



President's Report

Nova Scotia Band Association – Annual General Meeting 2024

The NSBA has had a wonderful year of activity, initiatives, and change. It has been a successful year due to the hard work and many volunteer hours of our members who are leading the way for our association. After last year's AGM, we continued with a revision of our many project committees, assigned committee leads and the great work that is being done for our province continued. We reached out to the membership to recruit and welcome people to join our project groups and are grateful for those who stepped forward. More help is always welcome. Please get in touch if you would like to be on one of our project committees. Also, at this time we have two new openings on our executive for first vice president, and community band liaison. Please let us know if you are interested in one of these positions.

NSBA Ongoing Projects 2023/2024

- a) Communications - Social Media, Website, Newsletter
- b) Awards
- c) National Youth Band 2024
- d) Beginner Band Spark
- e) Master Teacher Project
- f) Rural Youth Band Summit
- g) Membership
- h) Conference Coordinator/NSMEA liaison
- i) Nova Scotia Music Education Council Representative
- j) Resource Sharing
- k) Atlantic Festivals of Music
- l) Remedial Method Courses
- m) Honor Ensembles

Communications - The NSBA continues to have strong communications through social media, our website and weekly newsletters. Thank you to the daily work of Hope Gendron for keeping us all informed, and making sure that the necessary notices are sent out in a timely manner. Recently, Holly Leader has agreed to

be the newsletter communications distribution contact, and we are very grateful for her help and diligence with this.

Awards - Last spring we were honored to be able to present two prestigious awards on behalf of the NSBA. The first one was presented to Dante Kierstead for the James Hargraves memorial scholarship. This award was presented at Dante's home and I had a great visit with his family. We were also very excited to present the Distinguished Band Directors award to Sarah McDonald from Glace Bay high school. This award was presented in December by Keli Brewer at Sarah's holiday concert.



National Youth Band 2024 - One very exciting and amazing project of the NSBA this year is hosting the National Youth Band of Canada. This was postponed from 2020 and we are so happy to be able to fulfill this this year. Planning is underway and it is incredible that we have six members from Nova Scotia in the band this year. Many many thanks to Stephen Hartlen for his years of work and communication on this project. We are grateful to have Leslie Smith take the lead moving forward on the planning, organization and hosting of the band when they arrive in Halifax. They have a very busy schedule in NS and PEI and we hope you all get to hear the NYB while they are in Halifax. Included in their itinerary is performing in Prince Edward Island, Fall River, and Wolfville, as well as at the Atlantic Festivals of Music 2024.

Master Teacher Project - This past fall we were able to discuss and vote on two master teacher designates for this year, and we are pleased to announce that Stephen Hartlen and Leslie Ann Andrews have accepted this position moving forward. The master teachers have met and through organization, discussions, and revisions, the master teacher program is well underway and we are happy to continue this wonderful project moving forward. Many thanks to Steve and Leslie for their willingness to pass on their knowledge and experience to our membership. In the past two years we have sent a master teacher to the PEI band festival and Steve has accepted this position for spring of 2024. A huge thank you to Gail Lohnes and Steve for re-organizing the structure of the master teacher project.

NSMEA Conference - The NSBA continues to provide professional development opportunities for our membership. This year's fall conference was held at Avon view high school, and the NSBA was happy to host

many clinicians to provide workshops for our membership. These include Jackie Dawson (concert band reading session and conducting), Nick Fisher (Jazz reading session), Mary Lee, (French Horn clinic.) They each presented fantastic sessions that were very relevant and well received by our membership. Another exciting event that took place at the fall conference was the reinstatement of our honorary life members. We were honored to present this award to Ron Murphy and Mike Morrissey. They were presented with plaques and a speech in front of our membership at the beginning of the conference day. They expressed great gratitude, and were humbled by this designation.



Atlantic Festivals of Music - One of the most exciting opportunities in the NSBA history has occurred this year. Through a very generous gesture the Atlantic festivals of music has been turned over to the NSBA. This is a prestigious music festival with a long and successful history. Our gratitude is extended to Ron Murphy and Mike Morrissey for their generous offer. Stephen Hartlen has been taking the lead as festival Director for the past year and has worked diligently with Ron and Mike to learn the operations of the music festival. We would like to acknowledge the invaluable work of Steve and thank him for his leadership. The executive has met regularly to discuss how the festival will be managed by the NSBA and this is an ongoing discussion. A call was made out to membership for volunteers to sit on an advisory committee, and we thank those who have responded. Our next step is to meet with the advisory committee and make decisions on how the festival will be managed. At this time it is important to extend a tremendous thank you to the NSBA executive for the extra meetings and discussions around this project. This will be an exciting opportunity for the NSBA and more importantly, to maintain the integrity, success and reputation of the Atlantic Festivals of Music. It proves to be an exciting event at the end of April this year. We hope that many members can participate in and or help with the festival.

Remedial Method Courses - It has been apparent in the past years that some of our membership would be interested, and would gain from having access to summer method courses offered by our experienced teachers.

Thanks to the work of Mark Hopkins and Acadia University, the planning of this project is well underway and should be offered in the next year.

Honor Ensembles - Our three honors ensembles continue to be a major strength of our association. The volunteer hours, planning, organization, kindness, emails, communications, educational experience, and the musical memories provided by our volunteers are amazing. It is apparent that these ensembles have provided stepping stones for our students, and many of them go on to be professional musicians, educators, and leaders in the music community. We would like to thank all of the volunteers on the committees of these ensembles for their tireless efforts, and influence on our student population. In order to avoid redundancy, please see each report provided by the three honor ensemble leaders. Thank you to Hope Gendron, Nick Fisher and Kate Gillis for their tremendous leadership. Reports for each ensemble have been included with the AGM documents that were sent out.

NSBA 360 - The revisions and reorganization of our associations structure and executive positions is ongoing. Still to be completed are the President and Secretary documents as well as the honor ensemble contracts.

CBA - I have represented NSBA at four Canadian Band Association meetings. Through their restructuring and questioning of flagship projects, we will be in discussions about the future Canadian Winds and the National Youth Band during our meetings here in Halifax at the end of April.

Special Recognition

I want to extend a very special thank you to Hope Gendron for all of her work, organization and knowledge for the NSBA and for the executive. She has been invaluable resource and help this past year

I also want to recognize that two of our long-standing volunteers are passing on their duties at the conclusion of this meeting Diane Clark has been on the executive at the NSBA for longer than anyone can remember, and Kate Gillis has been leading the Nova Scotia Junior Wind Ensemble for the past 13 years.

Dina Burtt

Respectfully submitted by
Dina Burtt
NSBA President