



2018 Junior and Intermediate Honour Concert Bands

*submitted by Cheryl Ferguson,
Honour Band Administrator*

This spring, many young Manitoba musicians were selected to be a part of the Manitoba Junior and Intermediate Honour bands under the direction of Marissa Hirsch (Junior Honour Band) and Doug Breckman (Intermediate Honour Band). The students engaged in two and a half days of full band rehearsals in preparation for a culminating concert, which took place on Saturday, May 5, 2018 in the Garden City Collegiate Gymnasium. One week prior to full band rehearsals, the student were also involved in sectionals on the selected music, led by fantastic and dedicated volunteer sectional clinicians from the Manitoba music community. The Junior Honour Band was made up of 82 students from 23 different schools and the Intermediate Honour Band contained 70 members from 30 different schools. There was a representation of students from many different parts of our Manitoba music community, including participation by students from a record 19 schools beyond the Winnipeg border!



Marissa Hirsch led the enthusiastic Junior Honour Band through preparation of five different pieces during their rehearsals hosted at the Desautels Faculty of Music. The Grade 5-8 students learned about the history of the pieces they were performing and immersed themselves into reaching a high level of performance on their concert selections. The Junior Honour Band portion of the concert opened with all three inspiring movements of "Nathan Hale Trilogy" by James Curnow. The band then presented a spirited rendition of Jungle Dance by Brian Balmages, followed by a heartfelt performance of "Avinu Malkeinu," arranged by Vince Gassi. The band then took the audience on a journey with Robert W. Smith's "The Great Locomotive Chase" and then finished their portion of the program with "Vivo! Galop" by Kiefer, arr. Glover.

The Intermediate Honour Band students brought a high level of focus and commitment to their rehearsals with conductor Doug Breckman and spent time in rehearsal attending to details of their performance, while coming to a common understanding about the overall message of each piece on their program. The Intermediate Band opened their portion of the concert with an energetic performance of Ashford Celebration by Ralph Ford. Their next piece was a tribute to time-keeping, "Escape from Chronopolis" by Reber Clark. Third on the program was the emotive Jacob de Haan work, "Ammerland," which was followed by the classic Sousa march "The Liberty Bell" arranged by Schissel. The program closed with Michael Sweeney's "Rumble on the High Plains," which featured the percussion section.



The Honour Band would not exist as it does without the generous support of many individuals. Thank you to Junior and Intermediate Honour Band Chair Darryl Ferguson, for his commitment to taking care of so many details and working so hard behind the scenes; thank you also to Jacquie Dawson (Senior Honour Band Chair) for hosting the rehearsals and providing so much supervision at the rehearsals at the Marcel A. Desautels Faculty of Music. Gratitude is also owed to Tyler Yip and Garden City Collegiate, Fort Richmond Collegiate, the many volunteers who adjudicated the auditions, to our skilled sectional clinicians, and to all of the MBA members who stepped forward to cover ticket sales, technology, set up, tear down, music collection and supervision. Without this incredible team of individuals we would not be able to deliver the quality of programming and level of organization which has become a hallmark of the Manitoba Honour Band Program.