

2020 Guest Conductors



Dr. Jason Caslor

Jason Caslor is Associate Professor of Music and Director of Wind Ensembles at Arizona State University. In addition to directing the Wind Ensemble, he also mentors graduate conducting students, and teaches undergraduate and graduate conducting courses. Dr. Caslor is an Educational Clinician for Conn-Selmer.

From 2015-2019, Caslor served as Assistant Professor and Associate Director of Bands and Orchestras and Arizona State University. From 2010-2015, Caslor served as assistant professor of instrumental conducting at Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland where he conducted the wind ensemble and oversaw the undergraduate and graduate instrumental conducting programs. Prior to that, he spent three seasons as resident conductor with the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra. He is a recipient of an Excellence in Teaching Award from Memorial University's Students Union in 2012.

In addition to numerous regional engagements, Caslor has conducted the National Youth Band of Canada, the South Dakota All State Band, the South Dakota Intercollegiate Band, and the Alberta Wind Symphony. As a researcher, he has presented his work at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic, the WASBE International Conference, and the CBDNA National Conference.

Caslor completed his doctorate in conducting at Arizona State University. Prior to earning a master's in conducting from the University of Manitoba, he earned dual bachelor's in music and education from the University of Saskatchewan, Canada.



Dr. Darrin Oehlerking

Dr. Darrin Oehlerking is Director of Bands and Associate Professor of Music at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, where he conducts the Wind Orchestra, and teaches courses in Conducting, Wind Literature and Music Education. He previously served as Director of Bands and Jazz at Bemidji State University in Bemidji, Minnesota, and as Music Coordinator for the Louis Riel School Division in Winnipeg, Manitoba. His post-secondary experience also includes assignments at the University of Manitoba and Iowa Wesleyan College.

Originally from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Dr. Oehlerking earned his Doctor of Musical Arts in Wind Conducting at The University of Iowa, where he studied with Dr. Myron Welch. He also studied with Dr. Dale J. Lonis at the University of Manitoba, where he earned his Masters in Music Performance with an emphasis in Conducting. His undergraduate work was also at Manitoba, where he earned separate Bachelors degrees in Music and Education.

Prior to his appointment at Saskatchewan, Dr. Oehlerking taught a wide variety of students and musicians at the primary, secondary and post-secondary levels. His ensembles have enjoyed success at the local, national and international levels, garnering outstanding performance awards and showcase invitations from a variety of organizations.

Dr. Oehlerking is the President of the Canadian Band Association, a Past President of the Saskatchewan Band Association, and is also a Yamaha Artist/Educator. He belongs to several other professional organizations, including the Saskatchewan Music Educators Association, Manitoba Band Association, College Band Directors National Association, and WASBE. Dr. Oehlerking has conducted ensembles, served as an adjudicator, conference presenter and clinician across Canada, as well as in the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland and the Netherlands.

7th Annual Halifax Community Band Festival



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

Featuring two levels of concert band: a beginner/intermediate band and an advanced band.

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

Hosted by:



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Proposed Weekend Schedule

Friday, May 22nd, 2020

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

Saturday, May 23rd, 2020

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

Sunday, May 24th, 2020

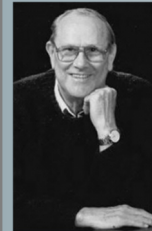
- 8:30am Session 6 – Full Rehearsal
- 10:00am Coffee/Nutrition Break
- 10:30am Session 7 – Full Rehearsal
- 12:00pm Lunch Break - on your own
- 1:00pm Arrive for Concert, Warm Up on Stage
- 2:00pm Doors Open/Audience find their seats
- 2:30pm 7th Annual Band Fest Public Concert
- 4:00pm Dismissal & Load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



Second Chances Community Band, December 2015

Our Ensembles

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. Just over a decade ago, the province of Nova Scotia lost two of its finest and most influential music educators and the two levels of performance groups at our festival are named in their memory.



The Ron MacKay “Music for Life” Beginner Band

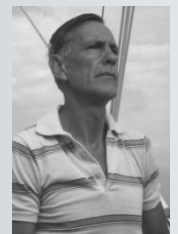
Ron MacKay retired from the Armed Forces Band in 1966 and began a career in music education as an instrumental music teacher in Truro. As director of the Cobequid Educational Centre Symphonic Band and its feeder programs from grades 4 through 12 he developed one of the more prominent school bands in 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 conductor of 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.

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 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 an adjudicator and clinician across Canada.