



ATLANTIC FESTIVALS OF MUSIC

Halifax, Nova Scotia

April 29 - May 1, 2026

Mount Saint Vincent University



PRESENTED BY THE

NOVA SCOTIA BAND ASSOCIATION

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

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Welcome to the Festival!

We always strive to create a fun environment for all participants, and to foster as much learning as possible. We hope you enjoy everything the festival has to offer. Do your very best at your ensemble's performance. Listen and support other participating groups. Learn from our world-class adjudicators, and get inspired by our featured performers. Enjoy the music and take home lasting memories!

INDEX

Special Thanks	2	
Remembering Laura Mercer	3	
Adjudicators	5-7	
Adjudication Schedule: Wednesday	8	
Adjudication Schedule: Thursday	8-11	
Adjudication Schedule: Friday	11-15	
Campus Map	12-13	
Featured Performances & Events	16	
Featured Performers	17-20	
Awards	22	
Bursaries	25	

You'll also find performance schedules, detailed adjudicator bios, and much more on the festival website.

atlanticfestivals.com



Special Thanks

Atlantic Festivals of Music is presented by the Nova Scotia Band Association, and would not be possible without the generosity of our Presenting Sponsors and Community Partners.

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We are grateful to these local music organizations contributing instruments and equipment for our stages and clinic rooms.

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Halifax West High School

Halifax Regional Arts

Long & McQuade

Ron Mackay Memorial
Youth Band Society

Sackville Community Band

Second Chances Band

Remembering Laura Mercer

It is with sorrow in our hearts that we pause to remember and honour **Laura Mercer**, a cherished and longtime member of the Nova Scotia Band Association whose presence touched so many lives.



Laura was a constant force woven into the fabric of our musical community. Her dedication spanned years as a school band director, founder and conductor of Second Wind Community Band, a tireless volunteer and a host to everyone. To many of us in the band association she was a mentor, friend, and a champion for living a life filled with music.

She gave her time generously, her encouragement freely, and her kindness without condition. Her positivity was unwavering; it shined through the music, the people, and the shared moments.

Many of us will remember Laura not just for her commitment, but for the warmth she carried into every rehearsal, every performance, and every conversation. She had a way of making others feel seen and valued. Her legacy lives on in the friendships she nurtured, the musicians she inspired, and the community she helped build.

Though we mourn her loss deeply, we are equally grateful for everything she shared. The NSBA community sends our sincere condolences to Laura's family and friends.

Rest peacefully, Laura. You will be profoundly missed, but never forgotten.

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Adjudicators

Concert Band/Orchestral/Chamber Ensemble

Nathan Beeler



Nathan holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in Music Education from Boston University. He is a highly sought-after clinician, guest conductor, and presenter. Currently, he is the vice principal

of Halifax Regional Arts, one of Canada's largest publicly funded arts programs.

Krista Bryson



Krista is a PhD student in Educational Studies at UPEI and longtime Music Director at Three Oaks Senior High School. She holds a Master of Music in Percussion Performance

from the Univ. of Minnesota and a Bachelor of Music Education from UPEI.

Jason Caslor



Jason is currently an associate professor of music and director of bands at Arizona State University. A Conn-Selmer Educational Clinician, he has guest conducted or

adjudicated in every province in Canada and throughout the United States.

Greg Edwards



Greg spent more than three decades as a music educator, including 25 years, as at Winnipeg's Westwood Collegiate, earning accolades such as the Don Greene Award for

best band program, and the 2007 Xerox Jazz Educator of the Year award.

Gary Ewer



Gary is a trumpeter, composer, arranger, conductor and clinician. He conducts Symphony Nova Scotia's Link Up concerts for children, and is a Senior Instructor of Music at Dalhousie

University, teaching aural skills, music theory, orchestration and choral techniques.

Denise Grant



Denise holds a Ph.D. (conducting and music education) from the University of Minnesota, and founded the Univ. of Toronto and Univ. of Regina conducting symposiums. She

served as co-founding editor of the Canadian Band Association journal.



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Adjudicators

Instrumental Jazz

Jake Hanlon



Jake is an Associate Professor and Chair of Music at Saint Francis Xavier University. He's released four albums as a leader and shared stages with many of Canada's most notable

jazz artists. He has performed extensively around the world, and is a multi-time ECMA nominated artist.

Brad Reid



A saxophonist and multi-instrumentalist, Brad studied music at St. FX University, and has worked on numerous Neptune Theatre productions playing woodwinds and

more. He's also toured with Cirque du Soleil, and released two fiddle recordings: *The Bridge* (2023) and *NEW Scotland* (2020).

Dave Staples



Dave is a veteran East Coast performer and music educator and maintains a busy freelance career as a pianist, trombonist, composer, adjudicator and recording artist. Dave taught instrumental music with the Halifax Regional School Board for over 30 years and is co-founder and former director of the Nova Scotia Honour Jazz program.



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Adjudicators

Concert/Chamber/Jazz Choir

Thomas Burton



Thomas is Artistic Director of the Orpheus Choir of Toronto, Artistic Director of Durham Region's RESOUND Choir, and Co-Conductor of the Halifax-based Borealis Chamber Choir.

He is a member of the choral faculty at the University of Toronto, where he instructs undergraduate choral conducting.

Heather Fraser



As Executive Director of the Nova Scotia Choral Federation, Heather directs programming and services that support the development of singers of all ages. She

is Artistic Director of the Canta Mara Youth Choirs of the Annapolis Valley, and remains an active clinician and adjudicator.

Joel Tranquilla



Joel is Artistic Director of the Halifax Camerata Singers, Chorus Master of Symphony Nova Scotia, and Director of Music at Grace United Church in downtown Dartmouth, he oversees a busy schedule of local choral performances, educational outreach, and community engagement. Camerata was nominated for an East Coast Music Award in 2025 in the Vocal Release category.

Sing Summer Camps with the Nova Scotia Choral Federation!

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Adjudication Schedule

Wednesday, April 29 Seton Stage CONCERT BAND

9:00 AM	B400	Harmonie Vents du Fleuve	Sébastien Landry & Pascal Bélanger
10:00 AM	B100	Halifax Independent School Grade 7/8 Band	Adam Johnson
11:00 AM	B200	Harmonie Senior du Sommet	Maxime Forbes
11:30 AM	B200	Harmonie de l'École Le Mascaret	Clémentine Ricquier
1:00 PM	B100	Menihék Senior Band	Dr. Kerri MacPhee
1:30 PM	B100	Harmonie Intermédiaire du Sommet	Maxime Forbes
2:00 PM	B200	Harmonie de l'École Champlain	Marie-Pier Arseneau
2:30 PM	B200	SIS Grade 9 Concert Band	Carrie MacLellan
3:00 PM	B200	Stonepark Intermediate Concert Band	Sara Sorensen
4:00 PM	B200NC	NGA Concert Band	Lloyd White
4:30 PM	B300	Liverpool Regional High School Concert Band	Chantel Corkum

Thursday, April 30 Seton Stage CONCERT BAND

9:00 AM	B300	Harbour View High School	Lisa Sanderson
9:30 AM	B200	Harmonie Intermédiaire ÉFB	Jolene Willis
10:30 AM	B300	Banting S.S. Halifax Tour Band	Nigel Evans & Brian Donohue
11:00 AM	B200	Queen Charlotte Intermediate Grade 9 Concert Band	Jonathan MacInnis
11:30 AM	B100	Queen Elizabeth School Band	Angela Phi
12:00 PM	B300	Harmonie Sécondaire ÉFB	Jolene Willis
1:30 PM	B300	ICS High School Band	Emily Doiron
2:00 PM	B100	Whitney Pier Memorial Gr. 6 Concert Band	Jennifer Anderson
2:30 PM	B300	Bluefield Concert Band	Kirsten MacLaine
3:00 PM	B200	Birchwood Grade 9 Band	Steve Giddings
3:30 PM	B200	Hernewood Intermediate 8/9 Concert Band	Andrea Ellis
4:00 PM	B200	L'harmonie les Patriotes	Noémie Comeau Godin
4:30 PM	B101	Les chords	Jennifer Wyatt

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Adjudication Schedule

Thursday, April 20 MPR Stage CONCERT BAND

9:00 AM	B100	Northside Junior Band	Steve MacInnis
9:30 AM	B100	Mardis Matins	Jennifer Wyatt
10:00 AM	B101	L'orchestre des marées	Jill LeBlanc
10:30 AM	B100	Panorama Ridge Senior Concert Band	Richard Petroski
11:00 AM	B100	MSMS Middle School Band	Tonja Kidd
11:30 AM	B300	W.H. Croxford High School Senior Band	Christine Trac
1:30 PM	B200	The Study	Ioanna Papamihelakis
2:00 PM	B100	Fanfare intermédiaire de La-Belle-Cloche	Nathan Evans
2:30 PM	B100	Halifax Independent School Grade 9 Band	Adam Johnson
3:00 PM	B100	M.E. Callaghan Band	Denise Wilson
3:30 PM	B100	Gulf Shore Grades 7-9 Band	Chris Perry
4:30 PM	B200	Whitney Pier Memorial Gr. 7&8 Concert Band	Jennifer Anderson

Thursday, April 30 Campus Pub Stage JAZZ

9:00 AM	A701	NGA Jazz Band	Lloyd White
9:30 AM	A301	Stephenville High School Jazz Band	Tina Gallant
10:00 AM	A301	École Évangéline	Albert Arsenault
10:30 AM	A301	Liverpool Regional High School Jazz Band	Chantel Corkum
11:30 AM	A201	West Bedford Jazz Band	Trevor Dimoff
12:00 PM	A101	MRHS R&B Band	Leah Gallant



Chime in!

Did you have a great time at the festival? Learn something cool? What could we do even better? We want to hear from you! Tell us about your experience at atlanticfestivals.com/mytestimonial

Adjudication Schedule

Thursday, April 30 St. Andrew's Church CHOIRS

10:00 AM	C201	Linden Christian School Senior Choir	Kim Neufeld
11:00 AM	C301	Menihek Choir	Dr. Kerri MacPhee
1:30 PM	C701	NGA Concert Choir	Holly Tree
2:00 PM	C701	JRS Performance Choir	Brittany O'Keefe
2:30 PM	C102	MRHS Vocal Ensemble	Leah Gallant
3:00 PM	C301	Stephenville High School Choir	Tina Gallant
4:00 PM	C301	Thunder's Echo Choir	Linda Ziemba

Friday, May 1 Seton Stage CONCERT BAND

9:00 AM	B300	Westdale Secondary School	Jonathan Abell
9:30 AM	B500	Earl of March Senior Concert Band	Gord Birkinshaw
10:00 AM	B300	Holy Rosary High School Sr Band	Aaron Sikora
10:30 AM	B200	MRHS Concert Band	Leah Gallant
11:00 AM	B300	Elgin Park Secondary	Al Henderson
11:30 AM	B200	Malcolm Munroe Middle School Intermediate Band	Tyler Campbell
12:00 PM	B100	West Bedford Junior Concert Band	Trevor Dimoff
1:00 PM	B200	Thunderbeats Concert Band	Linda Ziemba
2:30 PM	B400	Ensemble à vents du CEAO	Micheline Cuerrier-Legault
3:00 PM	B200	Central Kings Grade 9 Band	Paul Hutten
3:30 PM	B200	Rosedale Festival Band	Sally Cleland
4:00 PM	B200	Colonel By Secondary School	Kyle Nurse



Performances Streamed Live

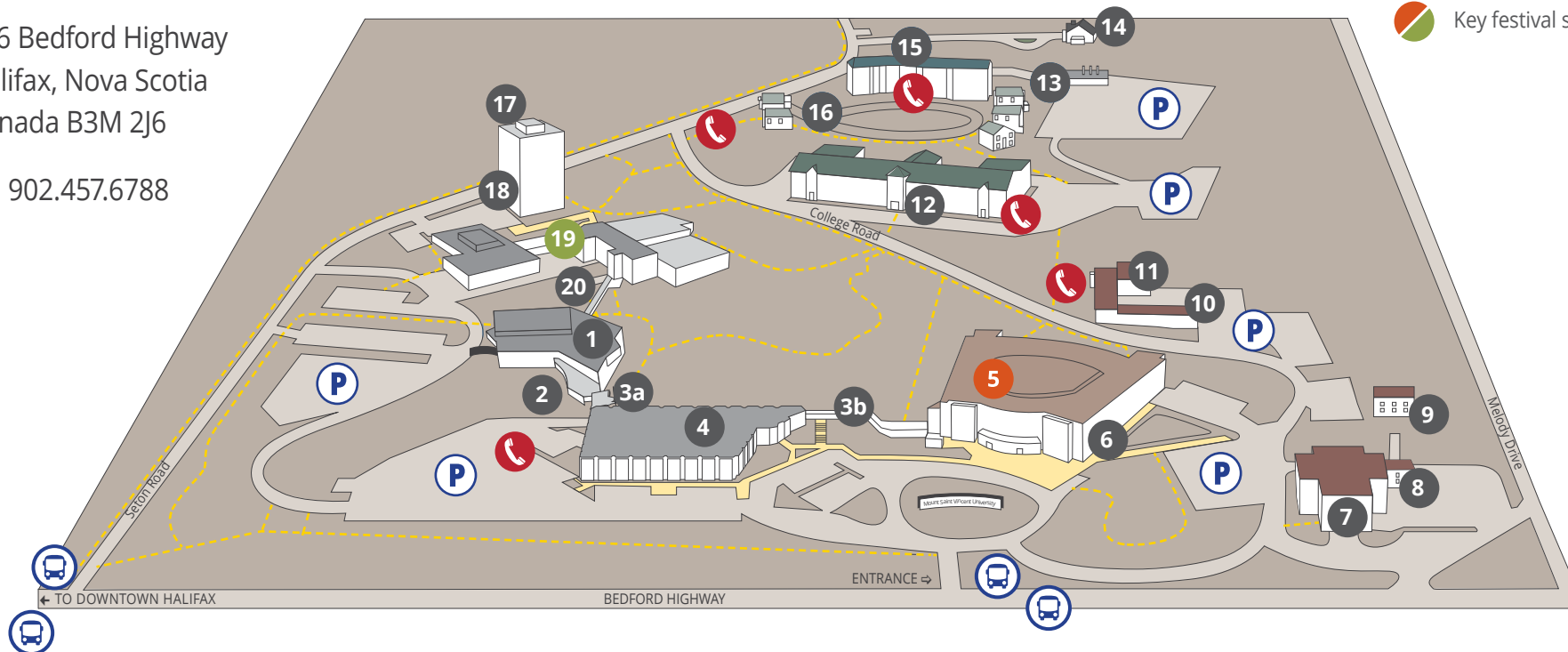
During the festival, live streaming video is available from each venue at atlanticfestivals.com/live

Campus Map: Mount Saint Vincent University



166 Bedford Highway
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Canada B3M 2J6

☎ 902.457.6788



- Parking
- Emergency Phones
- Key festival sites

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 Margaret Norrie McCain Centre for Teaching, Learning and Research | 6 MSVU Art Gallery | 15 Westwood (residence) |
| 2 Riva Spatz Women's Wall of Honour | 7 Research/FoodARC | 16 The Birches (residence) |
| 3a RBC West Link | 8 Advancement House | 17 Assisi Hall (residence) |
| 3b RBC North Link | 9 Aboriginal Student Centre | 18 Assisi (including Campus Security, Health Services and LifeMark) |
| 4 E. Margaret Fulton Communications Centre (including Library) | 10 Seton Annex | 19 Rosaria Student Centre (MPR Stage & Campus Pub Stage) |
| 5 Seton Academic Centre (Seton Stage) | 11 Child Study Centre | 20 Student Legacy Lane (pedway) |
| | 12 Evaristus Hall | |
| | 13 Art Landry Building (Central Heating Plant) | |
| | 14 The Meadows | |



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Adjudication Schedule

Friday, May 1

MPR Stage

CONCERT BAND

9:30 AM	B400	Linden Christian School Senior Band	Bobbie Fast
10:00 AM	B300	Stephenville High School Concert Band	Tina Gallant
10:30 AM	B100	SRHS Concert Band	Robert Matthews
11:00 AM	B200	Ilseley High School Senior Band	Vanessa Mignault
11:30 AM	B200	Beaconsfield High School Junior Concert Band	Phil Legault
2:00 PM	B300	Beaconsfield High School Senior Concert Band	Valérie Lepage

Friday, May 1

Campus Pub Stage

JAZZ

9:00 AM	A301	W.H. Croxford High School Jazz Band	Christine Trac
9:30 AM	A301	Beaconsfield High School Senior Jazz Band	Phil Legault
10:30 AM	A301	Bluefield Jazz Band	Kirsten MacLaine
11:00 AM	A301	CEC Jazz Ensemble	John A. Macleod



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Featured Performances & Events

Wednesday, April 29

7:00 PM	Boardwalk Brass A volunteer British-style brass band consisting of the finest professional and community brass musicians in Halifax.	Seton Stage Seton Academic Centre
8:30-10:00 PM	DJ Dance Cap off your day with a music-filled social!	MPR Stage Rosaria Student Centre
8:30-10:00 PM	Live Music at the Campus Pub Enjoy live performances by NSCC ensembles.	Campus Pub Rosaria Student Centre

Thursday, April 30

12:00 PM	Jackson/Wilson Duo Duo featuring trombonist Andrew Jackson and guitarist Sam Wilson, blending jazz, folk, and original compositions.	MPR Stage Rosaria Student Centre
6:30 PM	D'Wolfe Pack Step back to the 1920's and 30's to hear hot jazz, old pop and blues. Featuring John D'Wolfe on vocals/resonator guitar and his "pack".	Seton Stage Seton Academic Centre
7:45 PM	Global Centric Brass Band Homegrown Nova Scotia band performing original music inspired by the culture and history of the New Orleans brass band evolution.	Seton Stage Seton Academic Centre
8:30-10:00 PM	DJ Dance Cap off your day with a music-filled social!	MPR Stage Rosaria Student Centre
8:30-10:00 PM	Live Music at the Campus Pub Enjoy live performances by NSCC ensembles.	Campus Pub Rosaria Student Centre

Friday, May 1

12:00 PM	Paul St-Amand Quartet Soul-jazz performance by singer/trumpeter Paul St-Amand and a rhythm section featuring some of Atlantic Canada's finest musicians.	MPR Stage Rosaria Student Centre
7:00 PM	The Stadacona Band A Halifax-based full-time professional military band with a proud tradition of musical excellence spanning more than 75 years.	Seton Stage Seton Academic Centre
8:30-10:00 PM	DJ Dance Cap off your day with a music-filled social!	MPR Stage Rosaria Student Centre
8:30-10:00 PM	Live Music at the Campus Pub Enjoy live performances by NSCC ensembles.	Campus Pub Rosaria Student Centre

Featured Performers

Boardwalk Brass



Established in October 2024, Boardwalk Brass was created to bring the best community and professional brass musicians from Halifax together to play high level music. Our goal is to put a spotlight on the brass band tradition by playing the best pieces from this style of music. Boardwalk Brass raises money towards its own

bursary program to give back to young brass musicians from home. Next year (2027) we will give our first bursary to a deserving student going on to study music at a post-secondary institution.

D'Wolfe Pack



D'Wolfe Pack is a light and quirky old timey jazzish quartet exploring classic pop standards from the Tin Pan Alley era and onwards. Featuring John DeWolfe on guitar and vocals and accompanied by Karen Mackay on Cornet/Flugelhorn, Simon Oakey on tenor tuba and Gary Edwards on drums. Halifax based musicians with decades of experience.

Since this project's inception in early 2025 it has been well received performing at the Halifax Public Gardens Bandstand, Chester Bandstand, private events, restaurants and community events.



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Pablo Casals



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Featured Performers

Global Centric Brass Band



Global Centric Brass Band brings classic, traditional and original music inspired by the culture and history of the New Orleans brass band evolution. We perform a wide variety of music covers from Jazz to Blues to R+B and Funk, along with original material. A repertoire that provides a fun, exciting and eclectic show. Now entering our 10th year, we have built

a large audience of fans and have performed at various music festivals, charitable events and venues in Halifax and throughout Nova Scotia. "We believe we have something truly special and unique and enjoy sharing our music and our love of New Orleans music to audiences of all ages."

Jackson/Wilson Duo



Andrew Jackson and Sam Wilson have been exploring the interplay of trombone and guitar while honing their musical chemistry as a duo since 2014. Upon meeting, both musicians were searching for a setting to explore jazz in a less traditional format, which has led them to develop a common musical language and create an original

duo sound. Jackson is an acclaimed trombonist and composer based in Halifax, Nova Scotia and one of the Maritimes first-call players and Wilson is a two-time ECMA-nominated artist for both of her original albums. She is influenced by jazz, improvised music, folk and fingerstyle guitar, which blend to create her unique style. While both are acclaimed musicians/composers guided by a jazz perspective, they bring myriad influences to the project with repertoire extending from greats of the past, such as Billy Strayhorn, to folk covers by the likes of Nick Drake, and original compositions.



Chime in!

Did you have a great time at the festival? Learn something cool? What could we do even better? We want to hear from you! Tell us about your experience at atlanticfestivals.com/mytestimonial

Featured Performers

Paul St-Amand Quartet



With a rare combination of soulful vocals and a honey-toned trumpet sound, Paul St-Amand charts a unique course through Nova Scotia's vibrant music scene. He's a double threat in the tradition of singing horn players like Louis Armstrong and Chet Baker, infusing performances with more contemporary funk and R&B sounds. His band The Joy Curve blends sultry neo-soul with electrifying improvised

jams. He also leads a small ensemble featuring a rotating cast of Atlantic Canada's finest jazz musicians. For this festival performance, Paul is joined by a stellar rhythm section of Kenneth Pasher (guitar), Peter Bull (bass), and Caito MacDonald (drums).

Stadacona Band of the Royal Canadian Navy



The Stadacona Band of the Royal Canadian Navy, based in Halifax, is a full-time professional military band with a proud tradition of musical excellence spanning more than 75 years. This distinguished military institution provides complete musical service for ceremonial requirements of the Canadian Forces and represents Canada's East Coast Navy.

This world-renowned band consists of some of Canada's finest musicians. As a result, it is in constant international demand. The band also assists non-profit civilian organizations across the Atlantic Provinces. The 30-member group uses a variety of configurations from parade and concert band, to Big Band and Jazz/Dixie combos, as well as brass and woodwind ensembles. This enables the band to cover a wide range of engagements. The Stadacona Band appears courtesy of the Commander of Maritime Forces Atlantic.



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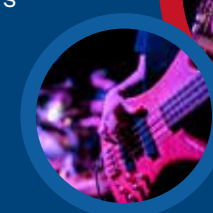
Summer Music Academy

July 5-11, 2026

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- ☒ Family discount
- ☒ Professional development opportunities for music teachers

Website



Awards

Long & McQuade Outstanding Soloist Awards

Long & McQuade trophies and gift cards in the amount of \$100 will be awarded to students who play or sing an outstanding solo during their ensemble's performance at the Festivals. To be eligible, students must be listed on the Soloists form supplied to the ensemble director.

Awards are given at the discretion of the adjudicators. Award announcements may be made at evening concerts if the information is available and time allows.

Award Sponsored by



Artie Irwin Award for Excellence in Jazz

This award is presented to an outstanding instrumental jazz ensemble based on the recommendation of our jazz adjudicators. In addition to receiving the Artie Irwin Award trophy, the ensemble will be granted a performance slot at the 2026 Halifax Jazz Festival.*

The award honours the memory of Artie Irwin, who was a pivotal part of the Halifax jazz community for decades, including serving on the Halifax Jazz Festival's board of directors.

** Groups that are able to take advantage of the summer performance opportunity have self-nominated for the award.*

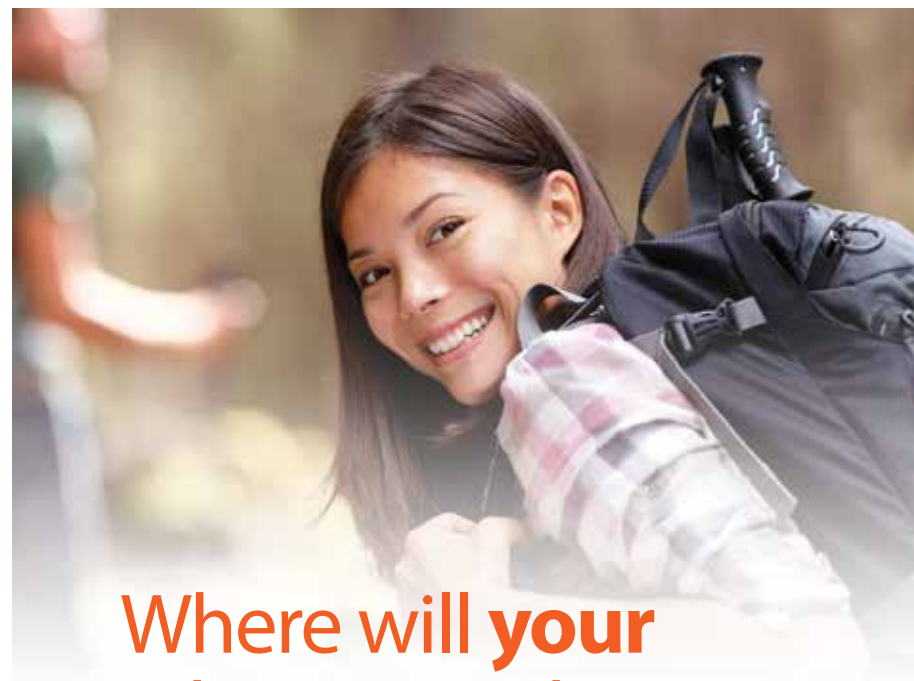
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The Mike & Ron Award

New for 2026, this award for concert bands and orchestras is named in honour of our festival founders, Mike Morrissey and Ron Murphy. It is presented to the most outstanding concert band or orchestra as chosen by our adjudicators.

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Music is the social act of communication among people, **a gesture of friendship**, the strongest there is.

Malcolm Arnold

Bursaries

Thanks to the generosity of our partner institutions, Atlantic Festivals of Music awards a number of bursaries to deserving students, based on the recommendations of adjudicators.

Mount Allison Summer Study Bursary

Mount Allison Music is pleased to offer a \$300 summer study bursary to an eligible student participating at the Atlantic Festivals of Music. The bursary will be deducted from tuition to the Summer Academy of Music, taking place July 12-18, 2026. The bursary is awarded based on the recommendation of the adjudicators.



StFX Summer Study Bursary

St. Francis Xavier University offers a bursary covering 50% of tuition and related HST for the StFX Summer Music Camp, taking place July 26-31, 2026 at the StFX campus in Antigonish, NS. The bursary is awarded based on the recommendation of the adjudicators to an outstanding musician (instrumentalist or vocalist) in a jazz or jazz-related style.



Note: The winner must complete and submit their registration form by May 8th to remain eligible for the bursary, and pay the remainder of the balance by the deadline of June 1.

UPEI Summer Studios Bursary

The University of Prince Edward Island is pleased to provide a bursary covering tuition (\$340 value) for UPEI Summer Studios, a five-day chamber music experience for brass, woodwind, percussion, and voice students, aged 14-18. The program runs from July 6-10, 2026 on the UPEI campus.





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