

Presidents Report

The NSBA has had another fantastic year of activity, initiatives and volunteerism. It has been a successful year due to the hard work and volunteer hours of our members who are working for our association to keep improving. The band community in Nova Scotia is full of wonderful teachers, mentors, players, students and leaders. After last year's AGM, we had several large projects to fulfill. The Atlantic Festivals of music was a success and many thanks to Steve Hartlen for his work as festival director. As well the NSBA hosted the National Youth Band under the direction of Brent Giglione and it was an honor to enable this band to have a successful week. Many members of our association helped out with the success of the national youth band tour in PEI and Nova Scotia. We had 7 students from Nova Scotia in the band this year. We are very grateful for the hard work of Leslie Smith who agreed to be the lead for the band's visit. At the end of the week, the NSBA hosted delegates from across Canada for the annual Canadian Band Association meetings. It was a weekend of much discussion, collaboration, and plans for the future of the Canadian Band Association.



The NSBA continued with the implementation of our many project committees, assigned leads and they continued to offer fantastic initiatives for our province. Please get in touch if you would like to be on one of our project committees.

More information can be found on our website at <https://novascotiabandassociation.com/>

We welcomed new executive members and members at large at our last AGM and are grateful for their willingness to get involved in the NSBA. Here is a list of our ongoing committees and we appreciate the work that is being done on behalf of the association.

NSBA Ongoing Projects 2024/2025

- a) Communications - Social Media, Website, Newsletter
- b) Awards
- c) Mentorship Project
- 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

Each of these committees has a project lead. If you would like to be involved or find out more about these projects please contact me and I will put you in touch.

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 on track, informed, and making sure that the necessary notices are sent out in a timely manner. Thank you to Hope as well for her diligence in keeping our membership updated. Many thanks to Holly Leader who has been our newsletter communications contact and content manager. Holly has done an Excellent job on the new format and posting on a weekly basis.

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 Charlie Saunders for the James Hargraves memorial scholarship. This award was presented at Charlie's home before he left to attend UPEI for studies in music. The master teachers awards were presented at the NSMEA conference in October at Lockview High School to Steve Hartlen and Lesley Ann Andrews - two very deserving candidates. Leslie, Ann and Steve presented a workshop at the conference on leadership and the master teacher program.



NSMEA Conference - The NSBA continues to provide professional development opportunities for our membership. This year's fall conference was held at Lockview High School, and the NSBA was happy to host many clinicians to provide workshops for our membership. These include Dylan Maddix (concert band reading session and conducting), Nick Fisher(Jazz reading session),Brett Dill, (Oboe clinic.)





Community Bands

The NSBA continues to have an active community of community bands throughout the year. The bands continue to have weekend festivals and growing membership. Many thanks to our community band leaders who continue to provide these rich opportunities for our province.

<https://novascotiabandassociation.com/bands/>

Honor Ensembles - Our three honors ensembles continue to be a major strength of our association. The volunteer hours, planning, organization, 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 Holly Hartlen for their tremendous leadership. Reports that were sent in for each ensemble have been included with the AGM documents that were sent out.

Canadian Band Association

As president of the Nova Scotia Band Association, I have been attending the regular meetings of the Canadian Band Association over the past two years and was elected to the CBA Board last spring. There have been tremendous changes in the governance of the CBA from a working board to a governance board to align with its current bylaws. A governance board has no formal positions like president and vice president but rather, all members are equal. The managing director (Chelsey Hiebert) is tasked with the operations of the CBA as directed by the Board.

At the Chapter meeting of in Halifax in April 2024 , a new board was elected

Dr. Danielle Gaudry, Kevin Vuong, Myself, Dr. Dylan Maddix (resigned this year, filled by Dr. Wendy Zander). The board will be taking nominations in the spring to add 2 new members.

Currently, there is a working group meeting to reimagine the National Youth Band of Canada. Reports are in that this is a very positive group and are working hard to find a sustainable solution to the NYB.

As well there are discussions around awards and the Canadian Winds publication. The Howard Cable Prize in composition will proceed as usual this year.

In the next two months board members will be meeting with all provincial chapters to gather information to guide the future of the CBA. This will inform our in person meetings in Toronto in June.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the CBA please feel free to get in touch.

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. She has been an invaluable resource and drive behind this association. Hope has decided that this will be her final year as Managing director of the NSBA. The executive will begin the search for someone to fill this position.

Dina Burt

Respectfully submitted by
Dina Burt
NSBA President