



OBA Provincial Band Festival

February 10-14, 2025

DIRECTOR'S GUIDE TO THE FESTIVAL

REGISTRATION AND SCHEDULING:

1. **Materials:** Syllabus, additional guidelines, and other downloads, can be found on our website: <https://www.onband.ca/provincial-band-festival>
2. **Choosing Repertoire:** Since this is our third year back in our in-person festival format, we are also returning to the requirement that you include one selection at your chosen level (e.g. B200) from either our 2025 OBA Festival syllabus or the 2025 MusicFest Canada syllabus, and a lyrical piece or significant section.

However, we recognize that every ensemble faces unique challenges. If the syllabus requirement is too restrictive for your group, please reach out to us directly to discuss alternatives. Our goal is to provide your students with an engaging and enthusiastic musical experience – we are happy to work with your students regardless of where they're at.

3. **Scheduling:** When registration closes (November 15, 2024), we will begin scheduling bands in the order in which completed registrations have been received. We will do everything we can to accommodate scheduling requests; however, schools whose complete registrations are received closer to the deadline may not receive their first choice for dates and times. The finalized schedule will be e-mailed out as soon as it is complete (our goal is one week).
4. **Refunds:** If you must withdraw from the festival after submitting your registration, we will do our best to fill your spot from the waiting list. After December 13, 2024 we cannot offer a refund of the registration fee unless a replacement band can be found. We also cannot guarantee a make-up time in case of bad weather and/or bus cancellations.

PREPARING FOR THE FESTIVAL:

1. **Bussing:** When booking your busses, try and leave as much time on either side of your performance as possible. Weather is often an issue at this time of year, and if you arrive late, we may need to reduce your warm-up or clinic time so as not to disrupt the schedule. If you arrive after your scheduled performance time, we will do our best to reschedule your ensemble, but cannot guarantee a make-up time. **There is no refund for missed performances.** On the other hand, we will do our best to stick to the schedule, and there are at times unavoidable delays. It is best that you allow a full 90 minutes after performance start time, before your scheduled bus pick-up.
2. **Student Adjudication Forms:** A valuable part of the festival experience is the opportunity to hear performances and clinics by other bands. We have provided a simplified copy of the adjudication form, available for download on our website, which students can use to apply their critical listening skills.

3. **Scores:** We will provide scores for any selections that are on our 2025 OBA Festival Syllabus. **For any selections not from our syllabus, including any selections from the MusicFest Canada syllabus, you will be required to bring two extra copies of the conductor’s scores for our adjudicators.** Note that photocopying scores is illegal without written permission from the copyright owner (usually the publisher). We suggest ordering scores from your local music retailer, at least a month ahead of the festival, to ensure they arrive in time.
4. **Downloads:** In addition to student adjudication forms, other helpful downloads will also be provided on the website in the new year, including a student leadership award form which should be filled out and submitted at the festival registration desk.

FESTIVAL DAY GUIDELINES:

1. Plan to arrive **at least one hour before your performance time**, and allow **at least 90 minutes afterwards** for unforeseen delays, the post-performance group photo, and time to pack your things. We also strongly encourage you to arrive early or stay late to watch other ensembles. This is a festival and we encourage the wonderful opportunities to listen to other groups! Parents are also welcome to join us!
2. **You are required to bring these items to the Festival:**
 - Two original copies of scores for pieces which are not on the OBA festival syllabus – **make sure these scores have your school name on them!**
 - Your ensemble’s bio – paper copy—will be provided to the adjudicators to read for context, but will not be read to the hall. One paragraph is fine!
 - Completed Student Leadership Award form – paper copy
3. We have returned to our original festival format with two warm-up rooms, one performance stage and two clinic rooms. HERE IS WHAT IT WILL LOOK LIKE ...

8:40 am	Warm-up Room A – School 1	
9:00 am		Warm-up Room B – School 2
9:20 am	PERFORMANCE STAGE – School 1 Warm-up Room A – School 3	
9:40 am	Clinic Room A – School 1	PERFORMANCE STAGE – School 2 Warm-up Room B – School 4
10:00 am	PERFORMANCE STAGE – School 3 Warm-up Room A – School 5 Clinic Room A – School 1 remains	Clinic Room B – School 2
10:20 am	Clinic Room A – School 3	PERFORMANCE STAGE – School 4 Warm-up Room B – School 6 Clinic Room B – School 2 remains
And so on...		

4. Our volunteers will help gather your band and lead you to your assigned warm-up room approximately five (5) minutes ahead of your warm-up time. We must maintain a tight schedule. Your warm-up time will begin as soon as the outgoing band leaves the warm-up room.

5. Your allocated warm-up room time will occur in the time slot prior to your performance slot. Under ideal conditions, your warm-up time will be approximately 30 minutes. We will try to provide a five-minute warning before your warm-up time is over. Be ready to move your band to the stage immediately, when asked to do so. Your band will leave the warm-up room before the performing band is finished on stage, and will wait backstage, silently, for approximately 3 to 5 minutes while the previous band finishes their performance. **Your band will enter the stage as soon as the previous band exits the stage.**
6. **We will use a generic band set-up which accommodates bands of all different sizes. Instruct your students to sit in their approximate place in your band, working from the centre outwards. Do not remove unused chairs or stands. This will save a lot of time when switching bands on our performance stage.**

ONLY MINIMAL AND NECESSARY MOVEMENT OF PERCUSSION EQUIPMENT AS WELL AS CHAIRS AND STANDS ON STAGE IS ACCEPTABLE

7. **Stage time will be strictly enforced.** Stage time includes students’ entry and set-up, a very brief sound check, your performance, including transitions between pieces, and your on-stage photo. For your sound check, limit yourself to a scale or tuning sequence or short chorale (8-16 bars) – keep your sound check under one minute in length. Ensembles are encouraged to perform only two selections of music, or one more substantial selection. Playing more than two pieces is strongly discouraged.

Time allotments: B100 and B200 will be allowed 15 minutes; B300 and B400, 20 minutes, and B500 and B600 bands, 25 minutes. Monitor the time of your repertoire. Upon completion of your performance volunteers will escort you from the stage and guide your ensemble to your clinic room. Your adjudicator will join you in the clinic room. Your clinic will last approximately two performance time slots (30 to 40 minutes).

8. **Bands are to use the percussion equipment generously loaned to us by Long & McQuade Music and Cosmo Music, with assistance from Yamaha Canada.** Only use alternative percussion if we cannot provide that which you need.
9. **DO NOT** rearrange the chairs/music stands, etc., in either the warm-up hall or performance hall or clinic room.
10. **PHOTOGRAPHY:** We will be offering the same photography service as last year. Immediately following your performance, our official festival photographer, stationed in the balcony of the theatre, will ask your group to remain in their places on stage and smile for a couple of quick pictures. He will also take candid photos of your ensemble during your performance. These pictures will be organized, uploaded to a secure online location, and made available to you approximately 2-3 weeks after the Festival. There is no cost for this service; it is included with your Festival registration fee.
11. **FOOD SERVICE:** A concession-style food service will be offered. A range of food and snacks will include: coffee, tea, pop, milk, chips, candy, muffins, pastries, soup, sandwiches, pizza slices, hot dogs, salads, fruit, French fries, and brownies. Students are very welcome to bring their own bag lunches from home. We ask that you be mindful of food allergies with respect to home lunches/snacks.
12. **STORAGE:** Note that several schools will be sharing the storage space at any one time. Although we have student volunteers monitoring the area, we highly recommend not bringing expensive personal items such as tablets/laptops, etc., that would have to be left unattended in storage while the band is performing. The OBA and the Chinese Cultural Centre will not be responsible for any damage to or loss of personal items left in the storage room. Any items left behind at the end of the day will be collected in our lost and found, which will be held at the Centre for the remainder of the week. An e-mail will be sent to directors following the Festival notifying them of any unclaimed items.

LEVELS & REPERTOIRE:

In general, the repertoire guidelines exist to ensure that ensembles are presenting the best set of repertoire on which to be adjudicated. This means not only an appropriate amount of music at an appropriate level for the ensemble, but also diversity of style and genre. *In addition to the guidelines below, arrangements of pop music, film music, musical theatre, etc., are discouraged for this Festival, as these kinds of arrangements usually serve the original music more than the student musicians.*

Syllabus: Our syllabus is curated by our PBF organizers and is comprised of repertoire we believe is of high quality and allows ensembles to demonstrate a wide variety of styles and techniques. **We require that every ensemble select at least one piece from either the 2025 OBA PBF syllabus or the 2025 MusicFest Canada syllabus, at the class level at which they wish to be adjudicated.** Your other selection(s) should present contrasting material and should be at or around the same grade level as your syllabus selection. If you receive an invitation to MusicFest Canada: The Nationals, you will be invited to compete at the same level at which you are entered for our Festival, and are required to choose a piece from the MusicFest syllabus at that level.

Lyrical requirement: We feel that lyrical playing is an important part of every ensemble’s toolbox. Therefore, we also require that every band’s performance includes a significant lyrical component. This can be an entire piece, or it can be a significant section or movement of a piece. Suitable examples include: a stand-alone work such as *A Scottish Ballade*; the entire *Three Folk Miniatures*, which includes a lyrical movement; only the Second movement from the *Second Suite in F*; or a work such as *The Hounds of Spring*, which has a substantial lyrical section. A short, lyrical introduction to an otherwise up-tempo work would not be enough to fulfill this requirement.

Note: It is possible to choose one complete piece from the syllabus that is lyrical or contains a lyrical section or movement and thereby satisfy both requirements with one piece.

Length of program: Finally, since musical works vary greatly in terms of length and musical content, rather than requiring a certain number of pieces, we are suggesting an amount of music by time instead. The specific guidelines are below, according to class level. In general, we strongly recommend playing no more than two pieces at any level, or in some cases even one more substantial piece will be sufficient. We highly recommend choosing repertoire that shows contrast, variety, and balance: choosing two works by the same composer, for instance, or whose musical content is very similar, is not recommended. Keep in mind that your stage time is limited. Therefore, more music, more complex percussion set-ups, longer warm-ups or chorales, and time taken between pieces will not only result in less time for your ensemble with their clinician, but also potentially impact the schedule for subsequent ensembles as well.

Suggested total length of repertoire selections:

- B100: 5-8 minutes – 2 pieces, or even 1 longer or multi-movement work such as *A Prehistoric Suite*
- B200: 6-9 minutes – 2 pieces, or even 1 longer or multi-movement work such as *Suite for a Band of Players*
- B300: 7-10 minutes – 2 pieces, or even 1 longer or multi-movement work such as *Greek Folk Song Suite*
- B400: 8-12 minutes – 2 shorter pieces, or 1 longer or multi-movement work such as *Echoes of a Northern Lake* or *Prelude, Siciliano, and Rondo*
- B500/B600: 10-14 minutes – 2 shorter pieces, or 1 longer or multi-movement work such as *El Camino Real* or *First Suite in E-flat*

N.B. If you are choosing a work with a duration of 10 minutes or longer, please limit yourself that to that one work regardless of your class level.

LEVELS & REPERTOIRE – SUMMARY:**All bands, regardless of class level, must perform:**

- one selection from the OBA syllabus or Musicfest Canada syllabus at the level at which they are registered
- one selection that is slow and lyrical, or contains a significant lyrical section, as outlined above
- B100-B200 level bands: 15 minutes total on-stage time
- B300-B400 level bands: 20 minutes total on-stage time
- B500-B600 level bands: 25 minutes total on-stage time

Your ensemble must be registered (and will be adjudicated) at the level of your syllabus selection, so ensure that you choose a piece from the appropriate level for your ensemble. If your repertoire includes multiple syllabus selections from different levels of the syllabus, you may decide at which of those levels to register your ensemble, and you will be adjudicated accordingly. **If you have any questions about syllabus or repertoire, please contact us at: pbf@onband.ca**

EQUIPMENT:

Do not bring percussion equipment which is supplied by the Festival (e.g., drum kit). You will not be allowed to bring this equipment on stage. This protocol will save time in set-up and give due respect to our percussion sponsors, Long & McQuade Music, Cosmo Music, and Yamaha Canada.

WARM-UP ROOM – minimal percussion equipment

- chairs & stands
- snare drum, bass drum, bells, one bass amp

PERFORMANCE HALL – full set of equipment supplied

- chairs & stands
- Percussion equipment: 4 timpani, bass drum, concert snare drum, drum set, 4 concert toms, gong, bells, xylophone, vibraphone, marimba, chimes, electric or acoustic piano, one bass amp

CLINIC ROOM A & CLINIC ROOM B – minimal percussion equipment

- chairs & stands
- snare drum, bass drum, bells, one bass amp
- Potentially more equipment based on availability

NOT PROVIDED:

- No cymbals are provided except for those on the drum set
- No mallets or sticks are provided
- Electric pianos will include everything necessary to play, but the bass amps do not come with patch cables – you will need to bring your own
- If you require more than one amp, you will need to bring your own and be prepared to set it up wherever power is available in the hall

ENSURE THAT ALL OF YOUR PERCUSSION EQUIPMENT, INSTRUMENTS, INSTRUMENT CASES, MUSIC FOLIOS, ETC. ARE LABELLED TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF ITEMS LEFT IN THE LOST & FOUND AT THE END OF FESTIVAL, AND TO ENSURE THAT YOU ARE BETTER ABLE TO RECLAIM YOUR MISSING ITEMS.