



## 2019 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 Virginia Helmer (Junior Honour Band) and Kevin Doell (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 11, 2019 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 71 students from 30 different schools (including 10 schools from outside Winnipeg) and the Intermediate Honour Band contained 69 members from 24 different schools (8 schools from outside Winnipeg). There was a representation of students from many different parts of our Manitoba music community.



Virginia Helmer led the very focused Junior Honour Band through preparation of four challenging pieces during their rehearsals hosted at the Desautels Faculty of Music. The Grade 5-8 students learned about so many things, including style, musical details, musical intention and the importance of tension in music as they and immersed themselves into reaching a high level of performance on their concert selections. The Junior Honour Band portion of the concert opened with an enthusiastic performance of “Andromeda” by David Shaffer, followed by a heart-warming rendition of “Annabel Lee” by Douglas Wagner. Next up in the program were all three movements of the large work “Darklands Legends” by Randall Standridge, in which every section of the band was featured and challenged. The concert concluded with the uplifting “United Nations March” by Karl King, arr. Swearingen.

The Intermediate Honour Band students brought a high level of professionalism and dedication to their rehearsals with conductor Kevin Doell. In rehearsal, they learned about the importance of individual musicianship, balanced with the importance of the group concept. The band opened their portion of the concert with an energetic performance of “Apollo Arise” by Travis Weller, followed by a tasteful rendition of “Zacatecas” by Codina, arr. Glover. The next piece on the program was “Sheltering Sky” by John Mackey, which the students dedicated to all mothers in the audience on the eve of Mother’s Day. The program continued with the unique sound and driving energy of “The Young Lions” by Jukka Viitasaari, which was followed by “The Light Eternal” by James Swearingen, a piece which depicted the story of four chaplains who gave their lives during the sinking of a ship in World War II. The concert ended with the lively “Tahoka Galop”, which ended with the audience clapping along and becoming part of the show!



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 Shane Hicks 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.