

Music Teachers' Association NWT presents



2026
yellowknife
music festival

Tuesday, May 5th at 7pm
Admission by donation

Showcase
Concert

**This free concert was made possible in part by the generous contributions
of the following MLAs**

Caitlin Cleveland, Robert Hawkins, Shauna Morgan, Kate Reid & Caroline Wawzonek

Thank you!



The Music Teachers' Association – NWT (MTA)

is a not-for-profit organization whose objectives are:

- 1 To foster and encourage the study of music and music theory in the NWT
- 2 To provide professional contact and support to NWT music teachers
- 3 To maintain an established examination centre in the NWT to allow music students to progress through standardized examinations (both performance/practical and theory)
- 4 To encourage opportunities for students to have educational performance opportunities in various music disciplines

We support music teachers in all disciplines, including piano, voice, violin, and woodwinds, as well as music theory and history. Ages and abilities taught range from the very young, through music and movement style teaching, to the guiding of semi-professional musicians. We support school music teachers at all levels. Beyond being involved with their own students, Music Teachers' Association members are involved in fostering music excellence and appreciation amongst their pupils and themselves.

The Yellowknife Music Festival was started by Classics On Stage Yellowknife (COSY), lead by Susan Shantora, who organized the first festival in 2009. COSY would continue to produce it for the next six years until MTA-NWT took over in 2015.

Find us here:

www.musicteachersnwt.com
nwtmusicteachers@gmail.com

**We have a hard working board of directors
without whom there would be no festival!**

Thank you to our 2026 MTA-NWT Board:

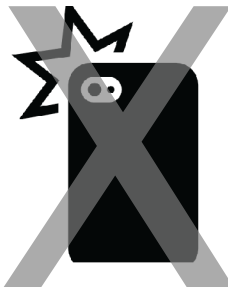
President: Susan Shantora
Treasurer: Karen Hamre
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Anita Kuzma
Bernice Westergreen



We understand how much you all want to record your performer's success, so we hire a photographer and a videographer to record the show for you.

Performers are welcome to pose for a photo at the piano after the concert.

You will be able to obtain copies of photographs and videos as soon as they are available.



No photography, filming, or screen use is permitted during the performance.

Lit screens are disruptive to fellow audience members and detract from the concert experience.

This is a condition of our NACC contract and also respects those who prefer not to be recorded.

Thank you!

The Adjudicators



Tara M. Laberge - Choral & Vocal

Tara is an arts educator, administrator, and performer with 25 years of experience in music, theatre, and interdisciplinary performance. She brings a unique combination of educational leadership and artistic expertise to the development of programs that support emerging artists.

Tara holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in Vocal Performance from the University of Minnesota, with secondary studies in theatre and dance. A certified K-12 teacher, her professional teaching career includes secondary and post-secondary education, including faculty appointments at Ambrose University and Rocky Mountain College, where she designed and taught courses in applied voice, vocal pedagogy, music history, musical theatre performance, and voice and speech. As a stage and music director, Tara has collaborated with a number of institutions including Storybook Theatre, Minnesota Opera, Opera BOB, and the University of Minnesota.

Dedicated to supporting the next generation of artists, Dr. Laberge is a frequent music festival adjudicator, and has delivered lectures and workshops on vocal health, pedagogy, and sustainable performance practice. She has also received multiple grants and awards including support from the Alberta Foundation for the Arts and Calgary Arts Development. Combining her extensive background as a performer with her proven educational and pedagogical expertise, Dr. Laberge is deeply committed to supporting artist development, through ethical, sustainable, and collaborative arts education. She is currently the manager of the McPhee Artist Development Program at Calgary Opera.

Naomi Delafield - Fiddles & Strings

Born and raised in Australia, Naomi began lessons at age 3 with the Suzuki method and has been performing and teaching the violin for over 30 years. Naomi holds the Masters in Violin from the University of Calgary and has held the Concertmaster position of Red Deer Symphony Orchestra since 2006.

From 1994 -2001, Naomi had the opportunity to travel the world as Concertmaster and soloist with the New England Symphonic Ensemble, solo highlights including the Sydney Opera House, St.Martin in the Fields, Carnegie Hall, Cape Town City Hall and the Winspear. After moving to Canada with her husband, Naomi founded a community string orchestra in 2002; 'Rosedale Valley String Orchestra.' Her concerts with RVSO have now raised \$120,000 for humanitarian projects around the world.

Naomi is often called upon to adjudicate at festivals and teach at workshops and clinics. She has produced four CDs, one classical, one Celtic and two Orchestral with RVSO. On the side, Naomi runs a small string shop 'Prairie Violins,' servicing the needs of string students in Central Alberta. In the summer and fall, her husband, David and three children are developing their small farm -'Aspen Acres,' growing several varieties of garlic and haskap berries.

Naomi is passionate about playing baroque violin and enjoys collaborating with several organizations, including Rosa Barocca and Early Music Alberta, as interest in period instruments continues to blossom in Alberta. In March 2023, Rosa Barocca was awarded a JUNO for their album 'Early Italian Cello Concertos' with soloist Elinor Frey. This was indeed a joyous moment for the new group, only 6 years old!

Taina Lorenz - Band, Instrumental & Composition

Hailing from Edmonton, Alberta, this self-proclaimed “band geek” earned her PhD in Music Education and Cognition, and Wind Conducting from the University of Washington in Seattle. Taina also holds a Master of Music in Wind Conducting and Music History and a Bachelor of Education in Music Education from the University of Alberta.

As Executive and Artistic Director of the Cosmopolitan Music Society, Taina oversees all aspects of music performance, programming, and community engagement. She has introduced unique and innovative adult music education programs that include a levelled beginner band program, modern and classic jazz ensembles, handbells, and multi-disciplinary collaborations.

With her personable manner, strong communication skills, and over 25 years of experience teaching music from kindergarten to adult levels, Taina is a consummate educator. She consistently applies her skills and experience as a conductor and brass player, and is a frequent clinician and guest conductor in Canada and the United States. She is a proud member of Women Band Directors International, Phi Beta Mu, and the Conn-Selmer Division of Education.

Taina has been honoured with the King Charles III Coronation Medal in recognition of her exceptional service to the community through her work as an educator and community leader.

Anica Warkentine - Piano

Anica Warkentine is a pianist from Winnipeg, Manitoba, who enjoys musical collaboration of all kinds, from art song to opera, musical theatre and chamber music.

As a soloist, she has appeared with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, University of Manitoba Symphony Orchestra and University of Manitoba Wind Ensemble. Past prizes include the MRMTA Scholarship Competition, U of M Lawrence Genser and Concerto Competitions, and Aikin’s Memorial Trophy. Anica has studied collaborative piano at Domaine Forget, Orford Musique, the duo526 Sonata Seminar at Indiana University, and the Collaborative Piano Institute at the University of Michigan.

As a chamber musician, she has been featured with Virtuosi concerts and in the ReSound series, a partnership between the Desautels Faculty of Music and Winnipeg New Music Festival. In 2024, Anica served as the répétiteur for Manitoba Underground Opera’s production of Humperdinck’s Hansel and Gretel.

Anica is a passionate piano teacher and adjudicator, recently serving on the panel for the 2025 Associated Manitoba Arts Festival. Anica holds a Bachelor of Music in piano performance, as well as a Post-Baccalaureate Diploma and Master of Music in collaborative piano from the University of Manitoba.

Showcase Program



School Band

École Sir John Franklin High School Concert Band
Susan Shantora, conductor

Celtic Air and Dance #3 traditional arr. by Michael Sweeney

School Choral

Weledh Wolves Choir
Kara Cherland, conductor & Kerry Wheler, piano

Skye Boat Song traditional arr. by Malcolm Lawson

Strings

Harriet Aiston-Shoichet

Motorcycles David Gordon Duke

Community Choral

Fireweed Children's Chorus
Dana Merrigan & Elizabeth Brace, conductors & Élise Auld, piano

Ubuntu Mark Hayes

Contemporary Vocal

Scarlett Anderson with Allison Ryan, piano

The Greatest Love of All Micheal Masser

Piano Group 1

Lillia Drouin

The Medieval Piper Nancy Faber

Ji-Yoo Moon

Mist Clifford Poole

Avet Ghulyan

The Song of Twilight Yoshinao Nakada

Ana Maria Villegas

Incognito Jason Sifford

Musical Theatre with Claire Singer, piano

Margo Warburton

Do You Want to Build a Snowman? from "Frozen the Musical" Anderson-Lopez & Lopez

Maya Fuentes

On My Own from "Les Misérables" Schönberg, Boublil & Kretzmer

Connor Burns

Almost Like Being in Love from "Brigadoon" Lerner & Loewe

Showcase Program



Piano Group 2

- Blaine Derksen
Fantasia in C Major, TWV 33:14.....Georg Philipp Telemann
- Vinh Bui-Nguyen
Crazy ComicsChristine Donkin
- Chantelle Derksen
Dreamcatcher Anne Crosby Gaudet
- Amber Derksen
Leafy Sea DragonIna Dykstra
- Anastasiia Bocharova
Sonata in C Major K.545, I: Allegro Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Fiddle

- Aurora Fiddle Society Fiddle Cats
Andrea Bettger, director & Ben Russo guitar
Rasputin Farian, Reyam & Jay arr. by The Calgary Fiddlers

School Instrumental

- Isabella Villegas & Katherine Saunders, flutes
Greensleeves..... Richard Jones arr. by David Burndrett

Strings

- Élise Auld, cello with Kerry Wheler, piano
Élégie, op. 24 Gabriel Fauré

Piano Group 3

- Troy Derksen
Seven of HeartsKevin Olson
- Anna Curran & Ani Ghulyan
Slavonic Dance, op. 46, no. 8Antonín Dvořák
- Kathleen Cai
Waltz in D Flat Major, op. 64, no. 1 ("Minute") Frédéric Chopin
- Luke Bui
Partita No. 2 in C Minor, BWV 826 - SinfoniaJohann Sebastian Bach

Classical Vocal

- Sadee Mitchell with Kerry Wheler, piano
Still Vie Die Nacht Carl Bohm

Piano Group 4

- Anna Curran
Sonata No. 14 in C Sharp Minor, op. 27, no. 2 "Moonlight"
II:Allegretto & III:Presto agitatoLudwig van Beethoven
- Ani Ghulyan
Pas de DeuxSamuel Barber
- Élise Auld
Roumanian Dance, op. 8a, no. 1: Allegro vivaceBéla Bartók

The Ensembles



Weledeh Wolves Choir

Director: Kara Cherland
Piano: Kerry Wheler

Zain Adlaon
Shakeita Anderson-Balsillie
Akena Angottitauruq
Hyacinth Arnaiz
Maddie Cunningham
Kennedy Galipeau-Peters
Edome Hassen
Cayla Herrell
Aaliyah Jairos
Zyria Macusi
Naetochi Ndubuisi-Ubendu
Shekinah Nhengu
Crisea Puspos
Poppy Robinson
Lexi Scott
Ella Stanbridge
Kelaiah Perez

École Sir John Franklin High School Concert Band

Director: Susan Shantora

Katelyn Browley
Camryn Brown
Isabelle Christofferson
Amanda DeCoste
Leo Ehrlich
Kira Harris
Anh Hong
Leah Keenan
Keira Keenan
Ameena Koros

Rust Lim
Euna-Mae Maisog
Sadee Mitchell
Jack Penney
Kaize Roach-Ashoona
Kat Saunders
Vanessa Song
Ana Villegas
Isabella Villegas
Solomon Young

Fireweed Children's Chorus

Co-directors: Dana Merrigan &
Elizabeth Brace
Piano: Élise Auld

Elsa Alemayehu	Clare Dunbar
Jeremy Alemayehu	Zarya Kocik
Kathleen Andrews	Nora Magee
Akena Angottitauruq	Annalena Mantla
Red Argue	Lilly Mantla
Bridget Ball	Rocher Reid
Sophie Beauchamp	Xixi Sharpe
Teagan Braden	Sam Slack
Vinh Bui-Nguyen	

AFS Fiddle Cats

Director: Andrea Bettger
Guitar: Ben Russo

Harriet Aiston-Shoichet
Mairin Campbell
Amanda Decoste
Logan Doll
Paige Hawthorn
Penny Kirkham
Alexa Senkow
Sophia Shen
Dawnelle Valdriz

The Awards

Congratulations!

Alberta Provincial Candidates who are listed below, were all recommended by the adjudicators.

**MTA-NWT
Graduation Scholarships
&
The Rowena Dixon-Wiest
Scholarship**

will be announced during the concert
(these awards are not limited to YKMF participants)

Alberta Provincial Recommendations (*Alternate)

Choral

Community Chorus - 13 Years and Under: Fireweed Children's Chorus
Community Chorus - 17 Years and Under: Yellowknife Youth Choir
School Chorus - Grades 1-3: Weledeh Wolves - Cubs Choir
School Chorus - Grades 4-6: Weledeh Wolves Choir, *Mildred Hall School Junior Choir
School Chorus - Senior High: École Sir John Franklin High School Concert Choir

Vocal

Classical Vocal - 17 Year and Under: Sadee Mitchell, *Janelle Jordison
Contemporary Commercial Music (CCM) Vocal - 17 Years and Under: Scarlett Anderson
Musical Theatre - Ballad or Up-Tempo - 10 Years and Under: Margo Warburton, *Ruby Fequet
Musical Theatre - Ballad - 17 Years and Under: Maya Fuentes, *Sadee Mitchell
Musical Theatre - Up-Tempo - 17 Years and Under: Connor Burns, *Maya Fuentes

Instrumental

Cello/Bass - 17 Years and Under: Élise Auld
Piano - 15 Years and Under: Anastasiia Bocharova
Piano - 17 Years and Under: Élise Auld
Piano - Grade 2-3: Avet Ghulyan, *Lillia Drouin
Piano - Grade 4-5: Blaine Derksen, *Chantelle Derksen
Piano - Grade 6-7: Amber Derksen
Piano - Grade 8-9: Kathleen Cai, *Ana Maria Villegas
Piano - Grade 10 / ARCT: Ani Ghulyan, *Anna Curran
Piano Duet - One Piano - Grade 6 and Over: Anna Curran & Ani Ghulyan

Composition - 28 Years and Under: Sovannratanak (Rust) Lim



www.canadawestfestival.ca

Canada West Performing Arts Festival

July 24-25, 2026
MacEwan University -
Allard Hall (Edmonton, AB)

Performing Arts BC (PABC), Alberta Music Festival Association (AMFA), and the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA), are pleased to announce the 5th Annual Canada West Performing Arts Festival (CWPAF). The CWPAF provides a unique performance and educational opportunity to music and speech students. To learn more about the CWPAF go to www.canadawestfestival.ca or contact the administrator in your participating province:

- **British Columbia:** festival@bcprovincials.com
- **Alberta:** info@albertamusicfestival.org
- **Saskatchewan:** sask.music.festival@sasktel.net



PERFORMING Arts BC



Alberta Music Festival Association



Choral Festival / Musical Theatre Duets

May 25–26, 2026

All Saints' Anglican Cathedral
1035–103 St. NW Edmonton

Solo / Chamber / Piano Duets

May 27–30, 2026

Allard Hall at MacEwan University
104 Ave. NW Edmonton

www.albertamusicfestival.org



NICKLE FAMILY
FOUNDATION

Acknowledgements



Many people and organizations have been instrumental in making our Festival a success:

Thank you!

Festival Administrator & Registrar	Nikki Callas & Claire Singer
Vocal/Choral/Fiddle/Strings Coordinator	Susan Shantora
Band/Instrumental Coordinator	Susan Shantora
Piano Coordinator & Provincials Rep	Mona Boucher
Print Media & Website	Susan Epp & Mona Boucher
Photography	Sean Daly & Meta Antolin
Videography	Mona Boucher
Showcase Concert	Susan Shantora
Treasurer	Karen Hamre
Venues	Northern United Place Calvary Community Church Northern Arts and Cultural Centre École Sir John Franklin High School Music Room

Thank you to the many volunteers who help at the adjudicated sessions as front of house, secretaries to the adjudicators, organizers, logistical support, and general helpers.

Thank you to all the music teachers who have taken extra time to prepare the Festival participants, the parents who support their young people in the pursuit of music education and participants of all ages who will perform to the very best of their ability throughout the Festival.

Last but not least, a special thank you goes to our sponsors:

