

March 2009

To: Instrumental Music Teacher

Re: Auditions for NSJWE

Dear Colleague,

Enclosed is information on the Nova Scotia Junior Wind Ensemble. I'm hoping you will pass it on to your students in grades 6 through 9 who would like a challenge. The NSJWE meets twice yearly at a host school for an intense rehearsal weekend. A new conductor is chosen each year for the ensemble and past conductors have included Ken Foote, Wesley Ferreira, Maggie Helms, Nathan Beeler, Christine Blanchard, Richard Bennett, Rowan Fitzgerald, Laura Mercer, Ardith Haley and Paul Barrett. It is our mandate to include musicians from as many schools as possible and to represent all areas of the province. Please encourage your students to audition!

The Nova Scotia Junior Wind Ensemble, Nova Scotia Honour Jazz and the Nova Scotia Youth Wind Ensemble are auditioned provincial honour bands available to students of teachers who are members of Nova Scotia Band Association. NSBA membership also provides access to such programs as the annual awards luncheon, summer percussion camp and the Nova Musica beginning band festival, while providing teachers with connections to music education at the provincial and national levels through the *Fanfare* and *Canadian Winds* publications and the Canadian Band Directory. For further information about the NSBA, please visit the website: <http://www.novascotiabandassociation.com>

Auditions forms and registration fees - \$100.00 (\$75 if you have a t-shirt already) are due by **April 30** and should be sent via mail to Helen Bannerman. If you have any questions, please contact the committee chair, Caitlin Quinton by phone (902) 678-4758 or email quintonc@staff.ednet.ns.ca. Please remind your students to bring their \$10 audition fee to the audition (this should not be added to their cheque). In the event that you have qualified students who cannot afford the \$100.00 registration fee, please contact Caitlin at quintonc@staff.ednet.ns.ca.

Please tell your students that the audition is **brief**. Students should prepare one or two short challenging excerpts from a method book or band music. Students will also be asked to sight read and to play **Concert Bb, Ab, and F Major scales** plus a **Bb Chromatic Scale**, in **two octaves** where possible. (Scales should be **from memory**). Percussionists should prepare an excerpt for snare and one for mallets. They will also be asked to sight read on both, and may be asked to play the above scales on mallets, plus some drum rudiments.

Auditions will be held over June 4 in Sydney, June 5 in Coldbrook and New Glasgow, and June 6 in Halifax/Metro. Students who apply will be contacted with audition information via email.

Anything you could do to encourage your students to audition for this outstanding musical experience would be greatly appreciated.

Yours truly,

Helen Bannerman, NSJWE Personnel and
Caitlin Quinton, NSJWE Committee Chair