

# Rotary Music Festival 2025

## Rules and Regulations

Updated January 7, 2025

Memorial University of Newfoundland School of Music  
An affiliate of MusicFest Canada

### History of Rotary Music Festival

In 1981, the Newfoundland and Labrador Band Workshop was established to provide music students and their teachers with an opportunity to interact in an atmosphere designed to enhance music education in Newfoundland and Labrador. The workshop/clinic environment allowed all participants to benefit musically from the experience of working with experts in the field.

Evolving from Newfoundland and Labrador Band Workshop, the Rotary Music Festival is dedicated to offering students and teachers the very best in educational opportunities. Ensembles benefit from both written and verbal adjudications. In addition, clinicians work with each group after their performance. Groups may perform to a standard of gold, silver or bronze or may choose to perform as a “clinic-only” ensemble. Performing to the standard allows directors and groups to more readily evaluate their progress.

### Objectives of Rotary Music Festival

The Rotary Music Festival Committee consists of experienced music educators and members of the Rotary Club of St John's Northwest. The committee has developed a set of objectives that reflect the philosophy of the festival and with the best interests of students and educators involved. The objectives include:

- To provide an opportunity for students and educators to meet, demonstrate, celebrate and share their musical achievement and creativity.
- To evaluate and reflect on musical achievements and creativity in a constructive and educationally focused way.
- To complement and enhance the teaching, learning, and growing process.
- To foster and promote a lifelong interest in music as a basic human experience.

# RULES AND REGULATIONS

## 1. Rotary Music Festival Participation

Participation in Rotary Music Festival is open to all performing groups in the areas of Concert Band, Choral, Orchestra, Jazz Band, Chamber Groups, and Combos. "Affiliated" Combos are smaller groups which are generally made up of players from another registered ensemble. "Non-Affiliated" Combos are not associated with any registered ensemble.

## 2. Registration Fees

Choirs \$275.00	Additional Affiliated Choirs \$175.00
Jazz Bands \$275.00	Additional Affiliated Jazz Bands \$175.00
Concert Bands \$275.00	Additional Affiliated Concert Bands \$175.00
Orchestras \$275.00	Additional Affiliated Orchestras \$175.00
Non-affiliated Jazz Combos \$275.00	Affiliated Jazz Combos \$175.00
Non-affiliated Chamber Group \$275.00	Affiliated Chamber Group \$175

*Reduced rates apply only to ensembles within the same institution. For clarification, please consult with the Festival Coordinator.*

**Registration ends at midnight on Friday, February 7. All fees will be due at that time.** Scheduling priority can only be upheld once registration fees have been received. Late registration may be accepted provided there is space in the schedule. REGISTRATION FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE.

## 3. Verification of Status

Some of the festival classes have age and enrolment restrictions for ensemble members. The festival reserves the right to request verification of member status.

Each member must be a bona fide member enrolled in a full time program within the school(s) or community organization(s) at the time of the Rotary Music Festival. In the event that an ensemble that is playing to a standard requires a non-member to participate as a substitute, the ensemble will be re-designated, by the festival committee as a "Clinic Only" ensemble and will not receive a performance designation (gold, silver, or bronze).

## 4. Festival Divisions

- Choral Festival
- Jazz Festival
- Concert Band Festival (includes wind/percussion chamber groups)
- Orchestra Festival (includes string chamber groups)

## 5. Clinic Only

Groups wishing to participate in the Rotary Music Festival as a "Clinic Only" ensemble will have no repertoire restrictions. **"Clinic Only" instrumental ensembles are required to prepare two musical selections. "Clinic Only" choral ensembles are required to perform three musical selections.** These will be adjudicated in the broadest of terms to allow the clinicians to focus on the specific needs of the ensemble. Sessions will be as flexible as possible so that the clinicians can cater to the requirements of the group.

## 6. Standard of Performance

Groups who choose to play to a standard will be required to adhere to all rules and regulations outlined in this document.

**Gold, Silver, and Bronze Standards of Performance** are recognized by the Rotary Music Festival in all classes.

- **Gold Standard** signifies that a group is demonstrating a high standard of musical performance.
- **Silver Standard** signifies an above-average quality of performance with the latitude for improvement.
- **Bronze Standard** signifies a satisfactory standard of performance with the latitude for improvement.

### 6.1 Participation in MusicFest Canada

For groups participating at **MusicFest Canada**, it is the responsibility of the Director to be familiar with the Rules and Regulations of MusicFest Canada. Rotary Music Festival is an affiliate of MusicFest Canada. In order to obtain an invitation to the national festival, your group must receive a gold or silver standard at the Rotary Music Festival. **Groups participating at MusicFest Canada must perform one piece from the MusicFest Canada Concert Band Syllabus.**

For further information, please visit: <https://musicfest.ca/information-ensemble-directors/concert-band-syllabus/>

## 7. Knowing the Rules

It is the responsibility of each ensemble director to know the rules and regulations of the Rotary Music Festival. Directors are encouraged to discuss the rules and regulations and all pertinent information regarding the festival with all participants in preparation for the festival. Concerns regarding rules and regulations should be addressed directly to the Festival Committee.

## 8. Adjudication and awarding of standards

Musical integrity will be the basis of evaluation. Adjudicators will consider stylistic interpretation, intonation, dynamics, attacks, releases, articulations, balance, instrumentation, phrasing, repertoire, and improvisation and diction where they apply.

Adjudicators' comments will reflect a total assessment of the performance selections. Where possible, please make an effort to collect your results and materials immediately following your clinic. All written results will be available the day following individual clinic performances from the Festival Office (Perlin Room) at Memorial University School of Music during the festival. Edited MP3 recordings and pictures of the group's performance will be available via email as soon as they have been processed.

The number of Gold, Silver, and Bronze Standard of Performance Awards presented in the class will be at the sole discretion of the adjudicators. There will be no ranking of groups, and the number of awards at any standard is not limited. All award decisions are final.

## **9. Supervision and Conduct**

Directors and chaperones have the sole responsibility for the conduct of ensemble members during the Rotary Music Festival. Directors and accompanying chaperones must maintain proper order and conduct of their group at the performance venues. Directors must provide a sufficient number of supervisors to ensure orderly behaviour.

**It is expected that participants will demonstrate respect at all times for the rights of others and conform to the regulations and bylaws of Memorial University of Newfoundland.**

## **10. Enforcement of Rules**

The Rotary Music Festival Committee will enforce all Festival Rules and Regulations.

## **11. Scheduling**

Considering the diversity of music ensembles that the Rotary Music Festival accommodates, scheduling is the most important and challenging aspect of our festival. Factors such as ensemble size, age group, travelling distances, etc., play an important role in scheduling our festival. We try our very best to accommodate requests from directors for clinic times, however there is no guarantee that the request can or will be granted. Such requests must be submitted to Festival Coordinator prior to the registration deadline. No requests will be entertained after the registration deadline. Once the master clinic schedule has been printed there will be no alterations unless facilitated by the Festival Coordinator.

## **12. Suspension, Dismissal and Appeals**

Rotary Music Festival reserves the right to enact the following sanctions for violation of any Festival rules and regulations:

- **SUSPENSION:** Suspension will result from flagrant time violations, age infractions, illegal substitution, and other rule infractions deemed by the Rules and Regulations Committee to constitute grounds for suspension. An ensemble that has been suspended shall be deemed ineligible for all Festival awards.
- **DISMISSAL:** Dismissal will result from conduct that is perceived to be detrimental to the goals of Rotary Music Festival. An ensemble that has been dismissed will have all rights and privileges of participating in the Rotary Music Festival revoked.
- **APPEAL OF SUSPENSION OR DISMISSAL:** Appeals must be made in writing to the Festival Coordinator who, in consultation with the committee members, will review the sanction and notify the director of the ensemble of their decision. All such decisions will be final.

## **13. Use of Festival Equipment and Liability Disclaimer**

Participants of the Rotary Music Festival will have access to musical equipment during their performance(s) at clinics. A comprehensive list of this equipment can be found on the "Preparation Page" on the Festival website.

Percussionists and drummers may **ADD BUT NOT SUBSTITUTE** drums, cymbals, or other hardware / instruments to the setup. **Ensembles are required to provide their own mallets for both performances and clinics.** This includes xylophone, bells, marimba, timpani, and chimes mallets.

While the Festival will provide space for participants to store instrument cases, coats, and other belongings during their performance(s), the Festival is not liable for lost items. A lost and found bin will be located in the Festival Office (Perlin Room) at the Memorial University School of Music during the festival. Upon conclusion of the Festival all lost and found items will be held for 30 days only, after which time unclaimed items will be discarded.

#### **14. Permission to Use Recorded Visual Media**

The Rotary Music Festival Committee and/or others authorized by the committee may be photographing or recording various segments of the Festival for future use in publications, websites, or broadcasts. Please notify the Festival if you do not wish to participate in this regard. Registration for the Festival constitutes the granting, by the ensemble, of permission for such photographing or recording and constitutes a waiver of all fees and royalties unless the Festival is notified in advance in writing.

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#### **15. Public or School Media Capturing of Musical Performances**

For liability reasons, parents, teachers, music directors, musicians or anyone associated with a performing group are forbidden to capture or record any part of a musical performance or clinic session during the clinic portion of the festival. Parents/Guardians will be permitted to take still pictures when directed by the Festival Marshal prior to each clinic session at DF Cook Recital Hall at the MUN School of Music.

#### **16. Use of Clinic Time and Festival Facilities**

In keeping with the goals and objectives of the Rotary Music Festival, clinic time and festival facilities will be used exclusively to facilitate Rotary Music Festival Clinics. No ensemble will be permitted to use a designated performance area for anything other than their festival performances.

#### **17. Use of Festival Recordings**

Each clinic session is recorded for the purposes of providing educational feedback from our clinicians. As a courtesy, we provide a “clean” recording (no commentary) for the use by the director and her/his ensemble. Private recording (video or audio) of any kind is strictly prohibited.

# FESTIVAL DIVISIONS

**A – Jazz Ensembles**

**B – Concert Band Ensembles**

**C – Choral Ensembles**

**O – Orchestral Ensembles**

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## A. Jazz Festival

Categories of Ensembles:

**1. Jazz Band:** Standard instrumentation recommended is 5 saxophones, 4 trombones, 4 trumpets, and 4 rhythm players with no fewer than 10 or more that 24 on stage at one time

**2. Jazz Combo:** No fewer than 2 or more than 9 performers

**3. Traditional Jazz Combo:** Suggested instrumentation is a combination of trumpet/cornet, trombone, clarinet, saxophone, and rhythm section.

Presentation and Performance:

- All groups must present a program of **three (3)** contrasting selections with the opportunity for solo work.
- **Two (2) scores and/or three (3) lead sheets** of each selection to be performed (**with numbered measures**) are required by the Festival.
- Jazz repertoire is required, pop music is discouraged
- In combo classes, it is highly recommended that each member improvise.
- **It is recommended that performance time not exceed 20 minutes** in order to maximize the ensemble's time with the clinicians.
- Time taken for onstage tuning will be considered performance time and thus deducted from the overall length of the clinic.

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## B. Concert Band and Wind/Percussion Chamber Ensemble Festival

Categories of Ensembles:

**1. Chamber Group:** 3 to 9 performers of brass, woodwind and/or percussion instruments.

**2. Concert Band:** Minimum group size should be able to reflect the musical intentions of the composer/arranger of the selections performed.

#### Presentation and Performance:

- Chamber Groups: **two (2)** contrasting selections of their own choice. **Two (2) copies of each score** are required for use by clinicians during the clinic performance session.
- Concert Bands: Bands are required to perform **two (2)** selections. One selection must be from the Festival Syllabus and the other, a selection of contrasting style. Bands choosing for a clinic only may play two selections of their own choice.
- Bands may perform a short warm up which will not be adjudicated, however directors should be mindful that the inclusion of a warm up piece will compromise their time with the clinicians.
- **Two (2) copies of each score** are required for use by clinicians during the clinic performance session.
- Pop material is inappropriate\*
- It is recommended that performance time not exceed 20 minutes in order to maximize the ensemble's time with the clinicians.
- Time taken for onstage tuning will be considered performance time and thus deducted from the overall length of the clinic.

*\*Permissible for the 2025 Festival*

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## C. Choral Festival

#### Categories of Ensembles:

- 1. Concert/Chamber Choir:** 10 or more singers, performing traditional choral repertoire, non-jazz styles.
- 2. Choral Combo:** 3 to 9 singers performing traditional, non-jazz styles.

*A group may not perform a given selection in more than one category*

#### Presentation and Performance:

- A group will perform **three (3)** contrasting selections of their choice.
- Groups must perform with an accompanist or sing "A cappella".
- The use of recordings to accompany choirs is not permitted\*
- Each group must provide **two (2) original vocal scores** for each performance selection for use by clinicians during the clinic performance session.
- The accompanist need not comply with the age and institutional restrictions of the class entered.
- **It is recommended that performance time not exceed 20 minutes** in order to maximize the ensemble's time with the clinicians.
- Time taken for onstage warm-ups, etc. will be considered performance time and thus deducted from the overall length of the clinic.

*\*Permissible for the 2025 Festival*

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## O. Orchestra Festival / String Chamber Ensemble Festival

Categories of Ensembles:

**1. Chamber Group:** 3 to 9 performers of stringed instruments

**2. String or Full Orchestra:** Minimum group size should be able to reflect the musical intentions of the composer/arranger of the selections performed.

Presentation and Performance:

- Ensembles are required to perform **two (2)** selections of their choice for playing to the standard or for “clinic only”
- **Two (2) copies of each score** are required for use by clinicians during the clinic performance session. Pop material is inappropriate.\*
- **It is recommended that performance time not exceed 20 minutes** in order to maximize the ensemble’s time with the clinicians.
- Time taken for onstage tuning will be considered performance time and thus deducted from the overall length of the clinic.

*\*Permissible for the 2025 Festival*

## Concert Band / Orchestra Performance Codes

**A – Jazz Ensembles**

**B – Concert Band/Chamber Ensembles**

**C – Choral Ensembles**

**O – Orchestral/Chamber Ensembles**

### **(A) JAZZ, (C) CHORAL AND (B) CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL DESIGNATIONS**

- 101 – Open School Ensemble - No age restrictions
- 102 – Community Ensemble - No age restrictions
  
- 201 – Single or Multi-school\* Ensemble; maximum age of 20 years as of January 1 of the Festival year. All members must be full time students.
- 202 – Community Ensemble; maximum age of 20 years as of January 1 of the festival year.
  
- 301 – Single or Multi-school\* Ensemble; maximum age of 18 years as of January 1 of the festival year, or registered in Level III. All members must be full time students.
- 302 – Community Ensemble; maximum age of 18 years as of January 1 of the festival year.
  
- 401 – Single or Multi-school\* Ensemble; maximum age of 16 years as of January 1 of the festival year, or registered in Level II. All members must be full time students.
- 402 – Community Ensemble; maximum age of 16 years as of January 1 of the festival year.
  
- 501 – Single or Multi-school\* Ensemble; maximum age of 15 years as of January 1 of the festival year, or registered in Level I. All members must be full time students.
- 502 – Community Ensemble; maximum age of 15 years as of January 1 of the festival year.

- 601 – Single or Multi-school\* Ensemble; maximum age of 14 years as of January 1 of the festival year, or registered in Grade 9.
- 701 – Single or Multi-school\* Ensemble; maximum age of 13 years as of January 1 of the festival year, or registered in Grade 8.
- 801 – Single or Multi-school\* Ensemble; maximum age of 12 years as of January 1 of the festival year, or registered in Grade 7.
- 901 – Single or Multi-school\* Ensemble; maximum age of 11 years as of January 1 of the festival year, or registered in Grades 4-6.
- 1001 – Single or Multi-school\* Ensemble; maximum age of 8 years as of January 1 of the festival year, or registered in Grades K-3.

*\*Multi-school group is defined as a group with a common director and insufficient numbers in individual schools to create a full group.*

### **(B) CONCERT BAND AND (O) ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL DESIGNATIONS**

Class numbers for Concert Band and Orchestra Festivals are coded to reflect the grade level of the test piece being performed. There is no age restriction for participating ensembles. Ensemble directors are encouraged to use the Concert Band Festival Syllabus as a guide to determine their group's level of participation.

#### **(B) CONCERT BAND**

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|--|-------------------------------|
| • B600 – Play one selection from the B600 list | Community/Honours Level       |
| • B500 – Play one selection from the B500 list | Community/Honours Level       |
| • B400 – Play one selection from the B400 list | High School Level             |
| • B300 – Play one selection from the B300 list | Junior High/High School Level |
| • B200 – Play one selection from the B200 list | Junior High School Level      |
| • B100 – Play one selection from the B100 list | Elementary School Level       |

#### **(O) ORCHESTRA**

- O600 – Community/Honours Level
- O500 – Community/Honours Level
- O400 – High School Level
- O300 – Junior High/High School Level
- O200 – Junior High School Level
- O100 – Elementary School Level

# IMPORTANT NOTES

Ensemble directors must use the online registration procedure. Please see:  
[www.rotarymusicfestival.org](http://www.rotarymusicfestival.org)

Funding may be available for traveling groups via [Cultural Connections - Student Travel Grant](#).

Registration forms and fees must be postmarked no later than **February 7, 2025**. Late registration will be accepted ONLY IF time slots are available in the schedule.

Please note: Register early to insure that there is a slot available for your ensemble. If clinic slots are full, a waiting list will be initiated in the event of a group cancellation.

Seating plans (number of stands, chairs, and rows required for each ensemble including special requests), group bios and Honour Award Recipients must be received by April 15, 2025. Jazz Solo Charts must also be received by April 15, 2025. Both will be available to submit online.

Please mail cheques to:

Rotary Music Festival  
PO Box 805  
St. John's, NL  
A1C 5L7  
[rotarymusicfestival@gmail.com](mailto:rotarymusicfestival@gmail.com)