



2019 Senior Honour Concert Band

*submitted by Cheryl Ferguson,
Honour Band Administrator*

In November, 2019, sixty-two student musicians from twenty-six schools across the province gathered for the 42nd Annual Manitoba Senior Honour Band, held in Winnipeg, MB. The students participated in three days of rehearsals under their skilled conductor, Dr. Paul Popiel. The experience culminated in a moving and impressive concert at Jubilee Place on Saturday, November 8, 2019.

Guest conductor Dr. Paul Popiel, professor of music, is the Director of Bands at the University of Kansas, only the seventh person to hold this position in the band's storied 125-year history. Dr. Popiel conducts the KU Wind Ensemble, directs the graduate program in wind conducting, and guides all aspects of the university band program. His experience and expertise were key to the rich experience enjoyed by the Manitoba Senior Honour Band students this year. The band grew and transformed significantly in their three days with Dr. Popiel and the concert on Saturday evening was a strong representation of that growth and a celebration of their work and progress.



The concert program included:

Rising Remixed (2019) by Tom Davoren
Emblems of Sacrifice (2016) by Kevin Walczyk
Sixth Symphony (2011) by James Barnes
The Maple Leaf Forever (2008) by A. Muir, arr. Reisteter

The Honour Band Concert opened with a performance by the Winnipeg Wind Ensemble under the direction of Cpt. Matthew Clark. The Winnipeg Winds provided an exciting opening to the concert and allowed for some great community connections!

The Winnipeg Wind Ensemble opened the concert with the following program:

The Seas of the Moon (2017) by Robert Buckley

- I. Sea of Tranquility
- II. Foaming Sea
- III. Sea of Clouds
- IV. Serpent Sea

Many of this year's sixty-two Honour Band members have been involved in the Manitoba Honour Band Program previous to this year, however, 32 students were participating in the Senior Honour Band for the first time. Several Grade 12 students were recognized for their long-term participation in the Honour Band Program, including:

6 Provincial Honour Bands: Madison Stenning-Brown (Clarinet)
Dillian Karamchand (Trombone)
Jessica Old (Percussion)

7 Provincial Honour Bands: Sarah Bell (French Horn)

8 Provincial Honour Bands: Selwyn Sarmiento (Flute)

The Honour Band owes a debt of gratitude to Senior Honour Band Chairperson, Jacquie Dawson, who oversees so many details in the Honour Band experience. Thank you also to:

- Fort Richmond Collegiate for hosting the listening session
- The Desautels Faculty of Music for hosting the sectionals and first rehearsal
- Brandon University and Erin Dodds for hosting the listening session in Brandon
- Andrew Klassen and MBCI for the use of facilities and equipment for full band rehearsals and the concert
- International Music Camp and their Canadian representative Brent Johnson for Scholarship donations
- The over 60 volunteers from the Manitoba Band Association Membership who gave freely of their time to support these students in their Honour Band experience
...Without their dedicated service, this program would not be possible.