

The Road to Excellence. By L.J. Roy Wilson and Valerie Verity. Moose Jaw, Sask.: Federation of Canadian Music Festivals, c1999. 197p. ISBN 0-9685979-0-4. \$10.00 (Order from: Penny Joynt, FCMF Executive Director, 3954 Parkdale Road, Saskatoon SK S7H 5A7).

For many who have performed at or helped organize music festivals, *The Road to Excellence* brings to life the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals. The FCMF is somewhat removed from local experience since only provincial finalists compete at its prestigious national festival. The book, however, describes a remarkably adaptable organization, able to assess needs, fill them, and recognize when to move onto new projects.

Originally established to assist in founding and regularizing local and provincial festival organizations, the FCMF later created a national competition that ultimately became its *raison d'être*. The first part of the book, written by Dr. Wilson, is largely narrative, while the second, by Ms. Verity, draws more heavily from minutes, speeches and correspondence. Although the tale is well-documented, chronology is

sometimes unclear and some colourful anecdotes, coyly alluded to, are whisked behind a discreet curtain. Personalities, agendas, and the story of the national festival's sponsorship are examined in detail. Credit is given when richly deserved, but the authors also candidly acknowledge occasional mistakes and even regrettable behaviour by the organization.

Anyone interested in the development of music instruction in Canada, an achievement largely due to the dedication of volunteers such as those of the FCMF, will welcome this book. Unfortunately, typographical and grammatical errors do intrude. The book includes a bibliography

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