

Information for School Administrators and Parent Organizations

PURPOSE

Music Conference Alberta (MCA) is Alberta's premier conference for band directors, choral conductors, elementary music teachers, and studio music instructors. Through more than 50 interest sessions and a series of concerts, MCA provides valuable professional development opportunities for all music educators. The goal of the conference is to share ideas and information, equipping music educators with new pedagogical tools and thereby elevating the standard of music education in our province.

HISTORY

Alberta's provincial music conference has long been a professional development staple for music teachers in the province. After a brief period of separate discipline-based conferences in the early 2000's, a unified conference – Music Conference Alberta – was re-established in 2007. MCA is a joint venture of Choir Alberta, Alberta Band Association, and Alberta Music Education Foundation, in collaboration with the Albert Kodály Association and the Alberta Registered Music Teachers' Association, and Alberta String Association. Today, more than 300 music educators teaching at all levels – elementary school through university and community music – attend the conference.

WHEN AND WHERE

MCA takes place each fall in different communities around the province.

In 2018, Music Conference Alberta takes place Oct 25-27 in Edmonton at the Sutton Place Hotel, Francis Winspear Centre for Music, and McDougall United Church.

THE NUMBERS

300+ delegates
40 exhibitor booths
60+ Industry Reps
150+ high school and undergraduate students
5 concerts

The Alberta Youth Choir and ABA Wind Symphony are in residence during MCA.

WHO ATTENDS

Elementary music teachers
Junior high and high school choral directors
University music professors
Studio teachers of voice, piano, and other instruments
Music and music education students
Junior high and high school band directors
Community choir and band conductors
Fine Arts administrators
Music Industry representatives
Professional musicians

ALBERTA EMERGING MUSICIANS FESTIVAL

The Alberta Emerging Musicians Festival is being piloted alongside Music Conference Alberta as a way of featuring student performers for delegates and audience members from the wider community, as well as providing valuable performing opportunities to emerging musicians from around the province.

The inaugural festival includes 5 concerts which include performances by University of Alberta and MacEwan University students, the Alberta Youth Choir, the ABA Windy Symphony, the Bishop Carroll Virtuosi Strings, and a series of outstanding ensembles and soloists of all ages.

SESSIONS

More than 50 conference sessions are offered at MCA, with topics ranging from strategies for elementary music education to teaching tips for high school choir and band. Repertoire reading sessions are held for elementary/children's choirs, mixed choirs, and band. In addition, interactive panel discussions, rehearsal labs, masterclasses, and one-on-one sessions are included in the conference itinerary.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The Keynote Speaker for MCA 2018 is the JUNO award winning composer and music educator Allan Gordon Bell.

Allan Gordon Bell has created works for solo instruments, chamber ensembles, orchestra, band, and electroacoustic media. His pieces have been performed by the National Arts Centre Orchestra, the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, the PEdmonton Symphony Orchestra, the Orford String Quartet, and many other professional and amateur organizations in Canada, the United States, and around the world. Bell is Professor of Music at the University of Calgary, he has served as President of the National Board of the Canadian Music Centre, and is a Member of the Order of Canada. In 2014, Bell won the JUNO Award for his composition "Field Notes."

ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Annual General Meetings of several provincial music are held in conjunction with Music Conference Alberta.

Alberta Music Education Foundation
Alberta Band Association
Alberta Registered Music Teachers' Association
Choir Alberta

WHAT DELEGATES SAY ABOUT MCA

With all of my heart, I can say I have left Music Conference Alberta every single year for a decade completely inspired, amazed, excited, and feeling like I had connected with many other professionals like myself who otherwise can often feel isolated and alone. If you are a Music Educator, attend – you won't regret it. If you are an administrator, encourage your Music Educators of every level and discipline to attend. Truly, this conference helps to deliver to the students of Alberta the caliber of Music Professional they so rightfully deserve.

*-Tanya Frigault, Music Teacher
Landing Trail School, Gibbons*

As a first time attendee, I was impressed with Music Conference Alberta. There were so many opportunities for learning and connection, and a great variety of speakers who addressed many issues that I see in my classes. I found resources and made connections at the trade show which influenced my spring band trip. Most importantly, I met music teachers from across the province that I was able to share ideas and network with, and I'm looking forward to going back next year!

*-Adam Mailman, Music Teacher
Georges P. Vanier School, Calgary*

As a music educator I have always looked forward to attending Music Conference Alberta every year. There are opportunities provided for my professional growth by the amazing interest sessions that we have to choose from, as well as the ability to connect with the industry professionals in the Marketplace. The part of music conference that keeps me coming back however is the chance to connect with my colleagues from across the province. MCA should be a part of every music educator's year plan!

*-Karen Hudson, Music Teacher
Lethbridge Collegiate Institute*

MCA is the single annual conference that brings together music teachers of all disciplines in the province of Alberta. For more than ten years, I have attended this conference and shared in the rich experiences that all conference delegates encounter.

-Melrose Randall, Studio Voice Instructor, Lacombe