowledge, more than 50,000 people have learned to sing and play instruments at the Conservatory. "The Conservatory has produced some outstanding musicians who have gone on to have national and international careers," explains the Head of the Conservatory, Sophie Bouffard.

For example, she mentions Malcolm Lowe, the Concertmaster of the Boston Symphony Orchestra; his brother, Darren Lowe, the Concertmaster of the Quebec Symphony Orchestra; and pianist Catherine Vickers, a professor at the Frankfurt University of Music and Performing Arts in Germany.

"We're one of the University's best links to the community," says Bouffard. And those community connections go back a century. "The Conservatory was instrumental in offering Regina and southern Saskatchewan access to culture and concerts, by bringing in performers from around the world."

The Conservatory provided top-calibre, live musical entertainment in Regina going back to the era before radio. It was so popular that Francis Darke – a Regina businessman, mayor and Member of Parliament – left money in his will for the construction of Darke Hall, which opened in 1929, at a cost of \$124,185. The Conservatory also recruited internationally-renowned instructors so that anyone in Regina – not just students at Regina College – could learn how to play musical instruments or sing.

Although it faced financial difficulties during the 1930s, the Conservatory continued to provide faculty recitals for the community. There was no admission charge; a collection was taken up to help pay for the cost of printing the programs. The average donation was 10 cents, so these recitals became known as the "Dime Concerts".

The Conservatory – the only one in Saskatchewan – has evolved. Created as the Conservatory of Music, it later was known as the Conservatory of Music and Dance. Reflecting its larger role, it's been known as the Conservatory of Performing Arts in recent years.

When one looks at the range of course offerings, as well as the number of instructors and students, today's Conservatory is barely recognizable from 100 years ago.

But what has not changed are the expectations of excellence in instructors and that the Conservatory is one of the strongest links between the University of Regina and the people in the community of Regina.



Sophie Bouffard

WHAT'S HAPPENING

November 8-10
Theatre production

7:30 p.m.

Title: "Fear and Misery of the Third Reich"
Location: Shu-Box Theatre, Riddell Centre, U of R main campus
Cost: Adults \$15, Seniors/Students \$10, U of R Students free with student card

Fear and Misery of the Third Reich is a political, thought-provoking, scary and forceful play. In a series of vignettes, Brecht pens a socially realistic play that looks into the lives of ordinary citizens in pre-World War II Germany. Hitler's popularity is 99% but people are going missing under the cover of night. Brecht's writing is provocative and questions what choices people make in the face of pretense, violence, poverty, fear and tyranny.

For more information, call (306) 585-5562 or email theatre@uregina.ca.

November 21
Public lecture

7:30 p.m.

Title: "Warrior Nation: Rebranding Canada in an Age of Anxiety"
Speaker: Jamie Swift
Location: Research & Innovation Centre Auditorium room 119, U of R main campus

Warrior Nation provides a critical perspective on both Canada's growing effort to portray itself as a militaristic Warrior Nation and its exploitation of history in achieving this end.

Taking examples from the Boer War, the First and Second World Wars, and Canada's UN peacekeeping missions in Africa, co-authors Ian McKay and Jamie Swift consider how Canada's valorization of military history has thrown totemic Canadian ideals of peace, tolerance, and reasoned public debate into question. Replacing these ideals, the authors assert, is a shift in Canadian political culture toward authoritarian leadership and permanent political polarization.

Reserved parking is available in Lot 10 "Z".

For further information, contact Sean Tucker at (306) 337-3244.

November 29
Faculty of Social Work information session

7:00 p.m.

If you're interested in learning more about the Bachelor of Social Work or the Master of Social Work programs offered through the University of Regina, all are welcome to attend an information session.

Location: Education Building, room 191

Parking is available in Lot 6 "Z".

For further information, contact Lois Adams at (306) 585-4118.

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