



Steinbach Arts Council Media Release – Wednesday, July 8, 2020

For Immediate Release

Klassen and Rempel Patrick to start next chapter for SAC

The Steinbach Arts Council is excited to announce the next chapter for the organization. A recent restructuring of the non-profit Arts Centre names David Klassen as the New Director of Programming, and Cindi Rempel Patrick as the New Director of Development. The new organizational structure takes advantage of the strengths of two of Steinbach's most dedicated arts advocates.

Well-known in the City of Steinbach and throughout the province for her passion and commitment to the arts, Cindi Rempel Patrick was a founder, and the Chief Creative Officer, for the Steinbach Cultural Arts Centre since 1996, and Vice President of the Manitoba Arts Council. Her voice for arts advocacy has been recognized for various awards, including a recipient of the 150th Anniversary Commemorative Medal presented by the Senate of Canada for her exceptional contribution to community arts. She will shift into a position that concentrates on nurturing connections within our community and beyond, providing leadership, establishing vision and financial resource development and overseeing events and fundraising projects for the Council.

“We feel privileged to be a part of strong leadership team that can see our organization through the unknowns of this next year. There is tremendous value in a team that possesses both knowledge of the last 25 years and fresh vision for the future and we are each dedicated to focusing on very specific areas that are innovative and integral to the success of SAC”, says Rempel Patrick.

David Klassen comes to the Steinbach Arts Council with 15 years of experience as a University Educator (University of Manitoba) and over two decades of involvement working to create new initiatives at SAC. He is recognized across western Canada for his work as an educator and classical musician, and well known in the region for his versatility in the arts. In addition to his continued work developing the Performing Arts activities at SAC, he will assume a leadership role with staff, oversee operations and arts education programs in all disciplines, and contribute to the overall vision of the organization.

In a time when most businesses have more questions than answers, SAC has confidence that they will continue to offer programming for the public that will fill the needs of many community members. “Just like most organizations, we’ve encountered some difficult circumstances due to the COVID-19 outbreak, but we feel confident that with the combined strengths of our two directors, we can continue offering valuable opportunities for our community, as well as integrity and safety in our programming”, says Klassen.

Normally, The Steinbach Arts Council sees hundreds of members walk through their doors every week. Through the recent months, the Centre has been closed, but both Directors, together with their Board of Directors, look forward to reopening in fall. Klassen and Rempel Patrick agree that SAC is the heartbeat of the region's arts community, and that the revitalized leadership team will ultimately lead the organization to continued success.

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