



Atlantic Festivals of Music – Update

NSBA AGM – March 19, 2025

Planning for AFM 2025 is proceeding as expected. Details as follows:

Participation

- 42 schools registered thus far (38 in 2024).
- 61 different ensembles participating thus far (55 in 2024).
- Ensembles registered from Nova Scotia (22), Prince Edward Island (13), Ontario (10), New Brunswick (4), Newfoundland (5), Quebec (2), British Columbia (1) and Alberta (4).
- 8 Festival Lite registrations.
- The number of jazz ensembles is up significantly from 2024.
- The number of choirs is the same as 2024.
- The number of concert bands is down slightly.
- As a result, the projected income from registration fees to date is lower than expected. That being said costs associated with adjudicators and festival staff will be adjusted lower as the schedule is finalized.

Adjudicators

Concert Band: Denise Grant, Jamal Duncan, Danielle Gaudry, Mark Hopkins, Tristan De Borba, Jacob Caines

Jazz Band: Nicola Miller, Andrew Jackson, Kenji Omae

Choir: Kellie Walsh, Kiera Gallway, Garth MacPhee

- Will be adding a drumline adjudicator and a guitar adjudicator for one ensemble each

Festival Staff

- The hiring process is almost complete.
- Most of the 2024 staff are returning in 2025.

Performers

Feature Concerts

University of Regina Wind Ensemble – Seton Stage (Wed & Thurs evening)

Stadacona Band of the Royal Canadian Navy - Seton Stage (Thurs evening)

Global Centric Brass Band - Seton Stage (Fri evening)

Lunchtime Concerts

University of Regina Jazz Band (Thurs)

St. FX Jazz Combo – Vinnies stage (Fri)

Live Music During Participant Dances

NSCC Ensembles (Wed, Thurs, Fri)

Venues

Concert Bands – Seton Stage & MPR Stage (Mount Saint Vincent University)

Jazz Bands – MPR Stage (MSVU)

Choir – St. Andrew’s Church (Coburg Rd, Halifax)

Equipment

- Most equipment will be provided by Long & Mcquade, Sackville Community Band and Second Chances Band (Halifax). Initial contact has been made with those organizations. Details will be finalized after the registration deadline.

- Many thanks to these organizations for their continued and generous support.
- The truck has been rented for the week of festival.

Awards

- School's Out Tours has agreed to continue as a festival sponsor. This sponsorship consists of SOT splitting the cost of participant trophies. Thank you to SOT and their new owner/operator Vera Ross.
- The Halifax Jazz Festival is sponsoring an award available to jazz ensembles. There will be a trophy and an opportunity to perform at the free admission main stage concert at the HJF in July 2025. Jazz ensemble directors will have the option to nominate their group for consideration for this award.
- Acadia University, Mount Allison University, UPEI and St. FX University were contacted for summer study bursaries that can be awarded in conjunction with AFM outstanding soloist awards. St. FX & UPEI have generously agreed to provide summer study bursaries. Waiting to hear from Acadia and Mt. A.
- The Tuesday Night Band has generously donated 8 \$200 bursaries. These bursaries will be awarded on the recommendation of our adjudicators to deserving schools. The band director of each recipient school will award the bursary to a promising student in need of financial assistance.
- Invitations to MusicFest Canada have been received and will be awarded to ensembles on the recommendation of our adjudicators.

Program Advertisers

- An initial email to potential advertisers has been sent. Another will be sent soon.
- In kind advertisement arrangements with School's Out Tours, Nova Scotia Choral Federation, Halifax Jazz Festival, Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo, Long & Mcquade

Respectfully submitted by Steve Hartlen (Festival Director)



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