

WHISTLER  
*Cantando*  
Music Festival



*April 30–May.3, 2026*

PRESENTED BY NEW ERA MUSIC FESTIVALS



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# Assistant Director's Message

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This year's festival represents more than a celebration of music—it reflects an ongoing effort to build something better for everyone who takes part.

Over the past year, I've had the opportunity to help shape a renewed vision for our festival website. From the beginning, my goal has been to create something more accessible, more intuitive, and more supportive for teachers, students, adjudicators, and families alike. Whether it's simplifying registration, improving access to schedules and results, or making information easier to find, every change has been guided by the hope of making your experience smoother and more enjoyable.

Of course, no system is ever perfect—and I've been reminded of that often in the best possible way. I am deeply grateful to the teachers who take the time to point out glitches, inconsistencies, and opportunities for improvement. Your feedback has been essential, and it continues to shape a platform that is constantly evolving.

I'm also thankful for the role technology plays in bringing this festival together. When it works well, it quietly supports everything else—allowing us to focus on what truly matters: the music, the learning, and the shared experience of performance. It has also been a powerful tool in building this system in the first place.

Thank you for your patience, your insight, and your commitment to making Cantando stronger each year. I'm excited about where this is going, and even more excited to share it with you.

And finally, I should admit—despite having both an English degree and a teaching degree, and being fully capable of writing this myself... did I still use AI? I sure did.

*Kelsey Moore*

**Assistant Festival Director**

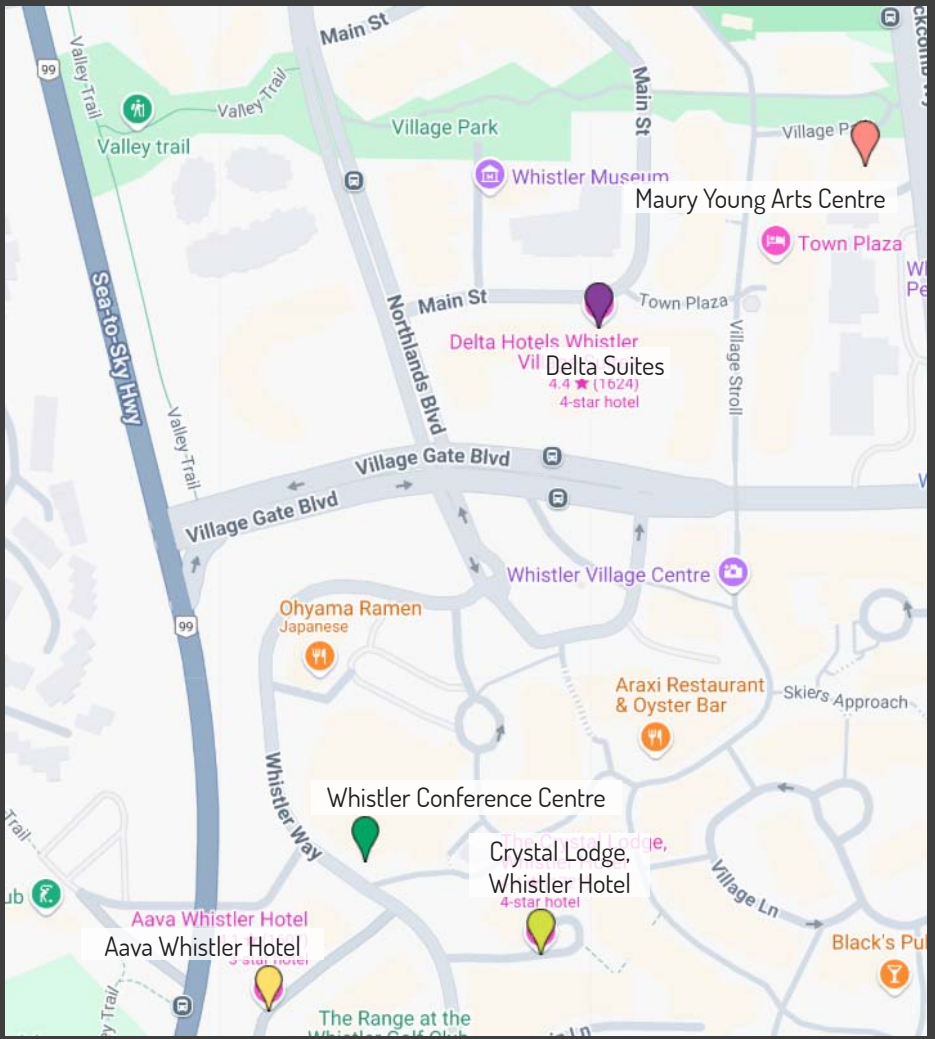
# Festival-At-A-Glance

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	Concert & Orchestra Band Performances		
	Concert & Orchestra Band Workshops		
	Mass Choir Rehearsal		Adjudicator's Picks
	Concert Choir Performances		
	Concert Choir Workshops		
	Vocal Jazz Performances & Workshops		
	Jazz Ensemble Performances		
	Jazz Ensemble Workshops		
	Instrumental and Vocal Clinics		
	Central Washington University Chamber Choir	Mass Choir Performance	
	ALL GIRLS JAZZ BAND REHEARSAL		
Student Social	RCA Band Jazz night	RCA Band with guest David Childs	
	Directors' Reception		

Legend:

Maury Young Arts Centre	Rainbow Theatre, Conference Centre
Conference Centre	Aava Hotel & Crystal Lodge
Sea to Sky Ballroom, Conference Centre	Delta Suites

# Event Map



- Aava Whistler Hotel (Summit Room): 4005 Whistler Way
- Delta Suites (Whiski Jack, Raven): 4308 Main St
- Crystal Lodge and Suites (Olympic, Emerald Rooms): 4154 Village Green
- Maury Young Arts Centre (Studio, Stage): 4335 Blackcomb Way
- Whistler Conference Centre (Fitzsimmons, Garibaldi, Harmony, Rainbow Theatre, Sea to Sky Ballroom, Spearhead, Tantalus, Wedgemount): 4010 Whistler Way

# Concert Band & Orchestra

## Friday, May 1st Sea to Sky Ballroom, Conference Centre

\*Please Note: Warm-ups are 20 minutes before in the Fitzsimmons Room.

Time*	Ensemble Name & Director	Hometown	Adjudication Room
9:00-9:20am	SCCHS Wind Ensemble Aaron Thingelstad	Swift Current, SK	Olympic**
9:20-9:40am	JN Burnett Band Club Brenda Khoo	Richmond, BC	Garibaldi
9:40-10:00am	Pickering College Concert Band Rebecca MacDonald	Newmarket, ON	Harmony
10:00-10:20am	North Surrey Festival Concert Band Steve Ho	Surrey, BC	Olympic**
10:20-10:40am	Grandview Heights Secondary Grade 8 Concert Band Bobby Han / Andrea Smith	Surrey, BC	Garibaldi
10:40-11:00am	Alberni District Secondary School Junior Tour Band Josh Kynoch	Port Alberni, BC	Harmony
11:00-11:30am	St. Francis High School Symphonic Band Brigida Battistessa	Calgary, AB	Olympic**
11:30-12:00pm	Jasper Place Concert Band Melissa Hamans	Edmonton, AB	Harmony
1:00-1:30pm	Clayton Heights Senior Concert Band David Doubleday	Surrey, BC	Garibaldi
1:30-2:00pm	SCCHS Wind Orchestra Aaron Thingelstad	Swift Current, SK	Harmony

# Performances & Workshops

Time*	Ensemble Name & Director	Hometown	Adjudication Room
2:00-2:20pm	Crofton House School Grade 8-9 Concert Band Michelle Hartley / Renee Raymond	Vancouver, BC	Olympic**
2:20-2:40pm	Brookwood Secondary Senior Concert Band Derrick Turi	Langley, BC	Garibaldi
2:40-3:00pm	Harmonie Le Caron Lina Brouillard	Penetanguishene, ON	Harmony
3:00-3:20pm	Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School Concert Tour Band Sonya Schrum / Andrew Gesing	Orleans, ON	Olympic**
3:20-3:40pm	Archibald Blair Elementary Concert Band Nancy Quan	Richmond, BC	Garibaldi
3:40-4:00pm	JN Burnett Secondary Concert Ensemble Brenda Khoo	Richmond, BC	Harmony
4:00-4:30pm	Mount Douglas Secondary School Tour Band Doug Awai	Victoria, BC	Garibaldi
4:30-5:00pm	Matthew McNair Concert Band Julie Holden	Richmond, BC	Harmony

\*\*the Olympic Room for Adjudications is in the Crystal Hotel



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# Saturday, May 2nd

## Sea to Sky Ballroom, Conference Centre

\*Please Note: Warm-ups are 20 minutes before in the Fitzsimmons Room.

<b>Time*</b>	<b>Ensemble Name &amp; Director</b>	<b>Hometown</b>	<b>Adjudication Room</b>
8:40-9:00am	Bishop Carroll Touring Band Jeff Waterbury	Calgary, AB	Garibaldi
9:00-9:20am	Langley Christian Junior Band Connor Murdock / Lawrence De Guzman	Langley, BC	Harmony
9:20-9:40am	Pacific Academy Grade 8 Band Aaron Hardie	Surrey, BC	Olympic**
9:40-10:00am	Burnaby Central Tour Concert Band Kevin White	Burnaby, BC	Garibaldi
10:00-10:20am	Semiahmoo Secondary Grade 9 Concert Band Jeffrey Williams	Surrey, BC	Harmony
10:20-10:40am	Ross Sheppard Concert Band Adrienne Paterson	Edmonton, AB	Olympic**
11:00-11:30am	AHSFA Concert Band Matthew Ellis	Okotoks, AB	Harmony
11:30-12:00pm	Peter Ewart Middle School Sr. Concert Band David Kenneth Mills	Langley, BC	Olympic**
1:00-1:30pm	Ardrossan Jr. Sr. High School Sr. Concert Band Raymond Basaraba	Ardrossan, AB	Garibaldi
1:30-2:00pm	Caledonia Wind Ensemble Jacquelynn Amendt	Terrace, BC	Harmony
2:00-2:20pm	Grandview Heights Grade 9 Concert Band Bobby Han / Andrea Smith	Surrey, BC	Garibaldi
2:20-2:40pm	Moscrop Intermediate Concert Band Sydney Tetarenko / Ian Cohen	Burnaby, BC	Olympic**

\*\*the Olympic Room for Adjudications is in the Crystal Hotel

<b>Time*</b>	<b>Ensemble Name &amp; Director</b>	<b>Hometown</b>	<b>Adjudication Room</b>
2:40-3:00pm	Burnaby South Grade 8 Concert Band Lauren Carley	Burnaby, BC	Harmony
3:20-3:40pm	Fleetwood Park Secondary Concert Band Colleen Sheridan	Surrey, BC	Garibaldi
3:40-4:00pm	CISVA Joined Elementary School Band Milan Milosevic	Delta, BC	Harmony

## Sunday, May 3rd Sea to Sky Ballroom, Conference Centre

\*Please Note: Warm-ups are 30 minutes before in the Fitzsimmons Room.

<b>Time*</b>	<b>Ensemble Name &amp; Director</b>	<b>Hometown</b>	<b>Adjudication Room</b>
9:20-9:40am	"Fraser River Middle School Grade 8 Band Matthew Silverman"	New Westminster, BC	Garibaldi
1:00-1:30pm	"Lethbridge Collegiate Institute Gold Symphonic Band Samuel Yamamoto"	Lethbridge, AB	Garibaldi



# BAND SPECIALISTS



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# Instrumental Clinics

## Friday May 1st Aava Hotel & Crystal Lodge

All Masterclasses are 50 minutes in length

Time	Masterclass	Location & Room
10:00 AM – 10:50 AM	Flute	AAVA
10:00 AM – 10:50 AM	Oboe	EMERALD ROOM, CRYSTAL HOTEL
11:00 AM – 11:50 AM	Bassoon	EMERALD ROOM, CRYSTAL HOTEL
11:00 AM – 11:50 AM	Clarinet	AAVA
12:00 PM – 12:50 PM	Clarinet	AAVA
1:00 PM – 1:50 PM	Saxophone	AAVA
2:00 PM – 2:50 PM	Oboe	EMERALD ROOM, CRYSTAL HOTEL
2:00 PM – 2:50 PM	Saxophone	AAVA
3:00 PM – 3:50 PM	Bassoon	EMERALD ROOM, CRYSTAL HOTEL
3:00 PM – 3:50 PM	Flute	AAVA
4:00 PM – 4:50 PM	Flute	AAVA
4:00 PM – 4:50 PM	Saxophone	EMERALD ROOM, CRYSTAL HOTEL
5:00 PM – 5:50 PM	Clarinet	AAVA

## Saturday May 2nd

# Aava Hotel & Crystal Lodge

All Masterclasses are 50 minutes in length

Time	Masterclass	Location & Room
10:00 AM – 10:50 AM	Trombone	EMERALD ROOM, CRYSTAL HOTEL
10:00 AM – 10:50 AM	Trumpet	AAVA
11:00 AM – 11:50 AM	Low Brass	AAVA
11:00 AM – 11:50 AM	French Horn	EMERALD ROOM, CRYSTAL HOTEL
12:00 PM – 12:50 PM	Low Brass	AAVA
1:00 PM – 1:50 PM	Trumpet	AAVA
1:00 PM – 1:50 PM	French Horn	EMERALD ROOM, CRYSTAL HOTEL
2:00 PM – 2:50 PM	Trombone	EMERALD ROOM, CRYSTAL HOTEL
2:00 PM – 2:50 PM	Percussion	AAVA
3:00 PM – 3:50 PM	Trombone	EMERALD ROOM, CRYSTAL HOTEL
3:00 PM – 3:50 PM	Percussion	AAVA
4:00 PM – 4:50 PM	Trumpet	EMERALD ROOM, CRYSTAL HOTEL
4:00 PM – 4:50 PM	Percussion	AAVA
5:00 PM – 5:50 PM	Low Brass	AAVA

# Concert Choir Performances & Workshops

## Friday, May 1st Maury Young Arts Centre

\*Warm-up 30 minutes before, 30 minute performance followed by 50 minute workshop in the Delta Hotel

Time*	Ensemble Name & Director	Hometown	Adjudication Room
10:00-10:30am	Burnaby Central Tour Choir Angela Adam	Burnaby, BC	Raven
10:30-11:00am	Westwood Collegiate Concert Choir Heather Neufeld	Winnipeg, MB	Whisky Jack
11:00-11:30am	SCCHS Meistersingers Ensemble Brianna Dennehy	Swift Current, SK	Raven
11:30-12:00pm	Peter Ewart Middle School Choir Jen Williams	Langley, BC	Whisky Jack
<b>12:10-12:50 pm</b>	<b>MASS CHOIR REHEARSAL SEA TO SKY BALLROOM, CONFERENCE CENTRE</b>		
1:00-1:30pm	Our Lady of Perpetual Help Festival Choir Adam Handford	Vancouver, BC	Raven
1:30-2:00pm	AHSFA Vocal Ensemble Matthew Ellis	Okotoks, AB	Whisky Jack
2:00-2:30pm	Grandview Heights Concert Choir Bobby Han	Surrey, BC	Raven
2:30-3:00pm	St. Francis High School Choir Rachel Li	Calgary, AB	Whisky Jack

## Saturday, May 2nd Maury Young Arts Centre

\*Warm-up 30 minutes before, 30 minute performance followed by 50 minute workshop in the Delta Hotel

Time*	Ensemble Name & Director	Hometown	Adjudication Room
<b>8:30-9:30 am</b>	<b>CHORAL CONDUCTOR'S WORKSHOP WITH DR. NICOLE LAMARTINE</b>		<b>Maury Young Arts Stage</b>
9:30-10:00am	Caledonia Kermode Choir Jacquelynnne Amendt	Terrace, BC	Whisky Jack
10:00-10:30am	Crofton House School Concert Choir Michelle Hartley	Vancouver, BC	Raven
10:30-11:00am	Polaris Chamber Choir Steve Ho / Jonathan Krueger	Surrey, BC	Whisky Jack
11:00-11:30am	Bishop Carroll Touring Choir Andrea Ciona	Calgary, AB	Raven
<b>12:10-12:50pm</b>	<b>MASS CHOIR REHEARSAL SEA TO SKY BALLROOM, CONFERENCE CENTRE</b>		
1:00-1:30pm	SCCHS Chamber Singers Brianna Dennehy	Swift Current, SK	Whisky Jack
1:30-2:00pm	Our Lady of the Rockies High School Tour Choir Melissa Townley-Smith	Calgary, AB	Raven
2:00-2:30pm	Crofton House School Chamber Choir Michelle Hartley	Vancouver, BC	Whisky Jack

# Jazz Ensemble Performances & Workshops

## Friday, May 1st Rainbow Theatre, Conference Centre

Warm-ups are 30 min before in the Tantalus Room. Workshops to follow

Time*	Ensemble Name & Director	Hometown	Adjudication Room
9:30-10:00am	Caledonia Jazz Jacquelynn Amendt	Terrace, BC	Wedgemount
10:00-10:30am	AHSFA Jazz Band Matthew Ellis	Okotoks, AB	Spearhead
11:00-11:30am	Jazz N Burnett Brenda Khoo	Richmond, BC	Wedgemount
11:30-12:00pm	Grandview Heights Grade 9 Jazz Band Bobby Han / Andrea Smith	Surrey, BC	Spearhead
1:00-1:30pm	Semiahmoo Secondary Grade 9 Jazz Band – AL Annie Lu	Surrey, BC	Wedgemount
1:30-2:00pm	Burnaby Central Jazz Kevin White	Burnaby, BC	<b>Spearhead</b>
2:00-2:30pm	Fraser Heights Secondary Intermediate Jazz Band Astra Tsang	Surrey, BC	Wedgemount
2:30-3:00pm	Ardrossan Jr. Sr. High School Sr. Jazz Band Raymond Basaraba	Ardrossan, AB	Spearhead
3:00-3:30pm	Semiahmoo Secondary Grade 9 Jazz Band – DL Dagan Lowe	Surrey, BC	Wedgemount
4:00-4:30pm	North Surrey Junior Jazz Band Steve Ho	Surrey, BC	Wedgemount
4:30-5:00pm	Fleetwood Park Jazz Band 10 Colleen Sheridan	Surrey, BC	Spearhead
<b>7-8:20pm</b>	<b>ALL GIRLS JAZZ BAND REHEARSAL</b>		<b>Rainbow Theatre</b>

# Saturday, May 2nd

## Rainbow Theatre, Conference Centre

Warm-ups are 30 min before in the Tantalus Room. Workshops to follow

Time*	Ensemble Name & Director	Hometown	Adjudication Room
9:00-9:30am	SCCHS 9 O' Clock Jazz Band Aaron Thingelstad	Swift Current, SK	Wedgemount
9:30-10:00am	Clayburn Middle Jazz Band Aaron Long	Abbotsford, BC	Spearhead
10:00-10:30am	Westwood Senior Jazz Band Darrell Chrisp	Winnipeg, MB	Wedgemount
10:30-11:00am	Grandview Heights Grade 8 Jazz Bobby Han / Andrea Smith	Surrey, BC	Spearhead
11:00-11:30am	St. Francis High Jazz Band Brandon Oberhamer	Calgary, AB	Wedgemount
11:30-12:00pm	Mount Douglas Secondary School Grade 10 Jazz Band Doug Awai	Victoria, BC	Spearhead
1:00-1:30pm	Clayton Heights Secondary Jazz David Doubleday	Surrey, BC	Wedgemount
1:30-2:00pm	Brookwood Secondary Senior Jazz Derrick Turi	Langley, BC	Spearhead
2:00-2:30pm	Matthew McNair Jazz Band Julie Holden	Richmond, BC	Wedgemount
2:30-3:00pm	Ross Sheppard Jazz Band Adrienne Paterson	Edmonton, AB	Spearhead
3:00-3:30pm	Pacific Academy 8 Jazz Band Aaron Hardie	Surrey, BC	Wedgemount
3:30-4:00pm	Mount Douglas Secondary School Senior Jazz Band Doug Awai	Victoria, BC	Spearhead
4:00-4:30pm	Senior Jazz Band Heritage Woods Secondary School Kathy Fester	Port Moody, BC	Wedgemount
<b>7-8:20pm</b>	<b>ALL GIRLS JAZZ BAND REHEARSAL</b>		<b>Rainbow Theatre</b>

# Vocal Jazz Performances & Workshops

Saturday, May 2nd  
Maury Young Arts Centre

\*Warm-up 30 minutes before

Time*	Ensemble Name & Director	Hometown	Adjudication Room
11-11:50 am	SCCHS Vocal Jazz Ensemble Brianna Dennehy	Swift Current, SK	Maury Young Arts Centre
4-4:50pm	Fraser Heights FireVox Kristen Huskins / Astra Tsang	Surrey, BC	Maury Young Arts Centre



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# Guest Performances

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Thursday, April 30th 8:00pm  
Sea to Sky Ballroom, Conference Centre

**Mount Douglas Secondary School Jazz Ensemble**  
*Doug Awai, Director*  
**with Dance Instructor Isak Enquist**

**OPENING NIGHT DANCE INSTRUCTION/COMPETITION &  
OVERALL FUN TIME!!!**

*Repertoire for the swing dance will be selected from the following:*

<i>L.O.V.E.</i>	<i>Jersey Bounce</i>	<i>In the Mood</i>
<i>Route 66</i>	<i>Blue Suede Shoes</i>	<i>Hay Burner</i>
<i>Lullaby of Birdland</i>	<i>Rockin' Robin</i>	<i>Puente Arriba</i>
<i>Zoot Suit Riot</i>	<i>Sing, Sing, Sing</i>	
<i>Groovin' Hard</i>	<i>Black Coffee</i>	

Friday, May 1st 7:00 & 8:30pm\*\*  
Sea to Sky Ballroom, Conference Centre

**Royal Canadian Artillery Band**  
*Commanding Officer: Captain David P. Gagnon, CD*

## Jazz Night

<i>Sevens</i>	<i>by Samuel Hazo</i>
<i>Incantation and Dance</i>	<i>by John Barnes Chance</i>
<i>Hang Gliding</i>	<i>by Maria Schneider</i>
<i>featuring Sgt Martin Walters, Trumpet &amp; Sgt. Sylvain Boisvert, Saxophone</i>	
<i>Prelude, Fugue and Riffs</i>	<i>by Leonard Bernstein</i>
	<i>featuring Sgt Connor Learmonth on Clarinet</i>
<i>Jazz Suite</i>	<i>by Manfred Schneider</i>

*\*\*Schools Assignments to be posted online*

Friday, May 1st 5:00, 7:00 & 8:30 pm\*\*  
Maury Young Arts Centre

**The Central Washington University Chamber Choir**

*Dr. Nicole Lamartine, Director*

**Light and Dark**

<i>Nox (from Illuminare)</i>	<i>Elaine Hagenberg</i>
<i>Dance of Zólongo Traditional Greek</i>	<i>Arr. Carol Barnett</i>
<i>Salve Regina</i>	<i>Franz Liszt</i>
<i>and the swallow (Psalm 84)</i>	<i>Caroline Shaw</i>
<i>O lux beata Trinitas</i>	<i>Ko Matsushita</i>
<i>Bells (for Tamir Rice)</i>	<i>Adrian Dunn</i>
<i>Little Blue Jacob Collier</i>	<i>Arr. Ben Bram</i>
<i>Imaginary Creatures</i>	<i>Andrea Ramsey</i>
<i>Ave verum corpus</i>	<i>Francis Poulenc</i>
<i>Unclouded Day</i>	<i>Arr. Shawn Kirchner</i>

*\*\*Schools Assignments to be posted online*

Friday, May 1st 8:30-11:00pm  
Lower Level, Conference Centre

**DIRECTOR'S RECEPTION**

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*Get to know your adjudicators clinicians and performing artists  
and Cantando admin as well*

Saturday, April 26th 7:00 & 8:30pm\*\*  
Sea to Sky Ballroom, Conference Centre

**Royal Canadian Artillery Band**

*Commanding Officer: Captain David P. Gagnon, CD  
Euphonium soloist David Childs*

**Legit Night**

*Awayday* by Adam Gorb  
*Force of Nature* by Peter Graham  
featuring David Childs, Euphonium  
*Concertpiece* by James Curnow  
*Prelude, Fugue and Riffs* by Leonard Bernstein  
*Brillante* by Peter Graham  
featuring David Childs and Tommy Vo, Euphoniums

**Festival Mass Choir**

*Rachel Rensink-Hoff, Conductor*

*The Gift To Sing* by Marianne Forman

*Please note - The Mass choir will sing at the end of the 7:00 pm concert (approximately 8:15 pm) and stay to start the 8:30 concert.*

*\*\*Schools Assignments to be posted online*

Sunday, May 3rd 10:00am-1:00pm  
Sea to Sky Ballroom, Conference Centre

**Adjudicator's choice concerts**

**Whistler All Girls Jazz Band (10:00 AM)**

**Jazz Band (10:45 AM)**

**Choir (11:30 AM)**

**Concert Band (12:15 PM)**



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# Guest Bios

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## Mount Douglas Secondary School Jazz Ensemble

The Mount Douglas Secondary Sr. Jazz band hails from the scenic shores of Victoria B.C and is directed by Doug Awai.

The band brings together passionate musicians from Mt. Doug's grade 10, 11, and 12 classes. Mt. Doug Jazz is happy to be back at the Whistler Cantando Festival and excited to be offering some swingin' tunes for the festival opening swing dance!

## Isak Enquist



Isak Enquist is a dance artist, teacher, choreographer, and experimental musician/sound designer living on occupied traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh, Skwxwú7mesh, and xʷməθkwəy̓əm nations. Raised in the Kootenays/Ktunaxa of Canada, Isak began formal training in Shotokan Karate-Do before pursuing post-secondary dance education at Simon Fraser University and Modus Operandi (Vancouver), as well as training intensives with The Ailey School (Italy/New York) and Springboard Danse Montréal.

As an emerging dance artist, Isak has performed with Canadian companies such as: Out Innerspace Dance Theatre, Compagnie Vision Impure, Mahaila Patterson-O'Brien, the response. (Amber Funk Barton), Mascall Dance, Generous Mess, Corporeal Imago, CAMP, Shay Kuebler Radical System Art, and Anne Plamondon Productions. He is also a choreographer/producer with Enquist X Enquist, and Late Nights (Cohort), contributing as a dancer and collaborator on various projects. Touring with these companies have included performances across Canada, USA, Europe and Israel.

As a teacher and facilitator, Isak is researching how to support personal health as an essential component to creating and sharing dance. He has offered floor-work classes with Vancouver's Harbour Dance Centre, Pacific DanceArts, The Landing Dance Centre, Training Society of Vancouver, Lamon Dance Company, The Goh Ballet Academy, and GötesborgOperan Danskompani (Sweden).

## The Central Washington University Chamber Choir



“Transforming Passion Into Purpose”

The Central Washington University Chamber Choir carries a tradition of excellence in choral performance and embraces innovation of choral performance in the 21st century. Under the leadership of Dr. Nicole Lamartine since 2022, the Chamber Choir was selected as one of six choirs in the US to premiere the 2024 Brock Commission at NW ACDA in 2024 and was a featured performance choir for the state music educators conference. Since 2022, Chamber Choir has premiered works by André Thomas, Jason Harris, Christian Grases, and Forrest Pierce. The choir prides itself on a strong tradition of mentorship. We host four festivals per year for high school choirs and host another dozen schools each year for clinics and exchanges. Our alumni amplify our continued foundation of excellence, access, and building a sense of belonging in the choral art.

### Dr. NICOLE C. LAMARTINE

Nicole C. Lamartine creates innovative and engaging choral experiences as the Director of Chors at Central Washington University. She conducts the flagship CWU Chamber Choir, integrates 21st century relevancy into MM choral studies, and teaches conducting, voice, and music education. She has conducted over twenty All-State, international, and ACDA honor choirs, and her own ensembles have appeared on ACDA, NAFME, and NCCO regional and national conferences. A passionate advocate for choral music education, she has headlined choral conferences in Hong Kong and Costa Rica, and in seven US states. Previous posts include the University of Northern Iowa (2003-2006), the University of Wyoming (2008-2020) and University of California, Santa Barbara (2020-2022). Lamartine conducts Chor Anno, comprised of choral music educators, and she is the Founder of the Santa Barbara Gay Men’s Chorus. She is a Past-President of Northwest ACDA. The Nicole Lamartine series is published with Santa Barbara Music Press.

## Royal Canadian Artillery Band



The Royal Canadian Artillery Band is one of six Regular Force bands in the Canadian Armed Forces. Located at Canadian Forces Base Edmonton, the RCA Band provides music designed to support Canadian Forces operations, foster morale and esprit de corps, and promote Canada and the Canadian military nationally and abroad. The band operates mainly in western Canada and is de facto the representative band of the Canadian Army in the western provinces. All unit members are professional musicians in addition to being members of the military, which enables the band to adopt a variety of configurations to suit the musical needs of their audiences. Ensembles can range from jazz combos, rock bands, and chamber groups, through stage and show bands to full marching and concert bands.

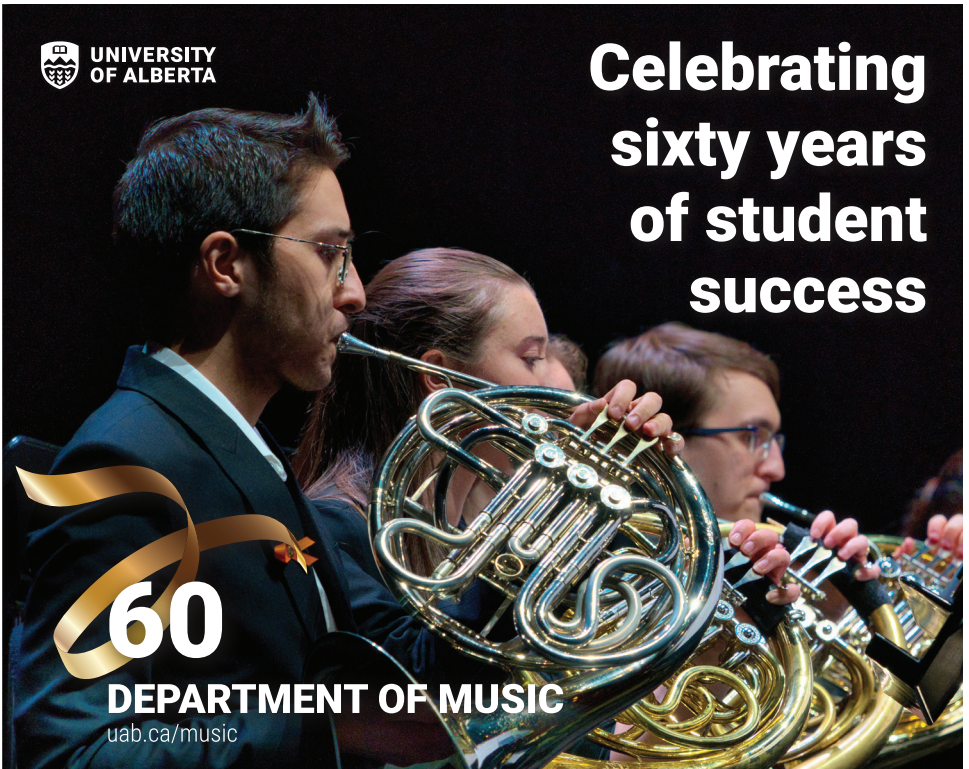


# Celebrating sixty years of student success

# 60

## DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

[uab.ca/music](http://uab.ca/music)



## David Childs, Euphonium soloist

David Childs is regarded as one of the finest brass musicians of his generation. He has appeared as soloist with the BBC, Manchester and RTÉ Concert orchestras, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonie Baden-Baden, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Sinfonia Cymru, Welsh National Opera, Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and many of the finest brass bands and military bands throughout the world.

He has made solo appearances at the Singapore International Festival, Harrogate International Festival, Cheltenham Festival, Melbourne International Festival, BBC Proms and New York Festival and given solo recitals at the Wigmore Hall, Purcell Room and Bridgewater Hall. He is a keen advocate of new music and has premiered sixteen concertos for euphonium including a Royal Albert Hall BBC Proms broadcast of

Alun Hoddinott's *Sunne Rising – The King Will Ride* and the Carnegie Hall US premiere of Karl Jenkins' *Concerto for Euphonium and Orchestra*. In 2025 he will premiere a new concerto for euphonium and string orchestra by Sir James MacMillan.

David Childs is currently Distinguished Research Professor of Euphonium at the University of North Texas and holds positions as Visiting Professor at Tokyo's Senzoku Gakuen College of Music and International Visiting Tutor at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, where he was made a fellow in 2024. He is a founding member of Eminence Brass chamber ensemble and as a Buffet Crampon Besson Artist he continues to showcase the euphonium as a serious solo voice within the world of classical music.



**Rachel Rensink-Hoff see page 31**

# Adjudicator Bios

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## Armand Hall (Concert Band/Orchestra)



Armand Hall is the Director of Programs for the Gateways Music Festival and is also a faculty member at the Eastman School of Music, where he teaches courses in the Art Leadership Program and Music, Teaching, and Learning Departments. Prior to his role at Gateways, he served as the Executive and Artistic Director of ROCmusic Collaborative, Rochester's El Sistema-inspired community-based, free music learning program.

Dr. Hall has served as Associate Director of Bands and Coordinator of Instrumental Music Education at the University of Memphis and, prior to that, as a middle and high school band director in the state

of Michigan. A conductor and clarinetist, Dr. Hall earned bachelor's and master's degrees in music education from the University of Michigan and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Wind Conducting from Michigan State University.

## Robert Ambrose (Concert Band)



Conductor Robert J. Ambrose enjoys a highly successful and diverse career as a dynamic and engaging musician. Dr. Ambrose studied formally at Boston College, Boston University and Northwestern University, where he received the Doctor of Music degree in conducting.

Dr. Ambrose currently serves as Director of Bands and Professor of Music at Georgia State University a research institution of over 53,000 students located in Atlanta. His the Symphonic Wind Ensemble, running the highly successful graduate wind conducting program and overseeing the entire large,

comprehensive university band program. His graduate conducting students have received multiple honors and hold conducting and teaching positions throughout the United States and in multiple foreign countries.

## Gillian MacKay (Concert Band/Orchestra)

Gillian MacKay is Professor of Music of the University of Toronto, where she conducts the Wind Ensemble and teaches conducting. Gillian has an active professional career as a conductor, adjudicator, clinician and trumpeter. She has conducted honour ensembles throughout Canada and the United States, and has adjudicated Canadian band festivals at local, provincial, and national levels in Canada. She has conducted honour bands and judged competitions in the US, Singapore, Thailand, and Korea.



Recognized as a conducting pedagogue, Gillian leads the University of Toronto Wind Conducting Symposium each July, and has been the guest instructor at other symposia in Canada and the United States. Gillian holds degrees and diplomas from the University of Lethbridge, McGill University, the University of Calgary, and Northwestern University.

## Danielle Gaudry (Concert Band)

Conductor and educator Dr. Danielle Gaudry is the Director of the Wind Orchestra and Associate Professor of Instrumental Conducting and Community Engagement at the Schulich School of Music of McGill University, where she also serves as the Chair of the Performance Department. Prior to her appointment at McGill, she served for ten years as Director of Bands and Coordinator of Instrumental Music at the California State University, East Bay. As a bilingual music educator born and raised in the Franco- Manitoban community of St. Boniface, Dr. Gaudry taught high school instrumental music for several years in a French Immersion program. She proudly served as a musician and conductor in the Canadian Armed Forces for fourteen years, most notably as Director of Music of The Regimental Band of The Royal Winnipeg Rifles. Dr. Gaudry earned a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Wind Conducting with a Cognate in Music Education from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. At home, Danielle and her husband, a musicologist, maintain a fast-paced life with their two sets of energetic twin boys.



## Erik Kar Jun Leung (Concert Band)



Erik Kar Jun Leung, a native of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, serves as Assistant Professor of Teaching and Director of Bands at Oregon State University. In this role, he conducts the Wind Ensemble and Chamber Winds, teaches conducting, and oversees all aspects of OSU's band program. Leung earned his DMA in Wind Conducting from Northwestern University, along with degrees from the University of Toronto (M.Mus) and the University of Calgary (B.Mus with distinction, B.Ed). He has presented at numerous conferences across North America and Europe, including the Midwest Band and Orchestra

Clinic, the national College Band Directors National Association Convention, the American School Band Directors National Association conference, and the World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles.

## Christopher Aspaas (Concert Choir & Vocal Jazz)

Christopher Aspaas serves as Director of Choral Activities and Associate Professor of Music at TCU. Christopher received his Ph.D. in Choral Music Education at The Florida State University in Tallahassee, his M.M. in Choral Conducting from Michigan State University in East Lansing, and his B.M. in Voice Performance from St. Olaf. He has served on the faculties of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Washington and Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts. At TCU, Christopher leads the Concert Chorale, TCU's flagship mixed ensemble as well as the Frog Corps, TCU's premier male vocal ensemble. He also teaches coursework in basic conducting, choral conducting, choral literature, advanced choral conducting and oversees the graduate choral conducting program.



## Dorothy Dyck (Concert Choir & Vocal Jazz)

Dorothy studied Education and Music at the University of Manitoba, and from 1997- 2024 devoted her expertise and energy to developing the Maples Collegiate Choral Program. Beginning with one Concert Choir and one Vocal Jazz Choir, the school now has seven choral ensembles. In 2019, Dorothy received the Michael J. Proudfoot Award, presented to a conductor exemplifying a passion for and excellence in the choral field. In 2024, Dorothy was presented with the MCA Award of Distinction for Artistic Excellence from the Manitoba Choral Association, in recognition for her contributions to the choral community of Manitoba. She currently co-directs Winnipeg's SonoLux Choir and sings in a five-member a cappella vocal jazz/pop group, Due North Voices. Recently retired from teaching, Dorothy is enjoying working with choirs and choir-loving folks in other capacities.



## Rachel Rensink-Hoff (Concert Choir & Vocal Jazz)



Rachel Rensink-Hoff is Associate Professor and Chair of Music at Brock University and Artistic Director of the Avanti Singers. Awarded the 2016 Leslie Bell Prize for Choral Conducting of the Ontario Arts Council, Rachel and choirs under her direction have been the recipients of numerous honours and awards. Rachel is Past Vice-President of Programming for Choral Canada and Past-President of Choirs Ontario, Recipient of the 2010 Choral Canada National Choral Award for Outstanding Dissertation, her ongoing research focuses on conductor training and mentorship, choral programming, and the intersections of creative practice and mental wellbeing. Rachel holds Master of Music and Doctoral degrees in choral conducting and music education from Western University. She has completed additional choral studies at the Chorus

America Conducting Academy, the Eastman School, and the Voice Care Network of St. John's University, Minnesota.

## Dean McNeill (Jazz Ensembles)

Professor of Brass & Jazz for 27 years at the University of Saskatchewan (9 of which also serving as Head of the Music Department) Dean is the recipient of the U of S's Dwaine Nelson Teaching Award, USASK Student's Union Teaching Excellence Award, the Saskatchewan Jazz Festival's Special Recognition Award, Saskatchewan Choral Federation's Outstanding Administrator's Award, and, the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal (Saskatchewan). Dean was a member of the Saskatoon Symphony for 23 seasons. He is currently the A.D. of the Saskatoon Jazz Orchestra which is in its 12th year. Dean attended MacEwan University, McGill University, and the University of North Texas.



## Audrey Ochoa (Jazz Ensembles)

Audrey Ochoa is a trombonist, composer, arranger and educator from Edmonton, where she studied music education at the University of Alberta. She is currently teaching with Edmonton Catholic schools while working as a freelance trombonist across Canada.

She is a decorated award nominee, having earned recognition at the Western Canadian Music Awards, the Global Music Awards and is a recent recipient of the Edmonton Music Prize, noting an outstanding musical contribution to the local arts scene. With significant education,

performances and momentum amassed, Ochoa's has recorded many more albums, and earned her the Western Canadian Music Award for Jazz Artist of the Year. Her most recent album, "The Head of a Mouse" earned Ochoa her first JUNO Award nomination in 2025.

## Jodi Proznick (Jazz Ensembles)

Jodi Proznick is a Canadian jazz bassist, composer, educator and producer. In 2019, she was named Jazz Artist of the Year at the Western Canadian Music Awards and has been nominated for four Juno Awards. Jodi Proznick has earned a reputation as one of Canada's finest jazz artists. She has won numerous National Jazz Awards, including Bassist of the Year in '08 and '09. Her group, the Jodi Proznick Quartet, was awarded the Acoustic Group of the Year and Album of the Year in '08 and the Galaxie Rising Star at the Vancouver International Jazz Festival in '04. Jodi's deep passion for education lead her to pursue a Masters Degree in Education at Simon Fraser University.. She is currently the Department Head of the Jazz Program, Artistic Director of the Summer Jazz Workshop and Sister Jazz Day at the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra School of Music where she teaches jazz bass, combo, jazz history and jazz theory.



## Ingrid Stitt (Jazz Ensembles)



Canadian musician Ingrid Stitt is highly regarded as a saxophonist, arranger and educator. Now based in Vancouver, she began her post-secondary studies at McGill University, graduating with a B.Mus. in performance. She worked as a freelance musician in Montreal and Toronto for several years, leading her own jazz quartet and playing with many of Canada's finest artists from coast to coast. Her second career began after moving to Vancouver, where she completed a B.Ed. degree at UBC and began working as a secondary music teacher in Burnaby. She discovered a passion for sharing her expertise with young students and mentoring them towards lifelong learning. Currently, she teaches at Capilano University and the VSO School of Music. She holds a MEd in conducting and curriculum theory from the University of Victoria.

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