

Musician will assist others during workshop

By **JESSI GOWAN**
SWIFT CURRENT

Local songwriters will have the opportunity to participate in a workshop with Canada's most accomplished songwriters, Carrie Catherine (Horachek) on Saturday, Nov. 17 at 1 p.m.

"Carrie is an exceptional singer / songwriter," noted organizer Shann Gowan. "She's one of Canada's best, and is also a university professor who has a great deal of experience working with the English language."

"I feel that my strength as a performer is in songwriting," Horachek said. "My interest lies in the poetry and the story of a song, and that's what I listen to most."

Horachek has been involved with a number of songwriting workshops in the past, working with writers at a variety of levels.

"It's a real journey for me, different every time," she explained. "It keeps me on my toes for sure. Participants who are willing to be more vulnerable definitely make the workshops more rewarding."

Having worked a great deal with children recently,



regularly.

"I usually visualize it as an internal library," she said. "One wing holds my lyrical ideas, which are gleaned from life, literature, reading, and random one-liners that I've picked up. The other wing is full of my musical ideas, ideas that have just come to me that I'm playing around with. I will wander through my library and, depending on my mood,

Horachek is excited to do a workshop with older songwriters, and touch on some deeper topics.

"It's a really different experience," noted Horachek. "Some adults are more guarded, and kids will just throw it all out there. It's interesting working with people of a variety of ages, to see their unique processes."

Horachek noted that by working with others, she is able to learn more about her own process, which she added changes

two of my ideas will match up and result in a marriage. From there, I'll watch the courtship and see if it's going to work out and become a great song."

The workshop is open to songwriters of all levels of songwriting skill, from beginners who have never written a song, to people who are working on songs and trying to make them better.

"We have done several guitar workshops that have done over well, and this is just the next step in providing expertise to the music community in Swift Current, to help them take their craft one step further," explained Gowan. "I believe in the value of original music."

Horachek hopes participants will learn some practical ideas to apply to their own songwriting after participating in the workshop, how they can help themselves through the creative process.

"We are artists, and there are a lot of neuroses that go along with being an artist," she noted. "Sharing is extremely validating and inspiring. I don't see myself teaching so much as collaborating with other songwriters to learn technical skills to apply to our craft. I think a lot of artists feel really inspired after participating in a workshop like this."

The workshop will be held at Art Gallery of Swift Current at 1 p.m. Pre-registration is required, and a fee of \$20 will be taken. To register, phone Shann at 778-2686.