



April 14, 2020

To ALL registered Participants of the 2020 Sunderland Lions Music Festival

On March 16, 2020, the Sunderland Lions Music Festival Committee made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Music Festival scheduled to begin this week on April 14, 2020. Understandably, this decision was met by much disappointment by our many young participants, their teachers, families and friends as well as the many community volunteers involved with this Festival, as this Festival represents a musical highlight for many each year. This decision was made with the health and safety in mind of all persons involved with the Festival: for the participants, their parents and extended family members, our community's music teachers, our volunteer teams, our adjudicators, our venues and their staff, and all others involved in the running of this Festival.

While we all face uncertain and difficult times during the COVID-19 global pandemic, the question of entry fees was recently brought forward for discussion by the Festival Committee as these fees are considered non-refundable under normal circumstances. Recognizing that the circumstances which lead to the cancellation of the 2020 Festival were anything but normal and despite having heard from many participating families who graciously suggested we not refund their fees, the Sunderland Lions Music Festival Committee has since approved the following decision regarding entry fees paid to date:

*The Sunderland Lions Music Festival will **extend a credit towards the 2021 Sunderland Lions Music Festival, equal to the entry fees paid to date for ALL 2020 Festival piano, voice and instrumental entries. The credit, which will be equal to the original entry fee paid, will then be applied to all participants who register for the 2021 Sunderland Lions Music Festival.** As such, those 2020 Festival participants who choose to register in voice, piano and instrumental solo and/or duet classes for the upcoming 2021 Festival will be eligible for this fee extension as the entry fees from 2020 to 2021 will remain unchanged for these classes. Those participants who are currently in Grade 12 and **will not be participating** in the 2021 Festival, will receive a full refund.*

Preparation is already well underway for the 2021 Festival and so we trust that this decision, which helps mitigate further Festival costs for this year, will meet with your acceptance. Should you however have any questions regarding entry fee refunds/extensions or wish to discuss extenuating circumstances, you are kindly asked to contact Sunderland Lions Music Festival Chair, Dale St. John @ info@sunderlandlionsmusicfestival.ca.

Sincerely,
"The Festival Committee"



<http://www.sunderlandlionsmusicfestival.com>