

Federation of Canadian Music Festival Announces Winners of the 2025 National Music Festival

August 7, 2025 – The Federation of Canadian Music Festivals [FCMF] held its 54th National Music Festival from July 11-30, as a hybrid event with over a hundred young musicians participating across five programming streams. A total of \$36,250 in awards was distributed.

Thirty-three [33] advanced-level students [30 years and under] competed in the Emerging Artist Stream held as a live event on the beautiful campus of Mount Allison University in Sackville, NB. Thirty-eight [38] intermediate-level students [18 years and under] competed in the virtual Developing Artist Stream, forty-eight [48] junior-level students participated in the Non-Competitive Education Stream and eight [8] young composers participated in the non-competitive Composition Stream. In the virtual Ensemble Stream, three [3] school choirs and three [3] community choirs competed across 4 classes; four [4] bands participated in the second annual offering of large instrumental ensemble classes; and six [6] chamber ensembles, comprising a total of 23 members, competed in the junior, intermediate, and advanced-level classes.

FCMF Chair, Tom Davidson, congratulated each of the young performers who were finalists adding, “The role that parents, teachers, sponsors, volunteers, and indeed all festival supporters play in our collective national success is huge and greatly valued. It contributes to the social, cultural, and economic well-being of our great country, breaking down barriers and bringing communities together.”

“Listening to all these talented young musicians and being able to offer them guidance for the future were truly rewarding moments. This competition is an important musical springboard and a meaningful milestone in their lives. The competition is masterfully organized, and the future of the students in this competition is extremely promising,” commented Jean-François Guay, this year’s National Music Festival Emerging Artist Woodwinds Adjudicator.

The 2025 Grand Award Winner, seventeen-year-old clarinetist Kalvin Rowe from Saint John, NB, was chosen from among the First Place Emerging Artist Winners in all disciplines by a nationally acclaimed panel of adjudicators. As the Grand Award Winner, Kalvin received the \$5,000 cash prize from the NRS Foundation through the Victoria Foundation.

When asked about his experience at the National Music Festival, Rowe shared that “it helped me have more self-awareness in music [performance] and that music isn’t just about winning or losing. It’s about making friends and connecting with other people who love creating art. Competitions are fun, but opinion based. Just because one person doesn’t pick you as a winner doesn’t mean you aren’t in someone else’s books.” In response to what advice he would give to someone preparing for their first music festival, he offered: “Just practice and do the best you can on the day of your performance. No matter if you mess up it doesn’t define you as a musician, as it’s only a snapshot of one performance in your lifetime.”

When asked why music remains important in today’s society, Kalvin offered: “Music is the pathway for us to create, learn, and express ourselves in today’s world to everyone even without speaking the same language. The universal language of music can help us be together during times of conflict and can keep us in check.”

“This year’s FCMF National Music Festival once again proved to be a formidable showcase of the remarkable musical talent that Canada continues to nurture and celebrate on the international stage,” says Dr. Michael Kim, this year’s National Music Festival Emerging Artist Piano Adjudicator and Dean and Professor, Don Wright Faculty of Music, University of Western Ontario. “The ongoing achievements of FCMF alumni are a testament to music’s unique power to foster creativity, discipline, collaboration, problem-solving, and other high-level transferable skills.”

Event Presenting Partners: The Azreili Foundation, Mount Allison University’s Department of Music, the New Brunswick Federation of Music Festivals.

The Federation of Canadian Music Festivals [FCMF] is a cultural network that discovers, develops, and promotes amateur musicians in their pursuit of excellence. For over 100 years, competitive music festivals across Canada have offered early educational performance opportunities for music students in an inclusive and nurturing environment. Since 1949, the grassroots music festival movement has discovered, and systematically developed, hundreds of thousands of young Canadian musicians, from beginner-level to elite performers, and educators in a wide range of disciplines. We are a festival movement across Canada organized primarily by volunteers, which annually attracts hundreds of thousands of participants as competitors, volunteers, music lovers, patrons, and audiences at various levels. We are dedicated to developing and advancing Canadian musicians. Learn more at www.fcmf.org.

EMERGING ARTIST STREAM VOLET ARTISTES ÉMERGENTS			
30 years & under, advanced repertoire 30 ans et moins, répertoire avancé			
Voice Voix		Woodwinds Bois	
1 st 1 ^e	Emma Gélinau-Cloutier, QC	1 st 1 ^e	Kalvine Rowe, NB
2 nd 2 ^e	Jacinthe Bernier, NB	2 nd 2 ^e	Tyler Evans-Knott, BC [LSQR]
Piano Piano		Brass Cuivres	
1 st 1 ^e	Carey Wang, BC [LSQR]	1 st 1 ^e	Selena Tenass, NB
2 nd 2 ^e	Maggie Wu, NS	2 nd 2 ^e	Jacob Reddin, PE
Strings Cordes		Musical Theatre Théâtre musical	
1 st 1 ^e	Iraín Herrera Quirós, NS	1 st 1 ^e	Adia Laureijs, PE
2 nd 2 ^e	Max Francis, BC [LSQR]	2 nd 2 ^e	Sarina Wu, ON [LSQR]

DEVELOPING ARTIST STREAM VOLET ARTISTES EN DÉVELOPPEMENT			
18 years & under, intermediate repertoire 18 ans et moins, répertoire intermédiaire			
Voice Voix		Woodwinds Bois	
1 st 1 ^e	Sophie Simms, NL	1 st 1 ^e	Daniel Sanabria, BC [LSQR]
2 nd 2 ^e	Aiofe Strand, NL	2 nd 2 ^e	Amalia Lavoie, PE
Piano Piano		Brass Cuivres	
1 st 1 ^e	Angela Wen, NS	1 st 1 ^e	Oriana Luc, NB
2 nd 2 ^e	Sébastien Frenette, NB	2 nd 2 ^e	Dylan Fredericks, NS
Strings Cordes		Musical Theatre Théâtre musical	
1 st 1 ^e	Lan Shen, NS	1 st 1 ^e	Maya McNair, ON [LSQR]
2 nd 2 ^e	Joanne Jiang, BC [LSQR]	2 nd 2 ^e	Landon Garrett, NB
Classical Guitar Guitare classique		Percussion Percussion	
1 st 1 ^e	Ethan Hyunseung Ra, ON [LSQR]	1 st 1 ^e	Aaron Phi, NB
2 nd 2 ^e	George Eric Yan, NB		

ENSEMBLE STREAM VOLET ENSEMBLES		
Chamber Ensembles Ensembles de musique de chambre		
1 st 1 ^e	Advanced Avancé	Controlled Demolition, BC [LSQR] Anise Buelow, Jade Wedel, Sophia Hillstrom, Garron Stuart, Curtis Vetter
1 st 1 ^e	Intermediate Intermédiaire	Jubilee Flute Quartet, BC [LSQR] Tyler Evans-Knott, Miya Doak, Daniel Sanabria, Emilia Vozian
1 st 1 ^e	Junior Débutant	Samson & Delilah Trio, BC [LSQR] Max Francis, Joanne Jiang, Jingru (Felicia) Ma
Instrumental Ensembles Ensembles Instrumentaux		
1 st 1 ^e	School Concert Band Harmonie/fanfare scolaire	St. Bonaventure's College Wind Ensemble, NL Director Directrice: Vincenza Etchegary
1 st 1 ^e	School Jazz Band Orchestre de jazz scolaire	Ensemble de Jazz L'Odysse, NB Director Directeur: Martin McLaughlin
Choirs Chœurs		
1 st 1 ^e	Glee/Show/Musical Theatre Group Groupes Glee/Spectacle/Théâtre Musical	Red Island Ensemble, PE Director Directrice: Emma Sommers
1 st 1 ^e	School Choir Chœur scolaires Grade 12 & under 12e année et moins	Holy Heart Chamber Choir, NL Director Directeur: Robert Colbourne
1 st 1 ^e	School Choir Chœur scolaires Grade 6 & under 6e année et moins	Spring Park School, PE Director Directrice: Karri Shea
1 st 1 ^e	Community Choir Chœur communautaire 19 years & under 19 ans et moins	Cantabile Singers, NS Director Directeur: Chris Bowman

*LSQR = FCMF Local Stream Qualifying Round | Volet de qualification régional de la FCMF