



ALBERTA BAND ASSOCIATION PROVINCIAL FESTIVAL OF BANDS 2024

Dear Band Director:

Enclosed please find your director's package for the 2024 Alberta Band Association Provincial Festival of Bands. Once again, this year's event promises to be exciting and educational for both you and your students, with bands participating in performances, clinics, and sight-reading activities.


If you want to check your band's performance time, go to the Alberta Band Association website at www.albertabandassociation.com. The performance schedule is updated weekly.

Please read the attached director's guide.

To get to Red Deer Polytechnic, from Queen Elizabeth Hwy 2, take the 32nd Street exit. Take your first right hand turn (College Circle), and you will see the Arts Centre (two story brick building).

Should you have any questions while at Red Deer Polytechnic ask one of our technical staff (they will be wearing A.B.A. Provincial Festival of Bands nametags).

Below are a few suggestions that will keep the festival running smoothly:

1. Please ensure that your students **DO NOT** leave personal valuables, money, etc. in the equipment storage area (**Studio D**). We are unable to provide security for this area.
2. There are **dressng rooms** reserved in the Arts Centre for those students needing them. Please check at the Registration Desk for their location.
3. You and your band are encouraged to listen to other bands performing at the festival, but there is no food, drink, or flash photography allowed in the Main Theatre or in the studios. Please respect the performances of other bands and **do not enter the theatre during a performance**.
4. Because there are other activities in the Arts Centre, we would appreciate as much quiet in the hallways as possible.
5. There are limited food services open on campus during the festival. 
6. Should you encounter any travel problems during the festival that might mean you will be delayed for your performance, you can leave a message with Joyce Howdle- Coordinator for the Festival of Bands cell phone: **780-800-0482 x102**
7. Please label your equipment and music with your school/band name.
8. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Joyce Howdle at **780-800-0482 x102** or email at joyce@albertabandassociation.com.

Have a great festival!



ALBERTA BAND ASSOCIATION PROVINCIAL FESTIVAL OF BANDS 2024

Director's Guide Please Read Carefully

Upon arrival at Red Deer Polytechnic Arts Centre directors are asked to check in at the Registration desk located just inside the north entrance of the Arts Centre. Have your scores (in order of performance) ready to hand in.

Photographs

Images Unlimited is the official photographer for the festival. Please make arrangements directly with them at info@imagesunlimited.ca or phone 403-253-0200.

If you do not intend to have any pictures taken, please indicate this when you check in.

1. Equipment Room– Arts Centre Studio D – Please do not leave personal valuables in this room.

2. Warm-Up – Arts Centre Studio A
30 minutes before performance time

There will be an Alberta Band Association Provincial Festival of Bands guide to take you from the warm-up area to the performance area.

3. Performance – Arts Centre Mainstage
30 minutes total stage time

You will receive 2 recordings of your performance: one will be the performance and the second will be the performance with adjudicators' comments. Your performance will be shared with you online.

Your guide will escort you to the performance area. Each band is encouraged to play an **unadjudicated** warm-up chorale or scale on stage **before** you are introduced to the audience. Total stage time must not exceed 30 minutes. Each participating band must provide the adjudicators with **three** conductors' scores for all non-syllabus (own choice) selections. **Please ensure that all measures are numbered.** The Alberta Band Association will supply conductors' scores for all syllabus selections. **Please note: it is against copyright laws to photocopy music. Complete the enclosed performance order sheet with the selections (in order) your band will be performing, the seating plan and any other information to be used in introducing your band and scan and email them prior to the festival so our technicians are prepared for your band's performance.**

To receive a rating each band **must** perform **three** selections (one of which is from the syllabus) and participate in all facets of the festival: performance, clinic, sight-reading/fundamentals. Rubric specifics on marking are available on the ABA

website: https://www.albertabands.com/uploads/1/1/8/5/118563621/performance_rubric.pdf

Please Note: Chairs, stands, podium, bass drum, 4 timpani, chimes, xylophone, vibraphone, marimba, gong, suspended cymbal, and orchestra bells **will** be provided for your use on stage. There will also be an acoustic piano, a drum set and a bass amp in the stage wings for those bands requiring those.

Each band is to provide its own snare drum, crash cymbals, beaters, mallets and sticks and auxiliary percussion and anything not listed above.

After your performance you will be escorted to your clinic room.

4. Clinic - Arts Centre Studio B/C

30 minutes

In addition to each band being rated on its performance and on the sight reading/fundamentals portion of the festival, the clinic session will also be rated. Rubric Specifics on marking are available on the ABA website

https://www.albertabands.com/uploads/1/1/8/5/118563621/clinic_rubric.pdf

Once you are finished your clinic session, you will begin the Sight-Reading/Fundamentals portion of the festival.

5. Sight-Reading – Arts Centre Studio B/C

30 minutes

A separate adjudicator will rate the sight-reading portion of the festival. **Each band (Level II-VI) will be given a selection two pieces provided by the festival one grade level below the class entered.** Bands will be given five minutes (Level II & III) or eight minutes (Level IV-VI) to study the director's choice before performing the selection. Directors will have 1 minute to organize and assign percussion parts and tune timpani before the timing starts. Sight-reading will not be open to public viewing, but open to the band's entourage at the discretion of the band director. Rubric specifics on marking are available on the ABA website

https://www.albertabands.com/uploads/1/1/8/5/118563621/sight_reading_rubric.pdf

Fundamentals Clinic – Grade I Bands only

The Alberta Band Association recognizes that playing, listening, reading, creating and valuing are important considerations in the school music curriculum.

The clinic will proceed as follows:

1. Play three major scales in concert Bb, Eb and F major, up and down in quarter notes without repeating the top note, MM quarter note = 120. One scale will be tongued, one scale slurred two-tongued two, one scale slurred. Conductors will be able to select which articulation to apply to which scale and to choose the performance order of scale keys. Percussionists are to perform these scales on mallet instruments.
2. Echo on instruments a five-note melody. The melody will be a maximum of 2 bars, based on the first five notes of the concert Bb major scale, starting and ending on the tonic in either $\frac{3}{4}$ or $\frac{4}{4}$ time. This melody will be administered by the adjudicator. Approximate tempo will be MM quarter note = 84
3. Rhythm Reading – clap/count/say a variety of rhythmic patterns, each 2 measures in length, using rhythm reading pedagogies regularly employed in class. The patterns will be written in either $\frac{3}{4}$ or $\frac{4}{4}$ and will include combinations of half, quarter and paired eighth notes and quarter rests. Rhythmic patterns will be administered by the adjudicator.

4. Perform **Chorale No. 2 in Eb Major**, the chorale designated by the Alberta Band Association for the fundamentals clinic (score and parts are available at the Alberta Band Association website www.albertabandassociation.com). The performance of the chorale will be adjudicated using the same evaluation criteria as the main stage performance.
5. Rubric specifics on marking are available on the ABA website at https://www.albertabands.com/uploads/1/1/8/5/118563621/fundamentals_clinic_rubric.pdf
Once you have completed the sight-reading or fundamentals session you are encouraged to listen to other groups perform in the Main Theatre of the Arts Centre. Please **NO food, drinks or flash photography** in the theatre.

The equipment storage area is in **Studio D** of the Arts Centre.

Total time for warm-up, performance, clinic and sight-reading or fundamentals is:

- **2 hours**

Red Deer Polytechnic has limited food kiosks open during the festival.

HAVE A GREAT FESTIVAL!



ALBERTA BAND ASSOCIATION
PROVINCIAL FESTIVAL OF BANDS 2024

Performance Order
(Please print clearly)

Festival Performance Date: _____

Festival Performance Time: _____

Ensemble Name: _____

Director Name: _____

School Principal Name: _____

Grade Level Entered: _____

Selection #1: _____ Composer: _____

Selection #2: _____ Composer: _____

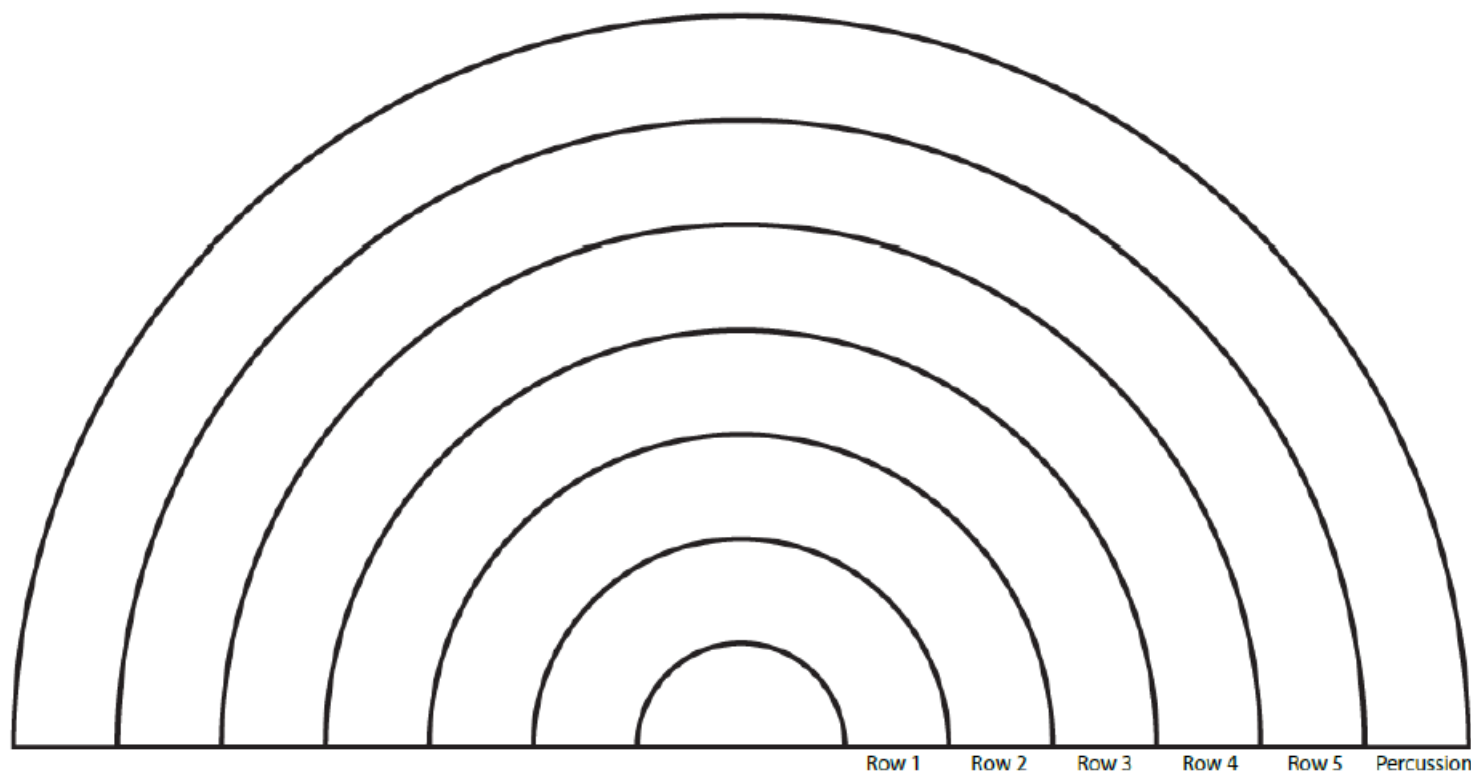
Selection #3 _____ Composer: _____

Information to be included when introducing your group to the audience and adjudicators – include how many years of study; school population, etc.: **Please PRINT Clearly**

Please complete, scan and email as soon as possible to:
Joyce Howdle – joyce@albertabandassociation.com

ALBERTA BAND ASSOCIATION FESTIVAL OF BANDS SEATING CHART

Band Name: _____ Performance Date: _____ Performance Time: _____



	Chairs	Stands		Chairs	Stands
Row #1	_____	_____	Row #4	_____	_____
Row #2	_____	_____	Row #5	_____	_____
Row #3	_____	_____			

*Please indicate where percussion equipment should be placed by marking XXX in the appropriate area.



Music Sight Reading

Presented by

Dr. Tom Dust

Secondary Education, University of Alberta

Why Sight Read?

- ☐ Groups that sight read will have more rehearsal time for working on balance, blend, etc.
- ☐ Good sight reading enables ensembles to explore a greater body of literature
- ☐ Good sight readers develop new musical understandings
- ☐ Sight reading is an essential skill for many musicians working in ensemble situations

Research on Sight Reading

Rhythmic Factors

Most reading errors are rhythmic reading errors

Rhythmic training improves sight reading ability

Bands showing the most improvement in read ability followed an approach that included:

1. recognizing the beat
2. clapping rhythm patterns while keeping the beat with the foot
3. playing rhythm patterns on one note while keeping the beat with the foot

Visual Factors

- ☐ Skilled readers look ahead while holding “long” notes
- ☐ Skilled readers have a visual field of about seven notes
- ☐ Skilled readers use significantly more eye fixations than poor readers use
- ☐ Skilled readers fixate at a faster rate than poor readers
- ☐ Skilled readers see more in each fixation

Cognitive Factors

- ☐ Skilled readers “chunk” material
- ☐ Skilled readers are not reliant upon an instrument
- ☐ Skilled readers understand and can articulate their reading process
- ☐ The development of “audiation” is linked to improved reading skills
- ☐ Changes in reading skills suggest new levels of musical understanding

Other Factors

- ☐ Students can identify more reading errors when listening to recordings of their performances than when actually performing
- ☐ Good sight readers are faster than poor sight readers at matching notes to note names
- ☐ Good sight reading depends on reading notes in relation to other notes
- ☐ Good sight reading is correlated with high musical aptitude, high GPA, high math achievement, and high reading achievement
- ☐ Music composed of small intervals is more accurately read than music composed of large intervals (study done with pianists)
- ☐ The Spacing of notation greatly affects eye movement and processing time
- ☐ In one study, Private Instruction combined with Number of Selections Read accounted for the greatest proportion of variance in sight reading scores

Action for Results

- ☐ Use a rhythm training program with your ensemble
- ☐ Teach musical understanding alongside the development of mechanical skills
- ☐ Teach “speed reading” – refer to the work of David Hickman
- ☐ Help students develop the ability to “audiate” – singing, chanting, moving, listening
- ☐ Help students understand the reading process – eye motion, chunking, musical understanding

Accommodations

If your band would like to stay on campus, Red Deer Polytechnic offers accommodation to groups or individuals within the Residences from May to August. They offer reasonably priced apartments or townhouse style units that contain kitchens, living rooms, single bedrooms and private bathrooms.

Residence units are four-bedroom apartment or townhouse style of accommodations. All guests will have their own bedroom with a locking door. Each bedroom contains a single bed, desk and chair. Linens and towels can be provided or your group may choose to bring their own sleeping bags. The living rooms have couches, chairs, coffee tables and end tables. The kitchens have a refrigerator and stove although dishes and cooking utensils are not provided. The apartments have one bathroom to be shared by the roommates while the townhouses have up to two bathrooms.

Residence now also offers the Studios by Red Deer Polytechnic which provide a modern guest experience situated in the newest residence building on our main campus. This space offers in-suite amenities to support individual travelers to large groups. Each unit comes equipped with your own kitchenette, bathroom and desk area. Suites come in either a Standard Studio Suite which can accommodate a single or double occupancy or Premium Suites which have a single queen bed.

Please contact the Residence Office at (403) 342-3257 or stay@rdpolytech.ca to make a reservation or for information on cost and availability.



Red Deer Polytechnic Map

