

# 2025 Proposed Weekend Schedule

## Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

- 6:00pm Registration & Warm-Up on your own
- 7:00pm Session 1 – Full Rehearsal (reading session)
- 9:00pm End of Reading Session
- 9:15pm Evening Social (*organized & hosted by Second Chances Band NS*)

## Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025

- 8:00am Late Registration
- 8:30am Session 2 – Full Rehearsal
- 10:00am Coffee/Nutrition Break
- 10:30am Session 3 - Ward & Hargreaves Band: Full Rehearsal  
- MacKay Band: Sectionals
- 12:00pm Lunch Break – on your own
- 1:00pm GUEST PERFORMANCE – Chebucto Symphony Orchestra
- 2:00pm Session 4 - MacKay & Hargreaves Band: Full Rehearsal  
- Ward Band: Sectionals
- 3:30pm Coffee/Nutrition Break
- 4:00pm Session 5 - MacKay & Ward Band: Full Rehearsal  
- Hargreaves Band: Sectionals
- 5:30pm Sessions End for the Day
- 7:00pm Evening Social Event (*more information to follow*)

## Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025

- 8:30am Session 6 – Full Rehearsal
- 10:00am Coffee/Nutrition Break
- 10:30am Session 7 – Full Rehearsal
- 12:00pm Lunch Break - on your own
- 1:00pm Arrive for Concert, Warm Up on Stage
- 2:00pm Doors Open/Audience find their seats
- 2:30pm 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Band Fest Public Concert
- 4:00pm Dismissal & Load Out of Equipment (*help is always welcome*)



# 10th Annual Halifax Community Band Festival



A gathering of community band musicians from around the Atlantic Provinces and beyond! All are welcome!

Featuring 3 levels of concert band: a beginner, an intermediate and an advanced band!

A fantastic line up of weekend activities, interesting repertoire, guest performers, instrumental clinicians and talented conductors.

Hosted by:



**Second Chances**  
COMMUNITY MUSIC PROGRAM  
NOVA SCOTIA

The Second Chances Community Music  
Program of Nova Scotia

Find us on the web at:  
[www.secondchancesband-ns.com](http://www.secondchancesband-ns.com)

Find us on Facebook at:  
[www.facebook.com/secondchancesbands](https://www.facebook.com/secondchancesbands)

## 2025 Guest Conductors



### Dr. Denise Grant

Denise Grant has earned respect and praise as a conductor and educator of great musical depth and artistic sensitivity. She has held conducting positions at Memorial University of Newfoundland, University of Toronto, and University of Regina. She earned her Ph.D. (conducting and music education) from the University of Minnesota and also holds degrees from Dalhousie University (M.Ed.) and Acadia University (B.Mus.Ed.).

During her tenure, she founded the University of Toronto and University of Regina conducting symposiums, served as co-founding editor of the Canadian Band Association journal, *Canadian Winds*, and premiered many new works for wind ensemble. She advocates for the creation and performance of new music by Canadian and women composers, in particular. She recently premiered composer Sandy Moore's song cycle, *Vox Humana*, at the Open Waters new music festival in Halifax and recorded the soundtrack for John Walker's award-winning documentary film, *Arctic Defenders*.

As an educator, Denise has served on music association boards across Canada and guest conducted provincial honour bands both nationally and internationally, reflecting a commitment to music education and the deep seeded belief that the act of making music together creates connection and develops compassionate, critically thinking humans.



### Ken Henderson

Ken started his band journey as a junior high student when he joined the Truro Concert Band, learning clarinet from Charlotte MacQuarrie, a band member. He has had the good fortune of having experience under a range of gifted conductors, each of whom passed on valuable insights into their art. These include Chalmers Doane – the conductor of the Truro Concert Band when he became a member, Ron MacKay, conductor of the fledgling Truro Schools Bands and provider of guided teaching experience, Jack Sirulnikoff and Dr. John Hansen at the Nova Scotia Teachers College, Capt. Ken Elloway at the NS Summer School for Teachers, and Wilf Harvey, senior music teacher at Middleton High School. Less formal learning opportunities came with various workshop contacts with James Hargreaves, Howard Cable, Dr. Jim Gayfor, Dr. Karem Simon, Gaetan Bouchard, Dr. Gillian MacKay and others.

Ken is long-time musical director of the Truro Concert Band which observes its 150th anniversary in 2025. Ken is a strong believer in the importance of community in a community band - finding a place in the band for everyone, and a place for the band in the wider community.



### Dr. Dale Sorenson

Dale Sorenson is a versatile musician, educator and conductor with extensive experience in classical, popular, and musical theatre genres. Currently in his fourth year as director of the UPEI Wind Symphony, Dale has conducted everything from junior high school honour bands to professional ensembles. Highlights include three seasons as music director of the Strathgartney Chamber Orchestra in PEI, and most recently as conductor for a fully-staged production of *The Nutcracker* with the PEI Symphony Orchestra and the Confederation Centre of the Arts' Dance Umbrella.

A frequent trombone soloist and enthusiastic promoter of Canadian music, Dale has premiered more than 25 solo trombone pieces and dozens of chamber works, and recorded an all-Canadian album of music for trombone. He is also the founder and artistic director of PEI's contemporary music ensemble *eklektikos*. Dale is a proud Yamaha Artist and plays Yamaha instruments exclusively.

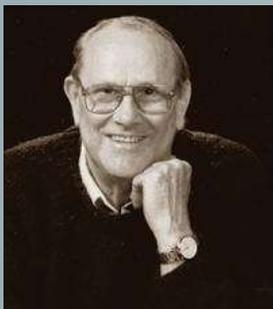
Dale performs regularly with the PEISO, the Charlottetown Festival Orchestra, Symphony Nova Scotia, and the Maritime Brass Quintet, has held positions with the Windsor Symphony and Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra, and has freelanced with groups such as the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, Winnipeg Symphony, National Ballet of Canada, and Opera Atelier in a 3-week, 8-city

tour of Japan.

A dedicated educator, Dale has taught at five Canadian universities (UPEI, Dalhousie, MUN, Mount Allison, and the University of Toronto), and serves as an adjudicator and clinician at music festivals and workshops throughout the Maritimes and Ontario. He is currently the Chair of the Department of Music and Assistant Professor of Brass at UPEI. In 2022, he was selected by the UPEI Faculty Association to receive the Hessian Merit Award for Excellence in Teaching.

# The Halifax Community Band Fest: Our Ensemble's Namesakes

Quality music education, at any level, depends a lot upon the individual who is teaching the students. Many musicians in Nova Scotia, whether amateur or professional, can point to specific individuals who helped guide them on their path to becoming life-long players. The Halifax Community Band Festival honours the contribution of these incredible musicians and band leaders by naming our ensembles after them.



## The Ron MacKay “Music for Life” Beginner Band

Ron MacKay retired from the Armed Forces Band in 1966 and began a career in music education as an instrumental music teacher in Truro. As director of the Cobequid Education Centre's Symphonic Band and its feeder programs from grades 4 through 12 he developed one of the more prominent school bands in the Atlantic Provinces and in Canada. During his tenure as band director in Truro, over 300 students went on to pursue careers in music.

When he retired from teaching in 1991, Ron remained active as a clinician, adjudicator, conductor, and composer throughout Canada and the Atlantic Provinces. He held positions as conductor of the Saint Mary's University Concert Band, St. F.X. University Wind Ensemble, the Scotia Wind Ensemble, Dalhousie University Symphonic Wind Ensemble, the Halifax Concert Band and the Scotia Brass Ensemble.

Ron spent much of his time arranging and composing music for young bands with over one hundred published works for band including 8 commissioned works. His music is available for purchase through the publishing company started by his daughter, Karen ([www.ronmacmusic.com](http://www.ronmacmusic.com)).

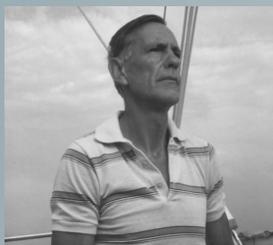


## The Chris Ward Intermediate Band

Chris Ward was born in Labrador City, NF in 1973. When he was 9 years old, he found a dusty, old violin in his grandfather's attic. The violin was a  $\frac{3}{4}$  sized instrument missing one of its strings and its bow hair was hanging off in every direction, but the instrument intrigued Chris enough to beg his parents to allow him to take lessons. So began a love and passion for music and ensemble playing that has lasted over 40 years and counting.

Chris earned a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Prince Edward Island and a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Memorial University of Newfoundland. He has performed with many high-level concert bands and orchestras over the years, including the National Capital Concert Band based in Ottawa, Ontario. However, it was his membership in many different community-based ensembles throughout the country that has made him so passionate about conducting and working with these kinds of groups.

Throughout his career in music, Chris has been fortunate to have worked with and learned from many talented and respected musical personalities in Atlantic Canada and beyond. Conductors and educators like Donald Buell, Carol Carson, Stanley Clark, Ken Foote, James Hargreaves, Gail Lohnes, Dale Lonis, Ron MacKay, Carl Mathis, Ron Murphy, and Karem Simon have all had a hand in shaping Chris's teaching and conducting styles. Chris has said that he "lives and breathes concert bands and orchestras" and his many students would undoubtedly agree. He is a conductor, educator, clinician and lecturer, and repairs musical instruments for Long & McQuade.



## The James H. Hargreaves Advanced Band

James H. Hargreaves was born in Perth, Scotland in 1934 and emigrated to Canada in 1959. He became prominent in the Canadian world of music as a virtuoso trumpet performer, renowned conductor and gifted teacher. Considered one of the foremost music directors of wind ensembles in Canada, he built programs that trained a generation of instrumental teachers.

In 1970, he attended Crane School of Music, State University of New York and was a full professor at the St. Francis Xavier University School of Music from 1970 until his retirement in 1999.

James Hargreaves was the founding Music Director and Conductor of the Nova Scotia Youth Wind Ensemble from 1991 to 1999, conductor of the National Youth Band of Canada in 1996, member of the Maritime Jazz Orchestra and served as an adjudicator and clinician across Canada.

## Guest Performers / Clinicians

### 2025 Guest Performers The Chebucto Symphony Orchestra



The Chebucto Symphony Orchestra is a Halifax-based charitable organization that provides performances of classical, popular and culturally diverse music to local and provincial audiences. It is a true community orchestra, intended for musicians of all ages. CSO musicians range from high school and university students to mid-career professionals to retired community members.

### 2025 Guest Clinicians

We are still working on confirming our clinicians for this year's festival weekend. Our survey from last year indicated that there was an interest in having a few new faces fill these roles. Here is who we have lined up so far...

Flute – TBA	Trumpet – David Garson
Double Reeds – Hamish Gordon	French Horn – Mary Lee
Clarinet – TBA	Trombone & Low Brass – Steve Hartlen
Saxophone – Tristan De Borba	Percussion – TBA
Orchestral Strings – TBA	

**Can You Imagine?** What it might be like to play in an ensemble with full instrumentation? For some community band players, this is only a dream... but providing an opportunity to experience this was one of the founding philosophies that made the community band festivals in Nova Scotia a reality.

**This is NOT a competition!** For some, the term 'music festival' creates images of bands in competition. The three annual community band festivals that take place in Nova Scotia are not competitions but opportunities for community band players to come together, network with other players, learn from talented conductors / music educators and to make music in a combined ensemble.

## Hope You Can Join Us in Halifax!

**How Do I Register?** Safe and secure online registration is now available through the Second Chance Community Band website (<http://www.secondchancesband-ns.com>). Simply use the Hfx Band Fest 2025 menu at the top of the page to find up-to-date information about guest conductors, the schedule of events, past repertoire, and information about our venue and accommodation options.

**What Will it Cost?** Registration fees include copies of all music, nutrition breaks, fees for guest conductors/instructors, the rehearsal/performance venue, and a Friday evening social (18+). There will be a separate fee for Saturday evening's Dinner / social event (18+). Stay tuned for more details.

\$115.00 Individual Fee	\$50.00 Full Time Student
\$90.00 Additional Family Musician (please specify who)	

**How Do I Pay?** We would appreciate full payment before May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Advanced copies of the music will be sent to those who have paid by this deadline. Refunds will be offered until May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

1. **CHEQUES:** Please make any cheques payable to the Second Chances Community Band and mail them to: **Second Chances Community Band, 108 Grindstone Drive, Halifax, NS B3R 0A6**
2. **E-MAIL MONEY TRANSFER:** Using your online banking service, e-mail funds to our band Treasurer at: [Treasurer.SecondChancesBandNS@gmail.com](mailto:Treasurer.SecondChancesBandNS@gmail.com) (please remember the 'dot' after the word treasurer) If requested to include one, all e-mail money transfer security questions should have the same answer: hfxbandfest (no spaces / no capitals)
3. **CREDIT CARD PAYMENT:** for an additional fee of less than \$5, we're able to accept payment by credit card over the phone in advance of the event weekend. If this is of interest to you, please let our band treasurer know and arrangements will be made: [Treasurer.SecondChancesBandNS@gmail.com](mailto:Treasurer.SecondChancesBandNS@gmail.com)

**Where Can I Stay?** The residence facilities at Mount St. Vincent University will be available to participants who wish to stay on campus and within walking distance of all venues. For current rates contact MSVU conference services at [conference.office@msvu.ca](mailto:conference.office@msvu.ca) or by phone at 902-457-6355. Rates will include campus parking, wifi access, linens and athletic pass. Be sure to mention the Band Fest 2025 weekend in order to access any possible special rates.



Apartment Style Room



Single Room



Double Room

# Photos from Past Halifax Band Fest Weekends

