

2026 Vermilion and District Rotary Music Festival

Schedule



Our Adjudicators



Tammy-Jo Mortensen completed a Bachelor of Music degree at the University of Alberta and a Master of Music degree in pipe organ performance at McGill University as well as a Master of Music (Choral Conducting) from the U of A. While studying organ, she was also studying piano and her teachers have included Barbara Mackin-Ritz, Joachim Segger and Grant Maxwell. She has been a collaborative pianist with many soloists across Canada and has accompanied many choirs. She has adjudicated piano, choral, vocal, handbell and speech classes in many cities in Alberta and was an examiner for the Western Board of Music. She served for many years on the Sherwood Park Music

Festival board.

She has performed all over Canada, the US, Denmark, England, and Korea, has been recorded by CBC radio and television. As a harpsichordist, she has worked with many of Canada's early music specialists and has been performing with the Alberta Baroque Ensemble for over 20 years.

Tammy-Jo is the conductor of one of the Cosmopolitan Music Society handbell groups. She also teaches at Concordia University and privately and is the curator of a radio show on bigeradio.com.



British-Canadian-Polish classical guitarist, **Marek Orszulik**, is known for his unique programming in performance. A graduate (MMus) of the Birmingham Conservatoire in the UK, he now has a passion for presenting undiscovered historical gems of guitar repertoire and collaborating with some of today's leading composers. He has given world premier performances of works by Andrew Glover-Whitley, Lauren McCall, Cole Dorchester, and Stuart Beatch, among others. In ensemble, he regularly works with guitarist Tyson Oatway in Duo Nebula and with soprano Whitney Sloan in Duo Coriolis.

In 2025, Marek released his first solo album, *Fantazja*, covering repertoire by Polish composers from the Renaissance to the present day. Other career highlights include a performance in the presence of His Highness, Aga Khan IV, and a livestream concert for the National Arts Centre of Canada. In addition to his busy teaching and performing schedule, Marek is a respected writer. From 2021 to 2024, Marek wrote and constructed educational material for tonebase, delivering content to musicians and students worldwide. He is currently Editorial Director for MusiCurate.

Daria Puckrin is a violin teacher and performer based in the Edmonton area. She has been teaching violin for over 20 years and enjoys working with students of all ages, helping them build strong musical foundations and confidence in their playing. In addition to teaching, Daria performs regularly at community events and festivals. She is pleased to be part of this year's festival and looks forward to hearing the students' performances.



President's Message, 2026

“There’s going to be a huge market and premium on human, in-person, fantastic experiences in the next 5–10 years.”

This space has been filled with great quotes from great men in years past. It is with some trepidation, therefore, that I begin my first president’s message with a rather throwaway quote from a man who can only be called great in a rather constrained sense. Those words were supposedly said last year by Sam Altman, the leader of OpenAI and the overseer of the ChatGPT project: the man whose work has led to the deluge of artificial-intelligence-generated writing, images, videos, and “people” that now fill the horizon of any person connected to the internet. Mr. Altman thinks that the tangible, the personal, the deeply moving (in short, all the things that AI does not provide us) will be highly valued in this new environment we find ourselves in.

I think he is correct.

Modern life, even before its acceleration by AI, drives us all toward an environment in which our attention is commanded by things seen through a screen, with no human touch to them, that pop up out of nowhere and disappear as fast as they came, leaving next to no lasting impression on us. Those who are immersed in this artificial environment tend toward either a vulnerable credulity to every fake thing or a helpless cynicism toward even real things. Both of these states are bad—we all crave what is real; we all crave connection with another person; we all crave what is *meaningful*.

In the midst of this agony of artificiality, what is the cure but a dose of reality? And what better dose of reality than (don’t worry—I’m finally coming to the relevant topic) the music festival?

The students performing in our festival will be experiencing the tangible reality of playing an instrument (or singing their God-given instrument) for themselves. They will *feel* the string as they bow it, the brass as they blow it, the key as they press it. This tangibility provides a closer connection to the music than merely

listening to a recording ever can. Again, the students will be performing before people: very real, perhaps frighteningly real, people. There will be a connection between the performers and the audience: a community that cannot exist when one plays without an audience or listens without a performer. Finally, the length of the whole process, the many hours of practice across many days—the tremendous, sustained effort—reveals and increases the underlying meaning of the music for the performers. It is the meaningfulness of the music festival experience, I think, that chiefly makes it an opportunity to let go of the artificial and embrace the real: for though we may not know what music means, we know with certainty that it means *something*. Music points to that ultimate, transcendent reality that lies behind everything good, which cannot be fully encapsulated and can only be hinted at.

Remember, then, as we participate in the festival, whether as performers, as parents, as audiences, as volunteers, or as donors, that we are not only participating in a musical challenge, or a parental duty, or an annual event: we are participating in the collective cure for a modern crisis. We are building community. We are doing what is truly meaningful.

To all our performers, parents, listeners, volunteers, and donors: many, many thanks for joining us in the festival!

Sincerely,

Patrick Benoit, President

March 23, 2026 First United Church Vermilion

Violin - 10:30 AM

Class 30008 - Strings - Violin/Viola Solo - Own Choice - 8 and Under

1. Emily Schrempf
 1. *May Song* — Traditional

Class 30009 - Strings - Violin/Viola Solo - Own Choice - 9 and Under

1. Shelby Case
 1. *Go Tell Aunt Rhody* — Traditional
2. Avery Gill
 1. *Lightly Row* — Traditional

Class 30006 - Strings - Violin/Viola Solo - Own Choice - 6 and Under

1. Ignatius Testa
 1. *I'm a Little Monkey* — Traditional
2. Adit Mistry
 1. *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star Var. A* — Traditional, Arr. S. Suzuki
3. Sophia Kobyletskyy
 1. *Lightly Row* — Folk Song

Class 30007 - Strings - Violin/Viola Solo - Own Choice - 7 and Under

1. Adalyn Leschinski
 1. *Go Tell Aunt Rhody* — Traditional
2. Emeric Gill
 1. *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star Var. A* — Traditional, Arr. S. Suzuki

11:10 AM

Class 30010 - Strings - Violin/Viola Solo - Own Choice - 10 and Under

1. Gabriel Noster
 1. *Étude* — Shinichi Suzuki

Class 30011 - Strings - Violin/Viola Solo - Own Choice - 11 and Under

1. Radmehr Jadidizadeh
 1. *The Happy Farmer* — R. Schumann

Class 03011 - Strings - Violin - First Year of Instruction - 11 years of age and under

1. Xander Testa
 1. *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star Var. C* — Traditional Arr. S. Suzuki
2. Bennett Moir
 1. *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star var. E* — Traditional Arr. S. Suzuki

Class 30012 - Strings - Violin/Viola Solo - Own Choice - 12 and Under

1. Lauren Noster
 1. *Chorus from "Judas Maccabaeus"* — G.F. Handel
2. Ita Nicolas
 1. *The Happy Farmer* — R. Schumann

March 23, 2026 First United Church Vermilion

Violin - 1:00 PM

Class 31712 - Strings - Violin/Viola Solo - Fiddle/Movie/TV/Pop/Jazz - 12 and Under

1. Ita Nicolas
 1. *Lonely Lady* — Helen Butterworth

Class 30013 - Strings - Violin/Viola Solo - Own Choice - 13 and Under

1. Malena Harper
 1. *Long, Long Ago* — T. H. Bayly

Class 30114 - Strings - Violin/Viola Solo - Canadian Composers - 14 and Under

1. Sonya Noster
 1. *Black Velvet Waltz* — Traditional

Class 30115 - Strings - Violin/Viola Solo - Canadian Composers - 15 and Under

1. Keela Morris
 1. *24 Juin* — Traditional French Canadian

Class 31715 - Strings - Violin/Viola Solo - Fiddle/Movie/TV/Pop/Jazz - 15 and Under

1. Mila Christian
Accompanied by Jamie Christian
 1. *Mairi's Wedding* — John Roderick Bannerman

Class 31716 - Strings - Violin/Viola Solo - Fiddle/Movie/TV/Pop/Jazz - 16 and Under

1. Maureen Noster
 1. *Devil's Dream* — Traditional, Arr. Maureen Noster
2. Maegan Davies
 1. *Ashokan Farewell* — Jay Ungar

Class 03015 - Strings - Violin - First Year of Instruction - 15 years of age and under

1. Abigail Bailey
 1. *Allegro* — Shinichi Suzuki
2. Polina Mazur
 1. *May Song* — Traditional

1:55 PM

Class 30014 - Strings - Violin/Viola Solo - Own Choice - 14 and Under

1. Sonya Noster
 1. *Hunters' Chorus* — C.M.v. Weber

Class 30015 - Strings - Violin/Viola Solo - Own Choice - 15 and Under

1. Keela Morris
 1. *Humoresque* — A. Dvorak

Class 30016 - Strings - Violin/Viola Solo - Own Choice - 16 and Under

1. Maureen Noster
 1. *Gavotte* — J.B. Lully
2. Maegan Davies
 1. *Gavotte from Mignon* — A. Thomas

Class 27005 - Family and Community Groups - Family Music - Family Music

1. Catherine & Alphonsus Testa
 1. *Twinkle Var. A Preview* — Traditional

Class 03303 - Group Strings - Any Combination - String Duet - Duet - Teacher and Student

1. Adalyn Leschinski and Patrick Benoit
 1. *Ten Little Indians* — Septimus Winner

Class 34011 - Group Strings - Any Combination - String Duet - 11 and Under

1. Gabriel Noster and Lauren Noster
 1. *Allegro* — Shinichi Suzuki

Class 34015 - Group Strings - Any Combination - String Duet - 15 and Under

1. Mila Christian and Ita Nicolas
 1. *Musette* — J. S. Bach

Class 34017 - Group Strings - Any Combination - String Duet - 17 and Under

1. Keela Morris and Maegan Davies
 1. *Canon in D* — J. Pachelbel

Class 34018 - Group Strings - Any Combination - String Duet - 18 and Over

1. Catherine Testa and Patrick Benoit
 1. *The Lovers' Waltz* — Jay Ungar & Molly Mason, Arr. Patrick

Benoit

March 24, 2026 Vermilion Elementary School
Vocal - 9:00 AM

Class 80218 - Speech - Canadian Poetry Solo - 18 and Over

1. Bernie Huedepohl
 1. *The Execution* — Alden Nowlan
2. Patrick Benoit
 1. *The Mother* — R. W. Service

Class 81118 - Speech - Lyric Poetry Solo - 18 and Over

1. Patrick Benoit
 1. *For Four Guilds: The Bell-Ringers* — G. K. Chesterton

Class 81018 - Speech - Narrative/Dramatic Poetry Solo - 18 and Over

1. Bernie Huedepohl
 1. *The Bull Calf* — Irving Layton

Class 91016 - Vocal - Classical - Classical Vocal Solo - English Art Song - American / Canadian - 16 and Under

1. Molly Gratton
Accompanied by Terra-Lee Gratton
 1. *Where Go The Boats* — John E. Govedas

Class 91316 - Vocal - Classical - Classical Vocal Solo - French Art Song - 16 and Under

1. Molly Gratton
Accompanied by Terra-Lee Gratton
 1. *Colette*, Six Melodies, Op.3 by Cecile Chaminade

Class 94218 - Vocal - Contemporary Commercial Music - CCM Vocal Solo - Pop - 1940-1964 - 18 and Over

1. Bernie Huedepohl
 1. *Try to Remember* — Harvey Schmidt and Jerry Orbach

Class 94417 - Vocal - Contemporary Commercial Music - CCM Vocal Solo - Pop - 1980-1989 - 17 and Under

1. Molly Gratton
Accompanied by Terra-Lee Gratton
 1. *Elle* — Paul Baillargeon

Class 96118 - Vocal - Contemporary Commercial Music - CCM Vocal Solo - Singer/Songwriter - 18 and Over

1. Makenna Gallagher
Accompanied by Makenna Gallagher
 1. *Little Things* — Makenna Gallagher

Class 97116 - Vocal - Musical Theatre - Musical Theatre Solo - Up-Tempo - 16 and Under

1. Molly Gratton
Accompanied by Terra-Lee Gratton
 1. *My New Philosophy' from You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*
by Andrew Lippa

Class 25806 - School Chorus - School Chorus - Modern Composers - Grades 4-6

1. Wainwright Blessed Sacrament Elementary Choir
 1. *You Are Holy* — Marc Imboden and Tammi Rhoton

Class 26506 - School Chorus - School Chorus - Movie/TV/Pop - Grades 4-6

1. Wainwright Blessed Sacrament Elementary Choir
 1. *You've Got A Friend In Me* — Randy Newman, Arr. W. Jack

Class 99505 - School Vocal - School CCM Vocal Group - School CCM Vocal Group

1. VES Choir
Accompanied by Makenna Gallagher
 1. *Let Your Horses Run* — Brett Kissel

March 24, 2026 Parkview Alliance Church
Piano - 11:15 AM

Class 75002 - Piano By Grade - Piano Solo - Baroque - Grade 2

1. Mila Christian
 1. *Canon in D* — Johann Pachelbel, Arr. Nancy and Randall Faber

Class 75100 - Piano By Grade - Piano Solo - Classical Period - Pre-Grade 1

1. Lillianna Christian
 1. *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* — Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Arr. Nancy and Randall Faber
 2. Phoebe Christian
 1. *Ode to Joy* — Ludwig van Beethoven, Arr. Nancy and Randall Faber

Class 74000 - Piano By Grade - Piano Solo - Own Choice - Pre-Grade 1

1. Matteo Courtourelle
 1. *A Camping Song* — Cheryl Finn and Eamonn Morris

Class 71012 - Piano By Age - Piano Solo - Baroque - 12 and Under

1. Morag-Beth Speirs
 1. *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* — L. Bourgeois, Arr. Patrick Benoit

Class 70015 - Piano By Age - Piano Solo - Own Choice - 15 and Under

1. Elijah Speirs
 1. *Lightly Row* — German Folk Song

Class 70012 - Piano By Age - Piano Solo - Own Choice - 12 and Under

1. Morag-Beth Speirs
 1. *Planxty George Brabazon* — Turlough O'Carolan

March 24, 2026 Parkview Alliance Church

Piano - 1:00 PM

Class 07000 - Piano - Music for Beginning Pianists - Own Choice - Primer Level - 8 years and under

1. Bo Schuebel
 1. *Cowboy Joe* — Faber
2. Amir Moskvichov
 1. *The Inchworm* — Faber
3. Kaitlyn Ferguson
 1. *A Song About Cats* — Faber
4. Hayden Ambrock
 1. *Rodeo* — Faber
5. Chloe Charlesworth
 1. *The Dance Band* — Faber

Class 07200 - Piano - Music for Beginning Pianists - Movie/TV/Pop - Primer Level - 8 years and under

1. Bo Schuebel
 1. *Frogs on Logs* — Faber
2. Kaitlyn Ferguson
 1. *Alouette* — traditional
3. Rose Snider
 1. *Rex, the Tyrannosaurus* — Faber
4. Hayden Ambrock
 1. *Let's Play Ball* — Faber
5. Eva Hauck
 1. *On The Bridge* — Traditional

2:00 PM

Class 07201 - Piano - Music for Beginning Pianists - Movie/TV/Pop - Primer Level - 9 years and up

1. Olivia Bodurka
 1. *Part of Your World* — Menken and Ashman

Class 07100 - Piano - Music for Beginning Pianists - Classical - Primer Level - 8 years and under

1. Amir Moskvichov
 1. *My Invention* — Faber
2. Rose Snider
 1. *March On D-E-F* — Faber
3. Eva Hauck
 1. *Petite Minuet* — Faber
4. Chloe Charlesworth
 1. *Classical March* — Ferdinand Beyer

Class 07101 - Piano - Music for Beginning Pianists - Classical - Primer Level - 9 years and up

1. Olivia Bodurka
 1. *The Happy Stream* — Mauro Giuliani

Class 07002 - Piano - Music for Beginning Pianists - Own Choice - Level 1 - 10 years and under

1. Ava McIntyre-Steen
 1. *The Haunted Mouse* — Faber
2. Brandon Xie
 1. *The Clock Shop* — Faber
3. Gus Osinchuk
 1. *Dinosaur Stomp* — Faber

Class 07102 - Piano - Music for Beginning Pianists - Classical - Level 1 - 10 years and under

1. Brandon Xie
 1. *L'il Liza Jane* — Faber
2. Lydia Giesbrecht
 1. *Scarf Dance* — Mauro Giuliani
3. Gus Osinchuk
 1. *The San Francisco Trolley* — Faber
4. Gabby Ramirez
 1. *The Juggler* — Faber

Class 07202 - Piano - Music for Beginning Pianists - Movie/TV/Pop - Level 1 - 10 years and under

1. Ava McIntyre-Steen
 1. *Jack and the Beanstalk* — Faber
2. Lydia Giesbrecht
 1. *Let's Go Fly a Kite* — Sherman and Sherman
3. Gabby Ramirez
 1. *I Just Can't Wait to be King* — Elton John and Tim Rice

March 24, 2026 Parkview Alliance Church

Piano - 5:00 PM

Class 07104 - Piano - Music for Beginning Pianists - Classical - Level 2a

1. Andrew Giesbrecht
 1. *Spring* — Vivaldi
2. Hannah Ferguson
 1. *The Mermaid* — Faber

Class 07004 - Piano - Music for Beginning Pianists - Own Choice - Level 2a

1. Andrew Giesbrecht
 1. *Storms on Saturn* — Faber
2. Maisy Grieve
 1. *My Daydream* — Faber

Class 07204 - Piano - Music for Beginning Pianists - Movie/TV/Pop - Level 2a

1. James Giesbrecht
 1. *Green Frog Hop* — Faber
2. Hannah Ferguson
 1. *Gaston* — Menken and Ashman
3. Maisy Grieve
 1. *MR McGill's Boop Sha Bop* — Faber

Class 74500 - Piano By Grade - Piano Solo - Canadian Composers - Pre-Grade 1

1. James Giesbrecht
 1. *Starfish at Night* — Anne Crosby Gaudet

Class 07005 - Piano - Music for Beginning Pianists - Own Choice - Level 2b

1. Stephanie Xie
 1. *Almost Like a Dream* — Faber

Class 07006 - Piano - Music for Beginning Pianists - Own Choice - Level 3a

1. Til Tjardes
 1. *Polovtsian Dance arranged* — Alexander Borodin

Class 07205 - Piano - Music for Beginning Pianists - Movie/TV/Pop - Level 2b

1. Stephanie Xie
 1. *A Day at the Carnival* — Faber
2. Sophia Maier
 1. *Banana Boat Song* — Jamaican Folk Song

6:12 PM

Class 07105 - Piano - Music for Beginning Pianists - Classical - Level 2b

1. Sophia Maier
 1. *New World Symphony* — Antonin Dvorak

Class 07106 - Piano - Music for Beginning Pianists - Classical - Level 3a

1. Til Tjardes
 1. *Alexander March arranged* — Ludwig van Beethoven

Class 77201 - Piano By Grade - Piano Solo - Jazz/Blues/Ragtime - Grade 1

1. Olivia Tinant
 1. *This Guy's Disguised* — Bradly Sowash

Class 75601 - Piano By Grade - Piano Solo - Late Modern Composers - Grade 1

1. Evangeline Tinant
 1. *Study No. 13* — Isaak Berkovich
2. Olivia Tinant
 1. *Study No. 3'* Opus Op. 177, No. 3 by Cornelius Gurlitt
3. Alena Tinant
 1. *Amber Moon* — Kevin Olson

Class 74001 - Piano By Grade - Piano Solo - Own Choice - Grade 1

1. Evangeline Tinant
 1. *March of the Terrible Trolls* — Linda Niamath
2. Gina Burgess
 1. *Sweet Jasmine* — Dennis Alexander

Class 77202 - Piano By Grade - Piano Solo - Jazz/Blues/Ragtime - Grade 2

1. Emmanuelle Tinant
 1. *I Spy* — Melody Bober

Class 74003 - Piano By Grade - Piano Solo - Own Choice - Grade 3

1. Emmanuelle Tinant
 1. *Variations on a Russian Folk Song* — Isaak Berkovich
2. Bria Tinant
 1. *Plus Tôt* — Alexandra Strêliski

March 26, 2026 Vermilion Elementary School

Instrumental - 10:00 AM

Class 19004 - School Band, Orchestra, and Other Group Classes - Classroom Music - Grade 4

1. VES Grade 4 Students
 1. *Ho Hey* — The Lumineers

Class 49008 - School Instrumental - Brass, Strings, Woodwind, Percussion - Solo or Small Group - School Woodwind Solo - School Grades 7-8

1. Reese Stromberg
 1. *Minuet* — J.S. Bach, Arr. Bruce Pearson and Chuck Elledge

Class 63513 - Percussion - Percussion Solo - Jazz - 13 and Under

1. Aaron Elder
 1. *Stormy Tuesday* — Gregg Bissonette

Class 60013 - Percussion - Percussion Solo - Own Choice - 13 and Under

1. Luke Romeo
 1. *Hit 'em Hard* — Blake Neely and Rick Mattingly

Class 38011 - Guitar - Guitar Solo - Plectrum - 11 and Under

1. Dylan Henry
Accompanied by Dennis Gerik
 1. *Frère Jacques* — Traditional

Class 38802 - Guitar - Guitar Duet - Guitar Duet

1. Alicia Zambrano and Dennis Gerik
 1. *Au Clair De La Lune* — Traditional Song
1. Eli Ferguson and Dennis Gerik
 1. *Arkansas Traveler* — Sandford C Faulkner

Class 38505 - Guitar - Guitar Solo - Movie/TV/Pop - Movie/TV/Pop Guitar Solo

1. Douglas Romeo
Accompanied by Dennis Gerik
 1. *Yesterday* — John Lennon and Paul McCartney

Class 38117 - Guitar - Guitar Solo - Finger-Style - 17 and Under

1. Tyrah Tovell
 1. *In the bleak midwinter* — Gustav Holst
2. Madison Smith
Accompanied by Dennis Gerik
 1. *Black Bird* — John Lennon and Paul McCartney

Class 38017 - Guitar - Guitar Solo - Plectrum - 17 and Under

1. Kaedence Eriksen
Accompanied by Dennis Gerik
 1. *It's Only A Paper Moon* — Harold Arlen

Festival by the numbers

	2024	2025	2026
Piano by Age			3
Piano by Grade	4	6	14
Music for Beginning Pianists	29	32	39
Strings	10	10	27
Group Strings	3	3	6
Guitar	4	4	7
Percussion	2	2	2
School Band	7	4	1
School Chorus	2	2	2
School Choral Speech		1	
School Instrumental	1		1
School Vocal			1
Vocal	12	4	2
Musical Theatre	8	1	1
Vocal CCM	3		3
Speech	6	4	4
Community Groups	1		
TOTAL:	92	73	113

Alberta Music Festival Association

Choral Festival / Musical Theatre Duets

May 25—26, 2026

**All Saints' Anglican Cathedral
1035—103 St. NW Edmonton**



Solo / Chamber / Piano Duets

May 27—30, 2026

**Allard Hall at MacEwan University
104 Ave. NW Edmonton**

www.albertamusicfestival.org



**NICKLE FAMILY
FOUNDATION**

VERMILION & DISTRICT ROTARY MUSIC FESTIVAL

FINAL SHOWCASE

PIANO, VOICE,
GUITAR, VIOLIN,
AND MORE!



SUNDAY MARCH 29, 2:30 PM
VERMILION FIRST UNITED CHURCH
ADMISSION FREE, DONATIONS WELCOME!
LIVESTREAM ON FACEBOOK PAGE