

Atlantic Festivals of Music 2024 Report

NSBA Board Meeting - June 11, 2024

Overall, the festival was a success. Many thanks to Ron and Mike for being so invested in making the transfer of festival management successful. The festival staff were excellent, as were the adjudicators and clinicians. A huge thank you to all of the organizations that generously supplied equipment to the festival. (Details below) Feedback from participants has been consistently positive, the most common themes being how well the festival was run and the high quality of the adjudicators. Some details about the festival are as follows:

Participation

1725 Participants (1570 students, 155 adults)

Participants by Province:

Nova Scotia – 13 schools, 551 participants

Prince Edward Island – 14 schools, 577 participants

New Brunswick – 4 schools, 198 participants

Newfoundland – 1 school, 54 participants

Quebec – 1 school, 22 participants

Ontario – 1 school, 55 participants

Alberta – 2 schools, 124 participants

British Columbia – 2 schools, 144 participants

Adjudicators

Concert Band: Leah McGray, Dylan Maddix, Kevin Hamlin, Ardith Haley, Greg Burton, Andrew Alcorn

Jazz Band: Andrew Alcorn, Ken MacKay, Jeff Goodspeed, Paul Rushka

Choir: Janice Alcorn, Joel Tranquilla, Chris Bowman

Drumline: Mark Adam

Clinicians

Flute: Andrea Kim

Double Reeds: Ciara Wheeler

Clarinet: Dorian Baker

Saxophone: Tristan DeBorba

Trumpet: Jamie Leblanc

Horn: Olivier Blakney

Trombone: Shauna DeGruchy

Low Brass: Sean McLennon

Percussion: Mark Adam

Jazz Rhythm Section: Paul Rushka

Festival Staff

Festival Director – Steve Hartlen

Festival Advisors – Ron Murphy, Mike Morrissey

Front of House – Jackie Crowell, Jennifer Burgess

Venue Coordinators – Gale Lohnes, Meredith Higgins

3 Adjudicator Secretaries

11 Festival Hosts

Equipment Manager – Tobias Beal

6 Equipment/Stage Crew

Clinician Coordinator – Hope Gendron

Featured Performers

National Youth Band of Canada – Seton Stage (Wed – 399, Thur – 542)

Stadacona Band of the Royal Canadian Navy - Seton Stage (Thur – 382)

Global Centric Brass Band - Seton Stage (Fri – 301)

NSCC Ensembles – Vinnie’s Pub

Participant Dances

DJ services provided by True North Event Services

Wednesday night – 370

Thursday night – 347

Friday night – 323

Venues

All festival events took place on the Mount Saint Vincent Campus

Concert Band Performance Venues – Seton Auditorium, Rosaria Multipurpose Room

Jazz Band Performance Venues – Vinnie’s Pub

Choir Performance Venue - Rosaria Multipurpose Room

10 classrooms for instrument specific clinics

3 rooms for warm-up

3 rooms for adjudicator clinics

3 rooms for coat rooms

1 room for storage

1 room for directors reception

Equipment

Back line/sound equipment provided by Long & Mcquade

Most of the equipment for concert band performance venues provided by the Sackville Community Band and the Second Chances Band

Other equipment provided by: Halifax Regional Arts, Halifax West High School, Five Bridges Junior High School, Halifax Concert Band and the Ron MacKay Memorial Youth Band Society

Financial

Financial Report presented at NSBA board meeting – June 11, 2024

AFM 2025

Based on our experience with the festival this year the following changes will be implemented in 2025:

1) A new fee structure that provides a discount to participants from the HRCE. Participation by schools in the HRCE has historically been quite low. This is due to the fact that most HRCE schools are only interested in performing and being adjudicated and they do not usually partake of the evening concerts, dances or clinics. In order to encourage the participation of HRCE schools, AFM 2025 will feature the following fee structure:

Outside Atlantic Region

Registration fees are \$78 for attendees performing in ONLY ONE ensemble, \$108 for attendees performing in TWO ensembles, or \$138 for attendees performing in THREE OR MORE ensembles. Each registration fee includes admission to ONE evening concert. Additional concert tickets may be purchased for \$15/ticket. All prices in Canadian dollars.

Atlantic Region

Registration fees are \$40 for attendees performing in ONLY ONE ensemble, \$60 for attendees performing in TWO ensembles, or \$80 for attendees performing in THREE OR MORE ensembles. Each registration fee includes admission to ONE evening concert. Additional concert tickets may be purchased for \$15/ticket. All prices in Canadian dollars.

Halifax Regional Municipality (Performance & Adjudication only)

Registration fees are \$20 for attendees performing in ONLY ONE ensemble, \$40 for attendees performing in TWO ensembles, or \$60 for attendees performing in THREE OR MORE ensembles. Concert tickets may be purchased for \$15/ticket. Instrument specific clinics for \$5/student. All prices in Canadian dollars.

2) We are exploring various ways that AFM can collaborate with the Halifax Jazz Festival to enhance our participants' festival experience. The HJF has offered a performance spot in one of their free afternoon concerts to the top jazz band at AFM. Jazz bands participating in AFM 2025 will have the opportunity to nominate themselves for consideration. We are also exploring other ways that HJF can work with AFM in the future.

3) In 2025 we will be featuring only voice over adjudications instead of one voice over and one written adjudication. This change is based on adjudicator feedback and is in keeping with other similar festivals.

4) We have secured a new choir venue for 2025. Choral classes will take place at St. Andrew's Church on Coburg Road in Halifax. This will be a perfect venue for our choir classes and will help with attracting more choirs to the festival. We will also be working with the Nova Scotia Choral Federation to promote AFM as a choir festival.

5) Any suggestions for adjudicators are very welcome. Adjudicator bookings will start in July. If you have a suggestion please email them to me at steve@atlanticfestivals.com

6) We are also exploring the possibility of offering a Atlantic Regional Honour Band in conjunction with AFM. Planning for this is in the very early stages – more details to follow.